



# Emanuel Lutheran Church

September 2009

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

**Pastor Todd Stange**

**Celebrating Our 123rd 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,

In a few days Labor Day and the unofficial end of summer will be here. This means nights will begin to get cooler and school will soon be starting. In a couple of days our middle child, Christian, will be getting on the bus for the first time and going off to kindergarten. September is a time of changes and new beginnings. This is true in the church too.

A couple of weeks ago something unusual happened. During the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America's (ELCA's) Churchwide Assembly in Minneapolis, Minnesota August 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>. The ELCA became the focus for a short while of the national news media. Most of the attention focused on decisions related to same-gender relationships.

**In this edition:**

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Resolutions were adopted at the assembly that make it possible for congregations, who chose to do so, to recognize, support, and hold publicly accountable lifelong, monogamous same-gender relationships. Also, congregations, who want to, may now call pastors who are in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships.

These are new changes for the ELCA. However, they are less dramatic than some have portrayed them. Gay and lesbian pastors in same-gender relationships have been serving in a small number of congregations with support from their congregations and without being disciplined by their pastors. In 2007 the Churchwide Assembly asked Bishops to refrain from disciplining pastors in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships. The new resolution confirms church wide support to these pastors. The new resolution also opens the way for new pastors in same-gender relationship to be ordained and called to congregations who desire them.

Deadline for October newsletter is September 26th . Notices can be left in the office or emailed to Jean Golden at [jcg60@charter.net](mailto:jcg60@charter.net)  
Thank you!

The changes related to blessing same-gender relationships are also more of a clarification than a dramatic shift. In 1993 bishops of the ELCA affirmed pastors and congregations in their efforts to minister to

gay and lesbian persons and “to explore the best way possible to provide pastoral care” to them. For some congregations, even before this summer’s Churchwide Assembly, this included blessing same-gender relationships. The new resolution does, however, make it clear that recognizing and supporting publicly accountable life-long, monogamous, same-gender relationships is an appropriate and sanctioned form of ministry in the eyes of the ELCA. Congregations do not have to engage in this type of ministry, but for those who chose to do so, it is now supported by the ELCA.

So, what will these changes mean for us here at Emanuel?

As a congregation that welcomes and actively ministers to people with a homosexual orientation, we need to search God’s will and determine how same-gender blessing requests will be handled here at Emanuel.

To assist in our searching of God’s will on this subject a sub-committee was formed to research the issue and create a packet of information that will help facilitate a prayerful dialogue within Emanuel.

The sub-committee has met throughout the summer and is (with God’s help) nearing the completion of putting together the information packet. After it is completed it will be reviewed by the Council and then distributed to the wider congregation. Members will be asked to engage in a prayerful dialogue, likely in a cottage meeting environment.

It is important to remember that even though we may have different opinions regarding this issue, that we are all united in the goal of this dialogue. Our goal is to search God’s will on how to best love those with a same-gender sexual orientation.

Presiding Bishop of the ELCA Mark Hanson put it well when he wrote, “We meet one another finally -- not in our agreements or our disagreements -- but at the foot of the cross, where God is faithful, where Christ is present with us, and where, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are one in Christ.”

Please look for communications in the near future to engage in this dialogue, and when you do, please do it prayerfully and with an eye toward understanding the position to which you are not initially predisposed. After all, we are all broken, flawed, sinners, that fall short of the glory of God. And it is only through God’s grace that reaches out to all of us in the person of Jesus that we are reconciled to God’s love.

Pastor Todd Stange

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### Upcoming Events:

WOE Mother/Daughter Brunch: Sunday, September 13 (following the 10:30am service)

Calumet Fundraiser: Postponed due to scheduling conflict - TBA

*Wrap-A-Friend Coat Drive: Saturday, October 31*

*Bazaar: Saturday, November 21*

## 2009 Churchwide Assembly Letter from Presiding Bishop Hanson – August 22, 2009

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

*Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.*

-- Colossians 3:14-15

I write to you from the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Minneapolis with official information about the actions of this assembly related to human sexuality. I am grateful for the manner in which this church has engaged in this conversation. The way this assembly has discussed these questions is a continuation of the way this church has deliberated: with deep and heartfelt respect for each other, engaging with Scripture, listening to the faith stories and experiences of one another, and through worship and prayer seeking the discernment of the Spirit.

In my response to the voting members on Friday, August 21, I made this request: we need one another. We need time. We need the voices of those who lament and those who rejoice over these actions, for together we have been called to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and engage in God's mission for the life of the world.

The assembly adopted 676-338 -- precisely two-thirds of those voting -- "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust," the ELCA's 10th social statement, with minor editorial amendments. It also adopted a series of implementing resolutions with amendments. This theological and teaching document builds on the key Lutheran principles of justification by grace and Christian freedom to serve the neighbor. It emphasizes that central to our vocation, in relation to human sexuality, is the building and protection of trust in relationships. It therefore affirms that we are called to be trustworthy in our human sexuality and to build social institutions and practices where trust and trustworthy relationships can thrive. The social statement addresses marriage, same-gender relationships, families, protecting children, friendships, commitment, social responsibility and moral discernment. Regarding same-gender committed relationships, the social statement says that this church is not in agreement and recognizes the different perspectives which are present among us.

Our assembly also adopted resolutions proposed by the Church Council based on those contained in a "Report and Recommendation on Ministry Policies." The actions direct that changes be made to churchwide policy documents to make it possible for those in committed same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders in the ELCA. There were amendments to two of the proposals. The assembly adopted the resolutions in the following order, beginning with a strong statement about how we will live together in the face of our disagreements:

**Resolution 3:** "RESOLVED, that in the implementation of any resolutions on ministry policies, the ELCA commit itself to bear one another's burdens, love the neighbor, and respect the bound consciences of all." (Adopted 771-230 as amended)

**Resolution 1:** "RESOLVED, that the ELCA commit itself to finding ways to allow congregations that choose to do so to recognize, support and hold publicly accountable life-long, monogamous, same-gender relationships." (Adopted 619-402)

**Resolution 2:** "RESOLVED, that the ELCA commit itself to finding a way for people in such publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders of this church." (Adopted 559-451)

**Resolution 4:** This resolution called upon members to respect the bound consciences of those with whom they disagree; declared intent to allow structured flexibility in decision-making about candidacy and the call process; eliminated the prohibition of rostered service by members in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous same-gender relationships; recognized and committed to respect the conviction of members who believe that the ELCA should not call or roster people in committed same-gender relationships; called for development of accountability guidelines; directed that amendments to ministry policy documents be drafted and approved; and stated that this church continue to trust congregations, bishops, synods and others responsible for determining who should be called into public ministry. (Adopted 667-307 as amended)

I invite you into important, thoughtful, prayerful conversation about what all of this means for our life in mission together. What is absolutely important for me is that we have this conversation together.

We meet one another finally -- not in our agreements or our disagreements -- but at the foot of the cross, where God is faithful, where Christ is present with us, and where, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are one in Christ.

In Christ,  
The Rev. Mark S. Hanson  
ELCA Presiding Bishop

## Salvation Singers & Band

- Who: Open to all youth in grades 5 through 12  
What: Worship music that rocks!  
Why: Make new friends, share your talents & extend your musical abilities  
When: Next rehearsal Friday, September 18th @ 6:30 - 8pm  
Where: Emanuel's Sanctuary  
Worship: Anthem at the 10:30 Service on Sunday, September 20th

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## Parish Life Shepherds

We have a new Meals Coordinator, Linda Sami. If you are in need of meals or know someone that is, please contact Linda at 615-3583.

*We are beginning our "Operation Backpack" once again and we would like to set a goal of at least 20. There will be a sign up sheet for the items needed to fill these backpacks and if you could enter your name and bring in the item, we can begin putting them together. Thank you all for your support.*

## Happy New Year

The approach of fall means new beginnings -- school's back in session; vacation time is over; we anticipate another change of season.

It's almost as though a new year has begun.

Did you know many businesses actually begin their fiscal year in September, not January? Whether it's the start of a 'new year' or not, Emanuel needs your support.

So where do you stand on what you've given to Emanuel so far? Are you up to date, or have you fallen behind?

If you check the overall giving amounts shown in the Emanuel Herald & Sunday Bulletin each week, you'll see that Emanuel has received about 5% less than what's needed to run our budget & programs (which you approved).

Unfortunately, time's running out to make up for the shortfall. There are fewer than 20 Sundays left in '09 -- **less than 20 chances to "catch up" in your giving.**

**Will you be part of the solution - or a part of the problem?**

Ask someone on the **Finance Committee** about what you can do to help:

Ask Mike Ricci,  
or Carol Johnson (Emanuel's Treasurer),  
or Tom Kolling,  
or Lee Jacobs,  
or Glenn Johnson,  
or Pastor Todd.

**Or just ask God.**

### **Emanuel's Budget**

	<b><u>Simply Giving</u></b>	<b><u>Offerings</u></b>	<b><u>Total Received</u></b>	<b><u>Total Needed</u></b>	<b><u>Surplus/Shortage</u></b>
August*	8,248.10	13,611.50	21,859.60	21,270.20	589.40
Year to Date	57,209.98	86,285.47	143,495.45	148,891.38	(-5395.93)

\*Based on 5 Sunday in August

## YOUTH OF EMANUEL

### Fall Fling

Fall Fling for grades 6 – 8 will be happening at Calumet from September 25 – 27! If you are interested, please contact Kris Bacon. The cost is \$100. Click [here](#) to print the permission form.

### Hammonasset

We have 9 youth at 2 adults attending Hammo this year from Sept 11 - 13! Please pray for a safe and spirit-filled trip for us!

### Youth Ministry at Emanuel

Are you interested in the future of youth ministry at Emanuel? Have you always wanted to get involved with youth ministry, but are concerned that it would be too much for you? Then this is the meeting for you! On September 20<sup>th</sup> after the 10:30 service, let's get together in Jacob's Hall to chat about youth ministry and ways to improve our program, including getting more adults involved, re-vamping some of our activities and having more youth-lead events. ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!! Refreshments will be provided. Please talk to Kris Bacon if you are interested. Busy on the 20<sup>th</sup>? Don't worry, we can catch you up later.

## UNITED IN FAITH

September 5-*United in Faith 2009*, an Outdoor Festival of Christian Music, will take place at **Church of the Apostles**, 170 Fairview Avenue, Coventry, RI from 11:30am to 7:00pm on Saturday. The festival will feature Ray Tierney and Friends; Crimson Rain, The Worship Project; Steadfast; Spirit and Truth; and Sue Samuel. From noon to 5pm there will be a Children's Stage with fun activities. Admission is free. The RI Blood Center will conduct a Blood Drive from 11am to 3pm. For more information, visit [churchoftheapostlesri.org](http://churchoftheapostlesri.org) or call (401) 821-7609. Or see Disa Johnson.



## Readers of Emanuel

The Readers of Emanuel will be reading "A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23" by W. Phillip Kelly and meeting to discuss on October 4<sup>th</sup> after the 10:30 service, accompanied by a pot luck brunch. We welcome new members – please contact Kris Bacon if you are interested in joining!

Please join us for a fun, educational event, “**Home Fashion and Finance**”, which will be held on Saturday, September 12, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at The Public House, 277 Main Street (Rt 131) in Sturbridge, MA. There will be a crepe brunch during the event.

The event will give ideas on how we can stretch our dollars to get more decorating for less money and also give insight into today’s economic climate. Participants will be supporting two programs of Lutheran Social Services of New England: Florence House in Worcester, MA and Ruth House in Brockton MA through part of the \$10 donation to attend the event. Instead of a monetary donation, (or in addition to, as you will), donations of business clothing will also be accepted to be given to “Dress for Success” a program to assist women returning to the workplace.

Sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, no financial products will be sold.

To reserve a seat for yourself or for yourself and a guest, please call toll free at 1-888-350-3560 and leave a message with Cindy Kincaid. The deadline to register is Friday, September 4th.

For more information, contact Barb Giger at 1-800-816-7910 or [Barb.Giger@thrivent.com](mailto:Barb.Giger@thrivent.com).

### Looking Ahead—Emanuel’s Christmas Bazaar

The 2nd craft night is September 9th at 6:30  
Remember—this is an adults only night.

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.

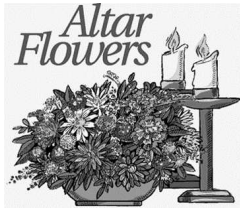
#### Items Needed:

Clean, washed COKE cans (regular coke..not diet or caffeine free)  
Pine Cones—the shorter cones, not long narrow ones. →→→→



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

Thank You!!



## **FLOWER HELP NEEDED**

I am looking for volunteers to take care of the flowers for church on Sundays, instead of my doing them almost every week. If someone is willing, would you ask them to contact me to arrange dates when they could do the flowers? I would be glad to help them or to train them. My e-mail address is [BethGroleau@cox.net](mailto:BethGroleau@cox.net). My home phone is 822-1448. Cell is 862-6559.

I will also work on an information sheet so they know the procedure. We are going to Wales in September and will be traveling again in October, so I need help especially for September 13 and 20, and October 11 and 18.

Thanks,  
Beth

*We will be holding another blood drive on September 6 from 11-2.*

## **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](mailto:jcg60@charter.net) or call 508-883-6831.

# September 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> <i>10 AM</i> <i>Ellie's Circle</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> <i>7 PM</i> <i>Committee Meeting</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> <i>United in Faith 11:30-7:30 Church of the Apostles, Coventry</i>
<i>6</i> <i>Blood Drive 11-2</i>	<i>7</i> <i>7 PM</i> <i>AL-ANON Meeting</i>	<i>8</i> <i>10 AM</i> <i>Ellie's Circle</i>	<i>9</i> <i>Adult Craft Night 6:30-8:30</i>	<i>10</i> <i>7 PM</i> <i>Council Meeting</i>	<i>11</i> <i>Hammonasset Youth Camping Trip</i>	<i>12</i> <i>Hammonasset Youth Camping Trip</i>
<i>13</i> <i>Mother/Daughter Brunch after 10:30 service</i>	<i>14</i> <i>7 PM</i> <i>AL-ANON Meeting</i>	<i>15</i> <i>10 AM</i> <i>Ellie's Circle</i> <i>7 PM 2nd &amp; 3rd Year confirmation classes start</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> <i>7 PM</i> <i>AL-ANON Meeting</i>	<i>22</i> <i>10 AM</i> <i>Ellie's Circle</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> <i>Calumet Fall Fling for grades 6-8</i>	<i>26</i> <i>Calumet Fall Fling for grades 6-8</i>
				<b>Sunday A.M. Schedule:</b>		
<i>27</i> <i>Calumet Fall Fling for grades 6-8</i>	<i>28</i> <i>7 PM</i> <i>AL-ANON Meeting</i>	<i>29</i> <i>10 AM</i> <i>Ellie's Circle</i> <i>7 PM 2nd &amp; 3rd Year confirmation classes</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>8 AM Service of Holy Communion</i> <b><i>9:15 : Sunday School, First Year Confirmation -Starts on 9/13</i></b> <i>9:15-Choir Rehearsal</i> <i>9:30 Bible Study</i> <i>10:30 Service of Holy Communion</i>		