Easter Flower Orders

Remember someone this Easter

Tulips, Hyacinths, Lilies & Daffodils: $15 per plant

Order forms are at church. Fill one out and place it in the offering plate. Or you can phone in or email your order.

Please include:

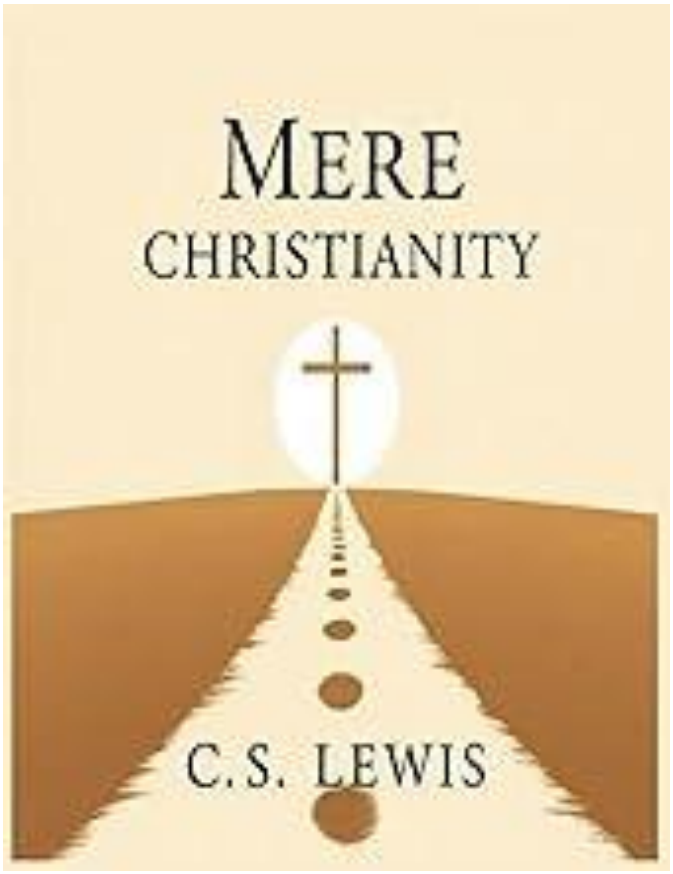
- how many of each type of flower
- your name
- who you are giving the flowers in memory of

Payments can be put in the offering plate, mailed to the church, or made online by clicking here: **Donate**

(401) 821-8888 churchoffice@emanuelww.org

Please submit orders & payments by Sunday April 6th

Readers of Emanuel



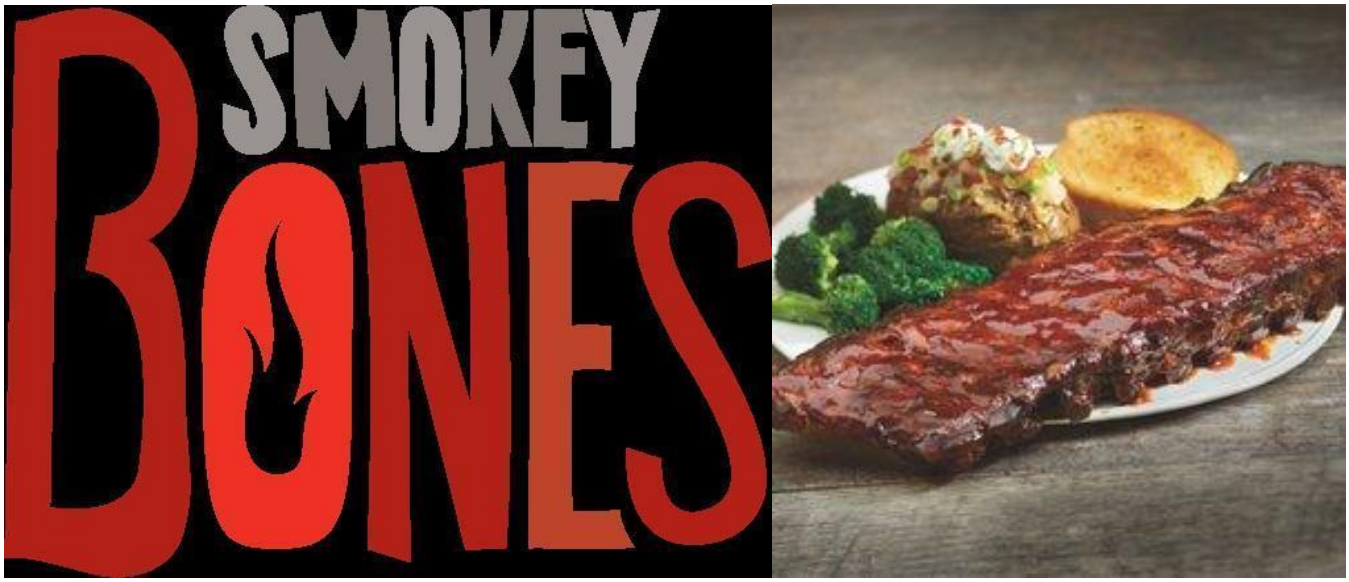
Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis

This month the Readers of Emanuel book club is reading "Mere Christianity" by C.S. Lewis.

C.S. Lewis said: "I am not asking anyone to accept Christianity if his best reasoning tells him that the weight of evidence is against it." In Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis presents a reasoned defense of Christianity, arguing that the existence of a universal moral law points to a supernatural Lawgiver. Lewis believed that Christianity offered the most comprehensive and satisfying explanation for the world, not just through reason, but also through the human experience of desire and imagination. "I believe in Christianity as I believe that the Sun has risen not only because I see it but because by it I see everything else."

We will meet on Sunday March 30th at 12PM in Jacobs Hall to enjoy fellowship, food and discuss the book.
Everyone is welcome to come!

Live Laugh & Learn Lunch



The next lunch will be held:

Thursday, March 27th 12:30PM to 2PM

Smokey Bones BBQ
31B Universal Blvd, Warwick, RI 02886
Estimated cost $12 to $25

If you would like to go, please email, text or call Michael Groleau at

Cell: 401-465-5021
Email: MichaelKGroleau@gmail.com

Friends welcome!

Easter Egg Hunt at Emanuel

Saturday April 12th at 2PM

Friends are welcome!

Emanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes February 13, 2025

Attendees: Ken Wieboldt, Sue Wieboldt, Myron Gadoury, Ray Nunez, Pastor Todd Stange, Bruce Johnson, Kathy Plante, Donna Sennett

Absent: Mark Melanson, Marcia Melanson, Song Edwards

Opening Devotions

Minutes Motion to accept the January Council Meeting minutes made by Bruce Seconded by Ray (given the discussion below).

Election of Officers
A Nomination was made from the floor that Ken continue to serve as Council President. It was unanimously passed.

There was a nomination as Bruce for Vice President. He accepted the nomination and it was passed unanimously.

Donna is stepping down as Secretary. There were no nominations. Pastor will ask Song if she would like to serve as Secretary. If so we will hold the nomination for that office at our next meeting. Pastor will take the minutes until a secretary is nominated and voted on.

Treasurer's Report/Finance: Myron raised insurance company for gate $10, 558. Iron works will start the work immediately. We are just waiting for the check. The amount of money our Thrivent accounts made $3000 last month. The Endowment made $3,700 last month. No other comments about the budget. Bazaar proceeds are still there. There was some discussion that perhaps that money has been spent. Ken will contact Carol about this.

Calumet Myron felt that we needed to discuss the use of Calumet funds in more detail, as he thought it had not been agreed at the last Council meeting that it would be advantageous to use it for adult activities, as expressed in the January minutes. We discussed using Calumet funds toward adult activities. Myron has said it would be deceptive to use the funds for adult scholarships. He suggested that we donate funds directly to Calumet to be used toward camp scholarships. There are only few children who go to Calumet. Ray expressed his concern that the funds in that account are building, but are not being used. Many on the Council felt that the money is supposed to be used for Calumet scholarships and should also be available for a woman's retreat, or other adult scholarships. The Endowment Committee gave $1500 to Calumet this last year. Kathy suggested that we use Endowment funds to help underwrite the women's retreat and that we could still use the Calumet funds for campership scholarships. The Endowment Committee could possibly earmark $1000 to assist with the women's retreat. There is currently approximately $18,000 to disperse. Ken voiced that Calumet is a family campground and they sponsor many different activities. Myron feels that the disbursement should be based on need. Ken feels the scholarships should be equal across the board. We have reached out to other Lutheran churches and only had 2 children make use of the funds. We can reach out to the 10 Lutheran churches to see if there might be more kids interested. Proposed to continue to send money to Calumet. Get Endowment Committee together to discuss $1000. We will bring this up at our March meeting. There was a motion made by Pastor and seconded by

Bruce to allow some of the Calumet funds to be used for adult activities at Calumet in addition to using the money being used for camper scholarships. Pastor suggested that we take a month to think about this and discuss it again at the March council meeting. The Council agreed. We will still contact the Endowment Committee to discuss giving funds for the upcoming Women's Retreat at Calumet.

Christian Education: Kat Brown will be producing the Drama Camp production this year and Nick will be directing. It will take place the last week of June (23rd to 27th).

Property We are doing TFAP every week now at the food bank. We also are getting new volunteers.

We discussed replacing the stove in the parsonage kitchen. It will cost around $1000 - $1100 to replace, including labor. We will bring it up to finance to see where the money might come from. Sue suggested we ask the congregation if someone might be remodeling and have a stove to donate. However, Myron pointed out that there are specific requirements for a stove and the newer stoves would not be appropriate. There is a consideration to have a fully functional stove if we continue to offer shelter to other families.

Ken thinks the two signs (Don't park here" signs) might be off-putting to people. It was proposed that the signs only be put out on Tuesdays. Sue proposed that we might use cones to block off those spaces in lieu of the signs. Myron stated he will just take them down.

Discussion: Myron turned down the $350 quote for grass mowing in the front on the hill. He will continue to search/get quotes from other providers to try and find a better price. The $350 is for one cut per month.

JN wants to have control of the thermostats. Finance said previously she could have the control if they pay 80% of the electricity. At that time, Jen Rathbun declined to control the thermostats. If she is willing to pay the 80%, she will be given control over the thermostats

Worship and Music Plans were made for several months out. This is partially to choose music for the church services. We are not going to do Wednesday night Lenten services. Ashes will be given from 12-1 on Ash Wednesday in addition to the evening service at 7:00PM. There will be a drive through for ashes as there was last year. No other questions for worship and music.

Safe Church: There was a lot of feedback regarding the Draft policy. Pastor will go through all the suggestions and he will address these suggestions in a second draft. He will send the second draft out to the Council and we will have further discussion at the March Council meeting. Donna raised the suggestion that only Pastor communicate with legal authorities rather than multiple parties, to avoid confusion, as is happening currently.

Other Items: Kathy raised the issue of the congregation having physical contact during the sign of peace during the service. She stated that many respiratory ailments are increasing in Rhode Island and it might be safer to not have physical contact at that time.

Closing Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM

Thrivent Choice Dollars - DEADLINE

THRIVENT FINANCIAL®

Connecting faith & finances for good.®

You have until March 31, 2025 to direct your Thrivent Choice dollars, else they will be lost.

If you have a Thrivent Financial relationship, you may have Thrivent Choice Dollars.

Thrivent Choice Dollars can be given to many organizations including Emanuel. Last year Emanuel received over $2,000 in Thrivent Choice Dollars. These funds helped Emanuel's ministries. Thank you!

To see if you have Thrivent Choice dollars and to direct them, go to:

- Online at www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.
- Phone: 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" at the prompt. The Member Connection Center is open until 6 p.m. Central time, Monday – Friday.

Wednesday Bible Study of Genesis

Next session Wednesday March 26th at 7PM

We meet in person in Jacobs Hall at Emanuel.

On March 26th we will be reading the story of Joseph interpreting Pharoah's dreams.

No previous knowledge of the Bible necessary.

Ways to Support Ascentria Care Alliance

formerly Lutheran Social Services of New England

Ascentria recently received a "stop-work order" from the Federal government and a spending freeze stopped payment for Ascentria's work with 61 families involving 234 people. Ascentria, formerly Lutheran Social Services of New England, provides adoption services, care for the elder and people with disabilities and mental health challenges, refugee settlement, help for poor families with children, and runs the Good News Garage program.

For more information about Ascentria go to their website:
www.ascentria.org

If you would like to support them financially, there is a DONATE button on their website. Checks may also be sent directly to Ascentria Care Alliance, 11 Shattuck St, Worcester, MA 01605. Attention: Advancement. Thank you.

Do You Like Coffee?

If so, consider hosting coffee hour one Sunday. If it's your first time (or 2nd or 3rd), people will help you and show you where everything is.

Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board
in the entry way. Thank you.

Sharing Our Stories of God

We are inviting people to share stories of how God has shown up in their lives.

If you would be willing to share a story from your life, please let Pastor Todd know. Thank you.

Bible Readings for Sunday March 23rd

First Reading Luke 15:1-10

Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.

1 Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. 2And the Pharisees
and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with
them.'

3 So he told them this parable: 4'Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one
of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until
he finds it? 5When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. 6And when he
comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, "Rejoice with me,
for I have found my sheep that was lost." 7Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven
over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no
repentance.

8 'Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp,
sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? 9When she has found it, she calls
together her friends and neighbors, saying, "Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I
had lost." 10Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner
who repents.'

Second Reading Luke 15:11-32

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

11 Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. 12The younger of them said to his
father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his
property between them.

13A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country,
and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. 14When he had spent everything, a
severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 15So he
went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to
feed the pigs. 16He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating;
and no one gave him anything.

17But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread
enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! 18I will get up and go to my father, and
I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; 19I am no longer
worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' " 20So he set off and
went to his father.

But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and
put his arms around him and kissed him.

21Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no
longer worthy to be called your son."

22But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on
him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23And get the fatted calf and kill it, and
let us eat and celebrate; 24for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is
found!" And they began to celebrate.

25 'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he
heard music and dancing. 26He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. 27He
replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has
got him back safe and sound."

28Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with
him. 29But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave
for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a
young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. 30But when this son of yours came
back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!"

31Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32But
we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to
life; he was lost and has been found." '

How do the Bible readings speak to you?

Choir at Emanuel

Sundays at 9AM
in the sanctuary.

All who like to make music
are welcome.

On-line Worship at Emanuel Sundays at 10:30AM

What to Do - if You would Like to Come to On-line Worship

Just click on the Zoom link below on Sunday at 10:30AM:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/93690864460?pwd=cHZ5RVNsdnFYcDhhNVdMKzA2VEN1QT09

You can also join us by phone by calling (929) 205-6099 and entering Meeting ID: 936 9086 4460 and Password: 933328

A video of the service will be posted on Emanuel's website and Facebook group page later in the day.

Offerings to Emanuel

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who has been mailing in their offering or giving through Simply Giving and Givelify.

Offerings can be mailed to:

Emanuel Lutheran Church
20 Leaf Street
West Warwick, RI 02893

OR you can use either the Simply Giving program, which allows you to automate the giving of an offering from a checking account, or Givelify, which is online app that allows giving through a debit or credit card.

If you would like to find out more about either of these, please let Emanuel's Treasurer, Carol Johnson, or Pastor Todd know. Thank you.

You can give to Emanuel through Givelify by clicking on the DONATE button on Emanuel's website OR by clicking here: Donate

www.emanuelww.org

Sermon Topics

Narrative Lectionary September 8 – June 8

3/23 Lost Sheep, Coin & Son

3/30 The Rich Man & Lazarus

4/6 Zaccheus was a Wee Little Man

4/13 Palm Sunday

4/20 Easter, the Resurrection of Our Lord

4/27 Holy Humor Sunday

…

Please keep these children of God in your prayers this week:

For Healing & Comfort: Birgit Neumann

Worship Assistants

	March 23	*March 30*
Counter:	**Kathy Marco**	**Kathy Marco**
	8:00AM	**8:00AM**
Lector:	**Sue Auger**	**Kathy Garriott**
Acolyte	**Tim Hart**	**Tim Hart**
	10:30AM	**10:30AM**
Lay Minister:	**Diane Gadoury**	**Langdon Clough**
Acolyte	**-**	**-**
Ushers	**Alex Lucier & Ken Wieboldt**	**Mary Schabek & Brandee Muncey**
Lector:	**Cali LaMountain**	**Elaine Marsh**
Coffee Hour	**Cali LaMountain**	**Grenier, Hart & Principe families**

March's Memorial Candle

The Memorial Candle for March is given in celebration of **Ken & Sue Wieboldt's anniversary**.

This Week at Emanuel

Monday, March 10	**10:00am**	**Deliveries to food pantry (10AM – 1PM)**
5th Day of Lent	**7:00pm**	**Al-Anon (Jacobs Hall)**
Monday, March 17	**10:00am**	**Deliveries to food pantry (10AM – 1PM)**
11th Day of Lent	**7:00pm**	**Al-Anon (Jacobs Hall)**
Saint Patrick's Day		
Tuesday, March 18	**9:00am**	**Tuesday Morning Bible Study (JH)**
12th Day of Lent	**10:00am**	**Food Pantry 10AM - 12PM**
		Pastor Office Hours 10AM to 2PM
Wednesday, March 19	**10:00am**	**Ellie's Circle (JH)**
13th Day of Lent	**7:00pm**	**Genesis Bible Study (JH)**
Thursday, March 20 - 14th Day of Lent		**Spring Equinox – 1st day of Spring**
Friday, March 21	**9:00am**	**Sue's Office Hours (9AM – 1PM)**
15th Day of Lent		
Saturday, March 22 - 16th Day of Lent		
Sunday, March 23	**8:00am**	**Worship in Person**
Third Sunday in Lent	**9:00am**	**Choir**
	9:15am	**Sunday School (FH) & Confirmation (JH)**
	10:30am	**Worship in Person & Online**
	11:30am	**Coffee Hour**

Next Week at Emanuel

Monday, March 24	**10:00am**	**Deliveries to food pantry (10AM – 1PM)**
17th Day of Lent	**7:00pm**	**Al-Anon (Jacobs Hall)**
Tuesday, March 25	**9:00am**	**Tuesday Morning Bible Study (JH)**
18th Day of Lent	**10:00am**	**Food Pantry 10AM - 12PM**
		Pastor Office Hours 10AM to 2PM
Wednesday, March 26	**10:00am**	**Ellie's Circle (JH)**
19th Day of Lent	**7:00pm**	**Genesis Bible Study (JH)**
Thursday, March 27	**12:30pm**	**Live, Laugh & Learn Lunch at Smokey Bones**
20th Day of Lent		**BBQ**
Friday, March 28 – 21st Day of Lent	**9:00am**	**Sue's Office Hours (9AM – 1PM)**
Saturday, March 29 - 22nd Day of Lent		
Sunday, March 30	**8:00am**	**Worship in Person**
Third Sunday in Lent	**9:00am**	**Choir**
	9:15am	**Sunday School (FH)**
	10:30am	**Worship in Person & Online**
	11:30am	**Coffee Hour**
	12:00pm	**Readers of Emanuel (JH)**

Upcoming Commemorations

Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr, died 1556
Friday, March 21, 2025
Cranmer's lasting achievement is contributing to and overseeing the creation of the Book of Common Prayer, which remains (in revised form) the worship book of the Anglican Communion. He was burned at the stake under Queen Mary for his support of the Protestant Reformation.

Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians, died 1758
Saturday, March 22, 2025
A Puritan minister in Connecticut, Edwards is remembered as being a great preacher. Though his most famous sermon talks at length about hell, he was more concerned with God's love. He served both as missionary to the Housatonic people in Massachusetts, and as president of the future Princeton University.

Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, died 1980
Monday, March 24, 2025
Romero was deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression. He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

Annunciation of Our Lord
Tuesday, March 25, 2025
Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.

Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824
Saturday, March 29, 2025
Hauge was a layperson who wished to revitalize the church in Norway. As a result of a mystical experience, he felt called to preach. Many professionals in the church feared his motives and influence, and he was imprisoned for leading unauthorized gatherings.

Double click on link below to see Emanuel's online calendar:

Emanuel's Online Calendar

The calendar is on Emanuel's web site.