



Emanuel Lutheran Church

366 Cohansey-Friesburg Road

P.O. Box 363

Elmer, NJ 08318

Phone: 856-451-5669

Sunday Worship:

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Pastor David McGettigan, Interim-Pastor

END OF THE YEAR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

The Congregational Council and the Pastor give thanks to God for you and your generosity in sharing material blessings sacrificially through your Offerings. Just a reminder as we approach the close of 2018 that your benevolence to Emanuel at this time – Christmas and End of Year – is vital. Particularly if you set a spiritual goal for giving at the beginning of the year, it is a good time to check on how you are doing in its fulfillment, and perhaps offer an additional special gift to God through Emanuel's ministry.

God bless you.

SALVATION ARMY TOYS

We will again be supporting the Salvation Army Toy drive to bring joy to the children in our community. There will soon be the "corral" downstairs for those who want to contribute toys. Toys should be new and unwrapped. They will be collected Sunday, December 16.



LCW NEWS

We are getting ready to bring Santa to the soup kitchen on Monday, December 24. The gifts are all bought, wrapped and ready to go. Santa needs some helpers that day; if you would like to join us let Nancy Cobb know. Duties are a little bit of crowd control and making sure the gifts match the gender and age of the child. All gifts are plainly marked. We expect over 100 children to be there to visit Santa. Oh, wait, where is Santa? We need Santa! Is there a Santa out there somewhere who would like to come and meet the children? If so, please let Nancy know. Don't worry about your attire. Thrivent bought us a nice suit two years ago.

One of the paid workers at the soup kitchen was able to rent a house. She is in the process of furnishing it and is in need of end tables and a coffee table. The family is a mom, dad, daughter and two sons. If anyone can help, please let Nancy Cobb know. They are also looking for mattresses for bunk beds.

LCW will not be having a regular meeting until March. Have a warm winter!!

ANNUAL MEETING

With an Annual Meeting scheduled for January 27, 2019 immediately following 10:00 am worship, we wish to remind Confirmed Emanuel Members of the Constitutional requirements to be considered an Active Member with voting privileges:

1. Have one (1) Holy Communion on record during the last 2 years- please use Communion Cards!
AND
2. Have a record of donation in the last 2 years- please use your Church Envelopes, a check or some form of identification for your offering!

Prayer Intentions

Please, let us know if there are friends, loved ones or just special needs for whom or for which you request the community to prayer regularly. Unless otherwise requested, we will leave the request on for two months.

We ask you to remember all whose names have been entrusted to us:

Georgie Carl	Bobby Hiles	Sarah Romig
Bill Bollentino	Leona Knerr	Ed Gheysens, Sr
Elaine Williams	Mona Hess	Brenda Mace
Edna Halter	Otto Wirsing	Nancy Heck
Betty Heil	Jennie Lillie	Norma Miley
Walt Plummer	Colin Weiderholt	Betty Lowery
Harry Heck	Holly Hall	Jillian Sayre
Lois Conklin	Cookie Weaver	Victor Merritt
Jeff Kunkle	Bob Moore	Julie Dodge
Kay Fogg	Tom Hills	Joan Hills
Pete Toner	Ed Wiker	Margaret Law
Pastor David	Emma Rutherford	George Moore
Pauline Benjamin		

As well as:

- The members of Emanuel Pastoral Call Committee, their work, and God's nurture of the heart of our next Pastor;
- That the Holy Spirit would inspire and guide the North American Lutheran Church in the selection of a new Bishop next summer;
- For our country, for a leadership transformation to selflessness and from simply partisan politics, for a renewed national unity of purpose with mutual respect and civil discussion among us;
- For our military who serve throughout the world, their families, and our veterans;
- For law enforcement and first responder at home, their mission and they safety as well as better communication and relations with the communities they serve.

A Thursday Weekday Bible Study

11:00 am in the Social Hall

Led by Pastor David

Graying in Grace:

Becoming Mature Disciples of Jesus Christ

(future studies to be discussed by participants)

Gather for this first effort and help determine where it goes!

Bring a sandwich and lunch together after the Study

Many people at our church celebrate birthdays in December:

3 Daryl Halter	16 Josh Hitchner
5 Zack Sutton	Dalton Wilson
7 Irving Halter, Jr.	17 David Willson
12 Linda Halter Conover	20 Sharon Coleman
15 Paige Smith	Shannon Whyte
	23 Kaye Whyte

Hoping you all have a wonderful birthday and a blessed year to come.

Offering Envelopes

Please don't forget Offering Envelopes are convenient, mail-in envelopes in the event you are away from Sunday Worship or you would like to catch up on offering.

FROM THE PASTOR...DECEMBER 2018...ADVENT SEASON

“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.”

(2 Peter 3:9-10)

One recent day our son and oldest granddaughter were busily and happily decorating their home for Christmas. Stephen has always loved Christmas and Chase is “her Father’s daughter” in many ways but definitely in inheriting the “Christmas gene”. Our daughter-in-law was busy about other things but commented how difficult Christmas is for her vs for Stephen and Chase. She said something like, “For them it is a big celebration, but for me it is mostly lots of extra work”. Sound familiar – too much extra to do on top of the usual life tasks?

Then, I was reading an Advent Season liturgical suggestion piece that said about Advent and Christmas: “As the world rushes to Christmas with all its gifts and food, the Church slows down to dwell in the hope, faith, joy, and peace of the Lord who calls us his own. It is a short season, but it is one filled with promise”. The Church seasonal calendar is given to us for many reasons but one is to offer the opportunity and grace to fashion our lives around the life of Christ rather, you might say, than the other way around.

That is at its heart the problem we have so often with Christmas and its stresses and strains – we hurry headlong into elaborate preparations without allowing ourselves the grace to enter the Advent season of waiting...quietly...simply...and in peace for the reawakening of the story, the promise, the life of Christ in us beginning with his coming among us in infant guise. The net effect of which will be, as the angels cry again Christmas Eve “Peace on earth, Good will on earth”, many of us will still be in turmoil over gifts not yet purchased hoping for midnight store hours...gifts purchased but yet unwrapped...whether the gifts are “just right” or not...food...family...fights(!)...and the fortune necessary to cover the credit cards post-Christmas.

We end the Church Liturgical and, we might say, Church Calendar Year with Christ the King Sunday, and the First Sunday of Advent (this year December 2) dawns a new year for the story and promise of Christ to unfold and grow in us as disciples. But that will be challenged unless we can enter into the spirit of the Season – a spirit of longing and waiting and with patience because the story and promise, while once fulfilled in Christ, still unfold slowly and in stages for each of us.

Advent is not a time to rush around for some sort of end of year blitz but rather a season of slowness and reflection, of anticipation and longing, of focus on HE who makes every moment both possible and filled with promise because HE came quietly and with little preparation and surely little notice until angels and shepherds caught the news.

Our “busy-ness” and stress is a spiritual issue rooted in not allowing ourselves the grace of the season that gives us permission to actually do less but with more attention, to seek not to impress but cherish giftedness, be less than perfect but forgiven and accepted, to center ourselves and our time more on the most precious gift we already share before we buy anything – the presence of Jesus Christ past, present, and for our eternal future.

Advent features some of the Scriptural readings we call apocalyptic – that is, about the end times – such as 2 Peter above reminding us that here is not our true home and is quite less than permanent. The Advent readings move us to live everyday and every season in the light of our authentic and promised future that Jesus came to deliver especially through his passion, death and resurrection. You might call it living with “perspective” but really it is living with grace and permission to live for what is essential and not just passing – to live for the “eternal Christmas” of Christ’s coming to us and our loved ones in his fullness and forever, and not just live for and wear ourselves out for Christmas 2018.

Kathy and I had a great Thanksgiving yesterday. The kids and grandkids were far away on vacation so we spent it with more distant family by marriage whom we have not been with at holiday time for a long time. We were also celebrating the 80th birthday of my sister-in-law and her twin sister. Everybody had done a little of the food prep ahead, so there was no frenzy or fussing over the meal and it was great, but the celebration of time and remembering and realism about time left, the memories and hopes especially with the young among us, the catching up on each other’s time and, you know what, each other’s faith as well, the time spent just taking pictures of different generational family combinations, and with no concerns about gifts other than the gift of presence...well, it was a beautiful start to our Advent and, eventually God willing, Christmas this year. It was slow and patient and loving and thankful for God’s presence and each other’s presence, and the presence of those no longer with us in flesh

Reminded me of 1 Thessalonians 3 from the 1st Sunday of Advent this year: **“What thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?”** Reminded me of Advent and Christmas Seasons and what we ought really to be busy about – not what the world tells us to concern ourselves with – but be quietly, gently, hopefully and peacefully “busy” about our relationship with the One who came and is coming, and our relationships with one another in Him. Blessed Advent and a Holy Happy Christmas to you and all your loved ones!

Pastor David+

HOSPITAL/PASTORAL CARE

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.

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.

DECEMBER ALTAR GUILD

Nancy Cobb

DECEMBER USHER

Terry Cellmer- Head Usher

Wayne May

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

- **Sunday, December 9** – Soup & Sandwich Lunch after Worship in Social Hall to say good-bye to Ed Kuebler as he and Marilyn, and Mack, his faithful horse, move to Ohio.
- **Sunday, December 23**, 10:00 am Worship – Special Christmas Worship for Children
- **Monday, December 24**, 7:00 pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Word and Sacrament
- **Sunday, December 30**, 10:00 am Healing Service of Word, Sacrament, Anointing & Prayer in Social Hall for accessibility followed by Fellowship & Refreshments
- **Sunday, January 27, 2019** – Annual Congregational Meeting following 10:00 am Worship
- **Sunday, February 24, 2019** – Annual Mission Sunday to focus on our Worship and renewal changes we have implemented. A Luncheon in Social Hall after 10:00 am Worship for discussion & questions

CHURCH COUNCIL

Patsy Madden, President.....2019
Helen Cobb, Vice-President.....2019
Judy Cellmer, Corporate Secretary.....2019
Anette Manno.....2020
Jason Cobb.....2020
Wayne May.....2021
Katie Coleman, Treasurer.....2021
Elizabeth Brooks, Recording Secretary, Bookkeeper
Dianne Hermanson, Financial Secretary
Elizabeth Brooks, Church Secretary

COMMITTEES

Christian Education.....Helen Cobb, Wayne Knerr
Fellowship.....Patsy Madden, Anette Manno
Finance..... Terry Cellmer
Mutual Ministry.....Judy Cellmer
Property.....Wayne May, Jason Cobb
Stewardship.....Ed Kuebler, Wayne Knerr
Witness/Outreach/Evangelism.....Judy Cellmer,
Wayne Knerr
Worship/Music.....Patsy Madden
Cemetery.....Wayne May

Check out our website

www.emanuelmer.church



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ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Advent 1: Sunday, December 2, 10:00 am Advent Sermon & Advent Wreath Lighting

Advent 2: Sunday, December 9, 10:00 am Advent Sermon & Advent Wreath Lighting

Advent 3: Sunday, December 16, 10:00 am Advent Sermon & Advent Wreath Lighting

*Advent 4: Sunday, December 23, 10:00 am Advent Wreath Lighting &
Special Christmas Remembrance Service for Children*

*Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24, 7:00 pm
Christmas Candlelight Holy Communion Service*

*First Sunday After Christmas, December 30, 10:00 am
Healing Service of Word & Sacrament
with healing prayer and anointing
in the Social Hall for accessibility
Followed by a time of Fellowship & Refreshment*