



Emanuel Lutheran Church

June 2009

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

Pastor Todd Stange

Celebrating Our 121st Year

Our Mission

Statement: Emanuel Lutheran Church is an active Christian community embracing God's call to reach out with love and acceptance to all.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Monday June 15th we will be starting a new Adult Forum. This forum will be on the topic of "How Lutherans Interpret the Bible."

This forum series comes at a good time. As many already know we at Emanuel have been struggling with the issue of whether or not it is appropriate to bless same-gender relationships. The heart of this struggle comes down to how we interpret the Bible.

In this edition:

Pastor Stange's Message

True to life

Church Picnic

Summer Drama Camp

Confirmation class of 2009

Did you know

June Calendar

Deadline for July newsletter is June 28th . Notices can be left in the office or emailed to Jean Golden at jcg60@charter.net
Thank you!

When two consenting male and female heterosexual adults, who love each other and wish to make a life-long, monogamous, public commitment to one another, come to us, we celebrate and bless their relationship. Following Jesus' command to "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39), some conclude that we should do the same for homosexual adults as well.

However, Paul's writing to the church in Rome appears to suggest that same-gender sex is contrary to God's will.

Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other

men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion." (Romans 1:24-27)

How are we to interpret this passage today in light of same-gender couples who wish to make a life-long, monogamous, publically accountable commitment to one another? How are we to reconcile this passage with Jesus' actions in the Bible of reaching out to outcasts and even breaking God's Law in order to good?

At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath."

He answered, "Haven't you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread—which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests. Or haven't you read in the Law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple desecrate the day and yet are innocent? I tell you that one greater than the temple is here. If you had known what these words mean, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent... It is lawful to do good on the Sabbath. (Matthew 12:1-7, 12b)

I cannot promise that all our questions regarding same-gender blessings will be easily answered in this "How Lutherans Interpret the Bible" adult forum series. The focus of the class, based on a curriculum by Dr. Mark Allen Powell from Trinity Seminary, is not directly on the topic of same-gender relationships. Instead, we will be looking at how Lutherans read the Bible in a general sense.

What we do learn together, however, will help inform our discussion on same-gender blessings. What we discover together, will provide assistance as we together strive to follow God in living out our mission to love all people. "I give you a new commandment," Jesus said, "that you love one another. Just as I have loved you..." (John 13:34)

Please consider joining us for this adult forum series on Monday evenings starting June 15th from 6:30 to 8pm.

Pastor Todd Stange

Summer begins in the month of June. The days reach their maximum length and in our household it becomes difficult to keep the children's normal bedtime. In June the moderate temperatures of May give way to heat and many of us seek refuge in the coolness of the ocean. At this time of year it's difficult to remember the snow and darkness of December. From a calendar perspective June is the farthest thing away from Christmas. With this fully in mind what follows are some writings by Bob Carlson that deal with the subject of Christmas and family.

Pastor Todd Stange

True to Life

This is a true story I learned when I was a child, by my parents and brothers, of which I am the youngest.

It really sunk into my mind after my 9th birthday when devastation struck, except for what my brother, Ray, told me before he left, never to return because of World War II, not even his body.

You see, this true way of life kept Love, Respect, Kindness and Thoughtfulness within us and our family and friends.

I was also told by Mom and Dad that there was an 11th Commandment which was never written down. It is: Thou Shall Love, Respect, Cherish and Honor our and all Children, because if we do not, how can you expect them to believe in the 4th!

Yes, Children, Youth, to Parents and all Adults, there is a Santa Claus; he is none other than God The Father in Heaven.

The truth and proof of this is: He gave us his Son, Jesus, who died for us to save us from Sin and Evil, so that they who believe shall not perish, but shall have eternal life in paradise.

Now, through Our Lord and Savior, Jesus, whose birth we celebrate on Christmas Day, God leads us to the Parents, Family, Relatives and Friends we now have. He led us to them with Love and Respect for them and for ourselves.

He put all of the materials on earth! Then, he gave the people on earth the ways, means and knowledge to make or manufacture everything we have.

We must have the knowledge to know that every toy, piece of clothing, bicycles, autos, buildings and furniture came from God, the only Santa who, through Jesus, gave the ways and means to our Parents, Family, Relatives and Friends to pur-

chase these gifts with Love and Respect.

So, you see, everyone on this earth such as parents, children, family, relatives and friends are Santa's helpers. Yes, I included children because I'm sure many of them made ornaments from the Giving Tree, so that children who are unfortunate or in the hospital would not be without. Now, that is a wonderful Santa's helper. I'm sure these ornaments were made with Love, Thoughtfulness, and Kindness.

Remember, everything you have received, or will receive, was given to you with Love, Respect and Kindness, so please receive it with Love, Respect, and a big thank you to God, Jesus, Parents, Family, Relatives, and Friends.

Please keep the Love and Respect for yourself, Parents, Relatives and Friends and especially God the Father and Our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus whose birth we celebrate on Christmas Day.

May God Bless you and have a Very Merry Christmas.

Mr. Robert L. Carlson, Sr.

A Brother's Prayer

Dearest brother, my thoughts are of you always.
I was the youngest, only a boy, the days you were away.
I didn't get to know you long, but I did know you well, in my every prayer.

It lives in honor, as I yet recall, what you taught of life.
True to living, your words stay with me, throughout any strife.
They are the truest ways, the ways of love, respect and kindness,
which in my thoughts remain, still alive.

Your thoughtfulness, the way you guided me, reflected well
our parents' fondest wish. It was though of the unwritten eleventh
Commandment to accomplish: "Thou Shall Love, Respect, Cherish and Honor all chil-
dren; diminishing then not the fourth."

It held true upon that sad day, when devastation struck, but I
was not alone. Though I could not understand, you were still
there, even though you were never coming home. Another son of
God now sits with Jesus, listening to my prayer: "Welcome Home!"

Dedicated to brother Raymond Carlson, by Robert L. Carlson, Sr. With all love, respect,
kindness and thoughtfulness.

Christmas Day 2000

Are you ready for summer?

School's almost over, vacations are coming, maybe some camping, swimming – or just plain relaxing? As you enjoy some “time out” from your regular routines, remember your church family, too.

Here's the latest

The good news is Emanuel's currently about \$3,500 short in year-to-date giving by our members.

That's good news?

Considering everything, actually, yes -- that's less than 5% behind our budget plan.

Two ways you can help

The easy way. Add a dollar.

Put just one extra dollar in your Offering Envelope each Sunday. It's a great way to help get Emanuel back on track. Once you begin, you'll find it's pretty easy.

The simple way. Sign up for Simply Giving.

Almost 40% of the Offering monies received by Emanuel each week come from members like you, using the free Simply Giving program.

It's so simple, a caveman could do it (as long as they have a checking or savings account)!

Join together with other Emanuel members in the *Simply Giving* program.

Want to know more, or sign up?

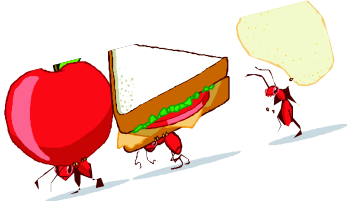
Ask Glenn Johnson, Tom Kolling, Lee Jacobs, or Mike Ricci when you see us at church.

Any of us can answer your questions, or just listen to your concerns.

Emanuel's Budget

	<u>Simply Giving</u>	<u>Offerings</u>	<u>Total Received</u>	<u>Total Needed</u>	<u>Surplus/Shortage</u>
May*	8,248.10	12,834.18	21,082.28	21,270.20	-187.92
Year to Date	35,765.22	53,845.90	89,611.12	93,588.86	(-3,977.74)

*Based on five Sundays



Parish Life Shepherds



Mark your calendar – Sunday, June 28th
Annual Church Picnic

This year there will be a 10:30 Service lead by Pastor Todd at Coventry Pines Country Club followed by our Annual Church Picnic.

The Shepherding Committee will supply the condiments and utensils, just bring some beverages and food to put on the grill.

You may also bring a dessert to share for our wonderful dessert table.

There will be games and we have also invited members of Gloria Dei to join us for some fun in the sun and great fellowship.

If you have not ordered a T-Shirt and would like to do so, please call Donna Lucier at 822-3414 by June 4th.

Readers of Emanuel

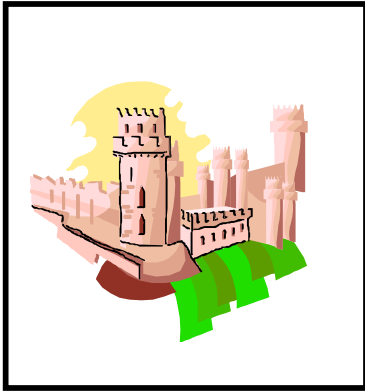
The Readers of Emanuel will be enjoying The Practice of the Presence of God and the Spiritual Maxims. This is one book with two writings (totaling 88 pages of print) from Brother Lawrence, a 15th century monk who is best known for his close relationship with God, as best described in the first work The Practice of the Presence of God. We will have light breakfast food and beverages between the church services on June 28 beginning at 9:15 am. Please join us!

Thank you

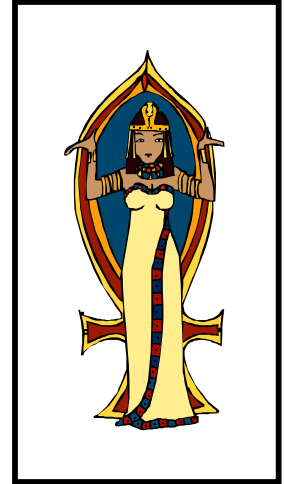
Many thanks to all who contributed to the success of the Smorgasbord! With out your help with the cooking, serving, set-up, cleaning, singing, and eating, we would not have had such a wonderful event. May God continue to bless each of you and your service to Emanuel!

The Smorgasbord Committee

A Music and Drama Bible Camp



MALICE IN THE PALACE



THE STORY OF ESTHER

Words by Tim Long
Music by Allen Pote

Who: Ages: 8 – 14 years

When: June 29 – July 3rd from 8:30-12:30
(Attendance each day is mandatory)

Cost: \$30 per child

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, July 3, 2009 7:30 p.m. *One performance only!*

Volunteers needed

Please contact Maren Nelson Miller if interested (354-4499)

Emanuel Lutheran Church
9 New London Ave
West Warwick, RI
821-8888



Congratulations to the Confirmation Class of 2009

On Sunday May 31 12 of Emanuel's young adults made their confirmation. They are (pictured left to right) Front Row: Mackenzie Richter, Tara Montecalvo, Zachary McGuirk, Sean Grandy, Alexis Kelly, Leighton Landroche, . Back Row: Douglas Auger, Zachary Dooley, Jacob Johnson, Manuel Morales, Matthew Greenwood , and Elizabeth Redin.

Anyone that would like to learn CPR, please contact Bruce Johnson at:
Bru316@cox.net.

Calumet Update

Summer is just about here.

If you haven't already sent a deposit to Calumet, it is still not too late. There are limited spots available in weeks 1, 2, 7 & 8 of the Calumet program.

If you have any questions, please see Pat Johnson.

Ellie's Circle

Tuesdays 10:00am



Come join the fun in making blankets for kids at Hasbro.

Sewing skills need not be superior



MS BIKE TOUR
MOE POWER



The Multiple Sclerosis 150 Bike Tour - "Moe Power", the pedal-pushers of Emanuel, will be entering their 20th Season on the 27th and 28th of June, a benefit to fight this deadly disease. The National Multiple Sclerosis Society is the largest private donor to MS research in the world and we want to help. Our Team will bike from Narragansett High School into Connecticut and return the next day.

Twenty years ago, we left Rhode Island, biked to Ware, MA, slept on a gym floor, continued on the next day to Brattleboro, VT, and took a bus back to RI that night.

Other trips included Mass Maritime Academy on the cape, UMass at Dartmouth, UMass in central Massachusetts, RI (only) including the Newport and Jamestown Bridges, and several trips to Eastern Connecticut. Many members of MOE have joined our team over the years. Our team has raised over \$3000 up to \$6000 each year earning us Silver recognition for more years than we can remember. Your contributions have been very supportive and we thank you.

For those that would like to make a contribution, a check made out to National Multiple Sclerosis Society and given to Lee Jacobs or Tom Kolling will be greatly appreciated.

Jake Johnson presents:



Beatle Night- with special guests Pastor Todd, Ida Zecco, Mike Grandy, Folding Chairs, KC and the Side Projects and October Trail- this Saturday June 6th 7pm free will donation for the American Cancer Society...great raffle too!!

This will be held in the fellowship hall here at Emanuel. Popcorn, Soda and Water will be served.

Come out for a fun night of music and help support this worthy cause.

Any questions call Jake or Pat 392-3309

EMANUELS FOOD PANTRY



On behalf of this Out Reach Ministry I would like to thank each and every one of you who continue to participate in helping to feed the needy through our Pantry at Emanuel. I realize many of us are facing hard times ourselves but as you are able please continue to donate food items. The need continues to be great even in the warmer months. The cupboard is presently at a very low level.

We are in need of Hot and Cold Cereals, Tuna, Canned Fruit, Pasta and Sauce, Peanut Butter and Jelly, Pancake mix and Syrup, vegetables, and baked beans.

A special thanks to Donna Lucier who stays on top of getting Thrivent Funds for the cupboard and then shops to fill the cupboard up. Also to Linda Maguire for her efforts as liaison for the Scouts and St. Joseph School who have donated many items.

We have been helping many hungry persons and we hope to continue with your help.

Myron Gadoury

DID YOU KNOW?



DID YOU KNOW, DID YOU? Theodor Geisel (aka Dr. Seuss), who would have celebrated his 100th birthday earlier this month, has sold over 500 million children's books, but he never had any children of his own. The classic Green Eggs and Ham resulted from a wager with his publisher who said he couldn't write a book using only 50 words.

The ELCA calls both women and men to serve as pastors and lay [rostered leaders](#). Here are some other facts about ELCA leaders:

- In 2007, 19% of clergy on the ELCA roster were women. In seminaries, the numbers of women and men preparing for ministry are about equal.
- 86.1% of ordained women and 83.1% of ordained men are actively serving in congregations.
- The pastor who has been in the same call the longest has served the same congregation for **52** years. The pastor is **82** years old.
- The ordained woman who has been in the same call the longest has served in that call for **37** years.

Looking Ahead—Emanuel's Christmas Bazaar

Just a few notes regarding this year's Christmas bazaar.
We will hopefully be having an adult craft workshop to make items for sale.
Look for this sometime in the summer.

Also, please be on the lookout for things that can be put into the raffle baskets.
You can bring them to church and give to Linda Maguire.

Lastly, if you are a crafter — Remember it is never too early
to start crafting for the Bazaar!

Thank You!!

POSTING AN ANNOUNCEMENT

For the weekly reminder (Emanuel Herald) is 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 Jean Golden no later than the 24th of each month. Email to: jcg60@charter.net or call 508-883-6831.

June 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	<i>1</i> 7 PM ALNON meeting (FH)	<i>2</i> Ellie's Circle 10 AM (jh) Confirmation	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> 7 PM Committee Meetings	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> <i>Jake Johnson present:s</i> <i>Beatle Night</i> <i>7 PM</i> <i>Fellowship Hall</i>	
<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> 7 PM ALNON meeting (FH)	<i>9</i> Ellie's Circle 10 AM (jh) Confirmation	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	
<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> 7 PM ALNON meeting (FH)	<i>16</i> Ellie's Circle 10 AM (jh) Confirmation	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	
<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> 7 PM ALNON meeting (FH)	<i>23</i> Ellie's Circle 10 AM (jh) Confirmation	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	
<i>28</i> Church Picnic 8 AM Service at Emanuel 10:30 Service at Coventry Pines Country Club	<i>29</i> 7 PM ALNON meeting (FH)	<i>30</i> Ellie's Circle 10 AM (jh) Confirmation Drama Camp— June 29-July 3 8:30-12:30, Performance July 3 at 7:30 PM		Sunday A.M. Schedule: 8 AM Service of Holy Communion 9:15 : Sunday School, First Year Confirmation & Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Service of Holy Communion			