



Emanuel Lutheran Church

April 2015

9 New London Avenue
West Warwick, RI 02893
401-821-8888

Pastor Todd Stange

Celebrating Our 128th 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***

Easter at Home

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A Jewish neighbor of ours shared with me how they celebrated Passover last Friday. Their children are grown, but they came in for the holiday. On the evening of Passover they gathered around their dining room table and took part in the Passover ceremony together: reading from the Bible, recalling Moses and the 10 plagues, and the liberation of their ancestors from Egypt. All of this together as a family at home.

This got me thinking about how we as Christians celebrate Easter at home. At our house this is usually done by coloring eggs and then searching around for them the next morning after the Easter bunny has hidden them. It's lots of fun, but something is missing. We don't talk much about the actual Easter story. We don't lift up how our ancestors are connected to the story of Jesus, his life, death and resurrection. We don't really talk about what all this meant for them, or us today. By not having these conversations in our homes – the story of Easter can become distant, something that really isn't about us. It can become a church thing, that doesn't really have anything to do with our personal, everyday lives.

Maybe Jill and the kids are reading the Bible and talking about the story of Easter and having prayer time, and I'm just too busy doing pastor things to notice. But I don't think so. In fact, I don't think we're alone. Many people, even many Christians, I suspect, only read the Bible (or hear the Bible read) in church. Prayer too, for many Christians, is an activity that is restricted to Sunday morning at church.

About 500 years ago this was also true. Back in Luther's time most people couldn't read the Bible and had to go to the church to have it read to them. Their connection to God was something that centered around the church and had little to do with their home life.

In this edition:

- Message from Pastor Stange
- April Calendar
- Birthdays
- Upcoming Events
- And much more!

Deadline for the May newsletter is April 20th .

Notices can be left in the office, emailed to: emanuelwwnews@gmail.com or leave a message at: (860)-208-0762
Thank you! -Mike Gadoury

This was one of the things Luther set out to change in the reformation. He translated the Bible into the common language of German, so everyday people could read scripture for themselves. He wrote the Small Catechism to help parents in the home teach their children about God. Luther wrote it in a simple question and answer form – **that's makes teaching easy. In the Small Catechism he also included prayers for the morning and before bed at night.** Prayers intended to be prayed by individuals or families at home.

Many years ago the Jews used to connect to God through the temple in Jerusalem. The temple and the priests there were the focus of their connection to God. But then in 587 BCE the Babylonians came in and destroyed the temple, enslaved many Jews and brought them to Babylon to work as **slaves. It wasn't clear whether or not Judaism would survive. It wasn't clear whether or not the Israelites as a people would survive** – without the temple, intermixed with foreigners, in a new culture. It was during this time that they were forced to connect to God in their homes. And instead of this killing the Jewish people, it made them stronger.

Is there something to be learned from this, from our Jewish brothers and sisters who celebrate Passover in their homes as a family? What would happen if we celebrated Easter with our family and friends at our kitchen tables, in our chairs? What would happen if we read the story together and remembered that those were our ancestors who were with Jesus, who abandoned him, who called for his crucifixion? What would happen if we also remembered that is was our ancestors (and us) who Jesus gave his life for – so that we would know how much God really loves us.

Perhaps in doing this – **we'd begin to see signs of the resurrection in the everyday places of our lives.** Perhaps in doing this – our eyes would be open to the new life, that is indeed, all around us.

Pastor Todd Stange

Emanuel's Bible study will be held every
other week after the 10:30 service.
Grab a coffee & snack and head over to
Anderson Lounge
Please consider coming, all are welcome!



Holiday
Bazaar

**Christmas Bazaar Workshops
Tuesdays at 6pm
Anyone is Welcome!**



Emanuel learning to
make Swedish bread

March 7 & 14.

Thank you

Beth Groleau!



Easter Questions

What if it's true? What if Jesus really did rise from the dead on Easter?

What if it's true – that there really is a God, that he came into the world as Jesus,
that people didn't believe him, rejected him, and killed him?

What if he really did die? And what if he really did rise to new life on Easter?

If this were really true, what would it mean about the other things Jesus said,
about forgiveness, and love, and the kingdom of God being near?

If this were really true, what would it mean to you?

Would you live life differently?

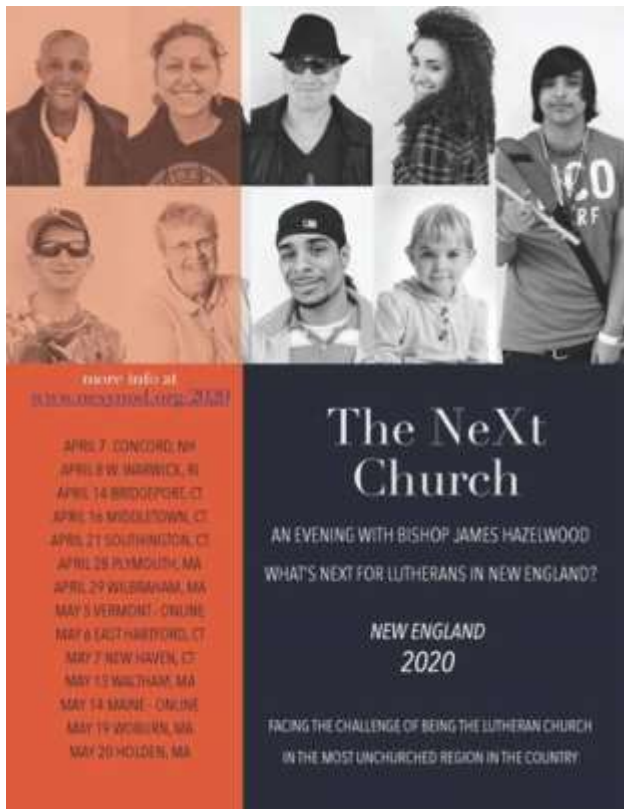
Would it change the way you see the world?

What if you knew you were part of something bigger than yourself – as big as the universe,
as small as a flower, a grain of sand, an atom?

What if you knew this were true? Would you tell anyone? Would you whisper it to your kids?
Would you share it with a friend?

Would you live life BIGGER? Would you take more risks? Or would you slow down?
Would you speak less? What would you do?

What if Jesus really did rise from the dead on Easter? What if it's true?



Bishop Jim Hazelwood is coming to Emanuel Wednesday April 8th at 7PM

Emanuel is hosting this event for all Rhode Island Lutherans.

Having a function at Emanuel?

Please remember to fill out a function form.

Function forms can be found in the church office.

Function forms help us ensure that rooms are not double-booked and that we have custodial support when it is needed.

Thank you.

POSTING AN ANNOUNCEMENT

For the weekly reminder (Emanuel Herald) sent out on Mon. or Tue. All submissions must be received in the church office (preferably by e-mail) no later than Sunday morning. Postings for the printed weekly announcement sheet must be received by the previous Sunday.

Churchoffice@EmanuelWW.org

For the newsletter: Please send items to Mike Gadoury no later than the 20th of each month.

Email to: EmanuelWWNews@gmail.com

During worship in the sanctuary, please remember to be kind to those around you:

- Turn off cell phones (or switch them to vibrate).
- Wait until after worship to discuss church business or catch up with family and friends.

Thank you!

Do you need someone to talk with, to listen, to pray with?

Please call Pastor Todd or one of Emanuel's deacons:

Pastor Todd Stange (401) 450-2836 cell

Deacon Diane Gadoury (860) 564-1000 home, (860)465-7987 cell

Deacon Beth Groleau (401) 822-1448 home, (401) 862-6559 cell

Deacon Lee Jacobs (401) 885-4196 home, (401)623-9043 cell

Deacon Donna Sennett (401) 284-1232 home, (401) 523-8786 cell

Deacon Ida Zecco (401) 781-5231 home, (401)787-4476 cell

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Aidan McGuirk 4/4
David Golden 4/7
Deb Kolling 4/18
Hannah McGuirk
4/21
Cara Nunez 4/22
Tom Kolling 4/28
Bernie Brown
Nick Brown
Hannah Hass
Bryan Lucier
Steven Lucier
Rebecca Nunez
Riley Stewart
Ruth Tramm
Zachary LeBeau



Contact Kym in the Church office if we missed your birthday or anniversary, or give us the exact date. We would love to have our records up to date!

We are looking for a few volunteers who are willing to work in the church office when our office administrator is on vacation or sick.

If you might be able to help in the office, please let Pastor Todd know –

(401) 821-8888 or

pastor@emanuelww.org.

Thank you.



Photos of the Minute-to-Win-It games at last months Confirmation retreat.. Confirmands will be confirmed on Sunday May 31st.

Blood Drive at Emanuel

Sunday May 10th
9:30am – 12:30pm



CPR saves lives!



If you are interested in learning CPR and/or First Aid,
please let Bruce Johnson know.

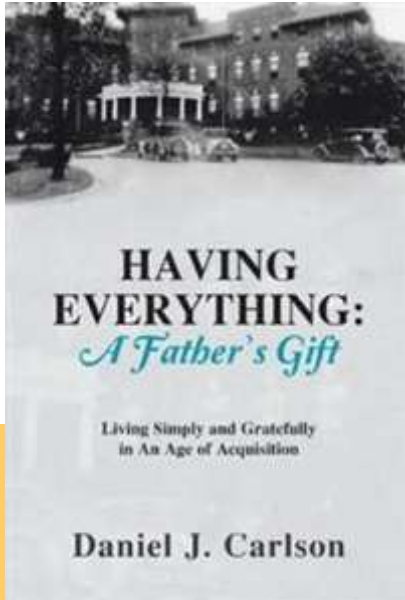
bru316@cox.net

The class will be offered on April 25th.

Thank you.



Readers of Emanuel



Next gathering Sunday April 19th
after the 10:30 church service.

The books is:

"Having Everything: A Father's Gift"
by Pastor Daniel J. Carlson.

What gifts has God given to you?

Mustard Seed Group Meeting

Thursday April 23rd 6:30pm in Jacobs' Hall

**Come and help us figure out the best way to
discover, use and celebrate the gifts God has
entrusted to Emanuel.**

Everyone is welcome!



**Emanuel's Annual
Smörgåsbord**

**Saturday April 25th
5 to 7pm**

Emanuel Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
February 12, 2015

Agenda and Minutes

Present: Pastor Todd, Pam Beck, Carolyn Duprey, Myron Gadoury, Beth Groleau, Bruce Johnson, Disa Johnson, Glenn Johnson, Kris Knapp, Helen Maine, Walter Phaneuf, Kathy Plante, Linda Sami, Margaret Teehan, and Ken Wieboldt.

Absent: Gwen Andersen (surgery), Lee Jacobs (away), Donna Sennett (sick), and Jim Schabek (working).

Guest: Bob Maine

The meeting was called to order at 7:06.

Pastor welcomed new members---Carolyn Duprey, Kris Knapp, Walter Phaneuf, Kathy Plante, and Margaret Teehan

1. Opening Devotions (Pastor)

- a. Who do we know who lives closest to Emanuel? What is their relationship to us?
- b. What are three good things about West Warwick?
- c. What are 3 bad things about West Warwick?

Purpose: To open discussion about what is Emanuel's role in this community?
How can we be involved? Is there a need we can help to meet?

Matthew's Gospel Jesus sent out the disciples, giving them instructions about how to go out, proclaim God's word, minister to the needy, get to know the people, etc.

2. Organize new Council: elect President and other officers

- a. **President:**
 - Pam Beck nominated Ken Wieboldt; Linda Sami seconded.
 - Kris Knapp nominated Myron Gadoury, who declined.
 - Bruce Johnson nominated Glenn Johnson, who declined so that he could be active at the Committee level.
 - Ken Wieboldt was elected.
- b. **Vice President:** Ken nominated Linda; Disa seconded. Linda Sami was elected
- c. **Secretary:** Beth Groleau was nominated and elected.

3. Approve January Minutes: Disa made the motion and Bruce seconded. Minutes were approved.

4. Review Annual Meeting Minutes: Beth will make edits suggested by Pastor Stange

and we will discuss them at the March 12 Council meeting.

5. January Budget Review

- a. Request: Can Carol itemize the snowplowing costs so that we can see which bills are Joyful Noise's share and which are Emanuel's share? (Note: Emanuel pays the total bill and gets reimbursed by Joyful.)

6. Updates:

- a. Recording past church records – Kym has baptisms and confirmation done; need another 3-4 weeks to get weddings and funerals done.
- b. Constitution / job descriptions – Bob Maine will work with Pastor to make sure the numbering is as required.
- c. Financial audit recommendations – Finance met with Ray Nunez last week; the auditors put their report into writing; all recommendations have been implemented. Ray added his daughter Rebecca to the committee (She is majoring in accounting at Bryant and would be a real help crunching the numbers.) Carl Andersen will stay on.

The audit results for 2013 are included as an appendix at the end of these minutes. Once again, Ray reported that the books were in great shape. We still got hit with a few \$25 bank fees on the General account over the summer months but these were fewer in number than in 2012.

The audit committee also wanted to stress that all computers and/or financial statements should be backed up regularly. If possible, the backups should be kept in another location, just in case we lose building access for some reason.

Council members should look at the end of the minutes as an Appendix: the two documents from the Audit Committee about the audit of the 2013 financial records (which was done during 2014).

- d. Solar energy (Myron) – Myron explained the proposal and asked us to review the proposal carefully; panels are made in the USA. This includes a \$22,000 rebate. If the Council is interested, Myron will arrange a teleconference. Myron would like to have us make a decision next month.
 - Disa asked about a windmill; Myron likes the idea, but it is hard to get community support for windmills.
 - Kathy asked where the panels will be... is it electricity or hot water? (Electricity). Share of cost and profit with Joyful --- they share our cost savings.
 - Helen asked about age of roofs; we would redo the roofs where the panels will go. The panels are guaranteed against storm damage.
 - What about taking trees down? Maybe need to trim some.
 - Bob Maine asked about maintenance costs, effect on property insurance.
 - Bob also suggested that if we go ahead, we need to get three quotes

to make sure we are making the wisest decision.

- The Council thinks it is a good idea to look at using solar energy. Glenn also asked Council to think about how we were going to come up with the money.

7. Review administrative assistant job description was moved to Executive Session.
Pastor Todd will talk to Kym first to get her input, and then bring it back to Council in March.

8. Defibrillator, First Aid, CPR –Carolyn and Pam made a list for the First Aid kit and will take care of supplying it with funds from Emanuel. Bruce will arrange for First Aid and CPR training and ask if he can include training to use the AED. Bruce checks it at least once a month. Ask that an announcement goes into next week's Herald.

9. Purpose –tabled to future meeting

10. Goal Setting for 2015 –tabled to future meeting

11. Other Items

Myron reported that the flat roof is leaking again, but not where the repairs were made; the roofers are coming tomorrow. (Note that we have 3 feet of snow on the roof.)

Ken led the Council in several exercises to help us to know each other better and help us learn things that might help us to work together better.

12. Closing

Pastor Todd led us in closing prayer.
The meeting adjourned at 9:10

13. Next meeting Thursday, March 12, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Groleau, Council Secretary

Appendix: **2013 Church Audit Results**

Audit Report

Appendix

2013 Church Audit Results

1. The '2013' Expenses' tab balances to the paper Annual Report:
2. The Vanco statements balance and are on the monthly Citizens statements as deposits.
3. Weekly counting sheets balance and are also on the monthly Citizens statements as deposits.
4. Other Bank Accounts.
 - a. There are no Check Images for the Citizens General account for March April and May. Everything appears OK though.
 - b. There was a \$25 maintenance fee being charged on the General account from May through July because the balance dropped below \$10,000. August had a \$25 Debit Memo.
 - c. The other accounts look OK.

AUDIT REPORT

Emanuel Lutheran Church New England Synod

For the period beginning January 1, 2013 and ending December 31, 2013

With this report, the Audit Committee presents its audit of the financial books and records of the congregation and all its related organizations to the Church Council.

Audit Objectives

The audit objectives related to the internal audit of Emanuel Lutheran Church's financial books, records and operations include determination that:

- All assets and liabilities recorded in the congregation's books and records are supported by appropriate independent documentation (i.e., bank statements and vendor invoices);
- All general ledger balances are appropriately reconciled to their underlying assets (i.e., bank statements) and liabilities (i.e., accounts payable) in a timely and accurate manner;
- All donations are properly classified on the financial statements in line with the donor's intent;
- Appropriate procedures are in place governing key financial operations and are being complied with;
- Proper segregation of duties are in place for all key financial transactions and are not being circumvented;
- Controls governing the congregation's investments and bank accounts are in place and operating as intended;
- The Sunday (or special) offering is handled and counted in dual custody;
- All monies generated and expenses incurred as a result of special events are properly accounted for and can be traced back to the general ledger;
- All major capital expenditures have been approved by the governing body (i.e., Church Council) called for in the congregation's by-laws;
- Expenses are appropriately approved and supported by the appropriate documentation;
- Controls over the payroll process are in place and operating as intended;
- All vendors receiving a payment in excess of \$600 annually receive a 1099;

Audit Conclusion

Based on audit work performed to achieve the objectives listed above, the books and records of Emanuel Lutheran Church were found to be materially accurate in all respects. Auditing performed also found that the controls governing the financial operations process appear to be in place and operating as intended. Although controls over financial operations appear to be adequate, the audit committee has a few additional recommendations as follows:

- A periodic review of insurance coverage is recommended – church buildings, liability, etc.
- A list of fixed assets should be recorded in the general ledger. Documentation of assets should be kept for insurance purposes.
- We are still seeing that some maintenance fees on the General bank account were charged over the summer months. Perhaps some money can be transferred from another account to maintain a higher balance. A list of authorized check writers should also be maintained on all accounts and reviewed regularly.
- Regular backups of computers should be taken and kept offsite.

Implementation of the recommendations outlined in this report would help strengthen existing controls and provide additional efficiencies.

The auditors have performed the procedures and testing called for in the audit program adopted by the congregation. In doing so, the auditors have reviewed the procedures governing the financial reporting and operations process and has found the balances presented to be correct, procedures proper, and records properly kept, except as noted above.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Audit Committee

Ray Nunez - Chair
Carl Andersen





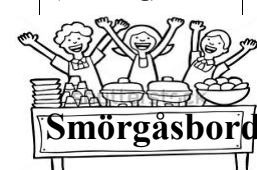
The Congregational Council has reviewed this report and has discussed the recommendation(s) presented by the auditor(s) and the accompanying responses with the pastor and congregational management. The council will review progress being made to address any weaknesses identified in this report at subsequent council meetings.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Presiding Congregation Council Member



April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday A.M. Schedule: 8:00 Service of Holy Communion 9:15 Sunday School, Choir 10:30 Service of Holy Communion			1	2  Maundy Thursday 7pm Service	3  Good Friday 7pm Service	4  7pm Easter Vigil
5  <i>Christ has Risen!</i> 12 12pm Bible Study (JH)	6 ALANON 7pm	7 10am <i>Ellie's Circle</i> Food Pantry 10-12 6pm BAZAAR Mtg	8 Senior Luncheon 11:45 Bishop's Presentation 7:00	9 Committee Night 7pm	10	11
12 12pm Bible Study (JH)	13 ALANON 7pm	14 10am <i>Ellie's Circle</i> Food Pantry 10-12 6pm BAZAAR Mtg 7pm Confirmation	15	16 7pm Council Meeting	17	18 Private Party 12-5 (FH)
19 Readers of Emanuel	20 ALANON 7pm	21 10am <i>Ellie's Circle</i> Food Pantry 10-12 6pm BAZAAR Mtg	22	23 Mustard Seed Group Meeting 6:30	24	25 CPR Training (morning)  Smörgåsbord
26 12pm Bible Study (JH)	27 ALANON 7pm	28 10am <i>Ellie's Circle</i> Food Pantry 10-12 6pm BAZAAR Mtg 7pm Confirmation	29	30		