



## 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*

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## EASTER EGGS

For the safety and health of everyone, if you took eggs to fill for the Easter Egg Hunt, please keep the candy or goodies you purchased, but please discard any eggs.

## PASTORAL EMERGENCIES

If you need to contact Pastor Mark during this time, please remember you can call him on his cell phone at 724-244-4248, his home phone 856-521-0771 or email him at [revmaw98@gmail.com](mailto:revmaw98@gmail.com)

## OFFERING

Please remember you can mail your offering into the church at PO Box 363, Elmer, NJ 08318. You can send offering weekly or monthly.

## A MESSAGE OF THANKS

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Emanuel, Words can not express how deeply grateful my family and I are for all your prayers, phone calls, text messages and cards that we have received supporting us as we grieve the sudden death of Terry. The words of comfort and the kind and warm-hearted sentiments that you conveyed about Terry touched our hearts. I must admit that we are still in shock, but I know without a doubt that with the help of our faith, our family and our friends, we will get through this. Psalm 121 is extremely comforting to me.

Troy and his girlfriend Kat have moved in with me for awhile. They moved up here from DC in December and are still working for NIH (National Health Institute) remotely and traveling to DC every few months for meetings. Troy wanted to be closer to home and spend more time with family. He was looking forward to golfing more with his dad, but right now both my boys have found solace in the fact that Terry died peacefully and did not suffer. As most of you know, my daughter-in-law's father was buried three days before Terry's death, so my 3 grandsons lost both of their grandpas within a week. They are devastated and want to be here with me, but they are housebound in Bristol, Pa. due to the corona virus. We Facetime everyday and I try to reassure them that we will get through this, but their tears just break my heart.

We buried Terry on Friday, March 20th and the Veterans sent out Navy personnel to pay tribute. As soon as all of this corona virus pandemic lifts, we will have a celebration of life service for Terry at Emanuel. That was his wish. He loved his church and all of you. We did have an autopsy done and will know the results in 2 to 3 months. We feel so blessed and grateful that so many people are praying for us. Stay safe during these trying times. God Bless all of you.

Judy

## EMAIL LIST

If you are not receiving email updates from the church, and would like to be added to the email list, please email your name and phone number to [office@emanuelelmer.church](mailto:office@emanuelelmer.church)

## Pastor's Perspective

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2:42.*

Life in the church has been marked by this and other passages throughout the New Testament. In Paul's letters he details that Jesus work of our salvation on the cross is for all people, "*For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*" For people to call on the Lord it is inherent in the church's mission to preach the Word, be it from pulpits or mentored in the way that Philip did for the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-40).

Throughout the nearly two thousand years since Christ rose from the dead, the church has used technology to proclaim the good news of Jesus. One of the key developments that allowed Martin Luther to engage the Roman Catholic Church and reveal the truth of their errors was the development of the printing press. As a result, publishers were eager to print writings. This allowed Luther's sermons, teachings and the German translation of the Bible to go far and wide.

In more recent times the church has used technology. Many congregations have been slow to adopt it. Only recently did nearly every church have a website. Now, with a pandemic crisis the liturgical life of a congregation is different. One of the few good things is that many more churches, and their pastors, are getting creative in broadcasting their services over social media platforms. However, there is one hurdle where technology cannot help us.

As much as people may form an on-line community, this is quite different from being together, sharing space, seeing, hearing, speaking/singing, touching, smelling and tasting. This brings me to the sacrament of Holy Communion.

There are some pastors and churches that have made decisions to be creative in the administration of the sacrament. Some are doing what is called "drive-thru communion". Here those who desire the sacrament attend a service and/or simply drive up to the church where the Pastor awaits with the elements of bread and wine. Unfortunately, such a practice models the sacrament after your drive-thru meal at McDonald's. Gone is the communal aspect of being together in the receiving of Christ's body and blood.

An even less attractive option that some are using is that of "virtual communion." This is an innovation whereby the presider holds elements of the bread and wine in front of the computer camera and consecrates the elements. Viewers are told to have their own bread and wine prepared, and at the pastor's cue, eat and drink.

There are several problems with this approach. When I consecrate the bread and the wine you'll hear me say the words of Christ, "This is my body, given for you. This is my blood shed for you" The word "this" refers to the elements that are on the altar. The elements are in one location for the assembled body of Christ in one place. There is truly no way to consecrate elements that are not in one place, namely the altar.

Another problem with this approach is the same one with drive-thru communion. This is a meal to be celebrated in community. Our Lutheran Confessions on the teaching of The Lord's Supper state:

Concerning the Lord's Supper it is taught that the true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there.  
Augsburg Confession, Book of Concord, Kolb/Wengert ed. Pg. 44

I'd also add from Dr. David Yeago, Professor of Ethics and Systematic Theology at the North American Lutheran Seminary these words.

But it is not possible for the communicants to be assured *on the basis of Christ's mandate and promise* that what they are eating and drinking is the body and blood of Christ given and shed for them for the forgiveness of sins.

The instituted form of the sacrament necessarily calls for a bodily assembly of disciples who are present to eat "this" and drink from "this cup." It calls for multiple gathered bodies who become "one body" because they "all partake of the one bread" (1 Corinthians 10:17).

Now, this may be confusing as you'll likely see other churches that are using this time of pandemic to offer such practices. In most cases, these are from Pastors of different denominations who have different understandings of the Sacrament. Therefore, to them they do not see "virtual communion" as problematic.

The current pandemic and the distancing required of us to limit the spread of the virus means that we are fasting from our communal gathering at the church. Likewise, we will be fasting from the sacrament of Holy Communion. In this time of fasting, let us rely upon the strength of God's Word, read in Scripture, proclaimed in preaching, that we may live assured of the full forgiveness of our sins.

As disciples, let us also take this as an added opportunity to share the good news of Jesus through our various social media connections, that God may use us to sow seeds that germinate in the hearts of our neighbors that they may come to believe in Christ. "The one who hears you hears me," says our Lord (Luke 10:16a). Additionally remember, "As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news! But they have not obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, 'Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?' So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

As we live in this time of fasting, please continue to pray for the sick, the dying, those actively serving the needs of our neighbors who do so in harms' way, and all government officials charged with decision making in these uncertain times

God bless,  
Pastor Mark

## **PRAYER LIST**

Bobby Hiles	Sarah Romig
Leona Knerr	Joe Sparacio
Elizabeth Shimp	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
Walter Richman	Margaret Long
Pastor David	Harold Tyson
Richard Pierson	David Duffield
Michael Reed	Rob Innes
Harry Heck	Nancy Heck
Beverly Tomarchio	

## **SPECIAL DATES**

The following folks are celebrating April birthdays:

1	Tice Cobb	13	Reed Richey
7	Klay Knerr		Dave Wilson
8	Betty Heil	20	Amy Gheysens
	Stephen Gheysens		Monica Hess
9	Cindy Sutton	25	Logan Cocking
10	Katie Coleman	26	Avery Allen

May everyone enjoy their special day and have a blessed year to follow!

**SAFETY AND SECURITY TEAM** The purpose of this team will be to look at ways we can provide safety to all members and visitors to our congregation for worship and other church activities. If you are interested in serving on this team, please speak to Jason Cobb, Brenda Mace or Pastor Mark.

**THE 300<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PLANNING COMMITTEE** If you are interested in helping plan our anniversary celebration please speak to Kyle Knerr.

## **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.

## **TELEPHONE CHAIN**

Patsy Madden  
(856) 935-5552



## 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 for you. The family is asked to supply the entrée and the LCW will provide the sides, desserts, beverages and set up.

## APRIL ALTAR GUILD

Helen Cobb/Elizabeth Brooks

## APRIL USHERS

George Shimp

Kyle Knerr

## CHURCH COUNCIL

Wayne Knerr.....	2023
Patsy Madden.....	2022
Cindy Cairone.....	2022
Anette Manno.....	2023
Jason Cobb.....	2023
Steve Kennedy.....	2021
Brenda Mace.....	2022
Elizabeth Brooks, Recording Secretary, Bookkeeper	
Dianne Hermanson, Financial Secretary	
Elizabeth Brooks, Church Secretary	

## COMMITTEES

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

Check out our website

[www.emanuelelmer.church](http://www.emanuelelmer.church)



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