



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 Mark Werner

Toys For Salvation Army

LCW is sponsoring a toy drive for the Bridgeton Salvation Army. They will be purchasing toys and are welcoming anyone who would like to contribute. Toys should be new and not wrapped. There will be a corral in the downstairs to receive the toys. The last day for donations is Sunday, December 15.

Christmas Cookies

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22



The Worship service this day will be a special one for the children (and young at heart). We will be serving refreshments following the service and are asking for cookie donations. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex beginning December 1.

DECEMBER 2019 – CALLED AND CLAIMED FOR LIFE, REV. DR. DAN SELBO

Based on Matthew 3:1-12

As we begin this new monthly devotional series, designed to be a year-round reminder of the calling we have in Jesus and how we are to use our lives and our gifts for Him, it is appropriate that we are beginning in the season of Advent. Advent is a time when we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. It is a time when we remember that our Lord will return and, until He does, our calling is to follow Him.

It is also appropriate that we hear, each year, a message from the one who was called to prepare the way for the coming of Christ. There was nothing superficial about John the Baptist or about the things he shared. "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." Eight words is all it took. As simple and straightforward as it was, it was a message that changed

lives. And it is a message that will change your life, if you listen to and apply what he said.

John's message of repentance, of changing our paths and our patterns and turning our lives toward Jesus, was more than a call for a simple course adjustment in life to make things better. It was a call for a complete life change that would make things new, and one that was and is only possible in Christ.

In the same way, stewardship is all about using our lives for a purpose far greater than our lives. It is about returning our lives to the One who first gave them to us. In that sense, it is not a consideration in life we are being asked to make, but a calling for life we have been given. It is not a cause in life we are being asked to support, but a claim on our lives that has been laid upon us.

Too many people make the mistake, when it comes to stewardship, of thinking about it as a series of tasks we are called to do, rather than the people we are called to be. Give your money. Offer your time. Use your talents for service to God and others. They jump straight to the tasks of being good stewards, without fully considering the claim Jesus has made on their lives and the calling they have in Him.

As we move into this season of Advent, preparing to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus, and as we look forward to that day when He will return, be careful not to mistake the stewardship tasks with the Christian calling and claim. God is not interested in receiving simply your time and talent and treasure. He sent His Son into the world for something far greater. He was born for you. He came into this world for you. On the cross and in the resurrection, He laid an eternal calling and claim on your life. And one day, He will return to take you to Himself. Until then, you are called and claimed to live for Him. Amen.

Written by the Rev. Dr. Dan Selbo, bishop of the North American Lutheran Church

PRAYER LIST

Bobby Hiles	Sarah Romig
Leona Knerr	Dolores McLaughlin
Ed Gheysens, Sr.	Elaine Williams
Mona Hess	Edna Halter
Betty Heil	Jennie Lillie
Pauline Benjamin	Walt Plummer
Cookie Weaver	Rick Pfeffer
Ruth Peterson	Kelly Thistle
George Moore	Ron Roedell
Norma Miley	Pastor Wiker
Pastor David	Harold Tyson
Richard Pierson	David Duffield
Walter Richman	

TELEPHONE CHAIN

Patsy Madden
(856) 935-5552



SPECIAL DATES

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.

Offering needed to date \$ 101,415.42
Offering collected to date \$ 89,544.00

Anniversary Planning Committee

If anyone is interested in serving on the planning committee for the 300th anniversary of Emanuel Lutheran Church, please speak to a council member. While it is seven years away, and that may seem like a long time, careful work is needed so that the story of our ministry may be told well.

Note From Church Council

Due to an oversight the council minutes have not recently been posted in the narthex of the church. We are correcting that and will resume posting approved council minutes on the bulletin board. The council welcomes members of the congregation to bring ideas for ministry or ask questions at upcoming council meetings. Some ideas that are suggested do require council to research what may be involved before approving or recommending the congregation approve a particular ministry idea.

Pastor's Perspective

In this article there are four things that I wish to share with you.

LONGEST NIGHT/BLUE CHRISTMAS

For many people Christmas is not "the most wonderful time of the year". The holiday season can be particularly difficult for those who are grieving. This may be the first Christmas without going to Grandma's house for dinner. This may be the first Christmas where children are spending the holiday apart from mom or dad because of the divorce that occurred earlier in the year.

I remember one of the most difficult Christmas seasons was in the year before Jordan was born and adopted. Other parent's kids were going caroling, singing in Christmas performances, participating in church pageants, and visiting Santa. It was a time when I felt very much alone even among the various gatherings associated with the Christmas season. I kept yearning to experience the joy other families had in this season. For parents struggling to conceive or who have experienced miscarriage or have buried a child is to find themselves in the valley of the shadow of death (Psalm 23:5).

In the northern hemisphere, December 21st is the day with the shortest amount of daylight. It is the longest night of the year. To acknowledge the pain that many people experience during the holiday season and to provide Christian love and care, the church has scheduled a "Blue Christmas" service on Saturday, December 21st at 7:00 p.m. This service provides a place to grieve, to draw comfort in Jesus, the light that shines in our darkness.

The service of word and prayer will take place in the sanctuary. During the liturgy, anyone who so desires will be invited to come forward and light votive candles in memory of loved ones. After those who choose to have lit candle(s) there will be opportunity for individual prayer and the anointing of oil. Members of the congregation's seed group will join me in offering prayer and anointing. Additionally, this service will be open to individuals of other churches and I have invited other pastors to be present. Following the service, there will be opportunities for conversation over cookies and punch.

I invite you to share this opportunity with those who you may find this service of benefit.

CREEDS

Since coming to Emanuel, we have used exclusively the Apostle's Creed. It is indeed, the shortest of the three creeds. In the rubrics (the red letter print in the services in the Lutheran Book of Worship) it is suggest that the Apostle's Creed be used for the Sundays after Pentecost and Epiphany, where the liturgical color of the season is green. For the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter it is suggested that the Nicene Creed be used. This allows the congregation to maintain familiarity with two of the three creeds that are statements we believe, teach and confess. The Athanasian Creed which surpasses the other two creeds in length is rarely used, but nonetheless still a creed we believe, teach and confess.

HEALING SERVICE

As it has become a recent custom here at Emanuel the fifth Sunday is observed as a healing service. December indeed has five Sundays in the month. Thus, on Sunday, December 29th there will be a healing service taking place in the Social Hall. This allows for easier access for those who wish to attend. As part of the healing service our Discipleship Seed Group will be available during the service for individual prayer and the anointing of oil. Since I will be on vacation, Pastor Brian Triller will be preaching and presiding at the liturgy.

FIRST COMMUNION

On Sunday, December 15th Aubrey Brooks, Elle Cobb, and Tice Cobb will receive their first Holy Communion.

God bless,
Pastor Mark

HOSPITAL/PASTORAL CARE

If you or a family member has been admitted to the hospital, please contact Pastor Mark at 856-521-0771 or 724-244-4248. 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

Wayne May

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

- Sunday, December 8, Decorating Sanctuary and Christmas tree after church
- Sunday, December 15, First Communion
- Saturday, December 21, 7pm Blue Christmas Service
- Sunday, December 22, 10:00 am Worship – Special Christmas Worship for Children
- Tuesday, December 24, 7:00 pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Word and Sacrament
- Sunday, December 29, 10:00 am Healing Service of Word, Sacrament, Anointing & Prayer in Social Hall for accessibility

CHURCH COUNCIL

Wayne Knerr, President.....2020
Patsy Madden, Vice-President.....2022
Cindy Cairone, Corporate Secretary.....2022
Anette Manno.....2020
Jason Cobb.....2020
Wayne May.....2021
Brenda Mace.....2022
Elizabeth Brooks, Recording Secretary, Bookkeeper
Dianne Hermanson, Financial Secretary
Elizabeth Brooks, Church Secretary

COMMITTEES

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

Check out our website

www.emanuelelmer.church



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