



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

Higher Ground

Are we discipling as we should?

Acts 1:8 *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.”*

These final words of Jesus were a beckoning call to His disciples to carry the “Good News” to everyone they came in contact with, as well as going out beyond their comfort zone. These words penetrated deeply into their hearts and thanks be to God, they fulfilled that commission to the best of their abilities.

But it didn't stop there! Jesus's words ring true today just as they did to his disciples back then. We, too, are commissioned to reach out to others, to go beyond our comfort zone and to see that every ear has had the opportunity to hear of the saving Grace, God has for us.

The question then arises; are we doing all we can to reach others? Some may say, “I'm not capable of speaking the words needed to bring someone to Christ.” They are right! But notice that Christ invokes the Holy Spirit to be involved and despite our inadequacies, the Holy Spirit is capable of using us in a mighty way. Others might say, “Look at how undeserving I am of receiving that grace. How could God possibly use me as an example to others? That's just the point, Christ did not come to save saints. He came to save sinners and we are all simultaneously both saints and sinners. If Christ can save me, he can, could, and will save any of us who call upon his mercy.

Our job is to take that message to the world. Maybe it needs to be told more today than ever. God really doesn't need our help to spread his word, but for some reason he wants our help to accomplish his goal of salvation for all people.

The question then arises. Are we doing all we can, in every way and every day, to spread His Gospel to the ends of the earth. I pray every day that an opportunity will arise to allow me to share my faith. I pray that you too may seek and find that opportunity as well.

Lord, Use us in a mighty way!

Written by Wayne Knerr, President

South Jersey Chapter- Fellowship of Christian Farmers International

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 Carll	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	Pauline Benjamin
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
Emma Rutherford	George Moore	Norma Miley
Pastor David	Bob McHarness	June Bostwick
Judy Cellmer	Tammy Stubbins	Rick Pfeffer

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

Happy New Year and Happy Birthday to all celebrating in January:

- 1 Donald Bell
- 15 Parker Smith
- 19 Courtney Pilling
- 24 Pastor David McGettigan
- 28 Sam Manno
- 29 Ellenore Cobb

Many blessings are wished for the 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...JANUARY 2019

“Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.” (Matthew 9:17)

In Bible times, wine was not kept in corked bottles, but in water tight goat skin bags. When you made new wine, of course, it needed time to ferment which causes expansion and old goat skins which had expanded once and dried would burst. So new skins always housed new wine.

Jesus was answering the objections of the “old religion” folks like John the Baptists’ disciples and the Pharisees that His followers didn’t always do things the “old way” that the Law prescribed. Jesus’ admonition is that the “new day” that was foretold by the Prophets had dawned in Him and that observance would be new to both mark and spread the message of His new day.

We live in the days of the dawning of the Word made flesh, the Bridegroom has come and nothing will be the same except the assurance and endurance of His glorious forgiveness and promise. We, the Body of Christ, are people of the new wine for that Word given to us to cherish and spread is new to and for every generation and their thirsts.

We confess that, like the Pharisees and Baptist followers, we too much love our old wineskins. We love the way we heard the Word, the way we worship before the Word, the way we adorn the Word in our church buildings...we just love our familiar old wineskins. But God’s Word is new good news for every generation and new wineskins must be created to bring that bubbling, fermenting message to new people with different hearing capacity and new customs.

It is difficult for us, especially those of us who have been tending the wine a long time, to see new wineskins, new ways of presenting and spreading the Word. But we hear the counsel Jesus gives us about new wineskins. It is the sacrifice He asks of us that His Word might reach the needy. God’s Word must speak to new generations in a new way because the challenges they face in life are immense and overwhelming and sometimes frightening.

I hope Emanuel will welcome a new Pastor this year. For that fresh blessing we all give thanks to God. But a new Pastor always brings new wineskins. A new Pastor and Lay Leadership, committed to bringing that Word afresh to new people, will inevitably ask Emanuel to adapt to some new ways. When they do, please, hear Jesus’ voice asking you to embrace new wineskins for the sake of the spread of His Gospel and the growth of Emanuel.

God always takes care of all who labored faithfully over decades for His Word. God always takes care of His “veteran” laborers in the vineyard. And the traditions that count and console us will never be neglected as new generations are served. I pray that while we might shake our heads and chuckle at some of the new ways, we older vineyard laborers will remember that it’s not about the old wineskins we fashioned and how much we like them...it’s about the vintage for the Lord. It’s about the quality of the wine for a new day and for other’s thirsts.

Keep up your prayer for the Call Committee and for a God has anointed new Pastor. Remember you and that Pastor are seeking the will of the Holy Spirit and trust God’s Spirit to inspire and work through the discernment process, and ultimately to make Emanuel a vineyard proclaiming a sweet vintage of His Word for new people in new and innovative ways that they might hear and have their thirst satisfied. God bless you always!

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.

JANUARY ALTAR GUILD

Mary Ellen Knerr

JANUARY USHER

Donald Bell- Head Usher

Allan Hermanson

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

- **Sunday, January 27, 2019 – Annual Congregational Meeting following 10:00 am Worship**

Confirmed Emanuel Members are reminded 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!

Change of Date

Sunday, March 17, 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.emanuelelmer.church



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