

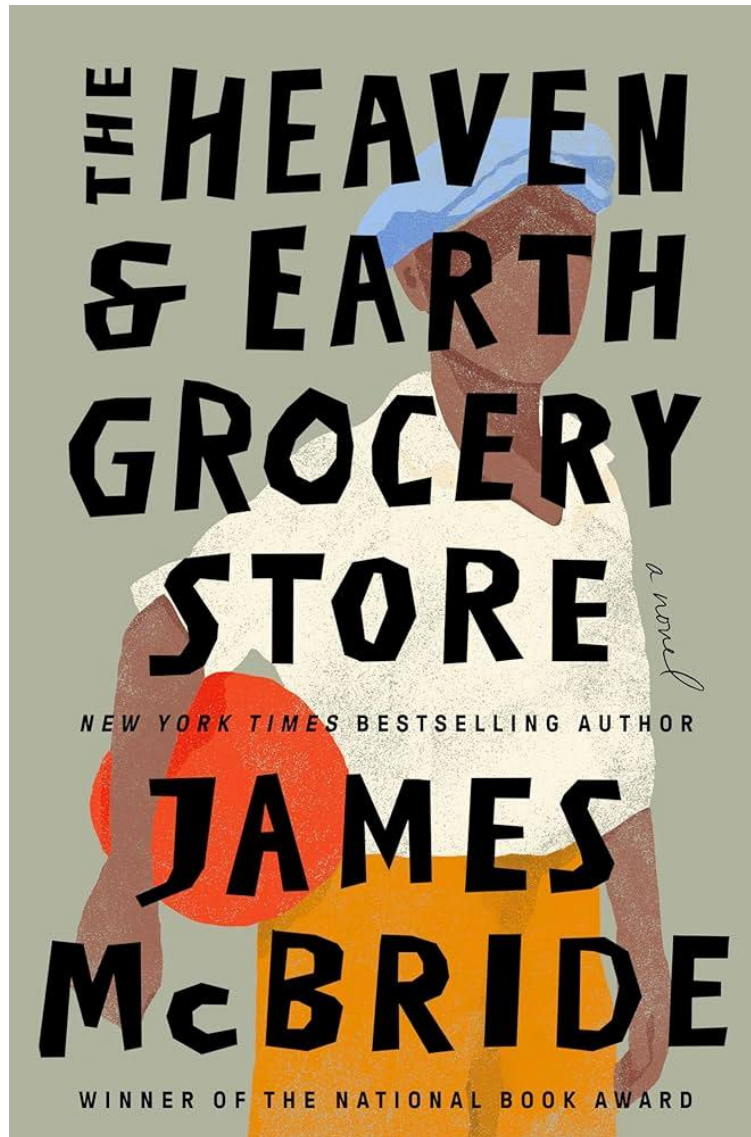
Making Ashes



This past week we burned the dried palms from last year's Palm Sunday.
The ashes were used on Ash Wednesday February 18th

Thank you to all who brought in their palms!

Readers of Emanuel – This Sunday!



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 this **Sunday February 22nd** at ~12PM in Jacobs Hall to enjoy fellowship, food and discuss the book.

Everyone is welcome!

Update on New England Synod's Court Case



New England Synod

Last summer the New England Synod was named as one of five ELCA Synods, along with the American Baptist Church and the Metropolitan Community Church, in a lawsuit against the Department of Homeland Security over the decision to change decades of law prohibiting I.C.E. from entering "sensitive locations" such as churches, schools, and hospitals. Here is an update on that case from Bishop Piphon:

Dear New England Synod,

On Friday, February 13, 2026, United States District Judge Dennis Saylor ruled in favor of the New England Synod and other plaintiffs and against the January 2025 order by the Department of Homeland Security allowing unlimited access to places of worship for immigration enforcement activities.

In his ruling, Judge Saylor identified three areas protected from immigration enforcement activity:

"places of worship," i.e., churches themselves or other places regularly used to conduct religious services;

"adjacent protected facilities," i.e., facilities "attached to or adjacent to" places of worship that are used to conduct activities central to member' religious missions, such as a school;

"adjacent protected areas," i.e., any property adjacent to a place of worship that is owned, occupied, or operated by the church, such as a parking lot, walkway, lawn, garden, playground, or cemetery.

The order strictly limits immigration enforcement activities in and around any of the above three categories of protected areas unless: (1) there are "exigent circumstances," i.e., an immediate threat to human life or safety, or (2) the enforcement activity is authorized by an administrative or judicial warrant.

Further, the order prohibits immigration enforcement activities within 100 feet of any entrance to any of the three categories of protected areas unless (1) there are exigent circumstances, (2) the enforcement activity is authorized by an administrative or judicial warrant, or (3) the activity has been previously authorized by a supervisor at ICE or CBP headquarters in D.C. The order prohibits setting up a checkpoint or other barrier in order to target people on their way to or from any of the three categories of protected areas.

It's important to note that Judge Saylor's ruling goes into effect only for plaintiffs in the lawsuit once the plaintiffs have supplied a list of places of worship, adjacent buildings and adjacent properties. I will be working with our lawyers, and may be contacting you for information, as we compile this list by the February 27th deadline set forth by the judge.

It's also important to note that our lawyers understand this ruling to cover all activity within our worship spaces and adjacent facilities and areas whether the activity is of the congregation or not. Therefore, other Christian communities renting space and worshiping in our worship spaces and adjacent facilities and areas; schools, day cares, after school programs meeting and gathering in our worship spaces and adjacent facilities and areas; and all other outside community groups who rent,

meet, or use space in our worship spaces and adjacent facilities and areas are also protected by this ruling.

While I, and many in the New England Synod, celebrate this ruling as a matter of human decency and protection for our communities, I have heard from some members of the New England Synod opposed to our participation in the lawsuit. To these members I have said three things:

We participated in this lawsuit guided by the New England Synod Assembly's overwhelming adoption (over 90% voting in the affirmative) in June 2025 of a resolution calling on the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to participate in such lawsuits on behalf of our neighbors in need. While the ELCA Churchwide organization declined to participate in this lawsuit, ELCA Legal Counsel encouraged synods to participate if they chose to do so. In consultation with Synod Council Vice-President Cassandra Wilson and the Synod Council Executive Committee, we looked to the Synod Assembly's action as evidence of broad-based support for participating in this legal action.

There was broad-based support for participating in such lawsuits because members and congregations of the New England Synod have been directly impacted by enhanced immigration enforcement activity. We did not participate in this lawsuit because we hate the President or his policies. We participated because we love our Christian siblings impacted by these policies. This is not a "theoretical" problem happening elsewhere, but a real problem happening to us. We are impacted. Members of the New England Synod are living in fear because of this order. Let me be clear: people here legally are hiding and living in fear of racial profiling and stereotyping leading to harassment and detention by ICE. In his ruling, Judge Saylor noted my observation that not only does decreased worship attendance harm those who stay away from church in fear, but also those who can attend, who are not blessed in relationship with those who stay away. Our Christian community is diminished when not everyone participates. We cannot be fully the body of Christ unless all are able to participate fully in Christian community.

This lawsuit does not challenge the government's right and ability to enforce immigration law. This lawsuit responds specifically to the January 2025 Department of Homeland Security order allowing immigration enforcement activity within places of worship. That order reversed a policy in place under both Republican and Democratic administrations, including the first Trump administration. Prohibiting immigration enforcement activity in churches preserves the ability to worship God who understands no borders within God's kingdom.

Let me state clearly that we need comprehensive immigration reform in this country. We need immigration laws that are fair and just and reflect the rich history of the United States as a country of immigrants. No one is served by laws, policies and rhetoric that demonize and scapegoat immigrants, rip families apart and turn churches and sacred places into battlegrounds for immigration enforcement activities. Even as the judge ruled in favor of the plaintiffs in this lawsuit, difficult questions about immigration laws, policies and enforcement remain. My hope is that this ruling offers protection to the New England Synod so that our places of worship and adjacent buildings and areas may be places where all children of God may gather to hear the Gospel and experience for themselves the hospitality, welcome and mercy of Jesus Christ. From a place of shared love and humanity, may we then engage the complex and difficult questions about immigration policy and enforcement.

I will keep you posted if there are any further updates. Please contact the Synod Office if you have any specific questions or concerns.

I wish you a blessed and sacred Ash Wednesday and Lenten journey.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Piphon

Look who's Leading Worship



**this Sunday February 22nd
10:30AM service**

The **Sunday school children** will be helping to lead worship this Sunday!

March's Monthly Lunch



The next lunch will be held:
Thursday, March 19th 12:30PM

at **Carrabba's Italian Grill**
1350 Bald Hill Rd Bldg C, Warwick
(next to Barnes & Noble)

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

Phone: 401-742-8417

Email: mmelan4@outlook.com

Friends welcome!

New Bible Study on the book of Acts



starting Wednesday March 4th

The book of Acts traces the early days of the church - its struggles and how it grew. What can the church today learn from the early church?

We will meet on Wednesdays at 7PM in Jacobs Hall starting on March 4th. We will go through the book chapter by chapter. Come and explore the early days of the church.

Emanuel Lutheran Church
20 Leaf Street
West Warwick, RI 02893
(401) 821-8888
www.emanuelww.org

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 February 22nd

First Reading

John 11:1-16

After Jesus' friend Lazarus dies, Jesus prepares to set off to go to him in Judea. Jesus' disciples are afraid the Jewish leaders will hurt them, but they are set to follow Jesus regardless of their fate.

¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

Second Reading

John 11:17-44

Jesus is moved to tears at his friend's death and the sorrow it brings to his loved ones. Then he calls Lazarus out of the tomb and frees him from death.

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus^[e] had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.^[f] Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah,^[g] the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

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.

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**

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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

Crosses on the altar this Lent



The 40 days of Lent are a time of repentance, a time to remember our mortality, and a time to look at how we are living our lives. The 3 crosses on the altar depict the crosses of Calvary. Before being crucified Jesus was forced to wear a cross of thorns while he was mocked, beaten and spit upon. The cross and thorns have become symbols of Jesus' suffering, forgiveness and love for us.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” - John 3:16

Thank you to Sue Wieboldt for creating this year's Lenten altar!

Questions to ponder:

- Why is the middle cross bigger?
- What do the brighter colors represent?
- Is this before or after the crucifixion?

Sermon Topics



Narrative Lectionary September 7 – May 24

2/22 Jesus Raises Lazarus

3/1 Jesus Washes Feet

3/8 Peter's Denial

3/15 Jesus and Pilate

3/22 Jesus Condemned

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

For Comfort & Healing: Barbara Azverde (friend of the food pantry),
Barbara & Bob O'Connor

For Grieving: the family & friends of Kristen Swanson

<https://www.carpenterjenks.com/obituaries/obituary-listings?obId=47278200>

Worship Assistants

	<i>February 22</i>	<i>March 1</i>
Counter	Song Edwards	Kathy Marco
	8:00AM	8:00AM
Lector	Kathy Garriott	Kathy Garriott
Acolyte	Tim Hart	Tim Hart
	10:30AM	10:30AM
Lay Minister	Bruce Johnson	Diane Gadoury
Acolyte	Lorenzo Ucci	Callie Suffoletto
Ushers	Callie Suffoletto & Sue Auger	Pauline LaVallee & Sue Wieboldt
Lector	Giuliana Ucci	Glenn Johnson
Coffee Hour	Callie Suffoletto & Sue Auger	Potluck THEME: "Green Foods"

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 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)

Next Week at Emanuel

Monday, February 23	10:00am	Deliveries to food pantry (10AM – 1PM)
5 th Day of Lent	7:00pm	Al-Anon (Jacobs Hall)

Tuesday, February 24	9:00am	Tuesday Morning Bible Study (JH)
6 th Day of Lent	10:00am	Food Pantry 10AM - 12PM
		NO Pastor's Office Hours (funeral at Carpenter-Jenks)

Wednesday, February 25	10:00am	Ellie's Circle (JH)
7 th Day of Lent		

Thursday, February 26 – 8 th Day	7:00pm	Lay Ministers meeting ONLINE

Friday, February 27 - 9 th Day	9:00am	Sue in the office

Saturday, February 28 - 10 th Day		

Sunday, March 1	8:00am	Worship in Person
Second Sunday in Lent	9:00am	Choir
	9:15am	Sunday School (FH)
	10:30am	Worship in Person & Online
	11:30am	Coffee Hour

Upcoming Commemorations

Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156

Monday, February 23, 2026

Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.

Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, died 1921

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.

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

[Emanuel's Online Calendar](#)

sThe calendar is on Emanuel's web site.