



# Emanuel Lutheran Church

February 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,

One topic that didn't get discussed much at last week's annual meeting was the "stretch" budget we took on in 2008. A little over a year ago the congregation voted to support a "base" budget of approximately \$220K and a "stretch" budget of \$235K. The idea was to live within the "base" budget initially and then the Finance Committee would let us know as the year progressed if giving would support the "stretch" budget.

### **In this edition:**

Greeting from  
Pastor Todd

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MOE

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Well as many of you already know, giving in 2008 did not support the "stretch" budget. In fact, our giving of approximately \$220K didn't even allow us to spend to the original "base" budget, because of some unforeseen expenses that came up (like fire code expenses).

Now, I'm not bringing this up, so we can feel bad about it. But I also don't want to sweep it under the rug without a mention. So, what does it mean that we set a goal for ourselves and failed to meet it? Should we be disappointed in ourselves? If not, does this mean we don't care? Did we do our best to meet this challenge? Is setting a "stretch" budget just a bad idea that shouldn't have been attempted in the first place? Some reflection on this topic may be beneficial.

First, what was the result of missing the "stretch" budget? At first glance coming up short on the budget doesn't seem to have had much effect at all. Even though giving was less than expected in 2008, in general all our bills got paid. Given this, did we really need those "stretch" funds? Did Emanuel's ministries suffer in any way?

Deadline for March newsletter is February 25th . Notices can be left in the office or emailed to Jean Golden at [jcg60@charter.net](mailto:jcg60@charter.net)  
Thank you!

Quickly comparing the "base" and "stretch" budgets for 2008 one can see which areas were affected by missing the "stretch" budget. One area affected was our building reserve/savings fund. The money in this fund is used to pay for things like the new fire alarm system. Because giving didn't meet our "stretch" goals, we put \$5500 less into this fund. The result is that we will end up borrowing more money for

the new fire alarm system and our mortgage payments will be a bit higher for the next 15 years.

Another area affected by missing the "stretch" budget was our support of Joyful Noise. This past year we gave Joyful Noise \$4000 less than we had hoped. In 2008 all Joyful Noise employees were forced to take a 10% pay cut and lose some of their sick time. I doubt the additional money we would have given them with the "stretch" budget would have prevented these cuts. However, it would have helped.

Finally, in order to not overspend in 2008 we held off spending on the Pastor's (my) discretionary fund. Throughout the year these funds are used to support families both within and outside our congregation who find themselves in financial hardship. By June last year the bulk of the discretionary fund was spent. In the remainder of the year we were much more selective who we could assist and how we could assist them.

Even though our bills got paid in 2008, missing our "stretch" budget did have an effect. It limited the number of people Emanuel could reach out and help. It limited the ways and the depth of how we could show God's love to our neighbors.

"Stretch" implies we knew from the beginning that meeting the budget would require us to stretch. We knew it would require people to give more than they pledged, or would require new people bringing new offerings to Emanuel. This was a hopeful thought. Hopeful thoughts are good. However, it didn't happen.

One way to make sure this never happens again is to never propose a "stretch" budget again. In fact, one possible reaction we could have, would be to create budgets that are very conservative and make sure that we never come close again to missing our budget.

In 2009 we ended up going with a balanced approach. Our budget this year is based on a realistic expectation of offerings for 2009. We didn't make drastic cuts in our budget, nor did we expand the budget. There was little appetite this year for going for another "stretch" budget.

I'm happy where we came out. However, I hope our experience last year doesn't scare us away from having "stretch" budgets in the future. I hope we continue push and challenge ourselves. For doing so, means being filled with hope, courage, and trusting in the Spirit of God.

The next time we have a "stretch" budget let us really go for it. Let us from the very beginning of the year spend according to the "stretch" goal. Let us trust that God will provide what is needed to do the work before us. And if we succeed, then we shall succeed from the beginning of the year. And if we fail, then we fail boldly doing God's work and there will be no question if missing the "stretch" budget had any effect.

As we move forward in 2009 let us continue to do God's work without fear. Let us live and act courageously for the poor, for the hungry, for those in our community who have no voice or power of their own. We are members of God's church, God will give us what we need, and God will allow us to be stretched so that God's will be done.

Pastor Todd Stange

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 2<sup>nd</sup> – Gathering

March 9<sup>th</sup> – Word

March 16<sup>th</sup> – Meal

March 23<sup>rd</sup> - 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.



## Emanuel's Mission Endowment Fund

Emanuel's Mission Endowment Fund is a source of revenue for the support of Emanuel's ministries.

The purpose of this endowment fund is to provide a way for people to continue supporting Emanuel's mission now and in the future after we are no longer here to support it physically.

Last year the Church Council passed a continuing resolution establishing the endowment fund. The resolution also granted permission to create an Endowment Committee to oversee the fund, and established a set of rules regarding when and how the endowment fund will be used.

Annual distributions of funds from the endowment will be according to the following guidelines:

- Minimum of 20% for outreach into the local community;
- Minimum of 20% for ministries within the New England Synod, ELCA or ELCA Church-wide ministries;
- Minimum of 20% for extraordinary programs / capital improvement or other ministry initiatives within this congregation;

Remaining 40% distributed through any of the above categories.

These guidelines ensure that the focus of the endowment fund is on outreach ministries, while at the same time leaving flexibility for unforeseen congregational expenses in the future.

The resolution also specifies that annual distributions will only begin after the fund reaches \$25,000.

If you have any questions or feedback regarding the Mission Endowment Fund, please speak with Pastor Stange or Hank Richter.

The current balance of Emanuel's Mission Endowment Fund is \$538.

The people of Emanuel have been proclaiming God's love since 1886. During our life we are able to contribute to this ministry in many ways. The Endowment Fund provides a way for us to continue to be a part of God's mission at Emanuel long into the future.

Please consider remembering Emanuel's Mission Endowment Fund when planning your future.

**YES WE DID**  
**THE INUAGURATION OF BARACK OBAMA**  
**44<sup>TH</sup> PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,**  
a witness to history  
by  
Dan McCarthy

Our resolve to rise at 4AM to get the best places faded in the bitter cold and dark of the morning of January 20, 2009. Jason and Danny McCool and I rolled over in our beds for a few more hours of delicious warm sleep at 1511 Vermont Ave, at the corner of Logan Circle in northwest DC, the home of the Lovely Ladies of Logan Circle, among whom is the loveliest, Kirstin McCarthy, our hostess. 1511 Vermont Ave. is about ten blocks north of the US Capitol, a great location from which to launch us on this historic morning.

But at 7AM, with light beginning to show in the cloud streaked sky, we rolled out, woofed down a breakfast of sausage and eggs rustled by Kirstin, bundled up and were out crossing the Circle by 7:45AM.

There we encountered small groups of intense patriots criss crossing the Circle in various directions, but all heading generally south to any number of locations from which to view the Inauguration of Barac Obama as President, as our President, as the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. Some were heading for spots on Pennsylvania Ave. the inaugural parade route. Others, like us, were heading for the Washington Mall. The Mall trajectory was complicated a bit by the fact that the direct route from Logan Circle to the Mall crosses Pennsylvania Ave, which was closed off because it was to be the parade route, requiring that we some how go around the avenue. The Lovely Kirstin, our native guide, has, after a two and a half year residence here, mastered L'Infant's complicated layout of the District of Columbia with its grid of lettered and numbered streets, intersected by the "States" avenues, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, etc., which radiate out like spokes of a wheel from the Government center of the city. We were headed south at an angle to intersect with 14<sup>th</sup> street which our guide had determined would get us around Penn Ave and onto the mall.

As we passed through each intersection, where pairs of national guardsmen were directing traffic, our numbers grew with the addition of large groups of walkers coming from other sections of the city. As we entered the area closed to traffic our numbers spilled out into the street. Soon we were walking shoulder to shoulder, a wall to wall mass, all dressed with a variety of defenses against the cold, lots of hats, ear muffs, scarves, parkers, gloves, insulated shoes and boots, some with creative augmentations , wrapped in blankets or tin foil wraps among others.

Now I began to feel the electricity of the moment, being taken up into the intensity, determination and excitement of the crowd, stepping along briskly in the cold, probably about 20 degrees at this point. At one point a contingent of some hundred national guardsmen was marching along beside us. But these and the guardsmen directing traffic were the only signs I saw of the much touted security. And the marchers soon

disappeared into the crowd ahead. I was proud and pleased that it had not been necessary to militarize the Inauguration.

At 14<sup>th</sup> we found the street blocked by a humvee. A couple of national guards informed us that the Mall was already filled to 14<sup>th</sup> street. We would have to walk further west to enter the mall at 18<sup>th</sup> street. This meant the mall was already more than a third full. At 18<sup>th</sup> street we did turn south and in a few blocks entered the mall a little west of the Washington Monument, about one mile west of the Capitol, which I could barely see from this point.

Here the mall had not yet filled in so our column wheeled left and moved east up the mall toward the Capitol. We came to a halt at the rear of the gathered throng with the Smithsonian Castle at our right, about a half mile from the Capitol. Here about 30 yards from the third jumbotron (third one from the Capitol) we could see the west front of the Capitol in some detail, the inauguration platform and the American flags draped across the west front of the Capitol, but could not make out individual people. It was now 9AM. Hopeful blue streaks were beginning to appear in the sky and the temperature had risen to 24 degrees.

For the next hour and forty five minutes we were entertained with a rebroadcast on the jumbotron of last Sunday's Lincoln Memorial concert. The appearance of Mr. Obama, making his speech on that occasion, brought the crowd alive. Chants of "Obama, Obama, Obama" and "Yes we Can" rolled back and forth across the mall. Another high was the appearance of an 89 year old Pete Seeger, long absent from official Washington celebrations, rallying us all to sing with him "This Land Is Your Land". Talk about emotion!

Time passed surprisingly quickly, with, for me no discomfort from the cold. The sun came out. The temp got up to 28 degrees. We munched on P&J sandwiches and warmed ourselves with coffee provided by Kirstin. Such luxury!

As the morning went on the people filled in behind us, until the throng extended back beyond the Washington Monument, a mile deep of people. We were then at about dead center of the crowd. If the news reports of 1.8 million people on the mall are correct then about 900,000 were between us and the Capitol.

At about 10:45 the jumbotron switched to the live present and we were watching the US Marine Band play marches and the San Francisco Girls and Boys Choir sing patriotic hymns.

Soon arriving dignitaries began to be introduced. Expectation mounts. Cheers for Ted Kennedy, Al Gore and Jimmy Carter. Silence for Dan Quayle and the senior Bushes. I was a bit saddened to see Bush 41 shuffling, an old man. Wild applause for Bill Clinton, more for Michele Obama. More chanting "Obama, Obama". A strange silence as Mr. Chaney is pushed on looking glum in a wheel chair. Strong cheers for Joe Biden. A few grumbles for President Bush. Then ecstasy as a solemn Barack Obama

strides alone and confident onto the platform.

You all have seen Diane Feinstein preside with eloquent brevity, Aretha Franklin give voice to the soul of us 1.8 million souls there present. The beauty and peace of John Williams' Simple Gifts, so exquisitely rendered by Yo Yo Ma, Itzhak Perlman and their colleagues, seemed to settle over the crowd and prepare us for history, breathing into us the quiet needed to take in this moment we were living.

The crowd chuckled as the President waited for the Chief Justice to get the oath right. Then he was at the podium. His voice, rich with, dare I say, brown tones, and with stirring oratorical cadence, rang out strong, calm, confident forceful, direct, but with no hint of arrogance, the only time I have heard a President live. He sounded like a President!

I was moved by his reference to his father's village in Africa, his roots, certainly a first in a US inaugural address. I thought of my roots in my father's village in Ireland where I am sure they were listening, although I think Mike might be a bit uncomfortable with my comparing Sneem with an African village. As I listen and sensed the mood around me I thought how open we are to this our fellow citizen whom we have chosen to lead us, how our hearts welled with the hope that our choice of him will unite us and set on fire our civic energy to build our country and be a good partner to the nations of the world.

I was moved by the poet's invocation of the simple tasks of living and of the simplest task of all, the task of dying. I enjoyed the lovely and humorous picture of what lies ahead presented in preacher's benediction. Then it was over and we were moving out.

The immediate moving of almost two million citizens off the mall, the two million who had had over five hours to assemble, was difficult. For some reason a whole series of barriers and portable fences had been set up across great swaths of the mall. At one point the crowd we were in got corralled within one of these fenced areas and we did experience some shoving and frustration. But good will prevailed and we poured out of the mall onto 19<sup>th</sup> street. The walk back to Logan Circle, which coming had taken forty five minutes, had now become a two hour slog, with us having been made more weary by having stood for over three hours.

It was so good to arrive back at 1511 Vermont NW and sit by the fire with a sip of something to warm us inside, to share stories with the other Lovely Ladies of Logan circle and their guests of where we had been on this historic morning, of what we had seen and of what we thought about it all. I will long remember with gratitude the generous hospitality of the Lovely Ladies of Logan Circle, making it possible for me to be part of this moment of history.

A final comment on the superb organization of facilities on the mall. I have never seen so many port a johns! There were double rows of them, hundreds of yards long, placed at numerous locations around the mall. News reports say there were 5000. That seems a conservative estimate. As a senior I had read with trepidation predictions of long lines. I now want to testify that I saw nary a person waiting anywhere. There was immediate access always and everywhere. What a great country! God bless America!

I would like to get another CPR class going, if there is any one who would like to learn, the cost is \$40 dollars. They can email me at : [Bru316@cox.net](mailto:Bru316@cox.net).



Bruce Johnson

# YOUTH OF EMANUEL

Happy February!

Below is a schedule of the “big events” that YOE has coming up through spring. I’m looking for a few people (youth) to also organize movie nights or outings (bowling or

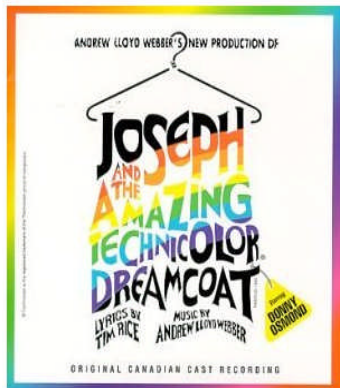
Date	Time	Event
Feb 13	7 – 10 pm	Java Jive – coffee house to benefit Meagan Miller’s mission trip. Price of Admission: free will donation
Feb 27 – Mar 1	Meet at church at 4pm	Ski Trip Cost: \$130pp (minus donations from the Super Bowl Snacks)
March 21	7 – 10 pm	Will Dance for food – hip hop dance lessons followed by a dance! Invite your friends! Price of admission: 2 non-perishable food items or \$7
April 24 – 26	Start fasting at noon on 4/24. Meet at church on 4/25 in the am. Lock-in 4/25. Youth service: 4/26.	30-Hour Famine
May 15 – 17	Meet at church at 4 pm	Spring Fling – Calumet Cost: \$100pp

There are also some events coming up that are not officially YOE sponsored, but are worth a mention:

Date	Event
April 18	Calumet Walk-a-thon
May 1 - 3	Calumet Clean-up

Peace,

Bacon



Come see Emanuel's talented performers!!

Saturday February 21st at 7:30 PM  
and  
Sunday February 22 at 2:00 PM

**REMINDER!**

Friends, remember that if you have a fundraiser at the church, a 10% tithing of the amount raised should be submitted to the church. In other words, when we run the Smorgasbord, and we make \$1000 for Calumet Scholarships, \$100 is given to the general fund for the church's needs. This policy has been in effect for a few years and was revisited at last month's council meeting. Since there are many new members, we thought a reminder would be in order.

As always, thank you to all who keep our church running so smoothly!

Sue Wieboldt, Church Council President

**Emanuel's Monthly Budget**

<b>a.</b> Amount needed to meet Emanuel's Stretch Budget for January	18,144.00*
<b>b.</b> Offerings for January	9,459.26
<b>c.</b> Amount given by members using "Simply Giving" plan	5,869.40
<b>d. Total giving for January</b>	15,328.66
<b>e. Total Shortfall for January</b>	<b>\$ - 2,815.34</b>

COMING FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</sup> AT 6-8 PM

## FETTISDAGEN



### FAT TUESDAY

**Shrove Tuesday** is the day before Lent starts: the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. It's a day of penitence, to clean the soul, and a day of celebration as the last chance to feast before Lent begins.

Please join in this celebration

Our own Kym McGuirk will manage this event and there will be NO waiting this year with her refreshing ideas for a traditional Shrove Tuesday in every detail.

**Free Will Donation**

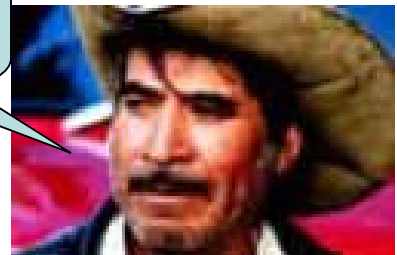
**FEBRUARY 27, 2009 MOE EVENT  
CHILLI COOKOFF  
7 PM  
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**WHO MAKES THE BEST CHILLI ????**

Just bring a pot of your best Chili and 5 Bucks for Drinks, Nacho's, and Entertainment. All members present will judge the different Chili's.

I believe the last time Ed Drew won.

Hey Gringo  
No one beats  
my CHILLI



We will show a sports video while we dine on the big projector screen.

Please take part in this event and rejuvenate MOE  
Sign up Sheet in Narthex

# February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>1</b> Youth Sunday</p> <p>8 AM Service of Holy Communion 9:15 : Sunday School, First Year Confirmation &amp; Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>Emanuel Youth will lead both services</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>7 PM ALNON meeting (FH)</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Ellie's Circle 10 AM (jh)</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Handbells 7 PM</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>7 PM Committee Meetings</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>4-6 PM Play Rehearsal 6 PM Salvation Rehearsal</p>
<p><b>8</b> 8 AM Service of Holy Communion 9:15 : Sunday School, First Year Confirmation &amp; Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Service of Holy Communion</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>7 PM ALNON meeting (FH)</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Ellie's Circle 10 AM (jh)</p> <p>Confirmation Class 7 PM</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Handbells 7 PM</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>7 PM Council Meeting</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>7 PM Java Jive Coffee House to benefit Meagan Miller's mission trip. Price of Admission: free will donation</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>4-6 PM Play Rehearsal</p>
<p><b>15</b> 8 AM Service of Holy Communion 9:15 : Sunday School, First Year Confirmation &amp; Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Service of Holy Communion</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>7 PM ALNON meeting (FH)</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Ellie's Circle 10 AM (jh)</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Handbells 7 PM</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>7:30 PM Joseph &amp; the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat</p>
<p><b>22</b> 8 AM Service of Holy Communion 9:15 : Sunday School, First Year Confirmation &amp; Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Service of Holy Communion 2 PM-Joseph &amp; the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>7 PM ALNON meeting (FH)</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Ellie's Circle 10 AM (jh)</p> <p>6 -8 PM Shrove Tuesday Dinner "Fettisdagen"</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>Handbells 7 PM</p> <p>Ash Wednesday</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>4 PM Youth Group Ski Trip</p> <p>Chili Cookoff 7 PM</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>