



# Emanuel Lutheran Church

December 2015

9 New London Avenue  
West Warwick, RI 02893  
401-821-8888

---

Pastor Todd Stange

Celebrating Our 130th Year

---

***Our Purpose Statement: Emanuel – Boldly joining God in sharing our gifts and love.***

*Listening for God  
through prayer,  
scripture and discussion*

*Following Christ's  
example*

*Generously sharing  
God's grace*

*Passion – having it,  
using it!*

*Being organized*

*Following through –  
walking the walk*

## **It Gets Better**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I recently found a diary I kept when I was in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Each entry begins "Dear Diary" and then I go on to describe the mostly banal events of the day, ending with a comment on my love life. Most days it's "Not much happened in my love life today," which is what one would expect from a 6<sup>th</sup> grader, but it seems as if I was hoping for more. My kids, especially Carly, got a kick out of the diary.

Despite the lack of an exciting love life, 6<sup>th</sup> grade was a great year for me: I had a big role in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade play, my classmates voted me "Best Sense of Humor", and I did have my first girlfriend – even if it was only for a couple of weeks. 6<sup>th</sup> grade was the last year of Elementary school. I had been going there since kindergarten and knew the hallways and classrooms well enough to walk them blindfolded. I knew all the teachers, I knew all the students, friends were everywhere. It was wonderful.

But then 7<sup>th</sup> grade came, Jr. High. The school was on the other side of town. I had to take a long bus ride to get there. Kids from five different elementary schools came together to make a class of over 400 kids, most of whom I didn't know. I felt shy and unsure of myself. But lots of other kids loved it. Some of my friends, people I had grown up with thrived. They met new people and made new friends. And this made me feel even more disconnected.

To make matters worse, my family moved during Jr High. Not far, I still went to the same school on the other side of town, but out of the neighborhood I had grown up in, away from my friends that I had known since kindergarten and even earlier. Jr. High was a lonely, difficult time. I wondered if I would ever feel the warmth and joy that I knew when I was younger.

### **In this edition:**

- Message from Pastor Stange
- December Calendar
- Birthdays
- Upcoming Events
- And much more!

**Deadline for the January newsletter is Dec. 20th .**

Notices can be left in the office, emailed to: [emanuelwnews@gmail.com](mailto:emanuelwnews@gmail.com) or leave a message at: (860)-208-0762  
Thank you! -Mike Gadoury

This experience I went through is not unique. I'm not sure if it was clinical depression or something else, but lots of people go through tough, dark times in their lives. Sometimes it's triggered by the circumstances they are going through. Sometimes it's caused by brain chemistry. Puberty likely had something to do with my rough adolescent years. But regardless of the cause, there is hope. It *does* get better.

A few years ago there was a campaign aimed at LGBT (lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgendered) youth. Many famous people, from Barak Obama to Stephen Colbert, as well as non-famous people like firemen and women from the New York City Fire Department, made videos and put them on YouTube – all with the message that *it gets better*. There are thousands of these videos out on YouTube. The link below is to the NYFD It Gets Better video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LViB1zEE1TA>

These videos are aimed at LGBT youth, who often get bullied and have higher rates of depression and suicide. But this message of hope is something all of us need to hear from time to time.

We are in the season of Advent now. It's a dark time with short days and long nights. But rest assured it will get better. Light is coming. Christmas will soon be here. There will be friends, closeness and good times again. Joy is out there for you. For me it came a little bit in high school, and then more in college, and now in abundance with my family at home and at Emanuel.

At Christmas we celebrate God coming into the world in the form of a baby born in a manger. From this the love of God for all people was, and is still, made known. We are a part of something larger than ourselves. We are children of God. And because of this, there is always hope.

Pastor Todd Stange



Ray Nunez playing in the leaves while we cleaned up Emanuel's cemetery on November 21st.

Thank you to all who helped get our cemetery ready for winter!

**Thank You!**

# Save the Dates!

September 10-11, 2016

## Emanuel Lutheran Church 130th Anniversary Celebration 1886—2016



Dinner on Saturday evening at West Valley Inn  
and a special worship and coffee hour on Sunday

We are looking for contact information for all current and past members. If you have any contact information for past or inactive members, please let us know at [130@emanuelww.org](mailto:130@emanuelww.org) or see any member of the committee.

In order to provide money to pay for the deposit and cover other expenses, we are asking that anyone who is willing, pre-purchase tickets for \$30 each. You can leave a check in Sunday's offering made payable to Emanuel Lutheran Church.  
**Please write "ELC 130" in the memo line.**

We are still in the planning stages. If you have any questions, or would like to help out with the planning of this event, please contact us at [130@emanuelww.org](mailto:130@emanuelww.org) or feel free to contact any member of the committee.

More information will be coming in the coming months!

**Thank You!**

-130th Anniversary Committee

*Gwen Andersen, Diane Gadoury, Mike Gadoury, Beth Groleau, Disa Johnson*

# Holiday Bazaar

The committee will be setting up some of the left over items from the Christmas Bazaar on **Sunday Dec 13, 2015.**

Great gift ideas for Teachers, Neighbors Family & Friends at a reduced price!!  
Open for sales after both services.  
Hope to see you there!!

## Christmas Eve Services at Emanuel



**4PM – Service with Christmas Pageant**  
**11PM – Late night candlelight service**

## Emanuel on Facebook

Did you know Emanuel has a Facebook group page. We have 110 members from all over the country and even world. Check out the page and join the group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/36035979225/>



## Christmas Giving Tree

The Christmas Giving Tree still has some stockings on it. If you would like to purchase and wrap a gift for a child in need, please call or email the church office or pick a stocking from the tree.

*NOTE – if calling or emailing, please wait until you get confirmation from the office to make sure no one else has already adopted the child, and to get size and gift recommendation information.*

Wrapped gifts should be brought to the church office on or before Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup>.



# Did you know...

The projection that we use during Sunday morning worship is available for download each week on our website at [www.emanuelww.org](http://www.emanuelww.org)?

It is usually available on Saturday evening. Feel free to download it to your smartphone or tablet to use during worship, or view it on your computer to catch up if you are not able to make it to church on Sunday morning.

Also, we are making larger print versions of the hymns that we sing on Sunday morning for those who have difficulty reading the hymns projected on the wall. Copies are available, just ask an usher. If you attend the 8:00 service, please leave the copy for use at the 10:30 service.

## **Ellie's Circle** *(Tuesday Sewing of Linus Blankets)*

**Not meeting in  
December  
(we will start up  
again in January)**

**Thank you**



### POSTING AN ANNOUNCEMENT

**For the weekly reminder (Emanuel Herald)** sent out on Mon. or Tue. All submissions must be received in the church office (preferably by e-mail) no later than Sunday morning. Postings for the printed weekly announcement sheet must be received by the previous Sunday. [Churchoffice@EmanuelWW.org](mailto:Churchoffice@EmanuelWW.org)

**For the newsletter:** Please send items to Mike Gadoury no later than the 20th of each month. Email to: [EmanuelWWNews@gmail.com](mailto:EmanuelWWNews@gmail.com) or call 860-208-0762.



Emanuel's Christmas Bazaar on

November 14th was a great success.

Thank you to Mary Schabek, Gwen Andersen, Joanne Powers and the many others for making it possible and making it a lot of fun.

**Did you know?**



**FOOD PANTRY**

**Anyone from Emanuel can get food from our food pantry – on Sundays mornings or Tuesdays 10am to 12pm**

**Speak with Pr. Todd or Myron Gadoury for assistance.**

**Spread the word. Thank you.**





Christmas at Emanuel Concert 2015.

Thank you to Chuck Mello and all the performers for an afternoon of great music!



# Help Wanted with Coffee Hour

**We're looking for people who would be willing to help setup and host coffee hour.**

No experience needed. There are people who will show you where things are and how to make coffee.

If you're willing to help, please let Pastor Todd or Carolyn Duprey know. Thank you.



## *DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS*

Pastor Dan Carlson  
Matthew Carroccia  
Alfred Caswell  
Elizabeth Colahan  
Katelyn Ferragamo  
Emily Gauthier  
Ray Gauvin  
Bill Gorry  
Sarah Groleau  
Evan Hass  
Carol Johnson  
Robin Lancellotta  
Phillip Malouin  
Lori Martin  
Diane Mendes  
Manny Morales  
Anita Neumann  
Robert O'Connor

Steve Martin  
Julie McCarthy  
Laurie Miller  
Brenda Morgan  
Jamie Silva  
Melissa Silva  
Jeannette Silva  
Coral Weedon

## *DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES*

Fred & Bernie Brown  
John & Phyllis Gustafson

*Contact Kym in the Church office if we missed your birthday or anniversary, or give us the exact date. We would love to have our records*

We are looking for a few volunteers who are willing to work in the church office when our office administrator is on vacation or sick.

If you might be able to help in the office, please let Pastor Todd know –  
(401) 821-8888 or  
[pastor@emanuelww.org](mailto:pastor@emanuelww.org).  
Thank you.



## How to win an iPad Mini!



If you were away and not at church this past Sunday, please watch your mailbox this week.

Your household will receive a packet containing an Estimate of Giving form for 2016 and a Time & Talents sheet to check off those areas where you can help Emanuel by volunteering your time and skills to help out.

Also included is a "Simply Giving" form. Please join with the dozens of other Emanuel families who give a part or all of their regular offering this way.

*NOTE: these forms are also attached to the Herald email (if you don't want to wait).*

As an extra incentive to you, if you bring your completed forms back to church this Sunday, you'll receive a free raffle ticket to win an iPad Mini.

Also, if you join "Simply Giving" or increase your Simply Giving amount, you'll earn an extra free raffle ticket!

The iPad Mini Drawing is Dec. 20, 2015 at Noon.

Don't delay and Good Luck!

**FREE! Christmas tree in need of a home**

**Jim & Barbara Fatkin have a 9 foot artificial Christmas tree that they are no longer using.**

**If you can find a good home for it, please call the church office (401) 821-8888 or Barbara and Jim.**

# Readers of Emanuel

Date: January 10, 2016

Time: After 2nd Service

Where: Anderson Lounge

Book : He Still Moves Stones by Max Lucado

What is it About? See below

People with questions. The Bible is absolutely full of them. A crook on a cross. A wild man in a cemetery. A five-time divorcée. A despondent cripple. A grieving sister. A father at the end of his rope. Why are these portraits in the Bible? So we can look back in amazement at what Jesus did? No ... these aren't just Sunday school stories. They are historic moments in which a real God met real pain so we could answer the question. "Does God care when I hurt?" On every page of this powerfully moving book, New York Times best-selling author Max Lucado reminds us that the God who spoke to Moses at the burning bush still speaks to you today. The God who forgave King David still offers you forgiveness. The God who helped men and women in ages past still comes into your world, and he comes to do what you can't, to move the stone away so you can see his answer

All are welcome to come share the fellowship, opinions and the potluck

**Advent Service  
at  
St. Therese Old Catholic Church  
Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7PM**

**Celebrating Advent Together this Year**



**This Advent season we have invited our brothers and sisters at St. Therese Old Catholic Church to Emanuel's Advent service on Wednesday December 9<sup>th</sup> 7PM.**

**In turn they have invited us to their Advent service on Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.**

**Come out, meet our neighbors and celebrate Advent this year.**

# DECEMBER

# 2015

| Sun   | Mon                          | Tue   | Wed                                      | Thu  | Fri   | Sat                                 |
|---|------------------------------|---|--|--|---|-------------------------------------|
|   |                              | 1<br>Food Pantry<br>10-12   | 2  | 3<br><br><i>Committee<br/>Night 7pm</i>  | 4   | 5<br><br>12pm Private<br>Party (FH) |
| 6<br><br>12pm (FH)– Luncheon<br>to discuss 2016 at<br>Emanuel   | 7<br><br><i>ALANON 7 pm</i>  | 8<br>Food Pantry<br>10-12<br><br>7pm Confirmation                     | 9<br><br>7pm<br>Holden Evening<br>Prayer | 10<br><br><i>7pm Council<br/>Meeting</i>   | 11  | 12                                  |
| 13<br><br>Mini Christmas Bazaar<br>after both services<br><br> | 14<br><br><i>ALANON 7 pm</i> | 15<br>Food Pantry<br>10-12  | 16                                       | 17   | 18  | 19                                  |
| 20<br><br>12pm Private<br>Party (JH)  | 21<br><br><i>ALANON 7 pm</i> | 22<br>Food Pantry<br>10-12<br><br>7pm Confirmation                    | 23                                       | 24<br>4pm Christmas<br>Pageant<br>& Service<br><br>11pm<br>Christmas Eve<br>Service  | 25<br><br> | 26                                  |
| 27<br><br>NO SUNDAY<br>SCHOOL/<br>CONFIRMATION  | 28<br><br><i>ALANON 7 pm</i> | 29<br><br><b>CHURCH OFFICE<br/>CLOSED<br/>December 24-December 31</b> | 30                                       | 31<br><br><b>Sunday A.M. Schedule:</b><br>8:00 Service of Holy Communion<br>9:15 Confirmation, Sunday School, Choir<br>10:30 Service of Holy Communion |   |                                     |