



# Emanuel Lutheran Church

January 2016

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*

## What's Your Story?

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

2016 is an election year and that means we are going to hear a lot of stories. Pundits will be telling us stories about what the latest polls mean. Politicians will be telling us their personal stories – where they came from, what they overcame, and why this will make them a good President.

Stories, when connected to politicians, can have a negative connotation, people stretching the truth and trying to deceive. But at their heart, stories are just a series of events overlaid with some interpretation that tries to make sense of those events and give them meaning. And story telling is something each of us does – perhaps most importantly to ourselves.

So, what's your story?

If someone asked you that question, what would you say? Would you begin with where you were born or talk about your parents? Would you talk about how you did in school, or about the sports you played? Would the focus be on your career, or on your family? Have you faced great adversities? And if so, how did you handle them?

The stories we tell ourselves can have a powerful effect on our lives – what we do, what we attempt to do, what we think we are capable of.

Years ago the scholar Joseph Campbell did a series on PBS titled "The Power of Myth." In it he talked about the power that myths/stories have in our lives. Some of the common myths include the myth of the hero, in which we need to save someone from peril, the myth of the Victim, where we see ourselves in need of being saved, and the Great Journey myth, like in "The Odyssey" or "Lord of the Rings", where we are on a journey and will encounter hardship, but with persistence and courage we will overcome and become stronger and wiser along the way.

### In this edition:

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

**Deadline for the February newsletter is Jan. 20th .**

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

Sometimes our stories come from books or movies, but often time they come from our parents and friends. **One story that my mother imputed to me was that "I'm a good boy."** This is something I heard often growing up. And although many times I would prefer to be a rebel like James Dean, I'm more often drawn into being kind, honest and helpful.

For the most part this story has helped shape my life in positive ways, but this is not true with **all stories. Some people grow up hearing the story "You're no good", "You're stupid", "You're unattractive", "You give up too easily"** – and this becomes the story they tell themselves.

But the good news is that we can change the story we tell ourselves, and in doing so – we can change our lives.

The opening of John's gospel says, **"Yet to all who did receive him [Jesus], to those who believed in his name, he gave the power to become children of God."** You see, we may have many different stories that we tell ourselves about our lives and who we are, but the true story, the most fundamental story – is that we are children of God, that God created us, and loves us, **and invites us to work with God to usher in God's kingdom.**

This is the story that leads to the abundant, fulfilled life that God wants for us. May this be our story.

Happy New Year.  
Pastor Todd Stange

## **EMANUEL 2016 ANNUAL MEETING**

Emanuel Lutheran Church has hundreds of voting members, but as far back as I can remember we only have a small fraction of our Parishioners attend the annual meeting each year. I believe last year only 40+ members voted.

I was asked by Council to reach out to you and help you to understand how important your **voice is to do God's work at Emanuel. I am impressed you put your trust in so few to make the decisions** at Emanuel that impact the rest of the year, but it saddens me as well.

**In order to gain an understanding of why voting is so important, let's take a look back at the history of voting rights. Contrary to popular belief, the United States' Constitution did not originally guarantee citizens the "right to vote". The United States was created with the understanding that only certain individuals would make the decisions when it came to government. This is not the case today with the addition of a number of amendments to the Constitution, but this is what happens when you don't go to the annual meeting. You let the few decide what will take place for the rest of the year financially at Emanuel.**

Remember: there is power in numbers, and when we vote and get our family members to **vote, we can truly make a difference and you show what you believe in. If you don't vote for what you believe in, others will -and you may not like the outcome.**

Do you ever wonder why one committee budget gets passed over for things it needs, while another seems to get it all? One big reason is voting. When we vote, we can get results that we can actually see.

Please consider coming to this Annual Meeting and show your support and voice your **opinions as it is a very important day. Wouldn't it be nice if we had hundreds.**

# 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*

Dear Pastor Todd & Emanuel Congregation,

Thank you for the opportunity to Chair the Christmas Bazaar the past 3 yrs. Chairing the committee gave me more than I expected. Your continued encouragement and support helped me to continue when things got a little crazy. I learned the true meaning of listening, patience, and most importantly Fellowship. I am proud of what we accomplished but it is time for me to move on & give someone else the opportunity I was blessed with.



The committee grew each year, there are now 20 members and 3 children who are very creative. Each week we would meet in Fellowship Hall to work on Craft & Sewing projects while getting to know each other, celebrating birthdays with a song & sometimes cake or cupcakes. During a member's illness or sad event we were there to comfort each other.

The total raised this year was **\$4,385.14**

Over the 3yrs we raised **\$12,538.67**, from those proceeds we purchased 2 Air Conditioners for Fellowship Hall, a small amount was set aside for needed supplies and the balance went to the much needed General Fund. I cannot thank the committee enough for their dedication and hard work

Come be a apart of  
**Emanuel's**  
Annual Congregational Meeting



Sunday January 24, 2016  
11:45am Lunch  
12:15pm Meeting

*(snow date –  
Sunday January 31, 2016 same time)*

## What is the New England Synod Assembly?



It's the yearly gathering of representatives from all ELCA churches across New England (over 300 people).

We are looking for a guy (a male) to represent Emanuel at the New England Synod Assembly in Springfield, MA Friday June 10<sup>th</sup> through Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup>. You would go with Pastor Todd and our other representative (a female).

Also, if you are 30 years old or younger (either gender) and are interested in going to the assembly, please let Pastor Todd or Ken Wieboldt.

Thank you!

**"You are dust, and to dust you shall return." Genesis 3:19**

Ash Wednesday Service  
February 10th 7PM



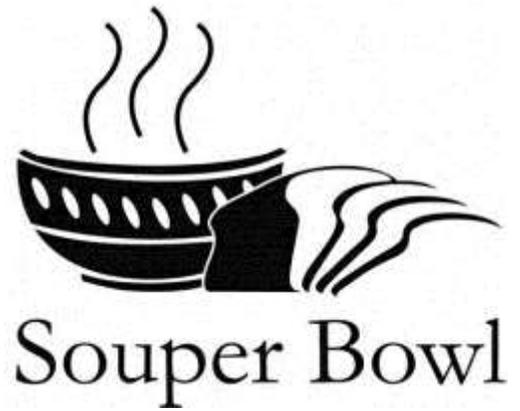
### POSTING AN ANNOUNCEMENT

**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.

# Thank You!

Thank you Emanuel for the mini Ipad. It was such a shock to win. God bless. Elaine



The first year confirmands and their mentors are going to be running the "Souper Bowl" food drive.

We will begin collecting non-perishable food on Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> and end on Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. There will also be a jar available for cash donations.

Thank you.

Collection Date Items

January 24 <sup>th</sup>	Spaghetti sauce, pasta
January 31 <sup>st</sup>	Tuna, peanut butter, jelly
February 7 <sup>th</sup>	Canned fruit
February 14 <sup>th</sup>	Spaghetti sauce, pasta



## FOOD PANTRY

**Did you know?**

**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.**

## Thrivent Action Teams & Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thinking about applying for a Thrivent Action Team? Remember that if you apply during December, your Team counts for 2015, even if the activity takes place in January!



### **Don't forget to direct Thrivent Choice Dollars®**

Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice® program can help support organizations you care about. Don't let designated Choice Dollars expire. You can do it now or a bit later.

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have been designated Choice Dollars have until March 31, 2016 to direct any remaining 2015 Choice Dollars. Help support Emanuel. Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more and find program terms and conditions. Or call [800-847-4836](tel:800-847-4836) and say "Thrivent Choice" af-

## 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.



### *JANUARY BIRTHDAYS*

Julie Carroccia  
Carol Caswell  
Linda Dooley  
Bobby Kraemer  
Brandon Kraemer  
Roger LeBeau  
Maren Nelson Miller  
Barbara O'Connor  
Herta Ross  
Carlene Silva  
Bob Tramm



### *JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES*

Al & Carol Caswell  
Donna & David Sennett  
1/26  
Norbert & Jeanette  
Sylvestre

*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 up to date!*

We are looking for a few vol-  
unteers 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.



Above: Angels, Mary and the baby Jesus getting ready for this year's Sunday school Christmas Pageant.



Right: On December 13th the Sankta Lucia Choir joined in Emanuel's worship singing songs in English and Swedish.



Thank you!

Emanuel, Thank you for your generosity and for remembering us this Christmas!

Love, Todd, Jill, Carly, Christian & Aaron.

## Emanuel's Mission Endowment Fund

Emanuel's Mission Endowment Fund gave away funds for the first time in 2015. \$325 in total was given away:

- \$75 to Joyful Noise
- \$75 to Ascentria Care Alliance  
*(formerly Lutheran Social Services)*
- \$175 to La Iglesia Luterana  
*(Spanish speaking Lutheran church start in South Providence)*

All three of these organizations make God's love known in different ways. We are happy to be able to support them, if only in a small way. We give thanks for the generosity of Roy Anderson, Vera Erickson, Michael & Beth Groleau, and others for making these gifts possible.



## What do Lutherans believe?

- About the End-times?
- About who is saved (and who isn't)?
- About the Bible?
- About Abortion?
- About Mary?

Please consider joining us for this new Adult Forum to discuss these questions and more. We will be getting together 3 evenings:



Wednesday January 20<sup>th</sup> 7PM  
*(What do Lutherans believe about the End-times and Mary)*

Wednesday January 27<sup>th</sup> 7PM  
*(What do Lutherans believe about non-Christians and who is saved and who isn't)*

Wednesday February 3<sup>rd</sup> 7PM  
*(What do Lutherans believe about the Bible and abortion)*

We will be meeting in Jacobs' Hall and will end around 8:15pm.

# 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

## This year's Giving Tree

Emanuel, This Christmas we helped 10 families and about 30 children through the Giving Tree ministry. The number of gifts was truly impressive. Thank you for your generosity and for making Christmas special for so many.



## Senior Live Laugh & Learn

The next luncheon will be held:  
Wednesday, January 13, 2015

11:45 PM to 2:00 PM



31 Universal Blvd.  
Warwick, RI

Please sign the sign-up sheet in the  
narthex if you plan to attend.  
Estimated cost \$10 -\$20

For last minute decision, call Helen Maine  
at  
Home: 401-397-3566

Emanuel Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting  
November 12, 2015

Agenda

Present: Pastor Todd, Linda Sami, Donna Sennett, Gwen Andersen, Pam Beck, Carolyn Duprey, Myron Gadoury, Bruce Johnson, Disa Johnson, Helen Maine, Kathy Plante, Margaret Teehan, Glenn Johnson and Ken Wieboldt.

Absent: Beth Groleau, Kris Knapp, Jim Schabek, Lee Jacobs and Walter Phaneuf.

Start = 7:05pm

Opening Devotions

- Pastor Todd led devotions at the start of the meeting. The message was - we still have the power to loose (forgive) and bind (retain) sins (Matthew 16:13-19). The power comes through listening to people tell their stories (their confession), taking the time to get to know their situation, and letting them know that they are loved by you and by God. Let us use this power, especially with those people who know one wants to listen to.

Approve October Minutes

- Approved unanimously.

Finance Review and approve October's Budget

- October Treasurer's Report accepted. Thank you!

Dec 6 Luncheon

- The free lunch for the congregation on Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup> (noon) is the centerpiece of this year's stewardship campaign. Everyone is invited. Please let people know.
- The theme the stewardship campaign is Ask, Thank, and Tell.
- The "Thank" piece has already begun through a series of thankyou temple talks, e.g. the video temple talk on Emanuel's Food Pantry ministry. More "thank you" temple talks are planned for the coming weeks.
- We have asked the council and committees to dream what they hope to do in 2016. Pastor Todd will "Tell" the congregation about these hopes for 2016 with a presentation at the December 6<sup>th</sup> lunch.
- People at the December 6<sup>th</sup> lunch will then be "Asked" to be a part of

these hopes for 2016 by sharing their time, talents and treasures in the coming year. People will be given an opportunity to sign-up to volunteer at Emanuel's different ministries, e.g. helping out with worship, Sunday school, the sewing circle, helping to maintain Emanuel's building and grounds, etc. People will also be invited to fill out an estimate of giving for 2016.

- Pastor Todd will share with the congregation why he and his family gives an estimate of giving and how they decide how much to give each year.
- "Thank" you cards will be sent out to everyone who signs up to volunteer in 2016 and/or gives an estimate of giving for 2016.
- Council members were invited to help out with the set-up, food preparation, or clean-up of the December 6<sup>th</sup> lunch.

### Stewardship for 2016

- Glenn Johnson shared how years ago the council used to look over how much each family in the congregation gave. At first he was uncomfortable about this, but Pastor Carlson told him no one should be embarrassed or ashamed about how much or how little they give. Looking over how much people gave let the council know what families were going through hard financial times. Glenn shared that doing this made him think differently about his own giving, especially seeing how much other people who were going through difficult financial times were giving.

### First pass on next year's budget

- The Finance Committee provided a first pass on a proposed budget for 2016 based on giving in 2015.
- The proposed budget is just about the same as this year's budget. However, it was explained that in 2015 we have borrowed \$6,000 to pay our bills. So, even though the proposed 2016 budget looks flat, it really is a bit of a stretch.
- There are many budget items the council would like to increase, e.g. increase synod to 10%, restore office administrator's pay rate to what it was a couple of years ago before being cut, increase office administrator and custodian to \$15 per hour, pay for ground maintenance during the summer months, etc. Some also wanted to reduce our offering to synod and redistribute it to other areas.
- We'll have to wait and see what the estimates of given for 2016 look like after the December 6<sup>th</sup> lunch. Then we'll have a good estimate for how large a budget we should have in 2016. We will then be in a better position to discuss how to allocate the expected giving in the budget.
- We will continue our discussion on the 2016 budget at the December council meeting. The council's budget recommendation to the

congregation will be finalized at the January council meeting.

### Pastor Sabbatical

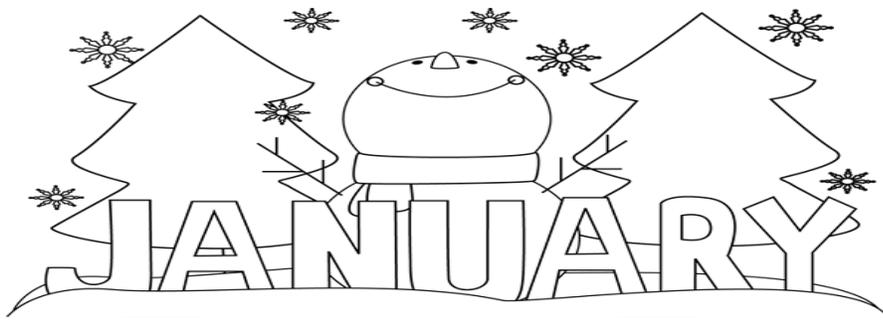
- Pastor Todd would like to apply for a Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal grant in order to take a sabbatical. Each year the Lilly Endowment awards grants to clergy and congregations to allow for the pastors to take time away for rest and renewal. In 2016 the awards can be as much as \$50,000. \$15,000 of which can be used to support the congregation while the pastor is away.
- The application for the grant is due April 15, 2016. In August 2016 people find out if they will receive the grant or not. The sabbatical must be taken sometime during 2017.
- The sabbatical would be about 3 months.
- The purpose of the sabbatical is to give the pastor time away for rest, reflection and renewal. The hope is that the pastor will return with new ideas and new energy. It is also supposed to be a time of reflection and renewal for the congregation as well. A supply pastor would be hired for the time the pastor is away. However, it is a chance for the congregation to use its talents and see that it can stand on its own with God.
- As part of the application process for the Lilly Endowment the congregation needs to agree to keep the pastor for one year after they return from the sabbatical. The pastor also has to agree to stay for a year after returning.
- Many on the council think it would be a good thing and that it is worth pursuing.

### Other

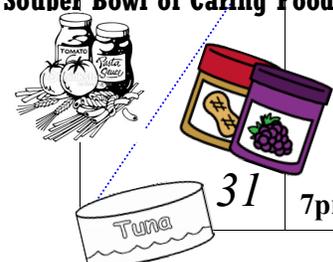
- Joyful Noise will be having a Dessert & Dabble fundraiser event Friday April 29, 2016.
- Please make sure groups, who use the church for events, clean up after the events.

End time = 8:36pm

Next meeting: December 10, pot luck at Wieboldt's



# 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Sunday A.M. Schedule:</b> 8:00 Service of Holy Communion 9:15 Sunday School, First Year Confirmation, Choir 10:30 Service of Holy Communion			 <b>ANNUAL MEETING</b> Sunday, January 24 @ 12pm		1	2
3	4	5 10am Ellie's Circle Food Pantry 10-12	 <i>Epiphany Service</i> 7pm	7	8	9
	7pm ALNON			Committee Meetings 7pm		
10	11	12 10am Ellie's Circle Food Pantry 10-12 7pm Confirmation	13 <i>Senior Luncheon</i> 11:45 Olive Garden	14	15	16
	7pm ALNON			Council Meeting 7pm		
17	18	19 10am Ellie's Circle Food Pantry 10-12	20 <i>What do Lutherans Believe?</i> 7PM	21	22	23
	7pm ALNON					
24	25	26 10am Ellie's Circle Food Pantry 10-12 7pm Confirmation	27 <i>What do Lutherans Believe?</i> 7PM	28	29	30
<b>Souper Bowl of Caring Food Drive</b> 		7pm ALNON				
	31					