



Emanuel Lutheran Church

December 2016

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

Pastor Todd Stange

Celebrating Our 131st 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***

In this edition:

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

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

Merry _____mas!
It's just not the same
without Christ.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Near the Lutheran Theological School in Philadelphia there is a Hare Krishna temple. During my orientation to seminary our class got to visit the temple and speak with the lead teacher there. We learned that the Hare Krishna's are a sect of Hinduism, who focus on the Lord Krishna. They meditate and practice a form of yoga.

One thing that has stayed with me from our visit, was when we got to observe the waking of the deities. Up on the altar, petitions were slid back and ornately dressed women brought out three strange looking dolls. The dolls were then very carefully bathed and dressed in colorful clothes. Finally bowls of fruits and vegetables were placed before them. It was explained to us that this ritual takes place every day. The gods (the dolls) are woken up, they are bathed, they eat, and then later they are put back to sleep.

I found this quite odd at the time, and I'm still not sure I understand it. However, I often find myself remembering this, when I'm in the sanctuary changing our banners and rearranging the back-wall mural for a new season. A couple of weeks ago I found myself thinking about those god dolls again, while I set up the Christmas tree and brought down angels and the baby Jesus from the attic.

How different is this? Might an outsider also find this yearly tradition odd, especially if I explained to them that we believe that the baby Jesus is God?

Of course we don't believe that the little porcelain figurine is actually God or even Jesus. But I don't think the Hare Krishna's really think their dolls

are God either. However, we should not condemn too quickly – for nothing is impossible with God, and God can be everywhere and in all things.

Perhaps more importantly, this made me wonder why we are in the habit of changing banners and murals with the church seasons, and why we adorn the church with a fake pine tree with ornaments, and set out angel statues, and put electric lights in the windows. Are these things **merely decorations? Do we put them out just because they're pretty?**

There's no rule saying we have to have banners a certain color, or an Advent wreath during Advent, or a Christmas tree during Christmas. Martin Luther called all of this stuff "adiaphora," which is Greek (ἀδιάφορα) for "non-essential". So, we could get rid of all of it. Simplify our worship down to the barebones. Worship can be adequately done without a tree, and banners and lights. There would be nothing wrong with it.

But the thing is – I really like the tree, and the manger scene, and the lights, and not just because they are pretty, but because they add something. They help remind me – what Christmas is all about. The evergreen, the light and warmth from the candles, even the small porcelain Jesus, all help me to experience the God that these symbols point to. They help me experience the good news that Jesus brought into the world – that darkness and hate and death are not our future, but rather the light and love and life that is coming. For God is making all things new, and that includes a new me and a new you.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Todd Stange
pastor@emanuelww.org

Epiphany is Coming!

Come celebrate Epiphany
at Emanuel

on Friday January 6th, 2017 at 7PM

We will celebrate with song, lights
and wonder.



Come be a part of
Emanuel's
Annual Congregational Meeting



Sunday January 22, 2017
11:45am Lunch
12:15pm Meeting
(snow date is January 29th)

**2017 Time & Talent and
Estimates of Giving**

Hi. If you haven't already done so,
please fill out your 2017 time &
talent and estimate of giving forms
and put them in the offering plate
(or mail it to the church office).

If you need forms, please let the
pastor know or email the church
office.



Thank you.

Emanuel Lutheran Church * 9 New London Avenue * West Warwick, RI 02893
churchoffice@emanuelww.org



Emanuel
Christmas Carolers

Braved the cold last Sunday to
visit and sing for some Emanu-
elites, who have a hard time
getting to worship. The joy of
Christmas, along with some
cookies, was shared.

This Year's Christmas at Emanuel Concert



This year Emanuel with the help of Thrivent Financial helped 30 struggling families have a Happy Thanksgiving



Christmas Eve Services at Emanuel

4PM – Service with Christmas Pageant

11PM – Late night candlelight service

Please note –
on Christmas Day
Sunday December 25th there
will just be one service at
10:30AM.



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

Name Tags at Emanuel



Strengthen relationships, make friends.

Name tags are for everyone.

**If you don't have one, take an index card found in the pews,
write your name on it and the names of others you'd like to**
have a name tag, then place it in the offering plate. Your
name tag(s) will be waiting for you the next week in church.

The name tags are made with magnets.
They are fun to play with and leave no holes.

Once you have your name tag, please wear it.
Notice the difference!

If you'd like to help with the \$3.00 per Tag cost, you can place
a contribution marked "Name Tags" in the Offering plate.

Thank you!

Congratulations!

John Eric Reilly Teehan
was baptized
on December 4th

Congratulations Jack!



EMANUEL'S FOOD CUPBOARD

We are in need of the following food items:



Canned fruit
Mac n Cheese
Rice a Roni
Instant Potatoes
Tuna Fish
Instant Oatmeal
Pasta Sauce

THANK YOU

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



EMANUEL will take part in a Nationwide program to put a Christmas Wreath on every Veteran Cemetery Grave Stone. We need volunteers on December 17th to place all the Wreaths. We will meet at the Church parking lot at 10:30am and car pool to the Veteran's cemetery after which we will have a cookout at the Church for all volunteers.

If you would like to donate the cost of a Wreath you may send a check/cash for \$15.00 to Emanuel Lutheran Church. Mark the check or envelope Wreaths Across America and we will do a bulk buy. All Wreaths will be purchased from the same vendor through the organization. Emanuel will be able to get a buy two get one free deal.

Honor our Vets please and show their families our thanks.
For further info Contact Kathy Plante 401-595-0940



GIVE+Mobile

We have an exciting new giving option to tell you about. You now have the option to give to Emanuel with an app that you can download to your mobile device. The app allows you to make a donation using a credit card. You can choose to make a donation one time or choose to set up a regular donation.

Once you download the app, you can choose to give as a guest or you can sign up for an account and store your payment information securely for future use.

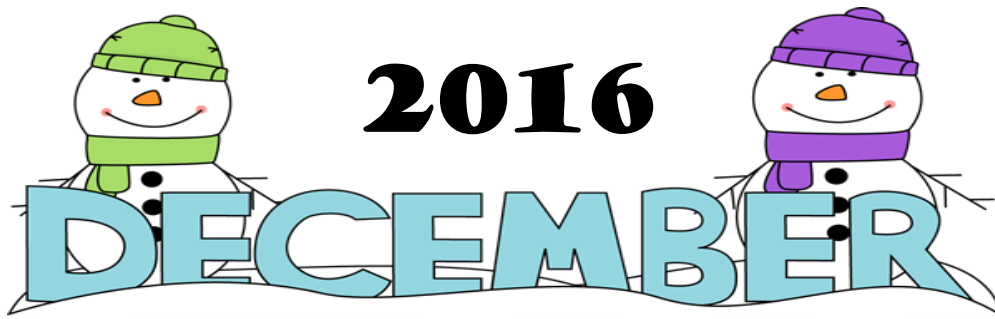
This option is administered by the same company that administers the Simply Giving program. It's a great option for someone who doesn't use Simply Giving, but wants to make sure the church gets their weekly offering when they are away. It's also a great option for someone who just wants to make a donation for a special event or need.



Here's how to get the app. Go to the app store for your particular mobile device and search for *give plus church*. Download the free app and then follow the instructions in the app. You can search for Emanuel by typing in "Emanuel Lutheran" or search churches by your location.

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

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>Sunday A.M. Schedule:</u> 8:00 Service of Holy Communion 9:15 Confirmation, Sunday School, Choir 10:30 Service of Holy Communion				1	2	3 12pm Private Party (FH)
				Committee Night 7pm		
4 12pm (FH)– Luncheon to discuss 2016 at Emanuel	5 ALANON 7pm	6 10am Ellie's Circle Food Pantry 10–12 6:30pm Mustard Seed Meeting 7pm Confirmation	7 7pm Holden Evening Prayer	8 7pm Council Meeting	9	10
11 Mini Christmas Bazaar after both services 	12 ALANON 7pm	13 10am Ellie's Circle Food Pantry 10–12	14	15	16 7PM Scandinavian Women's Choir Concert at the Music Mansion	17 10:30AM Wreaths Across America - meet at Emanuel
18 12pm Private Party (JH) 6pm Advent Service at St. Therese	19 ALANON 7pm	20 10am Ellie's Circle Food Pantry 10–12 7pm Confirmation	21	22	23	24 4pm Christmas Pageant & Service 11pm Christmas Eve Service
25 1:30am Service of Lessons & Prayers with Holy Communion 	26 ALANON 7pm	27	28	29	30	31
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED December 24-January 2						