



Emanuel Lutheran Church

October 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,

During my four years of high school in the early 80's, I remember only one girl, Tina, getting pregnant. She went a way for a time, had the baby, and then came back to school. Her mother helped raise the baby while she finished high school.

Tina was lucky, and so was her baby. She had family to help her when she found herself pregnant. But this is not the case for every-one. Some young women come from broken homes. Some find themselves living on their own, even as teenagers, making a living on the street. When one these girls becomes pregnant, they have no where to turn.

In this edition:

In these situations The Ruth House in Brockton, Massachusetts can help. For the last 14 years The Ruth House has been a sanctuary for teenage mothers, who otherwise would have been homeless. There they find a safe, stable, refuge where they can have their babies and learn to be good parents.

Pastor Stange's Message

Letter from Presiding-Bishop Hanson

Parish Life Shepherds

ROE

October Calendar

A recent study from Ohio University suggests that a child's success is more critically linked to family stability than to having a traditional two-parent family. A stable family, regardless of how many parents or grandparents are included, profoundly influences how children will do in school. This in turn influences what their future will look like, the sort of job they will have and how they will interact and contribute to their community.

The Ruth House, in teaching teenage mothers to be mothers, while at the same time providing a safe place for them to have their babies, not only positively helps the existing generation (the mothers), but also shapes the future generation (the baby). The Ruth House prepares these mothers for self-sufficient living and a future filled with hope and promise.

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

A few weeks ago, Sean Grandy, one of the Youth of Emanuel (YOE), approached me and asked if YOE could have a coffee house to sup-

port a worthy charity. Around the same time, the Women of Emanuel (WOE) were approached by Ruth House for support. After some discussion YOE decided to raise funds to support The Ruth House. Our youth would like to help other teenagers in raising their little children.

Jesus was born to an unwed, teenage mother. And from this humble beginning, God's love came into the world and altered the course of my life, and yours, and the future of the entire universe.

The coffee house will be on **Friday October 16th at 7pm** in Emanuel's Fellowship Hall. Please consider coming out for a good time of music, comedy, and fellowship. You never know what effect one evening or one child will have on the world's future.

Pastor Todd Stange



**THE SEVEN SEALS,
THE SEVEN TRUMPETS,
THE BOOK OF LIFE,
666 – THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST.**

The book of Revelation is arguably the most difficult book in the Bible to understand.

Over the next month and a half we will be getting together on **Monday evenings at 6:30pm** in Jacob Hall to explore this mysterious book.

Please join us.

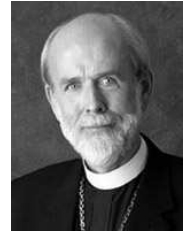
- 10/5** (Revelation chapters 1-7)
 - 10/12 (no class)
 - 10/19 (no class)
 - 10/26** (Revelation chapters 8-13)
 - 11/2** (Revelation chapters 17-22)
 - 11/9** (The Rapture Racket part 1)
 - 11/16** (The Rapture Racket part 2)
-

**Coffee House
To benefit The Ruth House
Friday October 16th at 7PM in Emanuel's Fellowship Hall**

Music, Comedy, Fellowship!



Office of the Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

-- Colossians 3:15-16a

September 23, 2009

Dear Colleague in Ministry,

I give thanks to God for your faithful leadership and your committed partnership in the gospel. I am mindful of the varied responses to churchwide assembly actions on human sexuality -- joy, anger, hope, confusion, ambivalence, perhaps even detachment. In this letter please join me in reflecting on our witness together as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, particularly as we continue to live into the implications of assembly actions.

I am encouraged by the thoughtful and prayerful conversations of people with diverse perspectives who are gathering to discern what the assembly actions regarding human sexuality mean for our continuing life and witness.

My heart rejoices with those who are ready to live into the future of our shared mission. Many who had remained strongly engaged in the ELCA with their time, talent and treasure, despite feeling marginalized or unwanted, now feel more fully embraced.

My heart aches as I listen to the pain and distress of those who feel confused or even abandoned by others, not only in the decisions of the churchwide assembly but also in the decisions that are being made in congregations and by individuals.

I am disappointed that some are encouraging congregations and members to take actions that will diminish our capacity for ministry -- for example, to plant and renew congregations, to raise up and train leaders in seminaries and campus ministries, to send missionaries, to respond to hunger at home and abroad, and to rebuild communities after natural disasters.

Although these actions are promoted as a way to signal opposition to churchwide assembly actions or even to punish the voting members who made them, the result will be wounds that we inflict on ourselves, our shared life, and our mission in Christ. And yet, as devastating as such actions could be for our shared life and for our global and ecumenical partners, my greatest sadness would be if we missed this opportunity: to give an evangelical and missional witness together to the world.

Therefore, I urge each one of you to make this a time to engage one another with honesty and respect in renewed and deepened theological conversation informed by an evangelical, missional imagination. We have the opportunity to think evangelically and act missionally about:

- **Faithfulness:** Questions about whether the ELCA has become faithless or heretical are opportunities to re-examine what it is that fills a community with faith. It becomes an opportunity to redis-

cover who makes us full of faith. Our goal as Lutherans is faithfulness that is both evangelical and missional.

- **Biblical authority:** This is a marvelous moment to deepen our engagement with Scripture through the Book of Faith initiative. We can be renewed in our understanding of the authority of God's Word. It is the power to author -- that is, create -- a justifying and living faith in Jesus Christ. Again the goal is a true understanding of the Scripture's evangelical and missional authority.
- **What it means to be Christ's church:** In this moment let us not build walls of separation. Together let us be living stones, built into a spiritual house, with Christ Jesus the cornerstone, and proclaim the mighty deeds of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9). Both universally and locally the church is gathered around the means of grace and engaged in mission in Jesus' name. Our goal as Lutherans is a witness that the church is evangelical and missional.
- **Leadership:** How we serve in our varied callings and contexts as evangelical leaders of a church in mission calls for shared wisdom and encouragement rather than isolation or separation into like-minded enclaves. The church is a community of faith that is born of the Gospel promise and therefore has authority in the proclamation of the Word -- all the authority that is needed for evangelical, missional leadership.
- **Law and gospel:** All of these opportunities for conversation call for a renewed commitment to deepening our fluency in what Martin Luther called "the highest art among Christians," distinguishing between law and gospel. Let us be valued allies in this endeavor and not adversaries in a power struggle for control of a church body, synods, and congregations.

While we engage in these important conversations let our evangelical, missional imagination be marked by the signs of a church that lives in faith, hope, and love through:

- a continual dwelling in the Word of God and prayer
- listening that is fully attentive to others, especially to those with whom we disagree
- leadership committed to and focused on mission
- a commitment to remain in respectful and caring relationship with one another
- patient waiting on and breathing in the Spirit, remembering Jesus' command to his disciples to "stay until you have been clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49)
- the creation of safe places for conversation, where it is safe to articulate deeply held biblical, confessional, and theological convictions, where it is safe both to affirm and admonish one another, and where it is safe to explore the questions that come with faithful service and witness

• an elasticity rather than rigidity in our ways of supporting and carrying out ministry and mission

Specifically, I ask for restraint from decisions that may separate us from one another prematurely, for bearing one another's burdens in continued conversation, and for the long-suffering patience that frees us to remain together in mission. In his two letters to the very conflicted church in Corinth Paul repeatedly spoke of their unity in Christ and in the Holy Spirit. He also spoke of their calling to care for each other as members of one body and to use their spiritual gifts for the common good. Our attentive listening to one another and patient waiting for the Spirit's work in these conversations will be a powerful witness.

In my opening sermon and oral report to the churchwide assembly I asked, "What shall be our witness? What story shall we tell?" I believe those questions remain central for us as ministry is carried out in our varied contexts and in our life together as the ELCA.

I concluded my reflections at the end of the assembly with this conviction that sustains me in my leadership and gives me confident hope: "We finally meet one another not in our agreements or 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 that promise I remain your servant in Christ,

Mark S. Hanson
 Presiding Bishop

Recipes Needed

Gloria Dei has invited our congregation to participate in the making of a book of recipes. They would like any and all of your "favorite" recipes to be added to their book. Be sure to put your name and maybe a bit of history about the recipe if you feel so inclined. It will be used as a fundraiser and we will be able to purchase them upon completion!



Please send your recipes to Sue Wieboldt at the church (by November 1) as she is the coordinator for Emanuel. I hope all our great Smorgasbord recipes will be there!!

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 4th 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!*

Emanuel's Budget

	<u>Simply Giving</u>	<u>Offerings</u>	<u>Total Received</u>	<u>Total Needed</u>	<u>Surplus/Shortage</u>
September	6,598.48	11,269.82	17,868.30	17,016.16	852.14
Year to Date	63,808.46	97,555.29	161,363.75	165,907.54	(-4,543.79)

Wrap-A-Friend

Volunteers Needed——Mark your calendars

Set up is Friday October 30th from 6—?? until it's done!

Distribution is Saturday October 31 from 9-2

If you have any questions, please contact Hank Richter at

(401) 474-2007

www.HomeProRhodeIsland.com

Parish Life Shepherds

We would like to welcome our new members, Linda Sami and Fran Phaneuf, they are a great addition to our committee. Please see Linda and Fran if you know of anyone in need of having meals prepared. If you have already signed up for preparing meals and you can not deliver, please bring them to church and we will set up the delivery.

Operation Back Pack is on it's 3rd year and we hope to complete 20-25 backpacks for the homeless families. There are some Back Pack Flyers with the supplies listed so that you may join with a friend or another family and fill the backpack. Also we have a list of supplies that can be donated and the shepherding committee members will work on filling more backpacks. If you would rather make a financial donation, you may do so by writing a check to Emanuel and label the memo section "operation backpack". We would like to have them completed by Sunday, November 1st.

We are also sending a request to Thrivent for matching funds for this project (\$1 for every \$3), if you would like to drop off your receipt for items purchased, please write your name on the back of the receipt and you will be issued a donation letter from Emanuel for your contribution. Please give receipts to Donna Lucier, Laurie Phillips, Helen Maine, Elaine Stacy, Linda Sami or Fran Phaneuf. Thank you for your support with this mission.

Our Yard Sale has been moved to Saturday, October 24th in the fellowship hall. The tables are only \$ 10.00 for members and \$ 15.00 for non-members. This money will go directly towards the Food Pantry. We will also have a church table which all proceeds will go to the Food Pantry. You may donate items for the church table, set up is Friday, October 23rd, we should be open for drop off around 4:00. If you can not drop off, please contact Donna Lucier and we can arrange for someone to pick up the items. We have 9 tables rented already so book yours soon.

There are still some Emanuel T-Shirts available- they are available for \$ 5.00, see Donna Lucier.

DID YOU KNOW?



Sue and Ken Wielboldt have a great time in Hawaii!! Take plenty of pictures and no matching aloha shirts and muumuus!!

Love you guys

Laurie

Looking Ahead—Emanuel's Christmas Bazaar

This year's Bazaar will be held on December 5th.

Please note the date change!



Wednesday, October 14th we will hold another craft night (tentative—check the herald)
6:30-8:30

Come help us put together a craft...or bring your own to finish!!

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 — All donations are welcome and appreciated!!

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.

October 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>Sunday A.M. Schedule:</u>						
				1 7 PM <i>Committee Meeting</i>	2	3
8 AM Service of Holy Communion 9:15 : Sunday School, First Year Confirmation 9:15-Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Service of Holy Communion						
4 12 PM <i>ROE</i>	5 7 PM <i>ALANON</i> 6:30 PM <i>Revelation Bible Study</i>	6 10 AM <i>Ellie's Circle</i> 7 PM <i>Confirmation</i>	7 7 PM <i>Bell Choir</i>	8 7 PM <i>Council Meeting</i>	9	10
11 7:30 AM <i>Salvation Band Warm Up</i> 10:30 <i>Baptism</i>	12 7 PM <i>ALANON</i>	13 10 AM <i>Ellie's Circle</i>	14 7 PM <i>Bell Choir</i>	15	16 4 PM <i>Wedding</i> 7 PM <i>Coffee House</i>	17 6:30-8:30 PM <i>Salvation Band Rehearsal</i>
18 10 AM <i>Salvation Band Warm Up</i> 10:30 <i>Salvation sings Anthem</i> <i>Stewardship Temple Talk</i>	19 7 PM <i>ALANON</i>	20 10 AM <i>Ellie's Circle</i> 7 PM <i>Confirmation</i>	21 7 PM <i>Bell Choir</i>	22 6:30 PM <i>Special Council Meeting</i>	23 6 PM <i>Yard Sale Set up and Drop Off</i>	24 9 AM <i>Yard Sale</i>
25 <u><i>Reformati on Sunday</i></u> 10:30 AM <i>women from Teen Challenge to sing</i>	26 7 PM <i>ALANON</i> 6:30PM <i>Revelation Bible Study</i>	27 10 AM <i>Ellie's Circle</i>	28 7 PM <i>Bell Choir</i>	29	30 6 PM -? <i>Coat Drive Set Up</i>	31 9 AM -2 PM <i>Coat Drive</i>