



# Emanuel Lutheran Church

September 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 BLACK LIVES MATTER at Emanuel?**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Back in early July Jill and I visited our old neighborhood in Somerville, MA. We stopped at our favorite pizza place (*Angelina's*), and I also dragged Jill along for a pilgrimage to First Church Somerville.

Last year the council read a book called "Real Good Church" written by the pastor of First Church. The book talked a lot about the creative things they did as a congregation, and I wanted to check it out. The book is subtitled "How Our Church Came Back from the Dead, and Yours Can, Too."

After wandering down a side street off of Davis Square, we eventually found First Church. It was unspectacular. The grounds were a mess. I think because of some sort of construction project that was underway. And no one was around – no one at all. Granted it was a hot summer afternoon. However, one thing caught my attention. It was a gigantic sign hanging on their steeple with the words "BLACK LIVES MATTER" on it.

These words seem to have special powers. They can stir people up. I remember a while back reading a rant from one of my friends on Facebook who was quite disturbed by these words. "No. No!" they said, "It should be 'All Lives Matter.' It's not just black lives that matter. All lives matter."

And of course they are right. All lives do matter: yellow, brown, red, white, etc. However, I don't think that's really the question. The question is whether or not *black* lives matter. After all, it's people with *black* skin that are being shot, and killed, and profiled, and incarcerated in disproportionate numbers, not *all* people. Given the evidence, it's not clear that black lives really do matter.

### **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

First Church Somerville is a progressive church, but seeing their big "BLACK LIVES MATTER" sign surprised me. It seemed a bit dated. It had been while since I remembered hearing of a black person being shot and killed by the police (It turns out that it hadn't been that long. On April 29th 15 year old Jordan Edwards was killed by a white police officer in Balch Springs, TX). But then a few weeks later groups of Neo Nazis, the KKK, and white nationalists decided to hold a "United the Right" rally in Charlottesville, VA. There they clashed with counter protesters including Christian pastors and laypeople and members of the Black Lives Matter movement. One person, Heather Heyer, died when a Neo Nazi drove his car into a crowd of counter protesters. In the wake of these events I remembered First Church's big sign hanging out for everyone in the community to see. It got me wondering if Emanuel should hang up a similar big sign, and how we as a congregation feel about recent events and not-so-recent events.

Do BLACK LIVES MATTER at Emanuel? On an average Sunday you don't see many (or any) people of color at Emanuel. Who would feel more welcome coming to worship at Emanuel, a person with black skin OR a white nationalist? Aside from our welcome statement, there's not much evidence that black lives do matter at Emanuel.

But Emanuel is not alone in this. A couple of years ago the Pew Research Center did a study on the diversity of religious groups in the United States. Out of the 30 groups studied the second least diverse group was the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. We're 96% white. And for me this lack of diversity is not isolated to church. When I look around my neighborhood or even at my Facebook friends, what I see is mostly other white people.

Why is this? I'm not a racist. I like people of color and over the course of my life have been good friends with a few. And yet somehow my life has turned out to look like a white nationalist's dream. How did this happen?

I believe the problem started a long time ago and has to do with the history of our country. Originally only white people could be citizens of the United States. And only citizens could vote, serve on juries, hold office, and in some cases, even own property. Black people, on the other hand, were bought and sold as slaves. White people profited from 200 years of slave labor. Black people were set free after the Emancipation Proclamation and began their new lives with just the clothes on their backs. Then Jim Crow laws, passed in the late 1800's and early 1900's, setup a system where almost exclusively the best jobs, neighborhoods, schools and hospitals served and were reserved for white people.

More recently, in the 1930's as part of Roosevelt's New Deal, the Federal Housing Administration was created with the goal of making it possible for middle class Americans to own their own home. Today this is still part of the American Dream. The Federal Housing Administration backed the mortgages of millions of Americans. However, to qualify you had to be white. Mortgages to black families were considered too risky and were not backed. Through this program millions of average white Americans became homeowners for the first time, and white-only suburbs were created.

Further Government decisions about where to locate freeways, waste treatment plants, and other things that disrupt neighborhoods usually favored white neighborhoods over black. The result is that homes in white neighborhoods increased in value more than black or integrated neighborhoods. And the value of these homes has gotten passed down to subsequent generations.

There's been a history of privilege for white people, that has allowed them to accumulate wealth over generations and pass it down to us today. Similarly there's also been a history of hindrance for black people, that has been passed down to black people today. The result is neighborhoods and churches full of white people.

Emanuel's history as a Swedish immigrant church still has a big influence on us today: our style of worship, and on the color of our skin. Perhaps the reason we are a mostly white church is that black people just prefer to worship in a different style. Maybe black people just don't like German Chorales. Or perhaps people in general would just rather be with people who look like themselves and have similar backgrounds. There are many churches that primarily black. In fact, the least diverse church in that Pew study was the National Baptist Convention. They are 99% black.

Does this mean the white nationalists are right – that we'd all be happier if we were separated by race? No. The National Baptist Convention comes out of the same history of slavery, Jim Crow laws, and housing discrimination that the rest of America's segregated churches come from.

The kingdom of God that Jesus proclaimed is one that continually broke barriers and reached out to include people who were different: Samaritans, Syrophenicians, Greeks, Romans, Ethiopians, eunuchs, lepers, women, rich, poor, etc. As the Apostle Paul wrote, "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

Our white churches, and neighborhoods, and friends are the product of a history of racist practices. In the past people setup laws and actively worked and to separate races. Fear and mistrust have been used. But the Bible tells us again and again – do not be afraid, God is with us. Today we need to actively work to build trust and integrate races. The laws we pass and the policies we implement should help repair the damage of the past. Our daily choices – of who to sit next to, and say hello to, and invite over for dinner – should reach across the illusionary barriers of race.

In God's kingdom we are all children of God together. This was what Jesus proclaimed and worked for, it was the dream of Martin Luther King, and now it is our daily work.

Pastor Todd Stange

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[www.angelinaspizzeriasomerville.com/](http://www.angelinaspizzeriasomerville.com/)  
[www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2016/07/11/arent-more-white-people-than-black-people-killed-by-police-yes-but-no/?utm\\_term=.c1f20dce969b](http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2016/07/11/arent-more-white-people-than-black-people-killed-by-police-yes-but-no/?utm_term=.c1f20dce969b)  
[www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/another-black-boy-was-killed-by-police-its-time-for-more-than-hashtags/2017/05/02/03ced94e-2f66-11e7-9534-00e4656c22aa\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.7ef726b353b7](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/another-black-boy-was-killed-by-police-its-time-for-more-than-hashtags/2017/05/02/03ced94e-2f66-11e7-9534-00e4656c22aa_story.html?utm_term=.7ef726b353b7)  
[www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/07/27/the-most-and-least-racially-diverse-u-s-religious-groups/](http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/07/27/the-most-and-least-racially-diverse-u-s-religious-groups/)

[newsreel.org/guides/race/whiteadv.htm](http://newsreel.org/guides/race/whiteadv.htm)

**Needed – Small Refrigerator – for a couple of weeks.**

**Phyllis and John Gustafson's refrigerator died and the new one won't be delivered for a couple of weeks.**

**If you (or someone you know) has a small refrigerator you could loan them for a couple of weeks, it would be greatly appreciated.**

***Please call Pastor Todd or the church office, if you might be able to help.***

**Thank you.**

# Emanuel's Church Picnic 2017



Much fun was had at the church picnic. It was a beautiful day at the Buttonwoods Masonic Park. Thank you to everyone who made the afternoon possible!

Congratulations 2017 Corn Hole Champions  
Linda Nunez, Jill Stange and Pastor Todd



## Pastor Todd with Emanuel Celebrating in August



August 5<sup>th</sup> **was Pastor Todd's 10 year** anniversary at Emanuel AND August 18<sup>th</sup> **was Pastor Todd's** 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

Thank you everyone for the warm wishes, cake and generous gifts. I am blessed to serve such a loving group of people. Thank you!

- Pastor Todd

## Farewell Blessing for Laurie Phillips

At the end of August Laurie moved to Florida. Our prayers and love go with her.

*Laurie wants everyone to know that she has survived the hurricane with no damage.*



# EMANUEL BE THE CHANGE DINNER

September 17, 2017 @ 5PM West Warwick Senior Center

We will no longer provide bottled water so we can help save 80 plastic bottles from going in the environment.

**I will need at least 6 servers to volunteer.**

Servers should arrive at 4:30 pm

Our menu for this event will be:

- White Rice with a rich Hamburger Mushroom Gravy
- Candied Carrots gently cooked in a sweet buttery sauce
- Garden salad
- Dinner rolls
- Heavenly Pumpkin Bread Pudding with Caramel Sauce
- Fruit Punch

If you can help with the food items it will be greatly appreciated. Please bring All food items to the Fellowship Hall kitchen by Saturday and put in Fridge if necessary. Non perishable on counter. On Friday you can enter the Church through the day care and our custodian will be at Church from 9am to 2 pm on Saturday.

Please contact me if you can help serve or provide food items.  
[Mig-ABB@atlanticbb.net](mailto:Mig-ABB@atlanticbb.net) 860-465-7347

I need:

- 20 lbs hamburger
- 20 lbs fresh carrots
- 60 dinner rolls
- 6 heads lettuce
- 6 green peppers
- 6 lbs Onions
- 6 cucumbers
- 2 pkgs fresh mushrooms
- 3 lbs Butter
- 3 gallons milk
- 32 oz raisins



As always Thank you for your continued support.

Myron Gadoury

## PASTA DINNER

Fundraiser for Joyful Noise Daycare  
Playground Improvement Project

Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>  
5:00pm

Dinner includes:

Pasta & Homemade Meatballs  
Garden salad  
Italian bread  
Desert

Adults: \$10

Children (under age 12): \$5

50/50 Raffle to  
be held

Emanuel Lutheran Church  
9 New London Ave., West Warwick RI

# Volunteers needed

We are looking for volunteers to help with the playground work on October 14th. We will be refreshing the playground area with new sand and completing some other small tasks. **Lunch will be provided.**

*If you can help, contact Mike Gadoury or Kathy Plante or send an email to [gadourym@gmail.com](mailto:gadourym@gmail.com).*



God Squad

Saturday September  
30<sup>th</sup>

AND

Saturday October 7<sup>th</sup>

Painting the house of a disabled man in West Warwick.

If you can help one or both days, please email Pastor Todd or Myron Gadoury and we will give you directions.

Thank you!

[pastor@emanuelww.org](mailto:pastor@emanuelww.org) or [mig-abb@atlanticbb.net](mailto:mig-abb@atlanticbb.net)

## New Church Office Hours

**Monday – Thursday  
10AM to 2PM**



### Do You Like Coffee, Fellowship, Meeting New Friends?



If so, consider hosting coffee hour. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the entry way.

If you've never done it before, just note this next to your name, and you will be helped and trained.

Thank you.



# Three ways you can help Emanuel this Fall

Now that the Fall season is underway, Emanuel is asking for your assistance.

Through the first two-thirds of this year, Emanuel Lutheran Church's expenses have exceeded the income received from weekly offerings for many of the months so far in 2017.

Before we reach the end of the year we are asking everyone's help. This is your opportunity.

There are three ways you can help.

The best way you can help is by giving one extra week's worth of regular offering. For example, if you give \$25 per week, please give an extra \$25 on one (or more) Sundays before the end of this year.

If you are already one of our many "Simply Giving" program members, you may place the extra weekly offering in the collection plate.

Or you can increase the your weekly Simply Giving amount. Just let Emanuel's Treasurer, Carol Johnson know that you'd like to increase your Simply Giving amount.

She can be reached at [\(401\) 323-9542](tel:4013239542), or via e mail at: [cmjohnson1220@gmail.com](mailto:cmjohnson1220@gmail.com)

Finally, another way of helping is by making a special donation to Emanuel using the "Givelify" app, which you can download free on your mobile phone.

Givelify lets you to make a one-time gift to Emanuel using your credit card.

Any financial contribution that you are able to give will be appreciated. Thank you.

Emanuel Finance Committee



## BAZAAR BASKETS

We are trying something new this year! We will complete all the Bazaar Raffle Baskets before the Bazaar date of November 11th in order to display and sell tickets before/after services, so your chances of winning greatly go up! If you usually donate baskets, or the makings for them, Carol Johnson and I would appreciate any help or donations to be made before Sunday, October 15th.



### DONATIONS STILL NEEDED

1. Scratch lottery tickets for a money tree!
2. Cash donations!
3. Wine/liquor!
4. Any new items for us to add to already donated baskets: tea, coffee, baking items, paper goods, candles, candy!
5. Baskets items...we can make them for you!
6. Gift cards to add to our baskets!

THANK YOU FOR ANY AND ALL HELP WITH THESE ITEMS!  
Carol Johnson and Sue Wieboldt

## Mustard Seed Meeting



**Tuesday September 26<sup>th</sup> at  
6:30PM**

If you would like to help us, or just come and see what the Mustard Seed Team is about, come to **Jacobs Hall on Tuesday September 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM.**

Thank you.

# Rhode Island Reformation 500th Anniversary Celebration



Sunday, November 19 at  
Saint Matthew Trinity Lutheran Church  
690 Newport Ave, Pawtucket, RI 02861  
at 4:00 PM.

**“Christ is Always Reforming Us!”**

## Readers of Emanuel

**September’s book is “Counted With the Stars”**  
by Connilyn Cossette

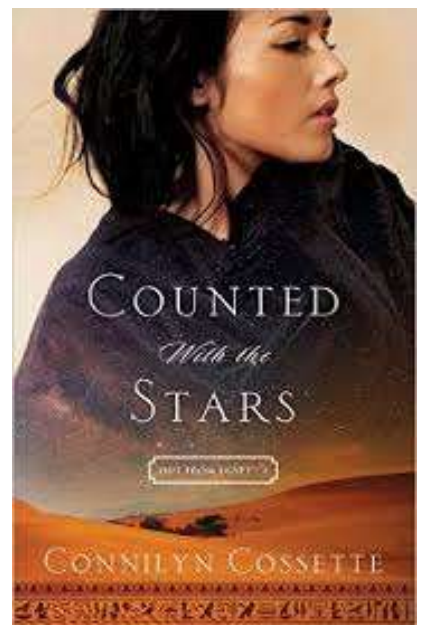
Sunday September 24<sup>th</sup> at 12PM in Jacobs Hall

All are welcome to come for food & fellowship.

Upcoming Books:

October 22 – **“The Great House of God” by Max Lucado**

November 19 – **“Dancing with Jesus” by Linda Fitzpatrick**

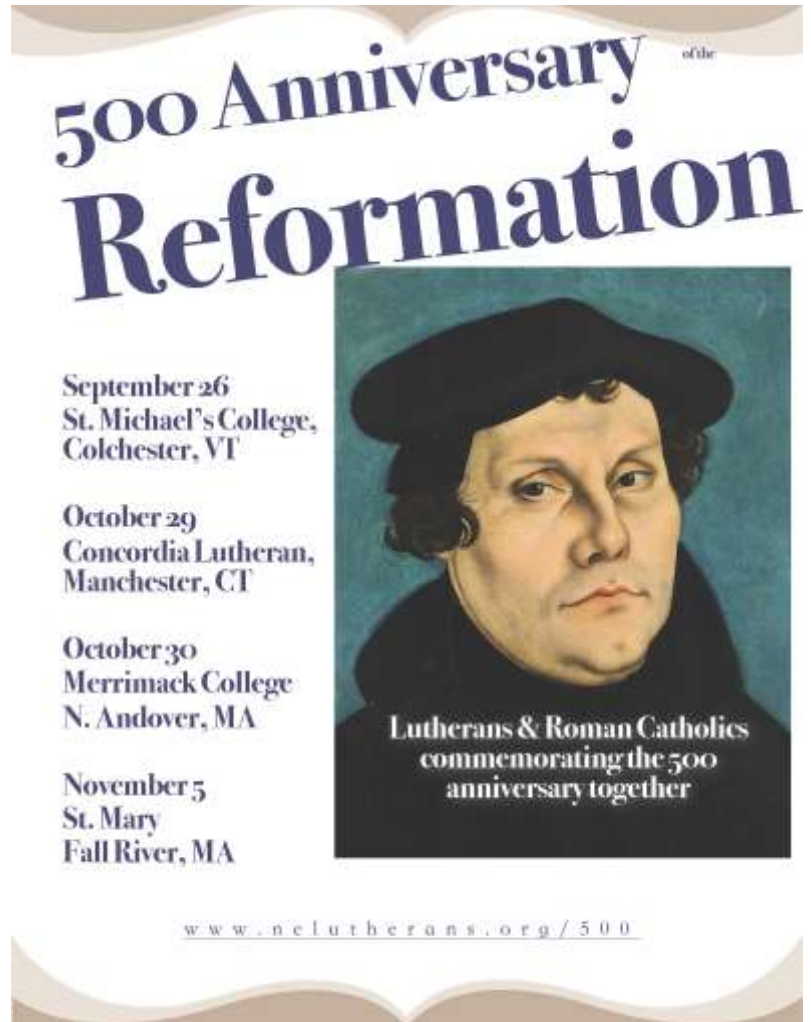




October 31  
Lutheran Church of the Reformation  
Washington, D.C.

There is will also be a 500 year anniversary event with the ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton on Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Bishop Eaton will be joined by co-hosts Indiana-Kentucky Synod Bishop Bill Gafkjen, ELCA Vice President Bill Horne and Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod Bishop Dick Graham.

The event is open to the public and will be available online via livestream. All are invited to participate and honor the Reformation anniversary as we bear public witness to Christ, who frees us to love and serve our neighbor, and as we look to the future to which God is calling us.







# 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b><u>Sunday A.M. Schedule:</u></b> 8:00 Service of Holy Communion 9:15 Choir, First Year Confirmation, Sunday School 10:30 Service of Holy Communion				1	2	3
4	5 <i>Labor Day</i>	6 10am <i>Ellie's Circle</i>  Food Pantry 10-12 <b>6pm Bazaar Workshop</b> 7pm Scandinavian Women's Choir	7	8  <b>Council Meeting 7pm</b>	9	10  <i>130th Anniversary Church Picnic</i>
11 Regular Sunday Schedule Begins <b>First Day of Sunday School</b>  130th Anniversary Celebration Dinner	12  <b>7pm ALNON</b>	13 10am <i>Ellie's Circle</i> Food Pantry (10-12) <b>6pm Bazaar Workshop</b> 7pm Scandinavian Women's Choir <i>7pm Confirmation</i>	14 <b>Senior Live Laugh &amp; Learn</b> 12:30-2:30 PM Crow's Nest	15  Church Directory	16  Church Directory	17 Church Directory
18	19  <b>7pm ALNON</b>	20 10am <i>Ellie's Circle</i>  Food Pantry 10-12 <b>6pm Bazaar Workshop</b> 7pm Scandinavian Women's Choir	21	22  <i>Meeting 11:30-2:30 (Fellowship Hall)</i>	23	24  Private Party (12-5)
25 <b>ROE 12pm</b>  3rd Year Confirmand/ Mentor Hike 1-4pm	26  <b>7pm ALNON</b>	27 10am <i>Ellie's Circle</i> Food Pantry (10-12) <b>6pm Bazaar Workshop</b> 7pm Scandinavian Women's Choir	28  <b>BIBLE STUDY 7-8:30PM (Jacobs' Hall)</b>	29	30	

