



Emanuel Lutheran Church

March 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.

In this edition:

Greeting from
Pastor Todd

Adult Forum

Article from
The Lutheran

Go Green

Did you know?

Joseph/Dreamcoat Photos

Deadline for April newsletter is March 27th . Notices can be left in the office or emailed to Jean Golden at jcg60@charter.net Thank you!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Growing up in the 1970's I was a fan of Woody Allen's films: Sleeper, Love and Death, Annie Hall. This led me to discover an album of Allen's earlier standup comedy routines. In one routine he tells of his experience in an off-Broadway production. In the play he is cast as the character of God. He employs the Method method of acting and begins to live the part off stage. Someone wrongs him and he forgives them. He starts taking taxi cabs everywhere. And he "...tips BIG, because He would have."

Woody Allen's image of God being a BIG tipper is meant to be funny. However, there is some truth in this. What kind of tip would God give? "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." God creates and brings the entire universe into being. God gives us our lives and everything we have. God is a giving God.

You and I are created in the image of God, and we too are meant to give. When we don't give, we become clogged, bound-up, constipated. It is good for us to give – to use our talents for others, to use our money for others, to spend our time with others. Giving makes us feel good; it gives us energy; it is our natural way of being.

However, we don't always embrace this nature. We are gripped sometimes with feelings of selfishness, fear, and worrying that we won't have enough or won't get our fair share. But these are not natural feelings; this is not who God created us to be. These feelings have their basis in a view of the world where there isn't enough food, water, resources. This view of the world causes us to fight for survival at the expense of our neighbor.

However, this view of the world is false. We live in a world where there is enough. We live in a world where God gives us what we need (albeit not always what we want).

This doesn't mean that people do not die of starvation, dehydration, and from lack. The world's resources are not equally distributed. A small number of people control vast amounts of the world's resources. There is enough for everyone, and if we live generously, it's possible for everyone in the world to be fed, hydrated, and cared for.

God has blessed each of us with different gifts. We were created to generously use these gifts, to give them away to the world. We are to do this not just for the sake of others, but for our sake as well. In giving ourselves away, we truly live the abundant life that God calls us to.

We are created in the image of a God who gives. Our Lord and Savior Jesus came and gave his life for us, so that we might live in abundance. Let us give thanks and praise that God is a BIG tipper.

Pastor Todd Stange

Sacrificing for the greater good

Are you willing to make a small sacrifice to help promote the greater good?

We all know how tough it can be to make ends meet - especially during the winter when heating costs spiral upward, electric bills are high and snow keeps falling & must be plowed. Emanuel, too, feels the pinch right now.

But with a little help from you, Emanuel can see its way through the "tough sledding" now and be prepared to move into the spring that's soon to come.

Whatever amounts you give in your offering envelope, or via Simply Giving, if you add just 1/10th more to it during this time of Lent, in which we are called to sacrifice, we can all help Emanuel through this difficult period.

Start today. Set aside a little extra for Emanuel. You'll feel good about your sacrifice.

We're now up to nearly 30 Emanuel members who contribute their weekly offering using the *Simply Giving* program.

You can help us grow even more. Join your friends in this "no-cost to-Emanuel" program.

Need more info on *Simply Giving* ?

Call Glenn Johnson at 385-9689, or send an e-mail to Glennjri@cox.net

Emanuel's Monthly Budget

a. Amount needed to meet Emanuel's Stretch Budget for February	17,276.00
b. Offerings for February	11,376.06
c. Amount given by members using "Simply Giving" plan	6,403.04
d. Total giving for February	17,779.10
e. Total Surplus for February	+ 503.10

EMANUEL'S MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

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"This year the endowed chair will go
to whomever pulls the sword from the stone."

We have a starting goal of \$25,000.00 for our Fund. A new Hour Glass will be displayed on the Narthex Bulletin Board soon to show our progress.

Why do we worship the way we do?

A new four session adult forum will be starting in March around the question of "Why do we worship the way we do?" We'll look at what worship is, why we worship, and the history and theology our worship today.

The four sessions will be loosely organized around the four major parts of our worship.

March 2nd – Gathering

March 9th – Word

March 16th – Meal

March 23rd - Sending

Each of these Monday sessions will begin at 6:30pm and go to approximately 8pm.

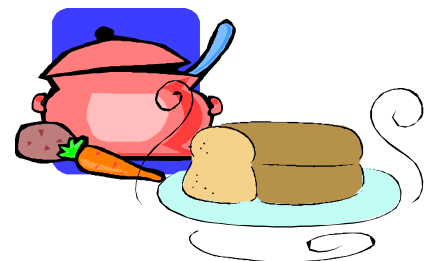
Please consider joining us for this look at worship.

Readers of Emanuel

The Readers of Emanuel will be meeting on March 15 after the 10:30 service. It will be a potluck while we discuss *Bad Girls of the Bible and What We Can Learn from Them* by Liz Curtis Higgs.

Please consider entering into this Lenten season of confession, forgiveness, and renewal by joining us for mid-week worship at 7 on Wednesday nights (3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, and 4/1).

Please join us for worship and/or soup & bread dinner. Soup & bread dinner will be served at 6pm.

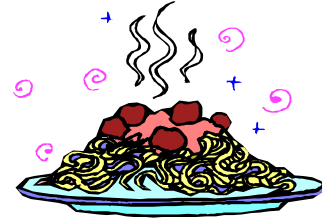


Sunday School Pasta Dinner

March 14th

5:00 – 8:00

Continuous Seating



Tickets will be sold following Sunday services and at the door.

Prices are: Adults (ages 13 and up) \$7.00

Children (ages 5 to 12) \$3.00

Ages 4 and under Free

Raffle Baskets

Live Entertainment

Great Food

Fundraiser for Relay for Life Emanuel Team

We are collecting soda cans and bottles that state they are redeemable in MA, CT and Maine until the first week in June.

The money raised will go to our team for cancer research.

If anyone would like to join our team, please see Joanne or Jill.

This is the relay team members:

Joanne Powers Team Captain

Sharon Daniels Co-Captain

Mike Grandy, Monique & Maia Grandy, Sean Grandy, Nathaniel Feldman, Donna Lucier, Maren Miller, Kym McGuirk, Laurie Phillips, Elaine Stacy, Jill Stange, Ken Wieboldt, Sue Meriano, Jim Meriano

TEAM NAME IS: WOE, MOE, YOE, WALKERS

PLEASE HELP TO SUPPORT THIS TEAM BY MAKING A DONATION TO THE TEAM. WEB SITE IS: www.relayforlife.org/coventryri

Thank You from The Team

Does the recent Obama Economic Stimulus plan help you?

On Sunday March 8th Diane Mendes, (Joan's daughter) who works for H&R Block, and another certified tax professional will be at Emanuel after the 10:30 worship service to discuss the recent economic stimulus package and how it may help you. The session will begin around 12 noon in Jacob's Hall. Please come and get your questions answered.

The following article is condensed from the March 2009 issue of "The Lutheran".

Facing Hard Times

by Mark Allen Powell

The Bible has good advice for people who are facing tough economic times. Here are four messages of Scripture that may be more pertinent to our lives now than ever.

Message # 1

Be confident! God will provide.

Our first impulse may be to worry about our lives and future, but there is no need for anxiety. Jesus reminds us that God feeds the birds and clothes the fields with beautiful flowers. So also, God will provide for us. Our future is in the hands of a God who loves us. "Do not worry about tomorrow," Jesus says ([Matthew 6:34](#)).

We don't want to be naive about God's gifts or blessings. Hard work and sacrifices on our part may be necessary. But we belong to God and we are precious to God. And Scripture does promise that God will supply our needs.

This isn't a time for fear ([John 14:27](#)). It's a time for trusting God, discovering the power of prayer and realizing how blessed we are to have the Lord as our shepherd, protecting us and providing us with what we need ([Psalm 23](#)).

Message # 2

Be careful! God tells us what is most important.

Financial stress calls us to get our priorities straight and to remember what counts most in life. The Bible is filled with warnings about the dangers of materialism. The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil and the lure of wealth chokes out God's word before it can bear fruit.

The problem isn't that there is anything wrong with prosperity itself but that material abundance often leads to spiritual amnesia. Long ago Moses had to tell God's people, "Remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth" ([Deuteronomy 8:18](#)). And centuries later, Jesus was still calling on people to have only one master—not money but God ([Matthew 6:24](#)).

Jesus says, "One's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." So what does bring life? Paul names three things: faith, hope and love — these can't be bought with money and they are no less obtainable in times of financial want than in times of

plenty.

Message # 3

Be grateful! God has given us so much.

During tough economic times, many of us may have to give up things we want. We may need to tighten our belts, cancel a vacation, forego plans for early retirement or make other sacrifices. It helps in such a climate to focus on what we do have rather than on what we don't have. Instead of complaining about what we have lost, let us be grateful for what we have received.

Entitlement (the idea that the world owes us a living) is a recipe for a joyless life. Gratitude, by contrast, is the key to contentment. Paul says, "I have learned to be content with whatever I have" ([Philippians 4:11-12](#)). Contentment doesn't imply that one can't have a wish list for the future. But it does suggest a fundamental satisfaction with life—a sense that life is good and this good life has been given to us by a loving God to whom we offer thanks and praise ([Psalm 116:12, 17](#)).

Message # 4

Be generous! God uses us to help others.

Many of us may be suffering financial hardships right now, but there are probably others who have been hurt worse than we have.

Surprisingly, hard times often become occasions for people to give more charitably than they have before. Generosity is a fruit of the Spirit ([Galatians 5:22](#)) and you shouldn't be surprised if God chooses this current crisis as an occasion for bringing that fruit to maturity in your life.

Remember the story of the poor widow who was willing to give all she had ([Mark 12:41-44](#)). Likewise, Paul praises the Christians in Macedonia who, facing a severe ordeal of their own, gave sacrificially "beyond their means" to help others.

Accordingly, we must not allow cutbacks to make us fearful or stingy. Rather, now is the time to let the goodness of God take hold of our hearts and transform us into the grateful, generous people we would really like to be.

If we have to make sacrifices, let us make them cheerfully — and, for the sake of others, let us make even greater sacrifices than we have to make for ourselves. We are all the beneficiaries of God's grace—and now more than ever we can be instruments of God's grace in the world.

Calumet Update

Reminder: If your child is planning on attending resident camp this summer you need to get the application form mailed ASAP.

Forms can be downloaded from the Calumet website:

<http://www.calumet.org/download-forms.htm>

If you have any questions, please see Pat Johnson.

Calumet Walkathon April 18, 2009 in Gloucester, MA

Have a fun day and help raise funds to provide camperships this summer.

See Jean Golden if you are interested in more information.



The cast and crew from Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

This was an amazing production.

Many thanks to Maren and all the cast and crew who worked so hard to put on this wonderful show.

YOUTH OF EMANUEL

YOE event on March 6 – save the date and stay tuned for details!

March 21, 7 – 10pm: We'll Dance for Food!! Invite your friends! Learn hip hop dance moves; then put them to use!! Cost of admission: non-perishable food items or \$7. This event is focused on youth in grades 8 – 12.

March 22: Come to Table Talk to celebrate March birthdays!!

Salvation Band and Singers

Rehearsals: March 7 and April 4.

MOE



The first 2009 meeting of MOE took place February 27 with 8 Men attending.

The Chili was Good – Entertainment Great – Company Fantastic

We spent the night watching WWF Hulk Mania Wrestling on the Big projector screen in Jacobs Hall.

The next MOE FUNCTION will take place in April. We will be holding a Steak Fry. Historically this has been our biggest event. More information soon to follow. Tickets will be sold for this event.



GO GREEN

RENEWABLE ENERGY
GREEN PRODUCTS
RECYCLING

Emanuel Lutheran Church decided years ago to **GO GREEN** by instituting the use of **Green** Electricity, using **GREEN** Products when possible, and to institute a **recycling** program.

Green Electricity was easy as we just pay a little more from our distributor. **Green** Products is also doing well. We use Paper Coffee cups instead of Styrofoam as well as paper plates etc.

The third phase **Recycling**, I'm afraid is not doing well. Our recycling bins are constantly found with rubbish in them or the wrong product. When they are found this way they are not recycled but thrown in the trash. Our custodians cannot be allowed to sift through refuse and sort out the recycling. Going forward please be mindful that cans and bottles are put in the **BLUE BINS** and paper/cardboard is put in the **Green Bins**.

If you see someone abusing this policy please instruct them as to their proper use.

Unlike residential use we must pay to have our recycling removed and we are charged more if we do not keep our products separated.

Its our **PLANET EARTH** so lets all do our part to be good stewards of our **Makers Creation**.

Remember it's the little things that determine the big things.

Myron

DID YOU KNOW?



Emanuel used to have a stage for plays in Fellowship Hall

Emanuel used to have a two car garage in the parking lot. It was disassembled and erected at one of our parishioners houses.

At the base of Emanuel on the New London Ave entrance was a Black Smith Shop.

Back in the late 50's/ early 60's the Andersons would distribute beautiful Florida Oranges and box candy to the children at Christmas time. Lester Perry would distribute Hoodsie cups at our Church Picnics when we had them at Goddard Park.

Before Jacobs Hall, Anderson Lounge, Music Room, and Office were built we had a separate Parsonage.

Pastor John Carlson was the last one to live in the Parsonage.

Lester and Barbara Lewis would invite Emanuel's Parishioners to their farm in Exeter in the Fall for a Husking Bee. Anna Johnson would give silver dollars to the youth who husked a Indian ear of corn.

Leona's husband Milton Swanson Sr. saved all the wood from Emanuel's original Alter. This wood was later given to Myron Gadoury who made Crosses for our youth and later adults at Christmas and Easter. Dubbed Emanuel Lutheran Holy Wood as it had a 100 years of prayer said over it.

The Men of Emanuel use to have a Dart Team led by Pastor Malmstrom which competed against other Churches

Emanuel used to distribute Communion wine in trays with individual glasses. Communion was once a month and the glasses were washed after the service by MOE. (Who said men don't do dishes)

Emanuel use to hold service in Swedish

Things are better with Bacon

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.

March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 10:30 Service–Baptism</p> <p>12:00 Cancer Survivor’s Support Group (JH)</p>	<p>2 7 PM ALNON meeting (FH)</p> <p>6:30 Adult Forum topic: “Gathering”</p>	<p>3 Ellie’s Circle 10 AM (jh)</p>	<p>4 6 PM Soup and Bread followed by Lenten Service at 7 PM</p>	<p>5 7 PM Committee Meetings</p>	6	<p>7 6:30 Salvation Rehearsal</p>
<p>8 12:00—Discussion: Obama Economic Stimulus (JH)</p>	<p>9 7 PM ALNON meeting (FH)</p> <p>6:30 Adult Forum topic: “Word”</p>	<p>10 Ellie’s Circle 10 AM (jh)</p> <p>Confirmation Class 7 PM</p>	<p>11 6 PM Soup and Bread followed by Lenten Service at 7 PM</p>	<p>12 7 PM Council Meeting</p>	13	14
15	<p>16 7 PM ALNON meeting (FH)</p> <p>6:30 Adult Forum topic: “Meal”</p>	<p>17 Ellie’s Circle 10 AM (jh)</p>	<p>18 6 PM Soup and Bread followed by Lenten Service at 7 PM</p>	19	20	<p>21 7-10 PM We’ll dance for food Youth grades 8-12. Admission is non-perishable food item or \$7.</p>
<p>22 9:30 YOE Table Talk –March Birthdays Celebration</p>	<p>23 7 PM ALNON meeting (FH)</p> <p>6:30 Adult Forum topic: “Sending”</p>	<p>24 Ellie’s Circle 10 AM (jh)</p> <p>Confirmation Class 7 PM</p>	<p>25 6 PM Soup and Bread followed by Lenten Service at 7 PM</p>	26	27	28
29	<p>30 7 PM ALNON meeting (FH)</p>	<p>31 Ellie’s Circle 10 AM (jh)</p>		8	<p>Sunday A.M. Schedule:</p> <p>8 AM Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>9:15 : Sunday School, First Year Confirmation & Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>9:30 Bible Study</p> <p>10:30 Service of Holy Communion</p>	