

Bring your old palms to Church from last year's Palm Sunday



**this Sunday February 15th
we will present them in worship
later they will be burned to make ashes
for Ash Wednesday**

Ash Wednesday February 18th



"From dust you come, and to dust you shall return." Genesis 3:19

Dispensation of Ashes at 12PM to 1PM parking lot

Service & Dispensation of Ashes 7PM

February's Monthly Lunch



The next lunch will be held:

Thursday, February 19th 12:30PM

at **Bill's Place**

707 Main St. West Warwick, RI 02893

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

Phone: 401-742-8417

Email: mmelan4@outlook.com

Friends welcome!

Winter's Blessings

author unknown



Winter arrives without hurry, a holy hush laid gently on the land.

Branches stand bare yet unbroken, roots hold fast beneath frozen ground.

Life is resting, not retreating.

The earth wrapped in silence, is not emptiness, it is waiting.

God's presence woven into the stillness.

This season asks us to trust, to believe that what looks empty is only gathering strength.

That what feels heavy, is being held.

Here, we rest in God's faithfulness, and we trust that even now, beneath the silence, hope is alive.

Snow softens the sharp edges of the day, light lingers briefly, then bows away, Creation teaches us to be still, without being lost.

Winter invites us to pause, to release the noise we carry, to rest our striving, to listen for God.

Not in thunder or flame, but in gentle stillness that settles when we finally stop.

Here reflection becomes prayer, stillness becomes trust.

The bare landscape reveals a deeper kind of beauty, one that does not shout, but endures.

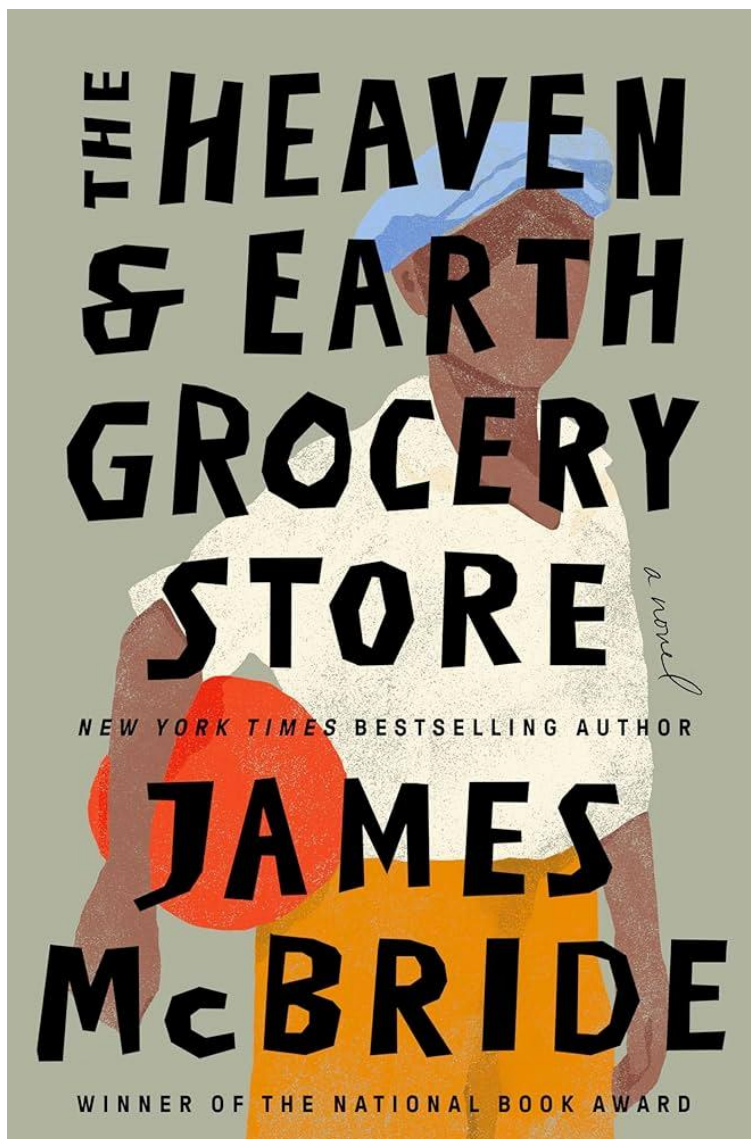
Even now, life is gathering strength, even here, hope is at work.

Property Committee Meeting



Last Sunday's property committee meeting with Jake Johnson and his son in attendance.

Readers of Emanuel



Emanuel's book club is reading

“The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store”

by James McBride

The book has been nominated for and won a variety of awards including the Kirkus Prize.

We will meet on **Sunday February 22nd** at ~12PM in Jacobs Hall to enjoy fellowship, food and discuss the book.
Everyone is welcome!

Valentine Themed Potluck



Some of the Valentine themed treats from last Sunday's Valentine potluck coffee hour. Thank you to everyone who brought in such creative and delicious treats!

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 Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes Thursday January 15, 2026

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

Absent: Kathy Plante

Date: 1/15/2026

Duration: 94 min, 42 sec

DECEMBER'S MEETING MINUTES

- * Motion to accept the December meeting minutes was made and seconded.
- * The minutes were accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT & PROPOSED 2026 BUDGET

- * We ended the year with a balance of \$2304
- * \$6,410 was borrowed from savings during 2025.
- * The endowment grew by a little over \$20,000. 75% of that will be given away next year.
- * Monthly giving in December was up about \$3,000 to \$17,272 more than usual.

NEED FOR NEW INCOME

- * The Finance committee recommends that the council anticipate and come up with a plan for additional sources of income to support the budget because the church's general fund is operating at a deficit, which is expected to continue in 2026.
- * The money made from the Bazaar money and the federal tax credit from the solar panels of about \$23,000 should be invested to create an ongoing income source..
- * Consider upping the daycare's rent.

CUSTODIAL CONCERNS

- * Complaints that the rugs are not being vacuumed and things aren't being cleaned well.
- * The custodian only works four hours on both Tuesday and Friday. This is not a lot of time.
- * Quotes from cleaning companies are very expensive.
- * Ideas for improvement:
 - * Provide custodian with a checklist.
 - * Take pictures of issues and send them to Myron.

INSURANCE COSTS

- * Insurance is budgeted at \$14,000 in 2026. We recently switched to Guide One to save money. This is as low as it could possibly be.
- * Insurance from our previous carrier Church Mutual is about \$3,000 more.

ANALYSIS

- * Finance is anticipating that our income will drop from ~\$173K in 2025 to ~\$162K in 2026. .
- * This is ~\$30K lower than the proposed 2026 budget total of ~\$192K.* This assumes \$3000 of income from Joyful Noise paying for electricity that now comes from solar. This could be as high as \$5,000 or \$6,000.
- * Despite the anticipated income shortfall there aren't many places to cut in the budget.

2026 BUDGET DISCUSSION

- * Solar panel income: The church doesn't get money back from the electric company, only credits.
- * 2026 Budget Presentation: The budget will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting.
- * Motion to accept the 2026 budget was made and seconded. This budget will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting and put to a vote.

JOYFUL NOISE RENTAL AGREEMENT

- * Myron Gadoury and Mike Ricci worked on the agreement.
- * Utilities:
 - * Current wording: Tenant shall reimburse landlord for 70% of all charges for electricity.
 - * Proposed change: Tenant pays 70% of electric usage based on the going rate from Rhode Island Energy.
- * Heating fuel: Joyful Noise pays 55% for heating fuel.
 - * The 55% rate has been in place for a long time.
- * Dumpsters:
 - * The agreement states two trash dumpsters, but there is one trash dumpster and one cardboard dumpster.
 - * Myron has given \$500 from the food bank to Joyful Noise to help pay for cardboard dumpster.

JOYFUL NOISE RENT DISCUSSION

- * Current rent: \$7,800 per year.
- * The rent has not been raised for a long time.
- * Joyful Noise's financial situation: They project income will be \$18,000 a month more than they need.
- * Proposal to raise the rent:
 - * Suggested increase to \$750 a month or \$9,000 a year.
 - * Some members suggest raising it by \$500 a month.
 - * Final decision: Raise the rent to \$9,000 a year.
- * Myron will keep the council updated on Joyful Noise's financial situation.
- * The revised rental agreement will be presented to Joyful Noise at their next board meeting.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- * Sunday school kids will help lead worship on February 8th.
- * Noise in the church:
 - * Some complaints about noise during church.
 - * Actions taken: Noisy toys were removed, quieter toys will be purchased.

LAY MINISTERS

- * The pastor will schedule a meeting to discuss bringing on new lay ministers.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- * Sue Meriano is stepping down as Sunday school superintendent at the end of the year.
 - * No replacement has been confirmed yet.
- * Plans are being made to celebrate Sue's service.

PROPERTY - AIR CONDITIONERS

- * The church needs new air conditioning.
- * Window units are being considered as an option.
- * The cost is estimated at \$750 per unit and \$1,000 for wiring.
- * Concerns about window units:
 - * Noise and aesthetics (windows partially blocked) are a concern.
 - * Mini splits are expensive to replace and don't last long.
- * A fundraiser will be announced for the air conditioners.
- * The initial fundraising goal is \$2,500 for two units and wiring.
- * One person is donating \$300 next month.

PROPERTY - DAYCARE ISSUES

- * A leaking toilet in the daycare was reported.
 - * The plumber found no issues, suggesting a child may have caused the problem.
- * Someone tripped over a transition piece in the hallway.
 - * A rug was placed over it, but the cleaning lady moved it.
- * The fire marshal is reviewing locks on classroom doors.
 - * The locks may be a safety hazard because they are on exit doors.

PROPERTY - RECYCLING

- * The church currently does not have recycling.
- * There is a discussion about taking over the dumpster contract from the daycare.
 - * The current cost is \$158 per dump, with rubbish once a month and cardboard every other month.
 - * The church council voted to pay for recycling, but the daycare didn't accept it.
- * A suggestion is made to add recycling to the daycare's lease for the current year.
 - * Recycling is estimated to cost an extra \$58 per month.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

- * The Worship and Music Committee is seeking feedback from council members regarding service decisions.
- * There was a discussion about the attendance numbers for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, with Good Friday having the highest attendance (25 people).
- * A suggestion was made to eliminate the Maundy Thursday service and focus on the Good Friday and Easter Vigil services.
- * The connection between the three services (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil) was mentioned.

UPDATE ON CURRENT PARSONAGE RESIDENTS

- * An update was requested regarding the current residents and their housing situation.
- * They are working with Lisa Gibbs to apply for a first-time home buyer program.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP AND ANNUAL MEETING

- * There are two new members joining the council: Margaret Tan and Jen Haddon.
- * Jake Johnson has also been asked to join the council.
- * A volunteer is needed to take minutes at the annual meeting.
- * Before the annual meeting there will be a potluck meal.

CLOSING PRAYER The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

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 February 15th

Gospel Reading

John 9:1-41

Jesus heals a man born blind. The blindness was not caused by sin, but rather is an opportunity to reveal the work of God. This healing provokes a hostile reaction that Jesus regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

¹ As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷ saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he."

¹⁰ But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight."

¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰ His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

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.



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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.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study



**Join us Tuesdays 9AM to 10AM at Emanuel
in Jacobs Hall for**

Bible Study

**Let's explore the Bible together.
Everyone welcome.**

**Emanuel Lutheran Church,
20 Leaf Street, West Warwick, RI 02893**

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 7 – May 24

2/15 The Man Born Blind (Transfiguration Sunday)

2/18 Ash Wednesday (the Good Shepherd)

2/22 Jesus Raises Lazarus

3/1 Jesus Washes Feet

3/8 Peter's Denial

3/15 Jesus and Pilate

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

For Comfort & Healing: Kelly Cabral, Karin Kohl (friend of Pastor Todd)

For Grieving: the friends and family of Cheryl Soucy

<https://www.chesmorefuneralhome.com/obituaries/cheryl-soucy/20468/>

Worship Assistants

	<i>February 15 Transfiguration Sunday</i>	<i>February 22</i>
Counter:	Ken Wieboldt	Song Edwards
	8:00AM	8:00AM
Lector:	Sue Auger	Kathy Garriott
Acolyte	Tim Hart	Tim Hart
	10:30AM	10:30AM
Lay Minister:	Diane Gadoury	Bruce Johnson
Acolyte	Sam Hadden	Lorenzo Ucci
Ushers	Mary Schabek & Ken Wieboldt	Callie Suffoletto & Sue Wieboldt
Lector:	Sam Hadden	Sunday School Children
Coffee Hour	Mary Schabek & Linda Messinger Nunez	Callie Suffoletto

February's Memorial Candle



The Memorial Candle for February is given by Mary Schabek
In loving memory of **George Thomas Fekete**

This Week at Emanuel

Monday, February 9	10:00am	Deliveries to food pantry (10AM – 1PM)
	7:00pm	Al-Anon (Jacobs Hall)

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

Wednesday, February 11	10:00am	Ellie's Circle (JH)
	7:00pm	Adult Forum on Grief (JH)

Thursday, February 12	12:00pm	RI Conference Lutheran Clergy meeting (JH)
	7:00pm	Council Meeting (JH)

Friday, February 13	9:00am	Sue in the office

Saturday, February 14		

Sunday, February 15	8:00am	Worship in Person
6 th Sunday after Epiphany	9:00am	Choir
Transfiguration Sunday	9:15am	Sunday School (FH)
	10:30am	Worship in Person & Online
	11:30am	Coffee Hour

Next Week at Emanuel

Monday, February 16	10:00am	Deliveries to food pantry (10AM – 1PM)
	7:00pm	Al-Anon (Jacobs Hall)

Tuesday, February 17		NO Tuesday Morning Bible Study (JH)
Shrove Tuesday	10:00am	Food Pantry 10AM - 12PM
		NO Pastor's Office Hours 10AM to 2PM

Wednesday, February 18	10:00am	Ellie's Circle (JH)
Ash Wednesday	12:00pm	Dispensation of Ashes 12PM to 1PM
1 st Day of Lent	7:00pm	Ash Wednesday service w/dispensation of ashes

Thursday, February 19	12:30pm	February Lunch at Bill's Place
2 nd Day of Lent		

Friday, February 20	9:00am	Sue in the office
3 rd Day of Lent		

Saturday, February 21 - 4 th Day of Lent		

Sunday, February 22	8:00am	Worship in Person
First Sunday in Lent	9:00am	Choir
Sunday school children help	9:15am	Sunday School (FH) and Confirmation (JH)
lead worship	10:30am	Worship in Person & Online
	11:30am	Coffee Hour
	12:00pm	Readers of Emanuel book club (JH)

Upcoming Commemorations

**Cyril, monk, died 869; Methodius, bishop, died 885; missionaries to the Slavs
Saturday, February 14, 2026**

These two brothers from Thessalonika, Greece, were monks and were sent to bring Christianity to the Slavic people. In the course of their work they created a written language, inventing the Cyrillic alphabet for it, and translated the Bible and the liturgy.

**Martin Luther, renewer of the church, died 1546
Wednesday, February 18, 2026**

Though he began his adult church life as a simple Augustinian monk, Luther challenged the abuses he saw in the church, and his work eventually led to the Protestant Reformation. Luther's accomplishments included liturgical reform, translation of the Bible, and creation of the Small and Large Catechisms.

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

[Emanuel's Online Calendar](#)

sThe calendar is on Emanuel's web site.