



Weekly Schedule At a Glance

Sundays

Worship 8:00 & 9:30 am
Sunday School 9:30 am
Coftea/Fellowship 10:30 am
Youth Group 6:30 pm

Tuesdays

Emanuel Ringers II 5:00 pm
Emanuel Ringers I 6:45 pm

Wednesdays

Bible Study Online 1:00 pm
Choir Rehearsal 4:30 pm

Thursdays

Adult Ringers 7:30 pm

**Many ministries go on a hiatus over the summer months. Check local listings for any cancellations or locations. Contact church office with any questions.*

Inside!

Fall Programming

***The Many Hands That
Make Ministry Work and
How You Can Help***

Staff Changes

Pastor's Message

Let's start with three presumptions. The first is that the vast majority of people believe themselves to be good. This doesn't mean that they don't do bad things; it's just that they try to live lives that are morally just. Despite what some argue, people join the police force to make communities safer, others become doctors to heal and not cause harm, and others become teachers to inspire minds for a better world. These are just three professions that have been attacked by people who would love to overhaul what they believe to be devious jobs.

This should never discount that heinous actions occur or that some people have ill intentions or even that evil truly exists. People need to be held accountable for any misdeeds done either professionally or in personal life. But I don't believe that most people are actively trying to make other people's lives more difficult—not with the conversations and experiences I have had.

The second presumption: it's often easier for us to dismiss our failed intentions than someone else's real sin. Like the first presumption, goodness exists within us and because we have the knowledge of our intentions, we can rationalize when we commit a sin easier than the actions of another person, even if that person is our life partner and we think we know everything about the other. In that vein, it's easier to forgive ourselves than to forgive others.

And third: our faith calls us to honor the best in ourselves and others while addressing the sin that is present in both ourselves and others. To put another way: we all fall short of the glory of God; if we didn't, we wouldn't need Jesus.

This summer, we have read passages from the Biblical book of
(continued on next page)

Romans that stressed the good we desire to do is sometimes the very things we don't end up doing and that we are all participants in the fullness of sin. We Lutherans strongly affirm this: we are saint and sinner. Sinner because even our best intentions sometimes fall flat, but saint because like a parent who accepts a noodle necklace from one's child, God turns what little we offer into a blessing while still asking us to be part of the solution.

That's why I haven't yet given up on the human plan. I still think there's good to be done. Even as the news cycle focuses on how very broken our society is, God takes this and re-forms it into something yet to be brought to birth. We can be a part of that coming world—indeed, we are asked and tasked by God to be a part of the plan.

As September dawns, we look forward to a new program year with the return of everything from Sunday School to our choral and bell choirs, from fellowship opportunities to making new friends. This is always an exciting time because new things are all around us. And, as a community, we are all asked and tasked to be a part of it.

You'll notice that in this edition of the *Emanuelite* newsletter, there are special smiley-faced hands found throughout which denote a place where you can help out with our ministry.

Each task comes with a brief description of requirements and who to contact for more information.

You'll also notice a plethora of opportunities with a range of skills. Some require a monthly meeting (like being on a committee) or a weekly duty (like Bible study), but some are more sporadic and require less time demand (like our texting prayer chain).

There is literally something for everyone, and we need everyone with all types of gifts to make the ministry of our church move forward.

So, here's the ask and the task: in this upcoming year, can we work together to build this community of faith by the grace of God alone? Something new is upon us and, even with our limited abilities, God will take whatever we offer to make it into a blessing.

-Rev. Kevin O'Hara

Look for us throughout this newsletter!



2 Publications for You!

After a computer glitch, we finally received both the Spring and Summer editions of *Living Lutheran*! This is the magazine from our church denomination, including all the work being done throughout the world.

Also, we have our daily devotional *Christ in Our Home*, which is a five-minute read/reflection on the day's Bible stories. The October-December edition will be available starting Rally Day Sunday.

Both of these publications are available free for you on the table in the narthex of the church. If you need them delivered to you, please let the church office know.



Christ in Our Home
July, August, September
2008

Music Notes



Music Director

"August slipped away into a moment in time"
from "August"
by Taylor Swift

That quote from none other than a Taylor Swift song sums up summer well—it always seems to slip by rather quickly only to become a memory for a cold winter's night. Alas—we look forward to the fall and all its upcoming music!

First, a quick look back at some of the highlights from this summer here at Emanuel: We welcomed guest handbell soloist Nikki Evans in early July. She wowed us with her ability to ring over 2 octaves of bells by herself! The following week we rocked the neighborhood with our outdoor service. Our Praise Band sang some up-tempo & joyous music plus some congregational favorites (many thanks to Joe Abba, Ernie Riefenhauser, Barbara Meberg & Chloe Ramsey-Lavoie!). What a great way to spread our ministry to the community. Be sure to peek at the pictures from the service [on page 6 of the newsletter].

The last Sunday in July we had a Godspeed and send-off for the bells who headed to Scotland for their two-week tour and the **International Handbell Symposium**. Be sure to read about it in Eiko's newsletter article [beginning on page 5]. Included in the service was a Prelude & Communion solo tribute to J.S. Bach (31 March 1685 – 28 July 1750) and the wonderful hymn *"When In Our Music God is Glorified"*.

August was a bit quieter, but we heard a great solo from Kevin Hunt "Go Down, Moses!" in mid-August and also welcomed guest musician Travis Sullivan (covering for me during my vacation).

Onto September! Choir rehearsals resume on **Wednesday, September 9th at 4:30pm**. Anyone wishing to join the choir is welcome. You do not need to read music—only have a desire to learn, listen and sing! It's a great time of laughs, fellowship and music. Rehearsals last about 1 hour and if you can't make that earlier hour—we can work around that too. We sing during the service at least once a month, sometimes more. Speak to me after the service if you're interested.

Also upcoming is the new season of **Noontime at Emanuel!** Now headed into our fourth season (*time flies!*) we will kick it off on

(continued on next page)



Singing Choir

For those who love to sing

Open to: All people

Gatherings: Sept. through June (Jan. hiatus),
Wednesdays at 4:30 pm

Can't Fully Commit? Join for a month's time

Contact: Debbie Norbeto-Jones

October 21st with **Ruthie Garcia**, oboe and guests. In **November** we'll have some smooth jazz saxophone by **Joe Natale** and in **January** we'll welcome back **Eric Stephenson** on cello. February is still TBD but what a great start! Be sure to watch for more details in next month's newsletter and in our bulletins.

God has surely blessed Emanuel with great opportunities for music in His honor—from handbells, instrumentalists, vocalists and congregational singing—we continue to praise Him. **Hallelujah!**

Musically in Him,

Debbie

Altar Guild

*For those who help prepare
for Sunday worship*

Open to: All people

Need: Saturday altar set up
and Sunday clean up for
one month (approximately
twice a year) with a helper

Can't Fully Commit? Assist
when you can

Contact: Deacon Nancy
Schoener

Worship, Music, and Arts

*For those who love to plan
worship*

Open to: All people

Gatherings: Second Tuesday
of every month from 7 –
8:30 pm via Zoom

Can't Fully Commit? Join for
a meeting and go from
there

Contact: Deacon Karen
Nurmi or Lynne Beard

Bell Choirs

*For those who love to ring (or
want to try)*

Open to: New to Professional
Ringers, beginning in 3rd
grade and up to adults

Gatherings: Sept. through
June, 1 to 1 ½ hours,
depending on skill level
and age; meets weekly on
Tuesdays and Thursdays

Can't Fully Commit? Join as
you are able

Contact: Eiko Cornelius

Usher/Greeter

*For those who love to help in
worship*

Open to: All people

Need: Handing out bulletins,
helping worshippers, and
assisting in communion
over two consecutive
Sundays approximately
every 3 months

Can't Fully Commit? Help
fill in for someone who
needs a Sunday off

Contact: Maria Pacheco

Worship Assistant

For those who love to help in worship

Open to: All people

Need: Helping assist in all matters
during worship on a Sunday morning

Can't Fully Commit? Try it once

Contact: Deacon Nancy Schoener

Reader

*For those who love to read in
public*

Open to: All people

Need: Reading the first and
second readings in the
bulletin aloud; one
Sunday every few months

Can't Fully Commit? Try it
once

Contact: Sandi Khouri

Emanuel Ringers

LOOKING FOR NEW RINGERS – ANYONE ENTERING 3RD GRADE AND UP!

We are looking for new ringers interested in being part of our music ministry. Those entering 3rd grade and above! Contact Eiko through the church office if you are interested. (Adults too!)

Emanuel Ringers I - 6:45-8:45 PM begins Tuesday Sept 8

Adult Ringers begin Thursday, September 17 7:30 PM- 9:00 PM

Emanuel Ringers II begin Tuesday Sept 22 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

All are welcome!

EMANUEL RINGERS SCOTLAND 2026!

Thank you for all of your prayers and support as we shared our music ministry in Scotland. 37 Ringers and Roadies from Emanuel and Katonah traveled to Edinburgh, Stirling, Glasgow, Loch Lomond, St Andrews and Dundee and finally Aberdeen where we attended the 22nd International Handbell Symposium.

You can find our daily blog written by the ringers at
newyorkringers.com



IN LOVING MEMORY

We are sad to share the passing of Christine Junghans Thompson in mid August. Christine rang with RoseMarie Wildman during her elementary/middle school years. Her two daughters, Tessa and Thea, are also alums of the handbell program. Please keep the family in your prayers. Ways to support Tessa and Thea, who are currently in college, can be found in the newsletter.

LINK TO THE FINAL SYMPOSIUM CONCERT

We performed four times while on tour and at the symposium. One in Glasgow, one in Edinburgh, a solo performance at the symposium and the final concert. The final concert can be found at the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xMRDALSfd5Y>

You might catch a glimpse of us. We are on the left side of the conductor. We are dressed all in black.

GIFT CARD ORDERS FUNDRAISER

Our next gift card order will be taken on **September 6**. Purchase cards to use and support the ringers at the same time. Have your orders into Eiko by 6 PM. Interested in finding out more- see videos from Raiseright.com.

[click here for more info about raiseright.com](https://raiseright.com)

CARAMOOR 4TH OF JULY RINGING!

Despite the weather - a group of 35 ringers and (future ringers) participated in the concert with the Westchester Wind Ensemble. Ringing during the 1812 Overture.



GUEST SOLO RINGER - NIKKI EVANS

Thank you to Nikki for sharing her music with us in July. Also a huge thanks to the Edelman family for hosting her so she could ring with us during service.



*Picture only available to
members of Emanuel
Lutheran Church*

WELCOMED HOME

Thanks to all who came and greeted us when we returned from our trip!



YES! ITS CATHY

Former office administrator Cathy Cairns and Norm joined us on the trip.

ALUMNI

Heather Petersen Berry, Emanuel alum, and former director joined us and rang with our group at the symposium.



Christian Faith & Life

Whether you like to explore a book each month or really focus on a book over several months, we've got something for you! Join us for our many different books and Bible studies!

B2Y

Originally started as a reading of the Bible in 2 years (the "B", "2", and "Y"), it now focuses on one book over several months and has a monthly one-hour meeting both in person and via Zoom to explore the depths of each book and our personal journeys. Our meetings will be:

When
Bad Things
Happen to
Good People

THIS INSPIRATIONAL #1 BESTSELLER
OVER 4 MILLION COPIES SOLD
HAROLD S.
KUSHNER

September 26

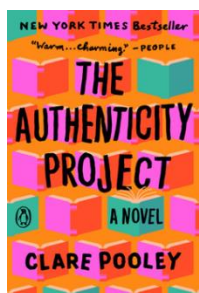
October 24

November 21

all at 11 am in the Living Room. We will begin the fall with the book *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* by Harold Kushner. To find out more information, contact Rev. Kathleen Koran or Annemarie Olsen or just show up!

Book Club

Book club is for those who love to read a lot! Each month has a unique book selected by friends of the congregation. We meet once a month during Coftea to review the whole book and get opinions/questions. Our next meeting will be October 11th on the book *the Authenticity Project: a Novel* by Clare Pooley. For focus questions while reading this book:



- 1) Who do you relate to the most?
- 2) What are consequences to the rash reactions the characters make on each other?
- 3) What truth would you tell?

(continued in next column)

Future books each month:

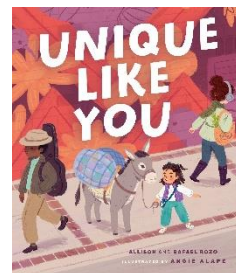
October: *the Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World* by Robin Wall Kimmerer

November: *My Conversations with Martin Luther* by Timothy F. Lull

December: *the End of Drumtime: a Novel* by Hanna Pylväinen

Kid's Book

Why should adults have all the fun? Each month, we also recommend a great book to share as a family! This month, we combine our English and Spanish to read the story called *Unique Like You* by Allison and Rafael Roza and illustrated by Angie Alape. What is that hidden treasure that Lina finds in the end of the story?



Bible Explorers

Sometimes you just want to read the Bible from cover to cover and we're here to help! Join us September 30th during Coftea to plan how to go about this great task and how we will support you. We'll also provide some information for those who haven't started reading the Bible yet, and we're open to wherever you are in the Bible and in faith!

Bible Study

Reading through the whole Bible is one thing; spending an hour each week on a passage of the Bible is another. With the leadership of Deacon Bill Bello (see the next page) and by Zoom, we'll intentionally go slowly as we explore full passages of the Bible. Some reading outside of class is encouraged each week. Bible Study meets on Wednesdays at 1 pm. *New this year:* when we have Noontime @ Emanuel, we'll provide a lite lunch for those who are interested in staying and participating in the Bible study.

Fall Bible Study

Choose Life

A 12-Week Journey Through Deuteronomy • A New Bible Study Beginning This September

In your imagination picture Moses on the plains of Moab — an old man, face creased by forty years of desert sun, eyes still burning with something that will not be extinguished. Moses stands before all of Israel, the Jordan shimmering in the distance, the Promised Land so near he could almost reach out and touch it. He knows he will not cross. And so he speaks — not as a lawyer reciting statutes, not as a general issuing orders, but as a shepherd who has walked with his people through fire and wonder, heartbreak and miracle, and who loves them too fiercely to let them go without one last word of truth. What follows is the Book of Deuteronomy.

A STORY WRITTEN IN SAND AND FIRE

Deuteronomy sweeps across the full, breathtaking drama of Israel's story. It remembers the burning sands of Egypt, the crack of divine thunder at Sinai, the long wilderness wanderings where manna fell like grace each morning and water poured from solid rock. It remembers the failures, the fears, the faithlessness — and through it all, the relentless, steadfast love of a God who would not abandon His people. Now, on the threshold of a new beginning, Moses does something profound: he tells the story again. Deuteronomy is not merely law — it is *memory*. It is a father pressing the family history into his children's hands and saying: *Do not forget where you came from. Do not forget who brought you here.* A new generation stands ready to cross. Moses makes sure they carry the covenant in their hearts, not just their scrolls.

“See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction... I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live.”

Deuteronomy 30:15, 19 (NIV)



MOSES THROUGH LUTHER'S EYES

We are not the first to be captured by this book. Martin Luther devoted extensive lectures to Deuteronomy — and he did so with unmistakable affection. He regarded it as, in his own estimation, the finest of the Five Books of Moses: the supreme exposition of the Ten Commandments and a living mirror of God's covenant love for His people. Luther saw in Deuteronomy no cold legal code, but the warm, urgent heartbeat of God's Word — a God who calls, who pleads, who invites His people not merely to obey, but to *love*. That same warm heartbeat has been drawing readers back to these ancient chapters for five centuries, and it is calling us still.

WHY DEUTERONOMY, AND WHY NOW?

In a world pulling us in a hundred directions at once, Deuteronomy speaks with startling freshness. It calls us to *remember* — to pause, look back over the faithfulness of God, and let gratitude reshape how we live. It calls us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and strength (Deut. 6:5), and to press that love into the hands of the next generation. A congregation that studies Deuteronomy together does more than learn scripture — it becomes a community shaped by covenant: rooted in what God has done, grateful for what He is doing, and oriented together toward the Life He sets before us each new morning.



WHAT TO EXPECT

- **12 weekly sessions** — accessible to all experience levels
- **Rich biblical background** on Israel's history and the world of the ancient Near East
- **Deep dives into the great themes** — covenant, love, memory, and obedience
- **Time for open discussion** and personal reflection each week
- **Suitable for all** — come however you come

Whether you have been with us for decades or are walking through our doors for the very first time, you are welcome at this table. Bring your questions, bring your doubts, bring your hunger. Moses' ancient words have a way of finding exactly what each of us needs — and we believe they have something fresh and alive to speak into your life this fall.

Join Us starting Wednesday September 16th



Begins:



Time: 1:00pm



Location: Zoom

When there is a Concert on a Wednesday we'll meet in the Living Room as well as Zoom — to be confirmed]

✉ Contact: Pastor Kevin or Deacon Bill

All are welcome. No prior Bible study experience required.

B2Y

For those who love to explore faith and books in-depth

Open to: All people

Gatherings: Once a month on a Saturday at 11 am in person and Zoom

Can't Fully Commit? Give it a month

Contact: Pastor Kathleen or Annemarie Olsen

Book Club

For those who love to read

Open to: All people

Gatherings: Once a month during Coftea for 1 hour

Can't Fully Commit? Join when you can

Contact: Pastor Kevin

Bible Study

For those who love to explore the Bible

Open to: All people

Gatherings: Wednesdays at 1 pm for one hour via Zoom

Can't Fully Commit? Join when you can

Contact: Deacon Bill Bello



RALLY DAY IS COMING-SEPTEMBER 13TH!

Come one, come all – Rally Day is a day for ALL Emanuel family members and friends



to celebrate the beginning of a new year of learning and growing in the faith! We would like to invite all parents and children to join us at 9am before the service for a special welcome! This is a time for you to meet teachers and gain some insight into the format of weekly Sunday School classes each week. Parents can leave and attend the service while the children remain in class until communion, when the teachers will bring them up to the service. Hope to see everyone then!

Bible Explorers

For those who want to read the entire Bible

Open to: All people

Gatherings: Once a month during Coftea

Can't Fully Commit? Give it a month

Contact: Pastor Kevin

Sunday School Teachers

For those who love to work with children

Open to: Adult Members of the Church

Needs: Prep time and one Sunday every other month teaching during 9:30 am Sunday Worship

Can't Fully Commit? Be an assistant teacher

Contact: Helayne

Confirmation Class

Teacher

For those who love to work with teenagers

Open to: Adults

Needs: Approximately every other Sunday at 5:30 – 7 pm at church

Can't Fully Commit? Try a week or two

Contact: Pastor Kevin

Want to get any of the books we're exploring at church at a deal and support our local businesses? Sign up to receive any or all of the books at the price quoted through Pleasantville's the Village Bookstore! See Pastor Kevin or Sunday bulletins for how to sign up!



Prayer Chain Partner

For those who love to pray

Open to: All people

Needs: Receiving and communicating prayer concerns via text messaging

Can't Fully Commit? Give it a month

Contact: Deacon Nancy Schoener

Table Talk

The fall is a great time to look at baptism, the first rite of the church during the beginning of a new program year. In this two-month study, we'll read from Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*. Discuss with your family what it means to be baptized.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

I. *What is baptism?*

Baptism is not simply plain water. Instead, it is water used according to God's command and connected with God's word.

What then is this word of God?

Where our Lord Christ says in Matthew 28, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."



II. *What gifts or benefits does baptism grant?*

It brings about forgiveness of sins, redeems from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe it, as the words and promise of God declare.

What are these words and promise of God?

Where our Lord Christ says in Mark 16, "The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned."

Rev. Kevin O'Hara

Pastor

914-769-1559 ext. 2

Deborah Jones-Norberto

Director of Music

Eiko Cornelius

Director of Handbells

Cheryl Fortune

Office Administrator

914-769-1559 ext. 1

Louise Edelman

Comptroller

Maureen McArdle

Pleasant Hill Nursery School

914-769-1559 ext. 3

Lynne Beard

Liturgical Artist in Residence

Jessie Edelman

Videographer Head

Deacon Nancy Schoener

Office Assistant, Parish Nurse

Deacons

Bill Bello

Karen Nurmi

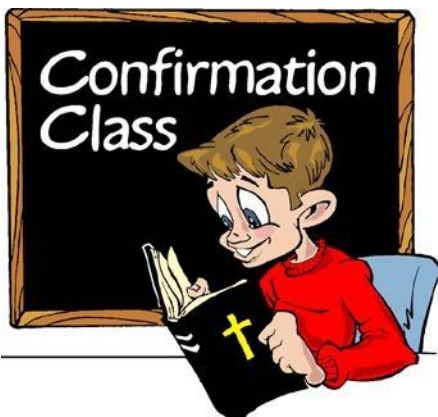
Barbara Meberg

Nancy Schoener

Victoria Lee Struss

Confirmation Classes

start up September 20th at 5:30 pm. Classes are open especially to 7th and 8th graders or anyone interested in learning about Lutheranism and faith. Also looking for another teacher to help lead the class (no experience needed). See Pastor Kevin for more information.



CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT

A time of renewal, faith, & community

October 2nd-4th

Koinonia Lutheran Camp, Highland Falls, NY

**Activities include hikes, Taize, evening bonfire, &
guided workshops**

All Are Welcome!

Weekend Cost: \$235 per room* + Meals
Meals: \$60 for adults, \$40 for kids (6-12).

Free for kids under 5

*most rooms hold 4 people

PAYMENT DUE: SEPTEMBER 13TH

Payment to Emanuel, indicate Retreat

Contact Darlene Esposito with any questions



Going Deeper Series

We're introducing a new ongoing forum during Coftea with exciting speakers on relevant topics in our community and our world. Each month, we plan to introduce another speaker. We are proud to have Linda Brooks as our premier teacher!

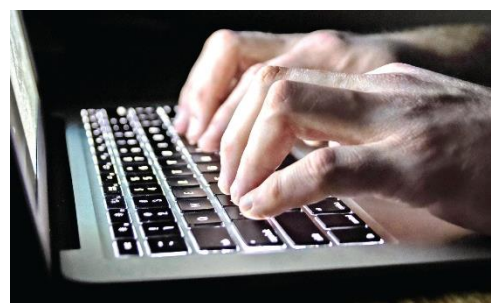
Understanding the News September 13 & 20 during Coftea In the Living Room

In today's content-heavy world, media literacy skills aren't just for those in the media business. The media-saturated environment requires savvy navigational skills to detect bias and understand and avoid mis- and dis-information.

Join us for a rich, interactive session to help you as a citizen, family member, and community leader — and as someone who just wants to be able to sleep at night! We'll particularly focus on how media literacy has evolved to be a critical life skill.

In this session, you will dive into:

- **How we got here:** Understanding how the modern media landscape helps you see behind the curtain
- **Why and where it matters:** Understanding the patterns and impact
- **What you can do about it:** Practical steps to take right away



This link will take you to an industry newsletter that dives a bit deeper into my involvement in this training: <https://www.foxrep.com/2026/04/28/restoring-trust-in-media-a-conversation-with-linda-thomas-brooks/>

"In the past year or so, I've gotten involved in providing media literacy training for adult audiences. This is based on the idea that 'norma'" people--that is, those who are not in the media world--don't stay on top of the complex and rapidly changing inner workings of the news and information business and how that affects the news that you see (and what you don't see). I've been partnering with a non-profit org called the Alliance for Trust in Media on this training, which we have recently done for chapters of the League of Women Voters, the Ethical Society, the UAW, and many others." – Linda Brooks

Adult Forum

For those who love to learn

Open to: Adults

Gatherings: During Coftea
each month

Can't Fully Commit? Join
when you can

Contact: Pastor Kevin





In Case You Missed It...

We are announcing another change in our staffing. We would like to thank Eka Tawe for the year of cooperation and leadership in

youth ministry at Emanuel Lutheran Church. Eka's passion for spreading the gospel is contagious.

However, as the ministry has developed in partnership with the Presbyterian Church, it has become very apparent that this role has been hard to accommodate the needs of both congregations. After some discernment and through conversation with the Personnel Committee, we have agreed to end our employment with Eka. Eka leaves with our best wishes and prayers for the continued ministry at the Presbyterian Church.

During this transition, we have created an agreement with the Presbyterian Church that we will not be actively participating in any joint youth group ministry endeavors for at least a year while we recalibrate.

2027
ELCA Youth Gathering
MINNEAPOLIS, MN • JUNE 28-JULY 2, 2027

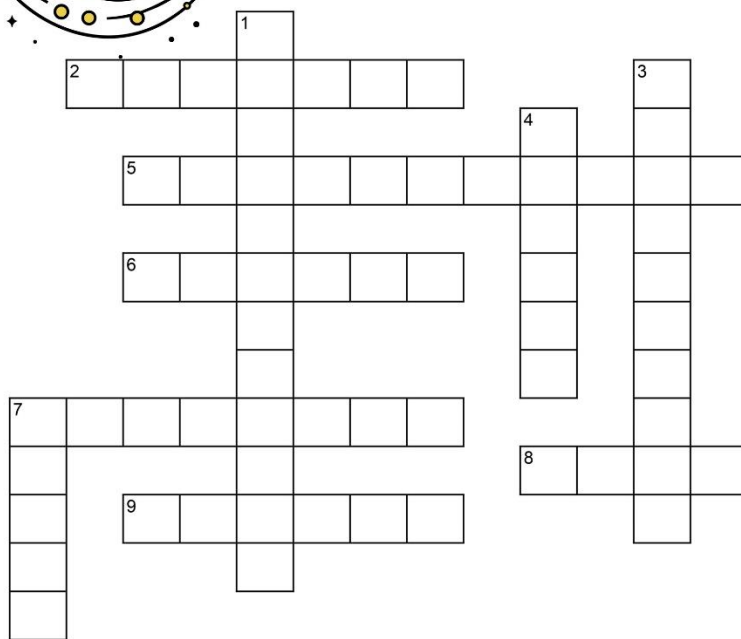
Information Night and Planning for adults and youth interested (would need to be entering 9th grade through having just graduated 12th grade by June 2027 to be a youth eligible to attend the gathering) meeting in person and Zoom September 20th at 6:30 pm.

Puzzle!



BEATITUDES

Fill in the blanks below to complete the crossword. Answers are based on Matthew 5:1-13, NIV.



ACROSS

2. _____ and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.
5. Blessed are the _____, for they will see God.
6. Blessed are those who _____ and thirst after righteousness.
7. Blessed are the _____, for they will receive mercy.
8. Blessed are the _____, for they will inherit the earth.
9. Blessed are those who hunger and _____, for they will be filled.

DOWN

1. Blessed are the _____, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
3. Blessed are those who are _____ for righteousness' sake.
4. Great is your _____ in heaven.
7. Blessed are those who _____, for they will be comforted.

Answer key: 2 Across: Rejoice, 5 Across: pure in heart, 6 Across: hunger
7 Across: merciful, 8 Across: meek, 9 Across: thirst, 1 Down: poor in spirit
3 Down: persecuted, 4 Down: reward, 7 Down: mourn

Leadership

Council Members

Darlene Esposito, *President,*
Christian Ed. Liaison,
Environmental Stewardship Liaison

Helayne McDonnell, *Vice President*

Sandi Whynott, *Secretary, Personnel Liaison*

Daniel Berin, *Environmental Stewardship Liaison*

Suzanne Cantatore, *Outreach Liaison*

Linda Collins, *Seminarian Scholarship*

Gregg Gonzalez, *Fellowship Liaison*

Roger Kent, *Financial Liaison,*
Property Liaison

Sonja Meberg, *Social Ministry Liaison*

Lee Pollock, *PHNS Liaison*

Ernie Riefenhauser, *Stewardship Liaison, Worship, Music, and Arts Liaison*

Gigi Riefenhauser

Committee Heads and Other Roles

Denise Rempe, *Treasurer, Finance, Stewardship*

Rick Brooks, *Financial Secretary*

Darlene Esposito and Helayne McDonnell, *Christian Faith and Life*

Kevin McGettrick, *Fellowship*

Suzanne Cantatore and Sonja Meberg, *Outreach*

Lee Pollock, *Pleasant Hill Nursery*
Helayne McDonnell and Sandi Whynott, *Personnel*

Doug Esposito, *Seminarian Scholarship*

Dcn. Karen Nurmi and Irene Kogelmann (emeritus), *Social Ministry*

Lynne Beard and Dcn. Karen Nurmi, *Worship Music, and Arts*



Worship, Music, and Arts

Blessing of Pets



October 17
9 am
All animals welcome!



Remembering 9/11



A special remembrance
during the 9:30 am service
September 6

Join us on
Sunday, **September 13th**
as we kick off
another great year
ahead of us!



8:00 am: Spoken Worship Service

9:00 am: Meet and Greet our Sunday School Teachers

9:30 am: Worship Service with a Blessing of the Teachers

10:30 am: Coftea Fellowship/ Going Deeper Series

Come and be a part of this very exciting day!



As we enter the autumn season and look toward the winter months, it is time to think again about protecting ourselves and our loved ones against respiratory illnesses such as Influenza, COVID-19, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and pneumonia.

Here are some practices that could help us to stay healthy and safe at all times:

1. **Hand Hygiene** is still one of the most important things that we could do to protect ourselves from germs, and to stop the spread of germs to others. For hand hygiene to be effective it should be performed for at least 20 seconds using either soap and water or alcohol hand sanitizer. Hand hygiene should be performed after handling respiratory secretions.
2. **Cover your cough** by folding your arm and coughing into the fold of your elbow.
3. **Get vaccinated.**

From the CDC:

What is Influenza (Flu)?

Flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and sometimes the lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The best way to prevent flu is by getting a flu [vaccine](#) each year.

Flu Symptoms

Flu symptoms usually come on suddenly. People who have flu often feel some or all of these symptoms:

- fever (sometimes) or feeling feverish/chills
- cough
- sore throat
- runny or stuffy nose
- muscle or body aches
- headaches
- fatigue (tiredness)
- some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.



Influenza virus spreads when a person who has the Flu coughs, sneezes, or talks. Droplets containing the virus could be inhaled by persons who are nearby (usually within 6 feet) or, less commonly, could be spread by your hands when those surfaces contaminated with the Flu virus are touched by you and then breathed in when you handle your face.

Everyone 6 months of age and older should receive an annual Flu Vaccine to give you added protection against the latest strains of the Flu virus. Flu viruses can be detected in most infected persons beginning one day **before** symptoms develop and up to five to seven days **after** becoming sick.

(continued on the next page)

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) is a disease caused by a virus named SARS-CoV-2. It can be very contagious and spreads quickly the same way that Flu viruses spread. Over one million people have died from COVID-19 in the United States.

COVID-19 most often causes respiratory symptoms that can feel much like a cold, the flu, or pneumonia. COVID-19 may attack more than your lungs and respiratory system. Other parts of your body may also be affected by the disease. Most people with COVID-19 have mild symptoms, but some people become severely ill.

Following the advice of your healthcare provider and these recommendations – perform hand hygiene; cover your cough; get vaccinated – are the best ways to keep ourselves, our families, and each other healthy and safe.

Wishing you many blessings for a safe, healthy and happy autumn season!

Blessings,
Deacon Nancy
Faith Community Nurse

Welcoming Cheryl Fortune!

Cheryl is our new office administrator hired over the summer. She has been holding down the fort for almost a month-and-a-half, and her leadership and gentleness has been noted by many who have stopped by the office to say hi. In case you missed it, here's a blurb of the email that was sent to our community (didn't receive it or not on our email list? Contact the church office and we'll be happy to add you!):



We are pleased to announce our latest staff hire! Cheryl Fortune comes to us with many years of experience in church office work. She is a member of a Baptist congregation and has covered their administrative assistant role for 15 years. She also has worked in the United Methodist church as an administrator to a particular congregation and then 5 consecutive years working under various bishops. Her inviting presence and also strong leadership gifts were present throughout the interview process. And so, with great gladness, we welcome Cheryl as our next office administrator!



Please join us on

**God's Work. Our Hands.
Sunday—September 6th**

To 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 **August 2nd through September 6th**. We will assemble kits during Coftea on **Sunday, September 6th**!

Items for a school kit:

- **Four spiral** notebooks—about 70 pages—wide or college ruled
- **One** 12-inch ruler with centimeter markings
- **One** box of 16 or 24 crayons
- **Five unsharpened** #2 pencils
- **Five pens**—blue or black ink—no gel ink
- **One** hand-held pencil sharpener with cover
- **One** 2 ½ inch eraser
- **One** pair of blunt scissors

Items for a personal care kit:

- **Two** or **three** bath size bars of soap, totaling 8 or 9 oz
- **One** adult toothbrush
- **One** sturdy comb—no picks or all fine-toothed
- **One** nail clipper, with or without file

Some things to keep in mind:

- All items must be new.
- Nothing should have a religious, patriotic, or military symbol, or the name of an organization other than the manufacturer.
- Please consider donating \$4 per kit to help defray LWR's shipping costs.

Thank you for your participation!

God's Work. Our Hands.

Participant

For those who love to serve

Open to: All who can assemble kits!

Gathering: September 6 for up to an hour during Coftea

Contact: Deacon Karen Nurmi





LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

For the past several years, our service project at Emanuel on God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday, has been to assemble school kits and personal care kits for **Lutheran World Relief**. As we prepare to do this again, it seems a good time to highlight the work of **Lutheran World Relief (LWR)**.



For more than 80 years **LWR** has been committed to affirming God's love for all people by helping them build a future where all people in every part of the world can live full, dignified lives. It began its work after World War II had left nearly 20% of the world's Lutherans homeless. Lutheran congregations across the United States, and across the different Lutheran church bodies at the time, came together to form a new agency, **Lutheran**

World Relief, to help Europe rebuild. In the decades since, **LWR** has expanded the areas where it works to include East and West Africa, Latin America, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and the United States, helping some of the world's poorest communities build the resilience they need to thrive. It works with people based on need, regardless of race, religion or nationality, providing aid in emergencies and helping people rebuild their lives after a disaster has struck, or a conflict has upended lives forcing people to flee their homes. **LWR** partners with communities to build and grow rural economies, which helps to break the cycle of poverty so communities and individuals can become self-sufficient and thrive. It also helps communities with problem-solving and planning approaches that will last long after the crisis is over.

Along with its continuing work in other areas of the world, **LWR** is currently responding to the earthquakes in Venezuela and Colombia, the floods in Texas, the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the wildfires in Spokane, WA. The distribution of personal care kits, school kits, quilts, baby care kits, and fabric kits is often part of **LWR's** immediate aid to victims. In 2025, **LWR** distributed 179,200 school kits in Angola, Djibouti, Honduras, Jordan, Mali, Sierra Leone, and the United States. Over 70,000 school kits went to children in the U.S. In 2025, **LWR** distributed 231,811 personal care kits, nearly half of which went to people in the U.S. These kits, and all the work **LWR** does, offer hope to victims of disaster and are a tangible sign of God's love to our neighbors around the globe.



Financial Supporter

*For those who love and
are able to financially
support ministry*

Open to: All people

Needs: Sending money
to cover specific and
general ministry
operations



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Lutheran World Relief Launches Emergency Earthquake Relief for Venezuela

August 19, 2026

Donations now being accepted to help families affected by devastating earthquakes

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 26, 2026 — Lutheran World Relief is mobilizing an emergency response following the devastating earthquakes that struck Venezuela on June 24. Donations are now being accepted to help provide emergency assistance to families affected by the disaster.

As search-and-rescue operations continue and authorities assess the full scope of the disaster, humanitarian needs are expected to include emergency medical care, shelter, safe water, food assistance, psychosocial support and assistance for families displaced by the earthquakes.

Working with local and regional partners, Lutheran World Relief is assessing needs and supporting affected communities during both the immediate emergency response and the longer-term recovery ahead.

The earthquakes struck a country already facing significant humanitarian challenges, including widespread poverty, economic instability and strained public services. Damage to transportation networks, communications systems and health facilities is expected to complicate relief efforts and increase humanitarian needs in the weeks ahead.

For more than 80 years, Lutheran World Relief has responded to disasters around the world by delivering emergency aid, supporting recovery and helping communities build resilience for the future.

How to Help Families Affected by the Venezuela Earthquakes:

Financial gifts enable Lutheran World Relief to respond quickly as needs evolve and direct assistance where it is needed most.

To support earthquake relief efforts in Venezuela, donate today at lwr.org/Venezuela.

About Lutheran World Relief: Lutheran World Relief is part of Corus International, a global family of organizations working to end extreme poverty through holistic, locally led solutions. For more than 80 years, Lutheran World Relief has helped families around the world recover from disasters, strengthen livelihoods and build resilient communities. Today, the organization is mobilizing emergency earthquake relief to help families in Venezuela begin the difficult journey from crisis to recovery.



Stewardship

September brings a breath of crisper cooler air, a culmination of summer and the launch of fall, and a resumption of routines – school, sports, worship, to name three.

Typically, ELCA churches experience a 14% drop in giving during the summer months. This

“summer gap” greatly impacts finances as church expenses don’t take a vacation.

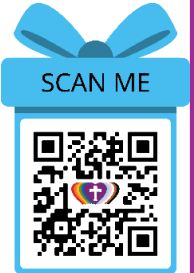
As you think about your immediate 2026 stewardship goals:

- If you took a summer break, look to catch up with an extra offering in September.
- Make a plan to continue to give steadily over the next four months.
- Give an extra gift to one of Emanuel’s donor designated funds.
- Arrange for regular electronic check or Zelle contributions with our ID emanuelgiving@gmail.com.

We ask God to inspire us to be generous with our time, skills, and financial gifts to support the church’s ministries.

Thank you for being generous!

To make an immediate one-time or recurring payment via credit/debit card or ACH withdrawal visit www.emanuelelc.org and click GIVE, or use the QR code provided above.



September 11 Service

Friday, September 11, 2026
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

We hope you will join us in gathering, praying, and remembering those who never came home, asking God to continue guiding us in our faith journey.

The **Metropolitan New York Synod** invites you to join them in person as they mark the 25th anniversary of the **September 11** attacks with a Service of Holy Communion and special prayers at **Good Shepherd Church in Plainview, Long Island, at 7:00pm**.

Many of us remember where we were on the morning of September 11, 2001: the fear and bewilderment of that day, and of the weeks, months, and years that followed. The attacks touched congregations across our synod — in New York City, on Long Island, and up through our northern counties — and we gather as one synod to remember together.

We hope you will join us in gathering, praying, and remembering those who never came home, asking God to continue guiding us in our faith journey. Bishop Katrina Foster will preach, and Pastor David Parsons will preside, as we pray together and hear again the promise that Jesus will be with us always, to the end of the age. [RSVP on Eventbrite](#).





Common Threads

For those who love to craft with others!
Open to all!
Come join us!

1-2 pm
September 21st, October 19th,
and November 16th
(more dates to come)



Common Threads

For those who love crafts and conversation

Open to: All people
Gatherings: Once a month
on a Monday afternoon
Can't Fully Commit? Try one month
Contact: Pastor Kathleen Koran



Coftea Hosts

We are in need of Coftea hosts after our 9:30 am Sunday service. A host will bring in food to share (or we can provide the food for families where that isn't possible), set up and tear down the room, and clean up from the event. Training is available. We currently have most Sundays from now until the end of the year available.

See Kevin McGettrick to sign up or for questions.

Bible Study

For those who love to host

Open to: All people
Needs: Set up, Arrange, and Tear Down of Coftea
Can't Fully Commit? Join someone else for a Sunday
Contact: Kevin McGettrick



WHERE'S JESUS?

Do you know in the past month where Jesus was from this picture? The answer is below. Send us a picture of where Jesus is for next month's entry. You can email our church office. Include the location in your email.



Answer: on Louise Edelman's desk! Overlooking Jesus is a handmade chicken from a member of our Common Threads group!



I AM WORTHY I AM SOMEBODY



MNYS WELCA ANNUAL GATHERING
Saturday, September 12, 2026
The Wartburg – Gatz Center
9 AM – 3:00 PM
The Wartburg
1 Wartburg Place
Mt. Vernon, New York 10552

Registration will start at 9 am. The day includes a continental breakfast and lunch.

Our guest speakers are Bishop Katrina Foster and Ginger Cutrell WELCA'S churchwide representative. We will be electing new officers and board members. If you would like to be put on our ballot please email Evie Buhner @ eviline@optonline.net and tell us a little bit about yourself.

The cost is \$40.00 per person. The registration form is below. Send your check and form to Linda Cook, 15 Woodbury Road, Farmingville, NY 11738 no later than August 31st. **Please make checks payable to: MNYS WELCA**

Name: _____

Church: _____

Email address _____

Deacon Evie Buhner

President MNYS WELCA
eviline@optonline.net
631-521-5770



We are honored to host Repair Café twice a year for Pleasantville and the surrounding areas, a joint endeavor between Repair Café International and our Environmental Stewardship Committee. But did you know that this Repair Café was featured in the April/May 2026 edition of *Reader's Digest*? While we weren't mentioned by name, the Repair Café of Hudson Valley (the local branch) was mentioned. Here's a brief print from that article.

Where Broken Items GET NEW LIFE

**WANT TO SAVE MONEY AND KEEP STUFF OUT OF THE LANDFILL?
COME TO A REPAIR CAFÉ, WHERE NEIGHBORS HELP NEIGHBORS.**

BY JEFF WILSON ADAPTED FROM THE HUDSON INDEPENDENT

THE OWNER OF a broken blender set it on the table. The light went on, but the unit wouldn't spin. Retired engineer and master tinkerer Dean Gallea looked it over and then embarked on what would become a 40-minute multistep repair job. Gallea went from removing, sanding and lubricating the metal blades (still didn't work) to removing and testing the motor (overheated) to replacing the motor's melted thermal fuse with one that he found in his toolbox.

"I put the thing back together and, lo and behold, it worked fine," he says modestly. All in a volunteer's day's work.

Welcome to a Repair Café in Irvington, New York, where skilled volunteers help people fix their belongings for free.

At this bustling event held last July in, of all places, an Eileen Fisher clothing store, 106 people brought in broken clocks, fans, jewelry, lamps, clothing (even zippers), appliances, toys, bicycles, knives, wooden objects—what have you—hoping that the 26 "fixers" on-site could work their magic.

Jennifer Kohl, who was being helped at the sewing table, had several worn and torn but valued items that she hoped could be saved.

"I brought all the things that meant a lot to me," she says, adding that she especially loved the interaction between the two seamstresses, Christl Mageras and Sarah French. "They were going back and forth advising each other, helping each other," she recalls. Even more striking to Kohl was the teaching instinct of these experts.

"Christl said, 'Come here, sit next to me, I'll show you this,' and then she had me stitch one of my pillows and coached me through it," Kohl says. "She showed me all her little tricks."

This interactive dimension, as fixers share their expertise and enable visitors, is the essence of a Repair Café, where the volunteers are often referred to as repair coaches. "We want to teach the owners, show them what we did ... give them the confidence that they may be able to fix it themselves next time," Gallea explains.

The repair coaches who show up at these events have varied talents and backgrounds. For example, Kisook Suh, who also helps with sewing, works at New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art as a textile conservator. Some repair coaches' specialties, however, aren't reflected in their nine-to-fives. Co-organizer Lisa Antonelli, a bookkeeper by day, revealed a knack for the mechanical as she revived Peter Marcus's broken Weedwacker.

Were there things the Irvington repair coaches couldn't fix? Not too many: Out of the 195 disabled items brought in over the four hours of the event, the volunteers managed to repair 173, for an impressive 89% success rate...

Environmental Stewardship

For those who love bettering our church/community environment

(Read the full article
online [here](#))

Open to: All people

Gatherings: Occasional evening Zoom meetings; presence coordination with events

Can't Fully Commit? Just join the meetings

Contact: Darlene Esposito





GARDEN CLUB + ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP CO-HOSTED

A PICKLING WORKSHOP (JULY 29TH)

The Pleasantville Garden club held a very successful pickling presentation at Emanuel on July 29th.

Everyone enjoyed learning the art of pickling and left

excited to share their creations with family and friends. The garden club is planning on another pickling evening on September 8th at 7 pm. Be on the lookout for the sign up in the coming weeks. We hope you'll join us for another fun evening!



Supporting Each Other

With the passing of Christine Thompson, many in our church have taken to sending designated financial support to her daughters, Tess and Thea, as they navigate being young adults without the support of one of their caretakers. If you would like to make a contribution that goes 100% to their needs, you can give online, write a check, or give cash; please specify "For the Thompsons". We thank you for your support during this very hard time for the family.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Our annual outdoor worship happened on July 19th on a fantastic day!



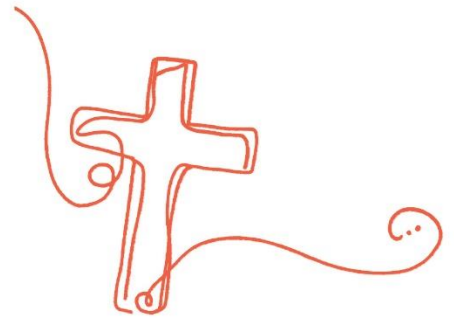
Congregational News

Upcoming Anniversaries

*Information only available to members of
Emanuel Lutheran Church*

Upcoming Birthdays

*Information only available to
members of Emanuel Lutheran
Church*



The Recently Departed

Kevin Beard, son of Keith and Lynne Beard – June 2

Erwin Kent, father of Roger Kent – June 30

June DeVaris – July 3

Walter Postel – July 4

Eugene Fiske, friend of Nancy Schoener who passed away July 5

Fred Noack, son of Ekkehard and Beate Noack who passed away July 5

Vincent Ruocco, friend of Nancy Schoener who passed away July 14

Christine Thompson – August 12



Upcoming Events

9/1 – Women’s Breakfast
9/2 – Boys’ Breakfast
9/6 – God’s Work. Our Hands.
9/6 – Blessings of the backpacks
9/6 – 9/11 Remembrance
9/6 – Worship & Coftea
9/8 – Garden Club Pickling
9/8 – Emanuel Ringers I
9/8 – Worship, Music and Arts Meeting
9/9 – Emanuel Choir
9/13 – Rally Sunday/ Worship, Sunday School & Coftea/ Growing Deeper Series
9/14 – Property Committee Meeting
9/15 – Boy’s Breakfast
9/15 – Emanuel Ringers I & II
9/16 – Bible Study
9/16 – Emanuel Choir
9/17 – Adult Emanuel Ringers
9/20 – Worship, Sunday School, & Coftea/ Growing Deeper Series
9/20 – Confirmation Class and Youth Meeting
9/22 – Emanuel Ringers I & II
9/23 – Bible Study
9/23 – Emanuel Choir
9/24 – Church Council Meeting
9/24 – Adult Emanuel Ringers
9/27 – Worship, Sunday School & Coftea
9/27 – Ringers Soup Sale



**WE WANT TO HEAR
FROM YOU!**

Send us your address changes, thank you notes, words of encouragement for the congregation, and thoughts and you might just see them in future publications. As a community, we want to stay connected and stay encouraged!