



# Emanuel Lutheran Church

April 2017

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***

## **Do You See the Miracles in Your Life?**

Jesus was talking with his disciples when people began to bring their children to Jesus to bless them. The disciples told them to go away, Jesus was busy. But Jesus said, "Let the little children come, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Luke 18:15-17.

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I'm often mystified by our kids and their friends. It's not uncommon for me to come upon four or five of them sitting next to each other, but not speaking or even looking at each other. Rather they all have their heads down engrossed in a cell phone or some other device.

This is not unique to our kids or even recent times. Back in 2005, when I was entering seminary in Philadelphia, I waited in the registration line with 30 or so of my fellow seminarians. Many of them stood there with cell phones in hand talking or texting, or had earbuds in their ears listening to music. All of us were about to spend the next couple of years together at seminary, and there we stood in line not talking to each other.

It can be hard to connect to someone you don't know. You have to figure out how to start a conversation with them. There can be awkward moments of silence. You don't know how they are going to respond. It's much easier to pull out your phone and turn it on. And then in the palm of your hand you have technology with almost limitless possibilities. You can look-up just about anything on the internet, there are billions of videos, movies, and TV shows to watch, and almost every song ever recorded is out there for your listening pleasure. It's no wonder people often disappear into their phones, when they find themselves waiting in line with strangers, or even in a room with friends, when there is an awkward silence and no one knows what to say.

This tendency to retreat into our own technological worlds was noted in a recent forum titled "Repairing the Breach" aimed at getting Americans of different political persuasions (liberal & conservative) to speak with one another. One of the speakers, Heather McGee, suggested that, "We both need to embrace the limitless possibilities of technology, **and** reaffirm the limitless possibilities of the human being next to us."

### **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](mailto:emanuelwwnews@gmail.com) or leave a message at: (860)-208-0762  
Thank you! -Mike Gadoury

Yes, the internet is amazing. Through it a gigantic breadth of the world's knowledge is now accessible to much of humanity. But the person sitting next to you, or standing in line in front of you – is also amazing. They are a collection of about 7 Octillion ( $7 \times 10^{27}$ ) atoms, that are always changing, always turning over. In fact, if we stand next to a person, it's very likely some of their atoms will become part of us, and some of our atoms will become part of them. Most of the atoms that make up a person today will not be there next year. And yet, somehow those atoms that are here today are all working together to be that person next to you. Who are they? What is their history? Where are they from? What are their hopes and dreams? The possibilities are limitless. They are a miracle.

And yet, these miracles, the people in our lives are always changing, and not just at an atomic level. I've been at Emanuel long enough now to know that things change. People leave, they move away, people die. Change is one of the things we can count on. And this is true for friends and even family. At different times in our lives we will find ourselves surrounded by different groups of people.

This reality of change and loss can be sad, but it also means that there is something very special about the people in our lives right now. The spiritual teacher Jeff Foster writes:

"You will lose everything. Your money, your power, your fame, your success, perhaps even your memories. Your looks will go. Loved ones will die. Your body will fall apart. Everything that seems permanent is impermanent and will be smashed. Experience will gradually, or not so gradually, strip away everything that it can strip away. Waking up means facing this reality with open eyes and no longer turning away.

But right now, we stand on sacred and holy ground, for that which will be lost has not yet been lost, and realizing this is the key to unspeakable joy. Whoever or whatever is in your life right now has not yet been taken away from you. This may sound trivial, obvious, like nothing, but really it is the key to everything, the why and how and wherefore of existence.

Impermanence has already rendered everything and everyone around you so deeply holy and significant and worthy of your heartbreaking gratitude. Loss has already transfigured your life into an altar."

The people in our lives today – our families, our friends, the stranger in line in front of us – are gifts from God. They are miracles.

"Let the little children come, and do not hinder them..." Jesus says.

Embrace the holiness of this moment. Embrace the people who God has put in our lives today.

Pastor Todd Stange

# Emanuel's Annual Smörgåsbord

***Thank you to everyone who made this year's Smorgasbord a great success! We raised over \$1,100. Thank you!***



*"Come, whoever you are!  
Wanderer, worshipper, lover of leaving  
Come, come.*

*This is not a caravan of despair.  
Come.*

*It doesn't matter if you've broken  
Your vow a thousand times, still  
And yet again. Come!"*

*-- Rumi (13<sup>th</sup> century Persian Muslim Poet)*

## Missing Plates

We are looking for two missing plates that were used on March 11<sup>th</sup> at Emanuel. They are white and have a basket weave pattern around the edge. They had masking tape on the back of them with the name "LeBeau".

Please email Pastor Todd if you have seen them. Thank you.

[pastor@emanuelww.org](mailto:pastor@emanuelww.org)

## The Youth of Emanuel Went Bowling in March



**Strike!**





**We are looking for help**

**with Children's Church**

**Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.**

Children's church is a time for children to respond in a creative and active way to what they've learned in the children's sermon.

After the children's sermon, children will be invited to go to the fellowship hall for a time of games and crafts. They will be brought back to the sanctuary before Holy Communion.

We are looking for volunteers to supervise the children's church games and crafts. Two adults would supervise children's church each week. Our hope is to have children's church every Sunday at the 10:30am service.

If you are interested in helping, please sign-up on the bulletin board or let Pastor Todd know. Thank you.

[pastor@emanuelww.org](mailto:pastor@emanuelww.org)

**Did you know...**

If you have trouble reading the hymns that are projected during worship, feel free to use the red ELW hymnals located beneath the pew in front of you. The hymn numbers are projected during the intro, and are posted on the hymnboard on the wall near the memorial candle as well as printed in the bulletin.

For those members with difficulty reading the hymnal, there are a few larger printed copies of the hymns available. Please ask an usher for assistance if you require one of the larger print versions.

# **BE THE CHANGE DINNER**

## **West Warwick Senior Center**

### **EASTER SUNDAY 12 NOON**

The next Be the Change Dinner Emanuel is hosting is being held on Easter Sunday at 12 Noon for those in need.

We are going to provide a special Easter Ham Dinner for people on this day. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to make hams. We are good for Easter hams. But we are still looking for people to provide:

**Carrots**  
**Pineapples**  
**Bottles of water**

We are also still looking for people who would be willing to **help serve**.

If you would like to help serve or provide carrots, pineapples or bottles of water, please contact me at [mig-ABB@atlanticbb.net](mailto:mig-ABB@atlanticbb.net) or 860-465-7347.

Thank you!

Myron Gadoury



**BE the CHANGE**  
BE the CHANGE





# Holy Week at Emanuel



**Palm Sunday 4/9 – 8 & 10:30am**

Sunday services with Palm Procession & Holy Communion

**Maundy Thursday 4/13 – 6:30pm**

Christian Passover Seder Dinner

**Good Friday 4/14 - 7:00pm**

Good Friday Liturgy with Veneration of the Cross.

**Holy Saturday 4/15 - 7:00pm**

Easter Vigil with Affirmation of Baptism and Service of  
Holy Communion

**Easter Sunday 4/16 – 8 & 10:30am**

Celebration of Life's Triumph over death with Holy Communion

# **1 in 8 HOUSEHOLDS LACK ADEQUATE FOOD**



**Each week on Tuesday mornings I travel to the Food Bank to shop for Bread, Pastry, Produce, and loose canned goods all which are free of charge to us. I also from time to time when the need arises order food items which we purchase. These are in the form of cases of food.**

**I am looking for Volunteers to be trained as buyers for our**

**Food Pantry. This involves attending a 2 hour orientation class at Rhode Island food Bank which qualifies you to be a purchaser for our Food Pantry.**

**I am not asking anyone to do this on a regular basis but rather from time to time, so I may attend to other areas of food acquisition.**

**Upcoming Orientation dates are April 11 10am – 12 noon and April 27 12 noon – 2pm**

**I also make other trips to other locations each week to get more foods which makes Tuesdays a very long day. These trips I will handle myself.**

**We are trying to extend our days/hours of food distribution to make available on evenings. With that being said I am also looking for more volunteers to stock and distribute food from the food cupboard.**

**If you are interested please contact me so we may keep this outreach going.**

**No One should go Hungry**

**Thank you  
Myron Gadoury  
Sandra Malouin  
Beverly Locke**

# Fun was had at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Confirmation Retreat





## 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.

### 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!

## Do you have a credit card that earns Airline Miles?



Here's a great new way to earn Air Miles and help Emanuel, too!

Using a new app developed via the "Simply Giving Program," you can now make a special contribution to Emanuel Lutheran and earn air miles for your contribution.

With a new program that's been mentioned recently in Emanuel's "Weekly Herald," you can now use your credit card to make a special, one-time contribution to help support a number of Emanuel's Programs.

You may choose the one you'd like to support.

For example, you can contribute to the Emanuel Lutheran Church Endowment Fund.

Or you can support Emanuel's:

- Food Pantry;
- Pastor's Discretionary Fund; or
- our Music Program, just to name a few.

You can even use it to help send kids to camp via Emanuel's Camp Calumet Scholarship Fund.

Do you want more information, or have a few questions on how it works??

Send an e mail to:

Emanuel's Treasurer, Carol Johnson at:







[CMJohnson1220@gmail.com](mailto:CMJohnson1220@gmail.com)

Or call her at [\(401\)323-9542](tel:(401)323-9542).

You can help Emanuel start off on the right path in 2017!



# April 2017

| Sun  | Mon                  | Tue   | Wed | Thu   | Fri  | Sat   |
|--|----------------------|---|-----|---|--|---|
| <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 |                      |   |     |   |  | 1   |
| 2  | 3<br><br>7pm ALANON  | 4 10am Ellie's Circle<br><br>Food Pantry 10-12<br>6pm Bazaar Workshop<br>6pm Scandinavian Women's Choir | 5   | 6<br><br>Committee Night 7pm  | 7  | 8   |
| 9<br><br>  | 10<br><br>7pm ALANON | 11 10am Ellie's Circle<br>Food Pantry 10-12<br>6pm Bazaar Workshop<br>6pm Scandinavian Women's Choir    | 12  | 13<br><br><br>Maundy Thursday<br>7 pm Service | 14<br><br><br>Good Friday<br>7 pm Service | 15<br><br><br>7pm Easter Vigil |
| 16<br><br><br>Christ has Risen!                            | 17<br><br>7pm ALANON | 18 10am Ellie's Circle<br>Food Pantry 10-12   | 19  | 20<br><br><br>1st Day of Spring               | 21   | 22<br><br>3rd Year Confirmation Service Project   |
| <div>SCHOOL VACATION WEEK</div>  |                      |   |     |   |  |   |
|  |                      | 7pm Confirmation  |     | 7pm Council Meeting   |  |   |
| 23<br><br>30   | 24<br><br>7pm ALANON | 25 10am Ellie's Circle<br>Food Pantry 10-12<br>6pm Bazaar Workshop<br>6pm Scandinavian Women's Choir    | 26  | 27  | 28   | 29  |