



Emanuelite Newsletter

September 2025

Weekly Schedule

Worship Sundays

8:00 & 9:30am

Sunday School 9:30am (**beg. 9/14**)

Coftea Fellowship 10:30am

Tuesdays

Emanuel Ringers II

5:00 - 6:00pm (**beg. 9/9**)

Emanuel Ringers I

6:45-8:45pm (**beg. 9/2**)

Wednesdays

Bible Study

1:00 - 2:00 pm

Choir Rehearsal

4:30 - 5:30 pm (**beg. 9/10**)

Thursdays

Adult Emanuel Ringers

7:30 – 9:00pm (**beg. 9/12**)

A Note from Our Pastor

Jesus warns us that our words carry weight. When we pledge to do something, we should make every effort to see it through (Matthew 5:37). In this world of activity, many of our hearts desire to do but we live with real constraints: time, energy, and financial means (or what we sometimes call time, talents, and treasure). We may find it hard to let go when others disappoint us by letting us down while we quickly excuse ourselves for lack of ability.

During Martin Luther's time (16th century), families would make monastic vows, offering a child to God's service,

even when the child was only eight years old. The family would receive special honor in the community by doing this, and yet the child would have to live by the rules of the monastery, including chastity, even before these vows would be understood. This was one of the arguments Luther made when reforming the church: we can't vow on behalf of someone else; we can only do it for ourselves and in full awareness of the sacrifice a vow demands. He would warn that a vow is not to be broken, so the amount of promises we make should be ones we can actually fulfill.

It's a new program year (opposed to a new Christian year that starts Advent 1 or a new secular/fiscal year that begins January 1). At each of these turns, it's important to evaluate where we are in life, especially professionally, emotionally, socially, familiarly, and spiritually. We might promise, or even dare to promise, to do and be better. Sometimes, like in Luther's view, our vows might come undone by the real limitations of life. We strive anyway, not because we can please God more if we succeed, but because God is already pleased with us and we do this as an appreciation of that blessing. God knows we always can improve, and our intentions help us be better people to others.

When a lawyer approached Jesus about what it

means to live the good life, Jesus summed it up as to love God and our neighbor as we do ourselves (Mark 12:30-31). These are the deepest promises we can make, and every day is a day to renew ourselves with these words.

-Pastor Kevin

I'm very excited for the strong start we will have with two new additions of helping hands around this church. The first, Eka, has already done a lot of work to prepare for this coming year and I look forward to his leadership when it comes to youth ministry. Michael comes to us as a reporter who has interviewed me and shown his quality and passion of work. He will be helping to build a better newsletter. Please welcome both!

MUSIC NOTES

“August rain: the best of the summer gone, and the new fall not yet born.

The odd uneven time.” –

Sylvia Plath

Oh, how I hate the end of summer! Despite the heat, I love it. The long evenings, sandals, insects humming, sunsets, flowers, freshly harvested vegetables... I could go on but! A new season awaits us and what a joy it will be to sing together again!

The Emanuel Choir season officially begins **September 10th, Wednesday at 4:30pm**. Anyone interested in joining our group is most welcome. We sing an anthem approximately once or twice a month during the service and all additional service music. Rehearsals are fun, informative and great fellowship. Please join us!

We had a wonderful **Men’s Chorus** earlier in August. They sang two anthems and did a great job. I hope we can do that again soon.

My thanks to both John Nurmi who covered for me at the beginning of the summer & Norine Castine who covered two weeks in August.

The Noontime-at-Emanuel Concert Series is back! Our first concert will be Wednesday, September 17th featuring our own **Joe Abba & guests Travis Sullivan and Bryan Copeland**. We have some great music

lined up for the 2025-26 year. Everything from jazz to classical, Renaissance & Baroque music, folk guitar & flute. Come on out and soak in the music!

Debbie Norberto
Director of Music

Emanuel Ringers

New Ringing Season 2025-2026, Scotland Is Calling, and A Call For New Ringers

The Emanuel Ringers began our new ringing season Sept 2nd, with the Emanuel Ringers I, Emanuel Ringers II and Adult Emanuel Ringers.

Scotland 2026

We are beginning to plan for the Emanuel Ringers I, Adult Emanuel Ringers, the Katonah Celebration Ringers and others to attend the International Handbell Symposium in Aberdeen, Scotland, in August 2026!

Prior to the symposium, we'll go on a ringing tour at two

venues and participate in a Sunday service.

At the symposium, the ringers will participate in massed ringing sessions with ringers from around the world. We'll attend handbell ringing workshops and cultural workshops, listen to choirs at solo concerts, and participate in a final concert.

Calling for New Ringers!

We are looking for future young ringers entering 3rd grade and up who are interested in trying handbells. Contact Eiko through the church office or via email - eikoscornelius@gmail.com

AREA 2 Handbell Festival

The Emanuel Ringers had a busy summer. The Emanuel Ringers I attended the AREA 2 Handbell Musicians of America Festival Conference, at Split Rock Resort in PA.

The ringers participated in workshops and rehearsed with 150 other ringers. We met other directors, some of whom are also composers, learned a few new techniques and reinforced some things we already knew.

In addition to ringing, our group volunteered (or were voluntold) to help take down workshop tables and move them from classrooms. They also assisted with bringing equipment to workshop leaders' cars.

Caramoor 2025

A group of our ringers attended the Caramoor Festival on July 4th. We rang during the 1812 Overture, accompanying the

Westchester Symphonic Winds.

Fundraising

We are grateful for the support from the congregation for our fundraising efforts.

Your contributions helped to cover the \$4,225 registration fee for all the ringers and chaperones who attended the PA festival this past summer.

The upcoming Scotland trip will cost \$5,500 for each ringer, which covers the cost of airfare, participation in the tour and symposium.

We will continue to run fundraisers throughout the year. Participating in our **gift card** program is a great way to support the ringers. Soup sales and bake sales will be forthcoming too. Direct donations are also welcome. Checks can be made out to the Emanuel Lutheran Church, with "bells" written in the memo line.

**2025 June 27-29 Area 2 Handbell Festival Conference
Split Rock Resort, Lake Harmony, PA**



Before we leave pic!



Before concert pic!
Thanks Brian!



Rehearsals!

Workshops! Like Bass Bells
with Jordan!



Jason Krug Signature!



Ringers Floor with 150 ringers under the direction of Michael Helman

Got to ring those aluminium bass bells

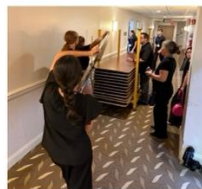


Workshop table breakdown
2 carts worth of tables.
Working together before the
concert to assist the
organizers!



Thanks Carolyn for pics
too!

Before concert pics and
hydration



Thank you so much!

- Eiko

Social Ministry News



God's Work. Our Hands.

Please join us on Sunday September 7th and share God's love and bring hope to our neighbors around the world

HOW: Bring in items for a **Lutheran World Relief** School Kit or Personal Care Kit, which LWR will send to people around the world coping with natural disasters or fleeing conflict -- **OR** donate funds through Emanuel designated for LWR, and we will shop for you.

WHEN: Items will be collected in bins in the narthex from **Aug. 17th through Sept. 7th**. We will assemble kits during Coftea-Fellowship on **Sunday, Sept. 7th!**

Items for a school kit:

- Four 70-80 sheet spiral notebooks— wide-or college-ruled, approximately 8 in by 10 ½ in
- One 12" ruler
- One handheld pencil sharpener with a cover to collect the shavings.
- One pair of blunt scissors
- Five unsharpened pencils
- Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 2 ½ inch eraser

Items for a personal care kit:

- Two or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz, any brand, in original wrapping
- One adult-size toothbrush
- One sturdy comb—no picks or only fine-tooth combs
- One metal nail clipper (attached file optional)

Some things to keep in mind:

- All items should be new.
- Please **do not** donate any items with any religious

symbols, messages, or the name of a group.

- Please **do not** donate any items with a U.S. flag, or other patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage!
- Bags for school kits and towels for personal care kits will be provided through a grant from **Thrivent**.
- **Please consider** donating \$3.00 per school kit and \$1.50 per personal care kit to help defray LWR's costs to ship kits overseas. Give through Emanuel and designate your gift for **Shipping Fund**.



The Interfaith Emergency Food Pantry of Pleasantville and Feeding Westchester

Throughout the Bible, God exhorts us to share our bread with the hungry. One way in which we follow God's command at Emanuel is

through our support of **The Interfaith Emergency Food Pantry of Pleasantville**, and **Feeding Westchester**, our local food bank.

The Interfaith Emergency Food Pantry of Pleasantville,

founded in the mid-1980s as a place where neighbors could help neighbors, is affiliated with local congregations and civic organizations. Located at 540 Commerce Street in Thornwood behind the stores, the pantry welcomes everyone.

The pantry is open every other Thursday afternoon. It always offers non-perishables and shelf stable foods. A variety of frozen meats and fish, and fresh produce are available at least once a month. Healthy options such as whole grains, low sodium, low sugar and sugar free items are also offered. Learn more at:

<https://pleasantvillefoodpantry.org>

Feeding Westchester partners with food pantries throughout Westchester.

In addition to its nutrition and food-safety education programs, Feeding Westchester has a mobile food pantry that provides access to food for county residents who do not have easy access to fresh meat, dairy, and produce. The food bank also partners with schools, day-care centers and libraries to assist with childhood nutrition. Learn more at

<https://feedingwestchester.org>.

One in three households in Westchester County is at risk of hunger. Recent legislation passed by Congress made cuts

in SNAP (food stamps) funding which could drive this number even higher.

You can help our neighbors challenged by food insecurity by making a donation through **Emanuel** designated for the **food pantry**. You can also donate food and place it in the shopping cart and baskets in the main church entrance. The most needed items are:

- Beans (canned or dried)
- Whole grain cereals
- Canned vegetables (low sodium)
- Canned meat/fish
- Shelf-stable milk
- Pasta and rice
- Canned meals
- Peanut butter

Education

First Communion Class

With a new batch of 3rd graders entering the mix this year, we continue to offer First Communion Classes. The name is a misnomer; depending on previous expectations and traditions, sometimes 3rd graders have already and continually receive communion. In the past, First Communion was about exploring what this time in church means and how to receive communion fully in body and spirit. But while this holds true for some, others enjoy this class for their 3rd grade children because this is a time of greater self-awareness and understanding. In either case, these three classes are designed to explore the deeper meaning of this sacrament. Others outside of 3rd grade can also participate at Pastor Kevin's discretion. See Pastor Kevin so we can figure out an appropriate time to meet.

Confirmation Class

It's the fall, a time when we start up all our education programs! And Confirmation Class is one of them.

Confirmation is geared to 7th and 8th graders especially to address particular questions they might have and apply faith to various moments of their life. If you know of someone else who doesn't fall into these grades but might benefit from such instruction, just talk to Pastor Kevin about it. We are still in the process of creating a schedule but reach out to Pastor Kevin in the meantime if you know of someone who might be interested in joining the class.

Adult Fall Bible Study

Hope in Exile;

Every Wednesday starting
September 24th 1 pm on Zoom

Come join us as we dive into the book of Ezekiel; exploring themes of hope, renewal, and God's presence in unexpected places. No experience needed, just bring your curiosity! We'll journey with this young man

who thought his life was altogether - career, family, spirituality - when the bottom fell out! We'll look at how God turned his life around, made him a prophet and gave his life a whole new meaning. Feeling a little exiled from your spiritual groove? Our new Adult Bible Study, *Hope in Exile*, journeys through the book of Ezekiel with fresh insights and lively discussion. Join us for an exploration of the book through a Lutheran lens, blending deep spiritual insight with engaging discussion and a fresh look at human flourishing.

So, pull up a chair and join the conversation!

Deacon Bill

B2Y Book Study

Since its inception three years ago, this is an intentional group of congregation members seeking to read the Bible in 2 years. Completing that last year, they shifted to slowly reading through a book choice from the group. They meet monthly on a particular

Saturday from 11 am until noon at the church and via Zoom. This fall's book is *How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in the Life and Faith* by Bishop Re. Mariann Edgar Budde. Contact the church office or Annmarie Olsen to become a part of this group!

NEW! Bible Voyagers

The results are in! There are several people wanting to read the Bible and we want to supply the tools to achieve the goal. Based off the B2Y's focus, we'll be gathering on September 21st during Coftea to answer questions you might have, create a proposed schedule, and then meet monthly to discuss our reading. This is open to everyone! Come join us to find out more.

NEW! Book Club

For the Adults

Some of us love to read! For the past year, we've been encouraging a monthly book read about matters of faith. These books are autobiographical, fictional,

and nonfiction. By why just read the book and then move on when you can meet to discuss what you loved and wrestled with in each story. September's book is *Long Island* by Colm Tóibín about a love triangle and the muted faith that plays second fiddle to emotions. This fictional book is an Oprah's Book Club 2024 winner and part of an evolving longer narrative.

Beginning Discussion Questions:

- 1) Eilis is an immigrant from Ireland, leaving behind her family. She gets married to Tony, whose family seems to be the opposite. Thinking of your family dynamics, which type of family is your ideal?
- 2) In the love triangle that envelopes, what do you make of Eilis, Tony, Nancy, and Jim? Do you find yourself struggling with the decisions that any of these characters make through the narrative?

- 3) Religion, and particularly Roman Catholicism, is under the currents. In what ways does religious practice get muted or streamline a character's decision-making?

Future Books:

- October: *When Lightning Struck! The Story of Martin Luther* by Danika Cooley
- November: *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride
- December: *A Dog in the Manger and Other Christmas Stories* by Jim Simons

Books for Youth

Aesop's Fables for Little Children by Susanne Davidson gives a fun new meaning to some of the most beloved fables out there. These stories, like many in our Bible, help teach us right from wrong actions. How might God be found in the themes of these lessons?

We are working on a partnership with the Village Bookstore so that you can order through our church!

Stay tuned to the Wednesday emails and the bulletin for more information.

Volunteering for Church

There are many ways to volunteer in our church and many hands make light work for everyone. Speak to Pastor Kevin so we can match your gifts, talents, and desires to the church's needs.

Future Events

Upcoming Usher Training

You walk into the narthex (back of the church), and you are instantly greeted by a friendly face... You have a questions and this person is the first person you know you can go to for an answer... You are welcomed to come forward during communion... These are all jobs that a special group of volunteers called ushers perform. What does it take to be an usher? Just an inviting smile and the desire to serve God! Find out more at a

special ushers' training on September 28 after the 9:30 am service right in the church sanctuary.

Rally Day Sunday

Join us Sunday, September 14 for our kick off service to a new year! Worship is at 8 and 9:30 am. A special introductory session for Sunday School will be held at 9 am; all are welcome to get to know our teachers better before Sunday School starts at 9:30 am. A kick off picnic will be held after the 9:30 am service on the lawn (if the weather is good; otherwise, it will be in Pearson Hall). Come be a part of this special day.

Family Time

Table Talk

Share with those gathered around the table the following; then discuss what surprises, affirm for you, and challenges you. This comes from *the Small Catechism* written by Rev. Martin Luther (1529).

THE CREED

The First Article: *On Creation*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

What is this? OR What does this mean?

I believe that God has created me together with all that exists. God has given me and still preserves my body and soul: eyes, ears, and all limbs and senses; reason and all mental faculties.

In addition, God daily and abundantly provides shoes and clothing, food and drink, house and farm, spouse and children, fields, livestock, and all property, along with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life. God protects me against all danger and shields and preserves me from all evil. And all this is done out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all! For

all of this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.

Just Do It!

Make a cover for your Bible with pictures of faith in action!



Congregational Retreat

Koinonia, Highland Lake, NY

October 3rd-5th

Activities



Guided Hike Evening Bonfire
Cornhole Fun Taize Prayer
Sunday Worship

Cost: \$235 Room for the weekend
+ Meals*

Meals: \$52 for adults, \$40 for kids (6-12 years)

Free kids under 5

*Please share any dietary restrictions



Payment due by September 14th

Checks made out to Emanuel with
Retreat on Memo Line



Staff Changes in Our ELCA

Maybe you heard that we have a new *synod* bishop? Or a new *presiding* bishop? And they happen to be two different positions and people. Below, a little bit about each of the most important staff from both our synod and our churchwide.

CHURCHWIDE

Area: the entire United States

Influence: 2.68 million people
(*as of Dec. 31, 2024)

Number of Churches: ~8,400

Main Office: Chicago, Illinois

Leader: Presiding Bishop
Yehiel Curry [pronounced yah-heel]

Who is Presiding Bishop

Curry? Formally the bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, he has led the synod since 2019. He has a wife and three daughters and strives for advocacy work in the world. At the time, he was only one of a handful of black bishops; he is officially the first black presiding bishop.

What is his job as presiding

bishop? He is to reflect the mission and vision of the ELCA denomination through its various ministry branches (including work within immigration, social services, equity, etc.), the global stage (like through the Lutheran World Federation, our dialogue partners like the Roman Catholic Church, and our work in specific areas like the Middle East), and through the political arm (through our federal government, the United Nations, and governments abroad).

Term: 6 years with a renewable option

Secretary: Rev. Lucille “Cece” Mills

Who is Rev. Lucille Mills?

Previously, she was an assistant to the bishop in the North Carolina Synod and has served committees like the African Descent Ministries. She is also the first black secretary serving the ELCA churchwide organization.

What is his job as presiding bishop? Her job is a complex web of keeping churches accountable to the ELCA constitution and to each church constitution to promote order; she also is the keeper of records, including vital statistics of the life of all congregations. On behalf of the ELCA, she carries out the duties assigned under the presiding bishop.

Term: 6 years with a renewable option

Metropolitan New York Synod

Area: All of New York City, Long Island, and seven additional counties: Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester

Influence: <70,000 people

Number of Churches: ~165

Main Office: New York City, NY

Leader: Bishop Katrina Foster

Who is Bishop Foster? Bishop Foster has been in our synod for many years working with three congregations in particular: one in the Bronx, a coupled parish in the Hamptons, and a church in Brooklyn. Her time serving these congregations was a time of strength and growth. She was raised in the south, which complements her preaching power. She is married to her wife of many years and raised their daughter who unfortunately passed away a few years ago

from an ongoing illness. She is our first female and first LGBT bishop.

What is her job as the bishop?

Similar to the presiding bishop but only for the area she oversees. She works with the other 65 bishops across the United States to promote unity in the ELCA. She also is representative to Lutheran organizations in the area, like Lutheran Counseling Services, the Wartburg Assisted Living, and Wagner College. Her focus is in leadership development, financial accountability, and evangelism empowerment.

Term: 6 years with a renewable option

Vice President: Christopher Vergara

Who is Mr. Vergara?

Mr. Vergara is a member of Saint Peter's [Lutheran] Church in Manhattan. He is a customer designer for many productions hosted in the city. His passion is immigration advocacy. He lives with his partner and

youth going through the asylum process.

What is his job as presiding

bishop? Elected to the highest laity position in our synod, his role is similar to that of a vice president's role, ensuring the unity and promotion of our synod. He also oversees several committees, including the head of the Synod Council (much like our church council). This is an unpaid position.

Term: 6 years with a renewable option (he has served this role for three years now)

Schedule for the month

9/1 -Labor Day - Church office closed
9/2-Women's Breakfast - 9:00am
9/2 -Staff Meeting - 11:30 am
9/3 - Boys Breakfast - 9:00 am
9/8 -Common Threads - 1:00 pm
9/9 -Worship, Music + Arts - 7:30 pm
9/14 - Rally Day - Fellowship Celebration
9/16 - Staff Meeting - 11:30 am
9/17 - Noontime at Emanuel - 12:00 pm
9/21 - Bible Voyagers - 10:30 am
9/22 - Property Committee Mtg - 6:30pm
9/23 - Deacons Meeting - 7:00 pm
9/28 - Ushers Meeting - 10:30 am

Inspirational quote:

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." (John 13:34)

Executive Editor: Pastor O'Hara

Managing Editor: Dee Furgang

Graphics Editor: Eka Tawe

Copy Editor: Michael Gold

