

Emanuel's Christmas Giving Tree is Up!

20 unclaimed ornaments



Thank you to everyone who has signed up to take a child. There are still 20 unclaimed ornaments, if you would like to buy a gift for a child in need this Christmas. Just click on this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D45ABAD2FA5FBC52-60726862-emanuel>

We are asking that gifts be dropped off to the church **by Friday December 19th at 1:00pm**. Gifts should be wrapped, if possible, with a note indicating the # of the child.

Gifts can be dropped off at the church on:

Sundays 8AM to 12PM

Tuesdays 9AM to 2PM

Fridays 9AM to 1PM

If one of these times doesn't work, please call to arrange a different time. Thank you.

Remember a Loved One this Christmas



with a Christmas Poinsettia

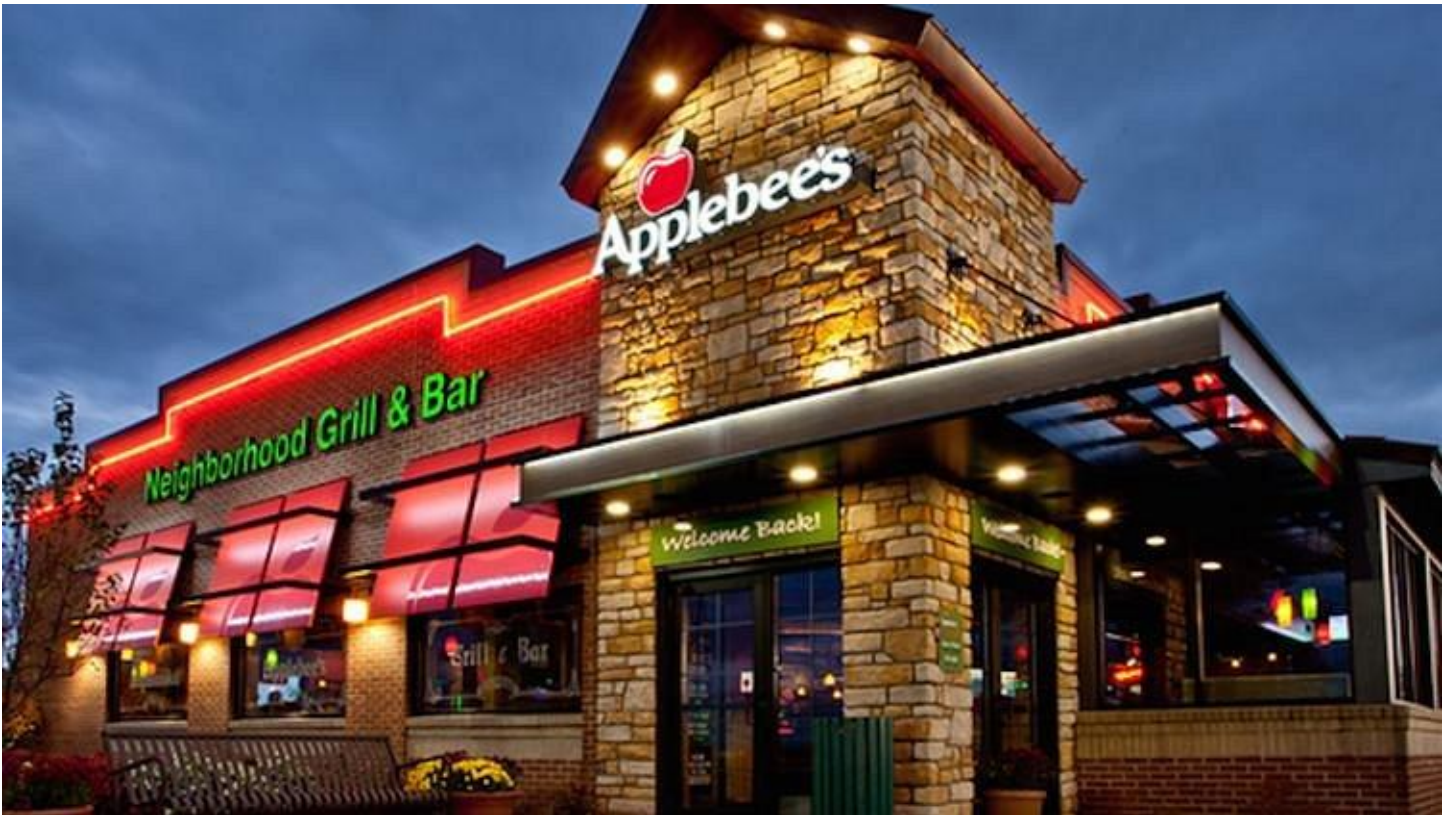
Cost = \$18 single red or white
\$30 double red or white

To purchase a poinsettia for Christmas Eve, please complete a poinsettia form (Given for... Given by...) and place it in the offering plate OR email/text/call Sue Wieboldt at

(401) 743-3843 susieq3380@gmail.com

Deadline for ordering is this week.

December's Monthly Lunch



The next lunch will be held:

Thursday, December 18th 12:30PM

at the **Applebee's**

830 Centre of New England Blvd, Coventry, RI 02816

If you would like to go, please email or call Marcia Melanson at

Phone: 401-742-8417

Email: mmelan4@outlook.com

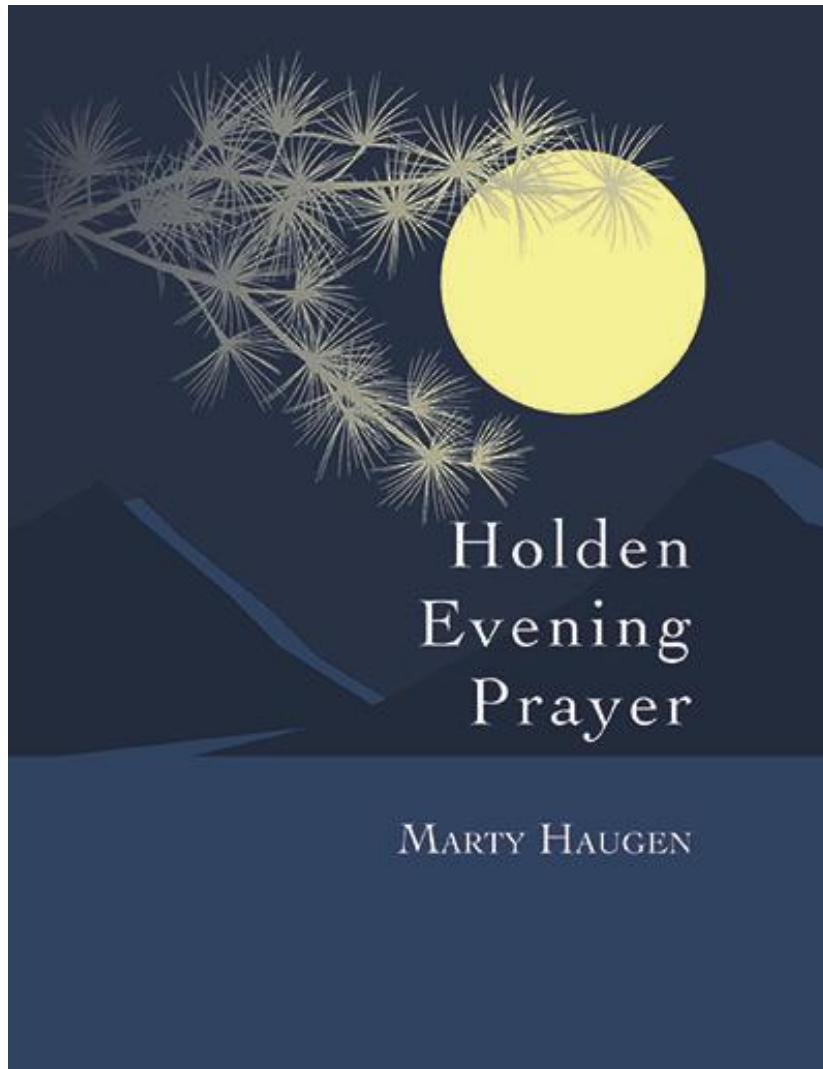
Friends welcome!

The Food Pantry thanks Texas Roadhouse



Thank you to TEXAS ROADHOUSE and their staff (including Missy Gadoury Beaudoin) for your help with the food Pantry at Emanuel and your amazing outreach programs. You made so many people happy this past Tuesday. You were all a breath of fresh air. Thank You!

Sunday Morning Holden Prayer

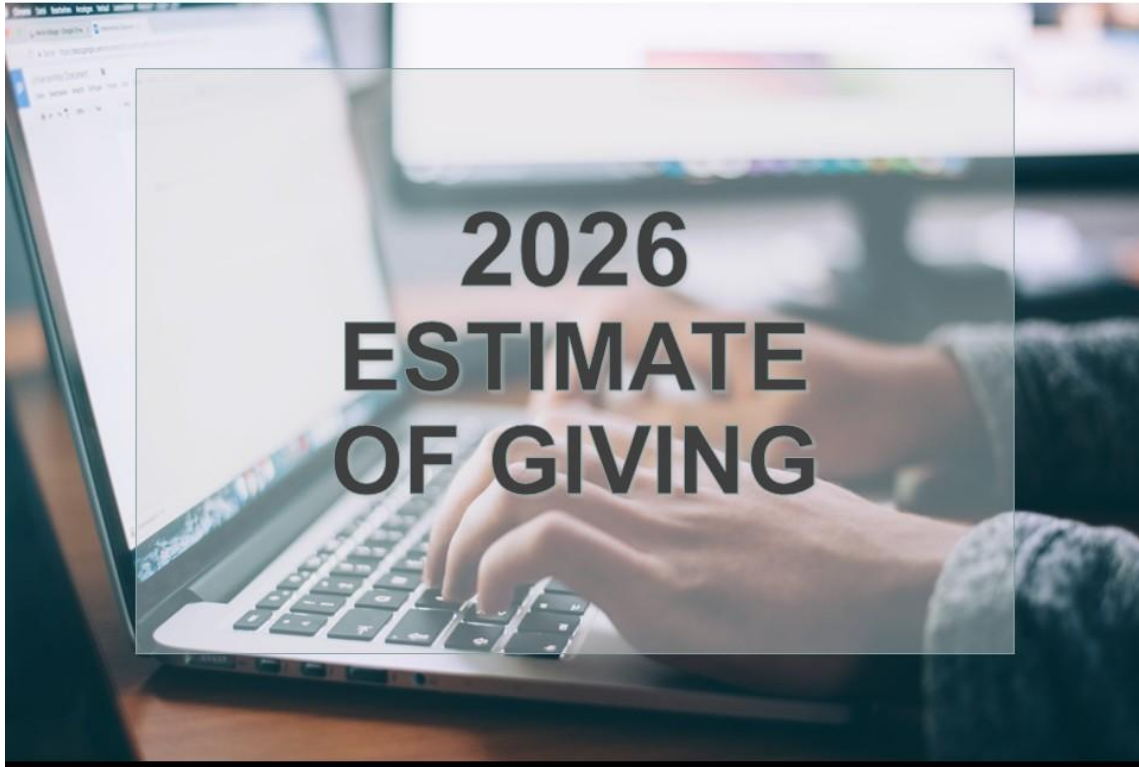


this Sunday December 14th @ 10:30am

On this Sunday close to the darkest day of the year we will be worshipping using the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy.

**"The Light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:5**

Requesting 2026 Estimates of Giving



Thank you for your support this past year.

As this year comes to a close we have begun to look forward to 2026 and have begun putting together a budget for the new year. Please help us with this process by taking a moment to send in your estimate of giving for 2026. You can do this be either filling out the form on Emanuel's website:

www.emanuelww.org

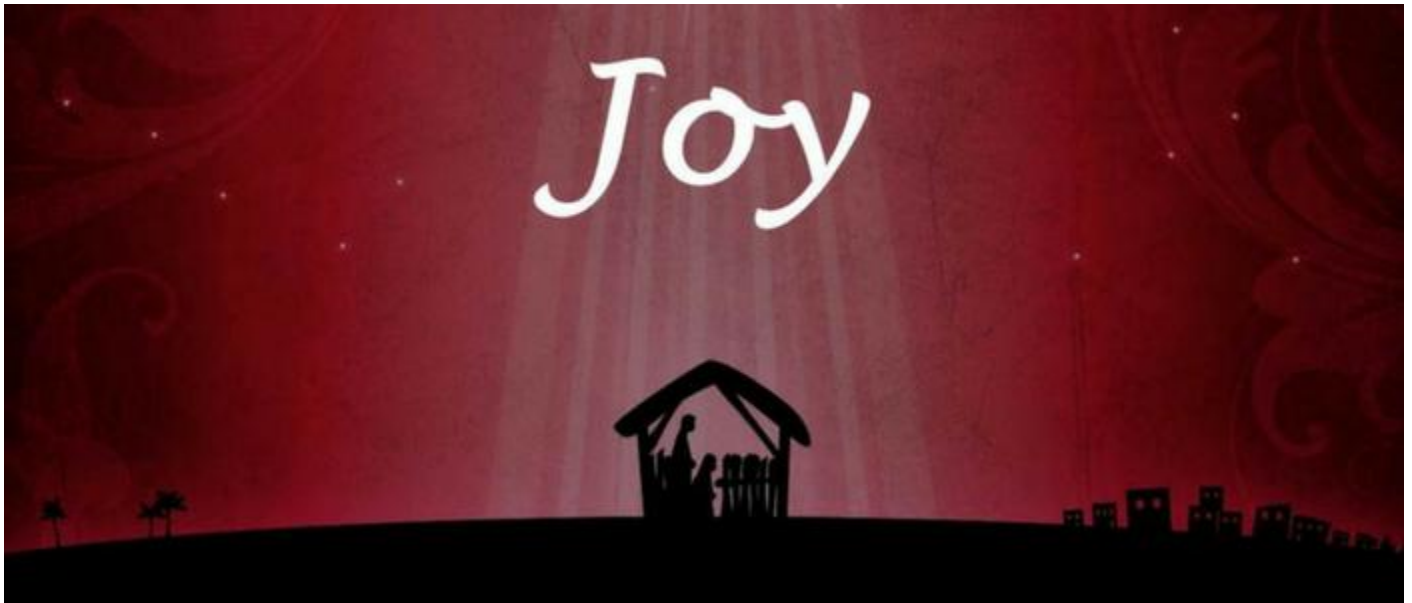
(Under the "DONATE" menu item click on "2026 GIVING FORM")

Or you can mail a paper copy of the estimate of giving form to the church office. In case you need form, a copy is **attached** to this email. If possible, please submit your 2026 estimate of giving by

Sunday December 28th

Thank you in advance for your input. If you have any questions, please call or email me. Thank you.

Gaudete Sunday



the Third Sunday of Advent

Gaudete Sunday (/gaw'dɛtɛ/ gow-DET-eh) is the third Sunday of Advent.

The day takes its name from the Latin word *Gaudete*, which means "Rejoice". The season of Advent originated as a fast of 40 days in preparation for Christmas. In the ninth century, the duration of Advent was reduced to four weeks, but still preserved most of the characteristics of a penitential season, which made it a kind of counterpart to Lent. Gaudete Sunday offers a break about midway through this season of fasting and preparing, and signifies the nearness of the Lord's coming.

The pink candle on the Advent wreath is lit on the third Sunday of Advent. Pink/rose is the color for joy. We are reminded on this Sunday that even in the midst of waiting and fasting, joy may still be found. In early centuries the pope used to give a pink rose to a citizen at the midpoint of Lent another season of penitence and fasting. This tradition carried over to the midpoint of Advent in the form of a pink candle.

Christmas Eve Services at Emanuel



Wednesday December 24th

4PM – Service with Christmas Pageant

10PM – Late night candlelight service

NOTE – new slightly earlier time for the late night service

Your vote could help the New England Synod receive \$5,000 from Thrivent



Good morning.

You may have seen some promotion for the Thrivent Carols for a Cause event taking place this week, the New England Synod is eligible to receive up to \$5K in grant money from Thrivent if enough folks vote for our rendition of our favorite carol ([found here](#)).

Well, as of this morning, we're in third place out of 5 contestants.

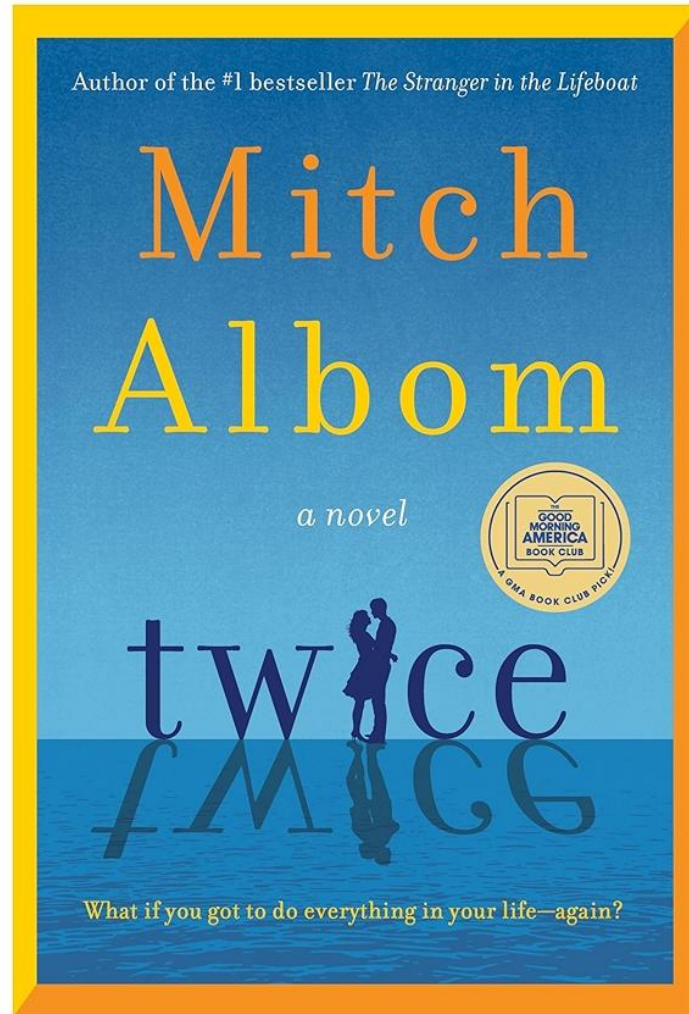
Would you please take a moment to vote. It takes about 2 minutes if that – and you don't even have to listen to the office staff sing – you can skip right to the voting!

Voting is open through midnight on Saturday December 13th

[Voting link is here](#)

Thank you!
Martha Whyte
Assistant to the Bishop

Readers of Emanuel



Emanuel's book club is reading:

“Twice” by Mitch Albom

What if you got to do everything in your life—twice? Mitch Albom's newest novel is a stunning love story that dares to explore how our unchecked desires might mean losing what we've had all along.

We will meet on **Sunday January 11th** at ~12PM in Jacobs Hall to enjoy fellowship, food and discuss the book.

Everyone is welcome!

Emanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes Thursday November 13, 2025

Attendees: Song Edwards, Myron Gadoury, Bruce Johnson, Mark Melanson, Marcia Melanson, Ray Nunez, Kathy Plante, Pastor Todd Stange, Ken Wieboldt, Sue Wieboldt

Absent:

Opening Devotions

- Pastor Todd opened with a devotion about him and Ray Nunez helping a person from the food pantry and getting to know her.

Approve October council meeting minutes

- Minutes approved unanimously.

An Emanuel Pamphlet

- Song Edwards suggested creating a pamphlet that describes the different ministries at Emanuel. The pamphlet could be given to people who visit the food pantry, Sunday worship and anyone in need.
- Sue Wieboldt and Song will work on creating a draft of a pamphlet.

Finance

Bazaar Update

- Sue Wieboldt reports that the Bazaar was a big success. Over \$8,200 was raised. Thank you to the many people who helped make it a success.
- This was the first year we were setup to accept credit cards. This helped increase sales.
- Bruce Johnson wondered if we might accept VENMO in the future.

Treasurer's Report

- Expenses were high in October. There were 3 pay periods, which is unusual. This is in addition to losing about \$1,000 per month from a large donor. Because of this we had to spend the remaining \$2,835.95 proceeds from the 2024 Bazaar. In addition, we needed to transfer \$5,000 from our savings account into our checking – to pay the bills.
- So far this year, 2025, we have borrowed \$6,410 from our savings in order to pay the bills. We will need to keep an eye on spending.
- There was a discussion about possibly putting a portion of the Food Pantry funds in a CD to earn more interest.

Joyful Noise Utility & Rental Agreement

- Joyful is looking for ways to save money.
- Joyful Noise requested a rental agreement. The rent was set at \$7,800 per year, or 650 per month, a long time ago and it's still in effect. This is low for the amount of space they use. Suggestion that we get the space appraised to see how much we could rent it out at.
- Joyful signed this summer an agreement to pay for 70% of the electrical use at the RI Energy rates. They paid \$640 for the month of October. This is lower than if the electric

was coming from the RI Energy grid (the electricity is coming from the solar panels). They are no longer paying for transmission fees.

- Carol Johnson analyzed October's electrical use. She believes we should have a years' worth of data before making any changes to our electrical agreement with Joyful.
- Council was in agreement with waiting a year before making any changes.
- It was noted that \$1,500 was given to Joyful from Emanuel's endowment fund this year.

Recycling

- Recycling of paper/bottles/cans is no longer happening at Emanuel. We used to recycle under Joyful Noise's contract. They cancelled it to save money. The cardboard recycling is still happening
- Emanuel gives Joyful \$65 a month for the garbage and recycling of cardboard and paper/bottles/cans.
- If we want to continue recycling paper/bottles/cans it would cost an additional \$58 per month.
- Motion made to pay an additional \$58 per month to recycle paper/bottles/cans. Motion seconded and passed.
- Myron will contact the Joyful Noise and initiate the contract with the recycling company to collect recycling at Emanuel.

Parking Lot Traffic Safety

- At October's council meeting we discussed safety issues in the parking lot. Because the parking lot is wide open with no defined traffic pattern, some people drive at relatively high speeds when entering and exiting. This happens often when parents are dropping and picking up children from Joyful Noise.
- To create a more defined entrance and exit to the parking lot, it was suggested adding a partial barrier between Leaf Street and Emanuel's parking lot.
- Pastor Todd and Sue Wieboldt presented ideas for how a partial barrier could look like and be made of. Several pictures were shown barriers that other people have setup. They included wooden flower beds (some had wheels on the bottom, so they could be moved easily), wooden and concrete barriers painted in colorful colors, cutouts of children playing.
- It was noted that without a barrier down the middle of the parking lot, people would still be able to drive diagonally through the parking lot. Perhaps we need a barrier down the middle of the parking lot as well. However, this would take up space. We may lose some parking spaces. All of this would also cost money.
- Suggestion that the West Warwick Police be called if people are speeding in the parking lot.
- Council decided to start with simple, less costly measures. We will begin by making the traffic pattern arrows bigger and easier to see. We will also put up "Entrance" and "Exit" signs.
- There was a discussion about sending a letter to parents of the children at Joyful Noise asking them to drive slower and safer in the parking lot. The letter should come from Joyful Noise.

Christian Education

- The Sunday school kids are beginning to get ready for the Christmas pageant, which will be presented at 4PM on Christmas Eve. It was also noted that the late service on Christmas Eve this year will be at 10PM (an hour earlier than in years past).
- The confirmation class has 5 new students this year. One is on the autism spectrum and is non-verbal. We are working with the mother and doing our best to include him in the classes.

Property

- In October, we used three megawatt hours of energy. At 30 cents per kilowatt hour = \$900. Joyful Noise paid 70% = \$630. That's profit for Emanuel. Plus, Emanuel did not have to pay the \$270 difference, because the electricity was generated by the solar panels. In October we did receive an electric bill. That is a total savings/profit for the month of October of \$900 due to the new solar panels. This will help with our budget shortfalls.
- It was also noted that we may have to pay to repair the solar panels in the future. Money should be saved for that. Also, in 20 years the solar panels will likely need to be replaced. Because of this, it makes sense for Joyful Noise to pay for their electrical use.

Food Pantry

- The food pantry has been very busy with SNAP benefits not being paid. 130 people visited the pantry this past week.
- The food pantry is not giving out turkeys this year. We can't get them for free, and they're like \$1.69 a pound. People can go to Stop & Shop and get them for less. Instead we will give people all the trimmings - everything but the turkey.
- A suggestion was made to give people a gift certificate for a turkey. That would cost about \$2,500. It was determined this was not the best use of the food pantry's budget.

Warming Shelter for Homeless Proposal

- Myron Gadoury proposes using the church as a warming shelter for homeless individuals one weekend a month, if the temperature is below freezing 32 (or 20 degrees?) Both temps were stated.
- Myron and volunteers from outside Emanuel would oversee the warming shelter. It would be from Friday evening to Sunday morning.
- The people would only be allowed in the fellowship hall and sanctuary. The only bathroom to be used would be the one in the narthex.
- People would not be allowed near the church office or the parsonage. They would not use the bathroom near the parsonage kitchen.
- Concerns were raised that one bathroom might not be enough for having people stay over night.
- Concerns were also raised about how this might affect the people living in the parsonage including their child. It was agreed we should speak with them and see what concerns they have and make sure they are addressed before proceeding.
- It was noted that the West Warwick Civic Center is used as a warming shelter.
- Suggestion made to hold off on deciding until after we speak with the people living in the parsonage. However, with winter coming Myron needed to let the town know sooner.

- A motion was made to give the warmer shelter a try for 3 months (Dec – Feb.) one weekend a month only if the people in the parsonage have no concerns or their concerns can be addressed. The motion was seconded. The motion passed with one person voting against it.

Worship & Music

- Joint Thanksgiving service coming up on Tuesday 11/25 at Pilgrim Lutheran Church.
- The Worship committee asked for the council's feedback on a proposal to change the way we do the prayers of the people. For many years we have had people pray pre-written prayers that come from Sundays and Seasons. The proposal is to – instead of doing this – to have people in the congregation either pray what is on their hearts or write down prayer requests that the pastor or lay minister would pray.
- The council expressed a fondness for the well written prayers we have been using for many years. It was also noted that we have a time during the prayers, when people can pray what is on their heart.
- Song Edwards stated that this is not what she understood the Worship Committee discussed. She thought the committee had suggested putting the prayer list up on the projector during the prayer of the people.
- Given the different understandings, Pastor Todd suggested the proposal be tabled until the Worship Committee could meet and discuss it further at their next meeting.

Pasta Dinner Fundraiser

- There is pasta dinner fundraiser scheduled for Saturday 11/22. The dinner is to raise funds for a scooter for a church member and to raise funds for the food pantry. Food pantry funds were already used to purchase the scooter.
- Sue Wieboldt and Mark Melanson discussed the logistics of the event, including raffle baskets and other fundraising activities.

Next Meeting – Thursday December 11

Closing Prayer

Ordinations in Rhode Island



Last Saturday, December 6th three new pastors were ordained at Pilgrim Lutheran Church. Clergy from around New England attended.

Joshua Carlson-Kroschel has been called to serve as co-pastor at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Charlestown, RI where he served his internship. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA.

Christine Pelfrey has been called to serve as pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Vernon, CT. She received her Master of Divinity degree from United Lutheran Seminary and her Bachelor of Arts in Theology and Religious Studies, Magna Cum Laude, from Sacred Heart University

Kenton Goldsby has been called to serve St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Newport, RI. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Harvard and his Bachelor's in Spanish and religious studies from University of California, Davis.

Women's Retreat April 14th – 16th



at Camp Calumet

If you are interested in attending the midweek women's retreat at Camp Calumet – Tuesday 4/14 to Thursday 4/16, please let Sue Wieboldt know.

susieq3380@gmail.com

Thank you!

Emanuel's Choir



**The choir meets on
Sundays at 9AM
in the sanctuary.**

**All who like to make
music are welcome.**

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.

Bible Readings for Sunday December 14th

First Reading

Isaiah 55:1-5

God invites Israel to a great feast at which both food and drink are free. To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love.

- ¹ Hear, everyone who thirsts;
 come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
 come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.
- ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread
 and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
 and delight yourselves in rich food.
- ³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
 listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
 my steadfast, sure love for David.
- ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and commander for the peoples.
- ⁵ Now you shall call nations that you do not know,
 and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
 for he has glorified you.

Second Reading

Isaiah 55:6-13

Those who return to the Lord will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways. God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

- ⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found;
 call upon him while he is near;
- ⁷ let the wicked forsake their way
 and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
 and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
- ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways higher than your ways
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
¹² For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

How do the Bible readings speak to you?



What is Your Story?



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.

Check your Thrivent Financial account.



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Connecting faith & finances for good.®

HOW TO DIRECT THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS®

There could be free money for Emanuel.

Please check your account now, to see if you have **free Thrivent Choice** dollars available. If you do, you can tell Thrivent to donate them to help Emanuel.

You can direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars by going online at **www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice** OR by calling **800-847-4836** and saying "Thrivent Choice" at the prompt.

There are thousands of dollars available each year. But you need to direct them to Emanuel, so they will benefit our church!

If you're not familiar with the **Thrivent Choice** program, just ask your Thrivent Representative. Or send an e mail to Pastor Todd, or Emanuel's Treasurer, Carol Johnson. They can assist you.

Thank you to everyone who has already designated their Thrivent Choice dollars to help Emanuel.

Please direct your Thrivent Choice dollars today.

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=cHZ5RVNsdnFYcDhhNVdMKzA2VENlQT09>

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

A Poem for Advent



After Annunciation

This is the irrational season
when love blooms bright and wild.
Had Mary been filled with reason
there'd have been no room for the child.

Madeleine L'Engle, 2000

Name Tags



If you would like a name tag, please let Sue Wieboldt know.

susieq3380@gmail.com

Thank you!

Sermon Topics



Narrative Lectionary September 7 – May 24

12/7 Ezekiel: Valley of Dry Bones

12/14 God's Word Accomplishes God's Purpose

12/21 The Word Made Flesh

12/24 The birth of Jesus

12/28 Lessons & Carols

Epiphany Service at Emanuel



Tuesday January 6th

Come celebrate Epiphany on
Tuesday January 6th, 2025 at 7PM

We will celebrate with song,
light and wonder.

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

For Healing & Comfort: Annette Rocheford & Rose Florio, baby Lila & her new family (friends of Donna Lucier), Karen Pepin (friend of the food pantry)

Worship Assistants

	<i>December 14</i>	<i>December 21</i>
Counter:	Glenn Johnson	Ken Wieboldt
	8:00AM	8:00AM
Lector:	Kathy Marco	Sue Auger
Acolyte	Tim Hart	Tim Hart
	10:30AM	10:30AM
Lay Minister:	Bruce Johnson	Lee Jacobs
Acolyte	Brandee Muncey	Brandee Muncey
Ushers	Ken Wieboldt	Ray & Linda Nunez
Lector:	Diane Gadoury	Song Edwards
Coffee Hour	volunteer needed	Sharon Charlton Dias & Lucy Ogden

December's Memorial Candle



The Memorial Candle for December is given by Susan Auger
In loving memory of **Doug Auger**.

This Week at Emanuel

Monday, December 8	10:00am	Deliveries to food pantry (10AM – 1PM)
	7:00pm	Al-Anon (Jacobs Hall)

Tuesday, December 9	9:00am	Tuesday Morning Bible Study (JH)
	10:00am	Food Pantry 10AM - 12PM
		Pastor's Office Hours 10AM to 2PM

Wednesday, December 10	10:00am	Ellie's Circle (JH)

Thursday, December 11	7:00pm	Council Meeting (JH)

Friday, December 12	9:00am	Elaine in the office

Saturday, December 13		
Sankta Lucia		

Sunday, December 14	8:00am	Worship in Person
Third Sunday of Advent	9:00am	Choir
Holden Prayer	9:15am	Sunday School (FH) & Confirmation (JH)
	10:30am	Worship in Person & Online
	11:30am	Coffee Hour



Next Week at Emanuel

Monday, December 15	10:00am	Deliveries to food pantry (10AM – 1PM)
	7:00pm	Al-Anon (Jacobs Hall)

Tuesday, December 16	9:00am	Tuesday Morning Bible Study (JH)
	10:00am	Food Pantry 10AM - 12PM
		Pastor's Office Hours 10AM to 2PM

Wednesday, December 17		

Thursday, December 18	12:30pm	Monthly Lunch at Applebee's

Friday, December 19	9:00am	Sue in the office

Saturday, December 20		

Sunday, December 21	8:00am	Worship in Person
Fourth Sunday of Advent	9:00am	Choir
Winter Solstice	9:15am	Sunday School (FH)
	10:30am	Worship in Person & Online
	11:30am	Coffee Hour

Upcoming Commemorations

Saint Lucy, martyr, died 304

Saturday, December 13, 2025

Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year.

John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591

Sunday, December 14, 2025

John was a member of the Carmelite monastic order, and worked to reform it. His writings reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation.

Las Posadas (LLC)

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

This celebration, long popular in Mexico, takes its name from the "posadas," or lodgings, sought by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Their search is reenacted in a neighborhood, unsuccessfully, until finally they are welcomed in, and a party commences.

Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552

Saturday, December 20, 2025

Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.

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

[Emanuel's Online Calendar](#)

The calendar is on Emanuel's web site.