

# the Acolyte

An assistant to the worshipping community  
A light to the congregation

February 2017

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## Emanuel Lutheran Church

Congregation established 1726

366 Cohansey-Friesburg Road, Elmer, NJ 08318  
(Alloway Township)

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 363, Elmer, NJ 08318  
facebook.com/Emanuel Lutheran Church - Friesburg

Worship Service: Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.

Pastor David McGettigan, Interim-Pastor

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### Ushers

Head Usher Amy Gheysens  
Gladys Elder

Note: If you cannot for any reason be there on the Sunday you are scheduled, please call someone to take your place or notify the head usher.

### February Altar Guild

Amy Gheysens

### Prayer List

Bill Moore  
Nancy Heck  
Cookie Weaver  
Mona Hess  
Jocelyn Chavez  
Gary Podasek  
Jennie Lillie  
Bobby Hiles  
Kristopher Talley  
Michelle Melchert  
Trevor Ward  
Jillian Sayre



Elaine Williams  
Betty Lowery  
Georgie Carl  
Betty Heil  
Victor Merritt  
Taylor Reed  
Harry Heck  
Leona Knerr  
Charlotte Ferguson  
Sarah Romig  
Walt Plummer  
Sherry Massey

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### 2017 Council Members

Wayne Knerr, President ..... 2018  
Ed Kuebler, Vice-President ..... 2018  
Wayne May ..... 2018  
Patsy Madden ..... 2019  
Judy Cellmer ..... 2019  
Helen Cobb ..... 2019  
Jason Cobb ..... 2020  
Anette Manno ..... 2020  
Jenn Dalbow ..... 2020

Susan Shields, Secretary  
Amy Gheysens, Treasurer  
Dianne Hermanson, Financial Secretary

#### Committees:

Christian Education .....  
Fellowship .....  
Finance .....  
Mutual Ministry .....  
Property .....  
Stewardship .....  
Witness/Outreach/Evangelism .....  
Worship/Music .....  
Cemetery .....

### Telephone Chain

Marion Layton



769-2291

### Funeral Luncheons

If you are in need of a luncheon following a loved one's funeral at Emanuel, contact any member of LCW and we will help coordinate it for you.

Articles for the Acolyte are due the Sunday before the last Sunday of the month.



## Special Dates

February birthdays are:

3 Keith Elder  
17 Margaret Dare  
18 Wayne Knerr  
19 Elaine Williams

Celebrating anniversaries are:

9 Les and Cindy Sutton  
18 Scott and Chrissy Smith

May you all have a wonderful special day and a blessed year.



## Hospital/Pastoral Emergencies

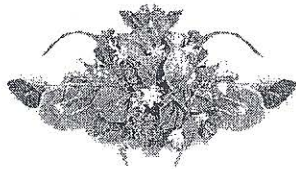
If you or a family member has been admitted to the hospital, please contact Pastor McGettigan, interim-pastor at 609-742-2449 or Wayne Knerr at 609-685-5246. As a result of HIPPA Privacy Rules, most hospitals no longer inform churches of admissions, even if you specify a church affiliation on your paperwork. A call from you or a family member is the only way we will know.

## Friesburg Philosophy

If it stops you from getting closer to God then it needs to go.

### **PASTORAL CARE**

During the time we are without a pastor, Pastor David McGettigan will be interim-pastor for Emanuel. If you know someone who would be considered a shut-in, if you need a personal visitation, or have need of Pastor McGettigan for a wedding or funeral, please contact him at 609-742-2449 or contact Wayne Knerr at 609-685-5246.



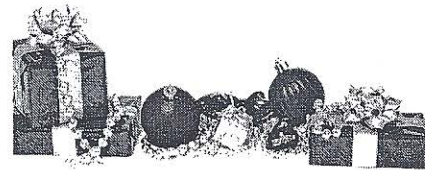
An Altar Flowers dedication calendar list is available on the first floor bulletin board, in the first room. Sign up for a Sunday. Give or email your dedication information to Patsy Madden [pbmadden11479@gmail.com](mailto:pbmadden11479@gmail.com) or Pastor David [dmcgettigan@comcast.net](mailto:dmcgettigan@comcast.net). Donation is \$40.

## LCW Meeting Date Change

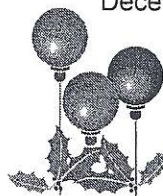
For the month of March, the LCW is meeting after the church service Sunday, March 14. The change is to see if this is preferable to coming out during the evening, especially while it is still dark.



On Sunday, January 8, little Cade Sutton was baptized. Cade is the son of Stacy and Zachary Sutton, grandson of Les and Cindy Sutton and Tom and Norma Jingeleski and little brother of Sydney. Cade was born July 21, 2016.



On December 23, Elves Karen, Cindy, Elizabeth, Helen and Nancy visited the St. Vincent dePaul soup kitchen with gifts for the children clients. However, Santa had to take a sick day, so a pseudo Santa was found at the last minute. Over 200 clients were there that day and over 80 of them were children—there to see Santa. Thanks to the 65 gifts the ladies donated through the year and gifts supplemented by an anonymous donor, we were able to see that each child got a gift from pseudo Santa and had two gifts left. Special thanks to all the ladies who gave the gifts and to those "elves" who went to help Santa. Santa sported a brand new suit provided by Thrivent Action Team.



December 29 took us to South Jersey Extended Care facility with 32 bags filled with a dozen cookies each (can you imagine Emanuel came up with 32 dozen cookies PLUS all those needed for the children's program and the barn service!) All the Cobb kids went to help us sing carols and assisted those needing help playing Bingo. With money from Thrivent Financial, we were able to give prizes for those who won. Afterwards, the children who went were treated to lunch at McDonald's.

## Connections Magazine is Coming!

The NALC publishes *Connections Magazine*, which comes out six times during the year. Emanuel will make this publication available to every member household. The cost for a year is \$16. If anyone would like to help defray the cost of this, please use an Offering Envelope found in the pews and mark it "Connections" with your envelope number on the envelope and your check. Checks should be made out to "Emanuel Lutheran Church" and put in the collection plate.

If anyone who is not a member of Emanuel would like to receive the publication, see Pastor David so he can get your mailing information.



## **PASTOR'S MESSAGE.....**

***"John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins."*** (Mark 1:4)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

We have survived another Christmas, passed into a new year, even had our Annual Congregational Meeting to round out our last church year and launch a new one! For most of us I guess, there is a sigh of relief! Yes, we love our Christmas and its attendant holidays – the spirit, the gifts, the warmth, but we are also relieved to be free of the stress, the speed, the consumerism, the credit card, and the boatloads of food. I write this message basking in the peace and serenity of post-holiday January.

But just a couple of Sundays ago – the Baptism of our Lord – I was reminded of a friend from the Gospel who also pops up every year in Advent, the season of Christmas preparation. A towering figure in the Scriptures whom it is hard to escape. Jesus loved his cousin who "prepared the way before Him", and good that we are periodically brought back to recall not just the strange lifestyle but more the message of this great saint.

Remember John the Baptist as we face this New Year – and particularly with the announcement that this year God launches Emanuel on an intentional search for a new regularly Called Pastor as your Call Committee is formed. The Call of a new Pastor means much more than just the arrival of a new figure in the congregation pivotal as that person may be. Certainly it means much more than just new adjustments to preaching and pastoral care style, financial obligations, family considerations and all the other attendant circumstances. It really ought to mark a moment of renewal in the congregation – of examination, re-commitment to discipleship.

Listen to John the Baptist – the strange, bohemian but oh so clear herald of all that we hoped for and looked forward to as we celebrated Christmas and coasted into this New Year. John always seems to be portrayed as a "bad news" kind of guy, but really he is the first New Testament voice of "good news".

No question John is a truth teller so he begins by reminding Israel – and us – that we have sinned and our lives are messed up. Too many people slam the book closed at that point unable to face the truth. But John then points to the gift of repentance and NEW LIFE. John is the herald of hope. No matter how bad life may seem or our lives may become because of our flaws – John points to our Savior Jesus who came, lived, preached, suffered, died, and rose that we might hope. It all starts with strange John.

We, the church, specifically Emanuel Church stand in the wilderness of a death dealing world where hope is a fragile commodity, where people dare not even think of hope as they are consigned daily to the lot of their present lives. We stand and say with John – "get up, get washed, get your sins forgiven, and see the Messiah Lord, our hope nudging His way into your life".

Sometimes even church itself can seem like the wilderness – how about the difficult journey you trod the last couple of years to a new church body, the wondering about an interim pastor, whether you would still be able to have "church" as you always knew it, when or how your next permanent Pastor will be or come from. This is a John moment for Emanuel. Yes, we will look around during this time of introspection and search to see many things about us that need renewing. But we shall not be discouraged or without hope. God is "washing" us again, forgiving, encouraging and moving us forward.

There is a lot for us to face up to now. New life as a church often means new responsibility for that life – financially, worship attendance, Bible Study commitment, serving in a ministry or volunteer position. New life is never easy but it is always hopeful.

The Call Committee will offer you opportunity to participate in a self-study and design of a congregation profile which they will then give pastoral candidates. There will be financial analysis and prayerful stewardship reflection about what resources God has blessed Emanuel to afford. You will hear more from

your Council and Call Committee as we approach the interview process – we need to be our best for the candidates who come our way. There may be days ahead that seem like the wilderness with more than a little bad news. It takes time. But remember John....

On the other side of all this, on the other side of the wondrous washing we have received and which made us brothers and sisters in the Lord is our hope. God is working through all this refining us and making us ready for new life. Please, pray for this process as it intensifies. And pray for the Pastor out there whom God is preparing to come to Emanuel as its new shepherd.

But more, please hear John the Baptist calling us to renewal of our lives that we might proclaim that gift to others. The question is: how can you live your life in a new and hopeful way as a part of Emanuel? What must change? What must be different? What has God given you to contribute to the renewal of Emanuel? And will you step up to the water's edge and assume a new role with new commitment?

Good old John the Baptist – a messenger not just for Advent and Jesus' baptism in the Jordan but the New Year and every day. His message – on the other side of our weakness and sin is the gift of repentance and newness of life, and that is our hope given flesh in Jesus! Bless you all!

*Pastor David*

If you would like to donate a pew bible, please use the form below.

<p><b><i>Emanuel Lutheran Church</i></b></p> <p><b><u>PEW BIBLE DEDICATION FORM</u></b></p>
<p>Name of Person(s) Dedicating _____</p>
<p>DEDICATION WORDING: <i>(Please Print)</i></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>Bibles may be dedicated in "Memory" or in "Honor" of a Loved One or in "Thanksgiving" for blessings or an anniversary or occasion.</p> <p>Please complete an individual form for each Bible to be dedicated and include cash or check for a donation of \$10.00 per Bible. Checks may be made payable to:</p> <p><b><i>Emanuel Lutheran Church</i></b></p> <p>with the Memo "Pew Bible Donation". Thank you.</p>



EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
January 9, 2017

The Council met at the Social Hall on Monday, January 9, with the following present: June Bostwick, Judy Cellmer, Helen Cobb, Jenn Dalbow, Wayne Knerr, Wayne May, Pastor McGettigan, Amy Gheysens and Susan Shields.

President, Wayne Knerr called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Pastor McGettigan led with a prayer. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Wayne May and seconded by June Bostwick. There was no correspondence.

A motion to accept the December, 2016 secretary's report was made by Judy Cellmer and second by Wayne May. Amy Gheysens went over the year end treasurer's report. A motion to accept the treasurer's report for 2016 was made by Wayne May and seconded by Judy Cellmer. Amy then went over the line items of the budget for 2017. There were several changes: Church-Repair and Maintenance, Outreach and Salaries. Amy will update and send to Susan Shields for inclusion in the congregational meeting booklet. Benevolence was discussed. It was decided to add as a separate item not to be included in the operating budget. A motion to set a goal for \$7,500 for 2017 was made by Judy Cellmer and seconded by Helen Cobb. Contributions towards the goal will be noted in the bulletin and monies will be sent quarterly. The Parsonage budget was discussed with no updates. A motion to accept the 2017 budget for church and Parsonage was made by Jenn Dalbow and seconded by Wayne May. Passed unanimously.

Pastor's Report: Regular Worship and Preaching Sundays including Service at Mullica Gardens Assisted Living, Stable Service, Christmas Eve, Advent and Christmas Worship Prep. Prayer. Worship website research. Bulletins. Adult Bible Study research for new materials. Visitation: Home and Assisted Living. Phone calls, emails and individual counsel or consultation. Congregation Council and Bible Study prep. Finance Committee. Interim Tasks, start Call research and web site consult. Travel. A motion to accept the Pastor's report was made by Wayne May and seconded by Judy Cellmer.

### Committee Reports

Christian Education – Helen Cobb/Wayne Knerr  
Adult Sunday School will be studying the book of Romans.

Fellowship – Cindy Cairone and Patsy Madden  
WAWA shorty sub coupons are being sold. Game Night will not be in January. Will plan both game night and movie night when weather isn't an issue.

Finance – Amy Gheysens/Terry Cellmer  
Discussed during treasurer's report.

Mutual Ministry – Judy Cellmer/Ed Kuebler/Wayne Knerr  
No report or meeting.

Property – Wayne May/June Bostwick/Wayne Knerr  
Nothing to report. It was mentioned about the front glass door lock at the Church – very difficult to open and lock.

Stewardship – Ed Kuebler/Wayne Knerr  
No report.

Witness/Outreach/Evangelism – Judy Cellmer/Wayne Knerr  
See Judy's report at end of minutes.

Worship & Music – June Bostwick  
June asked about getting the hymn numbers and Pastor said there is a sheet posted at Church.

A motion was made by Judy Cellmer and seconded by Wayne May to accept the committee reports.

**Discussion Agenda**

Review of December Services – Feedback from Barn Service, Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning: Ran out of bulletins Christmas Eve, Barn Service was nice and always have good refreshments for all the services. Also mentioned was how good the Children's Program was.

Preparation for Annual Congregational Meeting – Council discussed members for Council and the Call Committee. Wayne Knerr and Pastor Dave will talk with people starting Tuesday. Pastor Dave and Ed Kuebler will handle the Stewardship part which includes Benevolence and subscription to "Connections" Magazine. Susan Shields reminded them they will need someone to take the minutes for the meeting as she will be out of town. Notices of the meeting will be sent to all members who took communion and donated during 2015 and 2016.

**Old Business**

There was no old business.

**New Business**

There was no new business.

**Next Meeting – Monday, February 13, 2017**

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Shields, Secretary

**Witness/Outreach Report** – Judy Cellmer

SOUP KITCHEN: Donations for the month of December totaled \$157. On December 27, 2016, Terry shopped and spent \$155.71. The food was delivered the same day. The current balance is \$98.83. This includes the donations collected on Jan. 1, 2017.

FOOD PANTRY: The monthly food drive for December was conducted.

OTHER ACTIONS: -Supplies in the pews were replenished.

-Both Wayne and I attended the Christmas service with the Emanuel Church Women at the Mullica Hill Retirement Home where Cookie Weaver is on Dec. 13th. Pastor McGettigan conducted the service and afterwards Christmas goodies were handed out to the residents.

-Home visits: Elaine Williams

-Phone calls: Elaine Williams, Allan Hermanson, Vera Matish

-Toy Drive for Salvation Army in Bridgeton was a huge success! Thank you to all for your generous donations! They were picked up by George and Marion Moore on Dec. 18th.

- Bibles are in the pews and I wrote an article to put in the Acolyte and church bulletin giving our congregants the opportunity to donate \$10 towards the price of the bible in honor of/in memory of a loved one. Susan Shields has labels that will be put in the bible indicating the remembrance.

EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN: The ladies were very busy this month baking for all the Emanuel's Christmas events that took place in December of which the preparations and events were described in detail in the November Acolyte. Thank you once again to the Emanuel Lutheran Church Women's generous contribution of \$300 towards the purchase of toys in addition to all of those we collected in the bin in church. They are currently conducting a fundraiser selling WAWA tickets for shortie hoagies at the price of \$5.00. Contact Cindy Cairone if you wish to purchase them. The annual Emanuel church women holiday luncheon will be held at the Green Olive at 12:00 on January 8th. Details are in the church bulletin and Dec. Acolyte.

God's Blessings to All for a Healthy and Happy New Year!

Yours in Christ, Judy Cellmer