



# Emanuel Lutheran Church

February 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***

## The Way Life Should Be

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last week a constable came to our house and served me with a summons. The summons wants to make me (and Jill) third party defendants in a lawsuit between two friends of ours.

This all stems from a dog walk a group of friends went on a couple of years ago. During the walk two of the dogs ran into one of our friends and she ended up breaking her leg. She's now suing our other friend and now they are trying to pull us into the lawsuit (*even though Finn, our dog, wasn't involved*). After receiving the summons I notified our insurance company and now they've hired a lawyer to represent us in this case.

### In this edition:

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

**Deadline for the March newsletter is February 20th .**

Notices can be left in the office, emailed to: [emanuelwwnews@gmail.com](mailto:emanuelwwnews@gmail.com) or leave a message at: (860)-208-0762

Thank you! -Mike Gadoury

I find it sad that instead of three friends getting together to settle this issue – **it's three lawyers. It's also sad the toll this has taken on the relationships.** These two friends no longer speak to each other.

In 2008 the state of Maine adopted the slogan "Maine, the Way Life Should Be." Long before this a sign with this slogan greeted drivers as they entered the state of Maine. And indeed, as you drive further into Maine it does seem like stepping back in time. Things become more rural, the drivers drive more slowly. Life seems to slow down, which can be a good thing, if you're not in a hurry.

Ideally, this is a slogan that should also to apply to us as the church. Church is a place where we should see each other as children of God **and treat one another with respect and love. It's a place where we** should go out of our way to see the value in one another and find places for people to use their talents. Church should be a place where we practice living – the way life should be.

In many ways we do this at Emanuel. We pay a little extra each month to purchase green/renewable electricity. We recycle and pay for monthly pickup of paper, cans, glass, etc. Through the food pantry, we help to feed the hungry. We opened up our parsonage, when someone needed a place to stay. **In a world that is more and more concerned with money and looking out for one's self, Emanuel presents an alternative way of living.** We give – so that others can be cared for.

**Now, this doesn't mean there shouldn't be or won't be problems within the church.** The state of Maine has its share of problems too (*an epidemic of opiate addiction and poverty to name two*). But what it does mean is that we work through our problems honestly and in a loving way.

Last week we had a funeral with a big collation in the fellowship hall afterwards. However, since we share our space with the Joyful Noise Child Development Center, this posed a problem. **The fellowship hall is normally full of children at this time. Plus they had plans to celebrate Chinese New Year's with a special Chinese food lunch.**

In many places in this world, this would result in people fighting for their rights as tenants and owners, who knows lawyers might even be called in, but not in the church, not at Emanuel. We discussed the **dilemma directly, honestly, and lovingly.** **And while the funeral was going on, I don't think many people realized that the kitchen was being shared and that a hundred kids were celebrating Chinese New Year's underneath them.**

You see, the church should be an example of how life should be lived, especially when it comes to the problems of this world. How do we deal with personal conflicts? How do we deal with drug addiction? How do we deal with unemployment and poverty? How do we deal with domestic violence? Emanuel is touched by all these problems.

We have a chance to show the world what it looks like to live life knowing you are a child of God, knowing you are loved unconditionally, knowing that death does not have the last word, but rather the love of God does. Knowing this frees us to address the problems of this world with grace, honesty and love.

Lent begins this month with Ash Wednesday on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Lent is a time for reflection on how we are living. This Lent let us live the way life should be. Let us live as the church.

Pastor Todd Stange

**Holiday**  
**Bazaar**

**Christmas Bazaar Workshops begin this  
Tuesday Feb 10, 2015 at 6pm  
(weather permitting).  
Anyone is Welcome!**

*Ash Wednesday*



*You are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.*

**GENESIS 3:19**

Ash Wednesday Service  
February 18th 7PM

## This Lent Come on a Spiritual Journey



This Lenten season join me in reading and discussing Albert Haase's  
"Catching Fire Becoming Flame"  
In it he will guide us through the steps of spiritual transformation.

Lent is a time for reflecting on our lives: how we are living, our relationships with each other and God. This is a perfect time for a spiritual journey and transformation.

We will be meeting on **Wednesdays 7:00 to 8:30pm**  
in Jacobs' Hall

**February 25<sup>th</sup> – The Spiritual Life**

**March 4<sup>th</sup> – Spiritual Basics**

**March 11<sup>th</sup> - Prayer**

**March 18<sup>th</sup> - Discernment**

**March 25<sup>th</sup> - Commitments**

If you are interested, please let me know so I have an idea of how many books to purchase.  
Thank you.

# YOE UPDATE

**Come Tubing with Us at Yawgoo!**



**Tuesday February 17<sup>th</sup> (school vacation week)**

**Meet at church at 1pm**

**Return to church at ~4pm**

**Cost is \$13**

**Please let Pr. Todd know if you are interested.**





Emanuel's Bible study will be held every other week after the 10:30 service.

Please consider coming, all are welcome!



## Senior Live Laugh & Learn

The next luncheon will be held:

**Wednesday February 11, 2015 - 11:45 AM to 2:00 PM**

Jack's Penang

255 Cowesett Ave West Warwick, RI 02893

Estimated cost \$7 to \$15

Please sign the sign-up sheet in the narthex if you plan to attend.

I need to give the restaurant a count.

For last minute decision,  
call Helen Maine at

Home: [401-397-3566](tel:401-397-3566)

Cell: [401-464-1011](tel:401-464-1011)

Email:

[helenmaine@gmail.com](mailto:helenmaine@gmail.com)

## 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.

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!

## 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.

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

Email to: [EmanuelWWNews@gmail.com](mailto:EmanuelWWNews@gmail.com)  
or call 860-208-0762.

**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**

## ***FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS***

Carly Stange 2/3  
John Carlson 2/4  
Myron Gadoury 2/12  
Zachary McGuirk 2/14  
Meagan Miller 2/14  
Jean Golden 2/28  
Walter Phaneuf 2/28  
Faith Carlson  
Barbara Sullivan  
Bob Dooley  
Tana Fatkin  
Ivy Gauvin  
Tim Morgan

## ***FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES***

Chris & Kim Gauthier 2/20  
Glenn & Carol Johnson



2015 Annual meeting  
Photos.  
Beth Groleau, Bob Maine  
& Mabel Lewis



*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!*



Mabel was the  
longest attending  
member present!

## Do You Recognize this Clown?



The Greenwich Bay Women's club will be putting on the Spectacular **CLOWNTOWN** Carnival Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup> at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in East Greenwich.

**They are looking for donations** to make raffle baskets and food donations (hotdogs, soda).

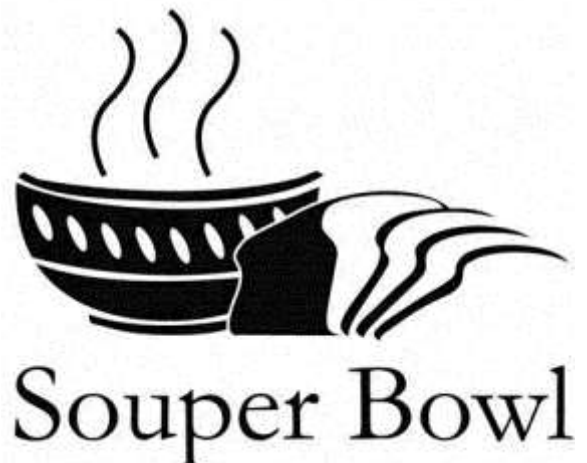
If you'd like to make a donation, you can give it to Linda Sami, Linda Nunez or Lynne Wolff.

Proceeds from ClownTown will go to support three charities: the Blessing Way, Best Buddies and a local family with a child that has cancer.

Last year the Greenwich Bay Women's club donated \$2,000 to help purchase a new refrigerator for **Joyful Noise**.

The first year confirmands and their mentors are going to be running the **"Souper Bowl" food drive.**

We will begin collecting non-perishable food on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> and end on Sunday, Feb. 22<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a jar available for cash donations.



## MAKING A FAST

LOVING GOD LET ME MAKE A FAST,  
from all those things  
that have filled my belly  
for so long.

Bloated from excesses,  
slowed and dulled and  
numbed in spirit.  
let me make a fast  
from those POISONS I have called  
nourishment,  
from the POVERTY I have called  
wealth,  
from that SHALLOWNESS I have called  
depth,  
from any MEAGERNESS I may have called  
abundance.

I am ready to go out with You  
to be emptied  
in whatever desert will be mine.

LOVING GOD LET ME MAKE A FAST.

May I fast from SPEED.  
May I drive more slowly.  
May I remove these shoes that help me walk  
quickly,  
and with great purpose—  
and may my feet contact your  
earth,  
slowly  
and  
with great care,  
with gentleness  
and  
with much respect.

May I walk as your calm presence in this world.  
May my voice be lower, slower.  
May it be a voice more understood  
by those whose ears are failing;  
a safer voice that does not make the listener  
ask again,  
a voice that comforts in its tones.  
May I be your slow and soothing, still, small voice.  
May there be breeze where I have passed,  
not cyclone,  
not chaos,  
not whirlwind sense of things of great  
import,  
but only the echoing whisper of  
where you have walked.  
may I fast from SPEED.

May I fast from BUSYNESS.

May I learn to bless my simple be-ing,  
and may I come to know that be-ing  
as the fertile soil that roots and grounds  
my do-ing.

May my days be less full, less likely to implode,  
collapsing in on themselves, a black hole  
dense with all those tasks, commitments,  
things  
I simply cannot cease to do,  
for fear the world—indeed, the universe—  
will  
cease along with them.

Instead, may there be holes and gaps,  
may there be light,  
great periods of wicked, wasteful idleness,  
that devil's workshop  
transformed as, slowly, I come to trust  
that You are there  
in the quiet,  
in the calm,  
in the vacuum

of nothing planned to do  
but be alive,  
that being quite enough,

Loving God, may I fast from BUSYNESS.

May I fast from FEAR.

May I come out from my hiding.

May I know sun and snow,  
wind and rain,  
feel heat and cold  
as armor drops  
to only such protection as I need,  
no less, but most assuredly  
no more.

May I befriend the shadow.

May I coax it out of hiding,  
remove its ban of  
excommunication,  
bring it back from exile.

May I embrace that darker side  
that I have banished for so long,  
beaten down, denied,  
and may I own it fully.

May I give shadow energy a voice,  
and come to know that healing lies in unity,  
polarities in tension,  
but  
never in denial.

Loving God, may I fast from FEAR.

May fasting time be sacrament,  
outward sign, inward grace;  
empty belly, an open space wherein You  
might dwell  
replacing illusion of fullness.

LOVING GOD LET ME MAKE A FAST.



Emanuel Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
December 11, 2014

Dinner and the meeting were held at the Wieboldt's home.

Present: Pastor Todd, Gwen Andersen, Pam Beck , Myron Gadoury, Beth Groleau, Lee Jacobs, Bruce Johnson, Disa Johnson, Glenn Johnson, Helen Maine, Donna Sennett, and Ken Wieboldt

Absent: Stephanie Chabot, Don Nester, Linda Sami, and Jim Schabek

Guests: Bob Maine, Sue Wieboldt

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m. after a potluck dinner.

1. Opening Devotions Pastor
  - a. We shared our favorite Christmas memories.
2. Approved November Minutes Beth
3. Budget
  - a. Review November Budget
    - i. Treasurer's report Accepted
    - ii. Questions about what was included in the "Substitute" line and "Altar Guild, worship" lines in the budget. The "Altar Guild, worship" line includes: wine, candles, and the Celebrate inserts. The "Substitute" line is for supply pastors and substitute organists.
    - iii. Perhaps committees could talk in the future with the Finance about what gets included in each line; Finance is meeting on January 8, so Council Members/ reps from each committee are invited to that meeting . **We request that IF Carol has the time, she provide information about what things get billed to each line with priorities for Property , Worship, Christian Education, and Administration.**
    - iv. Finance Committee needs to know what income is coming from fundraisers and what the funds are supposed to pay for.
    - v. Questions about how best to get seed money for projects like the bazaar --- how best to track it?
      1. Bazaar Committee is having another sale on Sunday. Can that profit be used for seed money? Could Carol give the bazaar committee gift cards paid out of the Scrip program?
  - b. 2015 budget proposal --- Donna asked for an explanation about the "fair share" report. Bob Maine explained that this was the average weekly giving amount divided by the number of households. In the 2014 this amount was \$37.86.  
\$189,000 / 96 households / 52 wks = \$37.86 avg. 2014 weekly offering

- c. 2015 Estimate of Giving letter --- sent out letter today explaining our situation and asking people to return their estimate of giving for 2015, so that we can try to fine tune the budget proposal.
    - i. Lee recommends that in the future, we do this earlier. We need to start this budget planning in October in the future.
- 4. Fuel Assistance --- See Beth's summary
  - a. Beth recommended we collect information so we can refer people to other agencies that already have such programs. They already have experience and procedures in place. Perhaps we can consider ways we can help to support those programs. Beth asked that Council members forward information to her as we find it.
  - b. Donna Sennett provided information to Beth about additional resources and more specific contact information for some of the resources.
  - c. Lee endorsed Myron's suggestion that we consider using money from the Endowment Fund and move it to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund for use if we decide to help with heating assistance in the future.
  - d. If we do make a donation for someone's home heating, the check should be made out to the heating oil company, and the address where the delivery is supposed to be made on the memo line.
  - e. **Beth will continue to update information.** She will ask to meet with Shari Japic to learn what resources Shari knows about. Donna suggested that we check with Margaret Teehan for advice, also.
- 5. Recording past church records in log books updates:
  - a. Kym is going back and recording everything in the ledger.
  - b. Question about storing them in something fireproof. Many people thought the books should be stored in a fire-proof safe. **Myron will buy a safe.**
- 6. Constitution Job Description Update --- **Pastor Todd** has the information now and will work on it.
- 7. Other Items
  - a. Disa asked about Synod delegates; Pastor will put an article in the Herald; we need to get a male delegate to serve with Diane Gadoury. If no one is willing to be a delegate, Disa Johnson volunteered to go.
  - b. Beth asked if we need to do anything about the nominees for the Endowment Committee?
    - i. We have contacted most people; Beth will ask Hank Richter formally; Glenn will talk to Don Schabek.
    - ii. Glenn will ask people for an answer on Sunday. (Make sure they know that terms are staggered.)
    - iii. The people need to be elected at the Annual Meeting.
  - c. Guidelines for new keys:

- i. We want to limit people with keys to the office to the office staff and Finance. Some people need to use the copier, so the Council approved moving the old copier to the library. **Michael Gadoury will take care of keeping it maintained.**

d. Food Pantry

- i. Ask people to bring more food or to buy Scrip cards to donate to the pantry or to give cash.
- ii. Council wants to keep the food pantry as is for now, and highlight the need to the congregation. Have people make announcement each week; have people put the food they bring into a basket at the entry to the nave, and have kids bring it up to the altar with the offering. **Each Council member is asked to bring a food item on December 14.**
- iii. Donna told an idea she is doing. She is having a big party at Christmas and asked her guests to bring items for the church Food Pantry.
- iv. We will raise awareness at church, and for now, will continue to supplement out of the church budget and then review what is happening at a future meeting. **Sue Wieboldt will bring in one of her big baskets on Sunday. We will advertise things that we need.**

e. Council Members – do we have the nominees we need for the Annual Meeting?

- i. We need 14 members plus the President, Vice President, and Pastor. We need one more person for the Council; Ken will talk to Jim Schabek, Don Nester, and Stephanie Chabot to see whether those who are on the Council now are willing to continue. Ken will also talk to Don Schabek to see if he is interested in being a nominee at the Annual Meeting. Myron will ask Margaret Teehan.

8. Goals for next year: Please be thinking of what our Council Goals might be.

9. Closing

10. Adjourned with prayer at 9:17 p.m.

**Next meeting: January 15, 2015**

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Groleau, Council Secretary



8:00 Service of Holy Communion  
9:15 Sunday School, Choir  
9:30 Bible Study (1st & 3rd Sunday)  
10:30 Service of Holy Communion