



Emanuel Lutheran Church

366 Cohansey-Friesburg Road
P.O. Box 363
Elmer, NJ 08313
Phone: 856-451-5669

Sunday Worship:

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
in-person and via Facebook live

The Rev. Mark A. Werner, Pastor



HOLY WEEK

Sunday, March 28 – **Palm Sunday** with the Passion Narrative (in-person/Live Streaming)
Thursday, April 1 – **Maundy Thursday** celebration of the Last Supper (in-person/Live Streaming)
Friday, April 2 – **Good Friday** observance (via Zoom and Facebook Live)
Saturday, April 3 – **Easter Egg Hunt**
Sunday, April 4 – **Easter Sunday Celebration** (in-person/Live Streaming)

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This month we end our 40-day journey through Lent and focus our thoughts and attention on the risen Christ, but we must not forget the sacrifice made for us at the end of that Lenten journey. Jesus, the Christ, suffered, died, descended to hell and defeated death and the devil. Then he rose victorious and invites us to continue to walk with him as his disciples. It is a discipleship journey of learning, loving and sharing. In this issue of the Acolyte, you will read thoughts of some who are walking that Emmaus Road now.

MY DISCIPLESHIP BLESSINGS

In October of 2019, Judy reached out to me by letter, asking me to join her Discipleship Group. I took the letter and threw it in my paper pile and said I will read it later. Two weeks passed and Judy called. Of course, I didn't read the letter because that is the way I roll.

The reason I am telling you this story is because I am really not the right candidate for this opportunity. God knew differently, and he put it on Judy's heart to invite me to start this Journey with God.

If you asked me two years ago, do I have a close relationship with God, I would have said, "Sure." I go to church, I pray occasionally, and I give offerings. James 1:4 says, "Be mature and complete, not lacking anything." This verse hit me hard, because I was lacking. Every gardener knows that mature fruit does not appear overnight. It takes time to grow. I am growing and so thankful for Judy's help with this.

I know that there are so many Christians in the world that love God with their whole hearts but

have not started their walks with him. The benefits of talking to him daily and slowing down to let him guide you are unmistakable. We may be successful in putting our personal affairs in place, but if we do it at the sacrifice of the more important – putting our spiritual affairs in order – we miss the joy and purpose of life. God is so good to me.

(Chrissy Smith)

APRIL HAPPENINGS AT EMANUEL

April 1 – Maundy Thursday Service
April 2 – Good Friday Observance
April 3 – Easter Egg Hunt
April 4 – Easter Celebration
April 7 – Weekly Bible Study
April 9 – Seed Group Meeting
April 11 – Food Pantry Sunday
April 12 – Worship & Music Committee
April 13 – Council Meeting
April 14 – Weekly Bible Study
April 21 – Weekly Bible Study
April 28 – Weekly Bible Study

DISCIPLESHIP THOUGHTS

Discipleship – Navigators – Cottage Meetings – Mission Statement. These are words that have become very familiar to us at Emanuel over the past year. In several of Pastor Werner’s recent sermons, his proclamation of “God is Love” kept resonating in my mind. Each one of the topics affords the opportunity for us to share this message with everyone we meet. Jesus calls upon ALL of his followers “to make disciples of all nations...” (Matthew 28:16-20) In our Cottage Meetings, we discussed this as we, brothers and sisters in Christ, read various scripture passages and shared ways Emanuel could embrace this calling in our Mission Statement. We are clearly commissioned as ambassadors of Christ to spread the Gospel truth of God’s powerful and everlasting love for us.

The times we live in are challenging and troubled with Covid restrictions, escalated racial tension, political turmoil, etc. We are reminded in Galatians 6:1, “If a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness considering yourself lest you also be tempted.” As Christ’s disciples, we are to follow His example. We are to give encouragement and guidance in a loving manner and to share God’s message of forgiveness and repentance.

How do we overcome these overwhelming odds in our current reality? Jesus has paved the path for us through many examples set throughout the Bible when He felt overwhelmed. He prayed! In Thessalonians 5:17, we are told to “pray without ceasing,” and in Matthew 7:7-8, we read, “Ask and it shall be given to you, seek and ye shall find...” We ask God to provide opportunities for us to share His divine love with others. We ask also that He open our eyes and ears to be intentional and seek out these opportunities as they arise for us.

In Bill Mowry’s book, *The Alongsider*, he describes Jesus as an “insider,” defined as “a person that shares a common space, purpose, or interest with a group of people,” Jesus lived and worked among the people. Mowry cites another text, *The Message*, that says that Jesus moved into the neighborhood. We have our family, our workplace, our doctor’s office, some still go to the grocery store. We have technology, the US Postal System and the telephone. We can use these resources for “good.” Galatians 6:9 reminds us “and let us not grow weary

while doing good, for in due season, we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”

Elaine Williams has agreed to be the “keeper of the church key.” Many of us have not been able to attend services because of our health status and Covid. However, if you feel the Holy Spirit encouraging you to spend some alone time with God in prayer and would like to stop by church for a quiet place, just give Elaine a call, and she will hang the church key on the knob of her back door for you. You can just hang it back on that same knob when you are done! She is ready, waiting and willing to do this for her Emanuel church family.

Our world needs to HEAR AND FEEL hope of a better tomorrow. As Christ’s ambassadors, let us use the resources we have at our fingertips right now (whether technology or “snail mail”) to keep the light of Christ shining within us for others to witness. We have no idea what the seeds we plant today may blossom into tomorrow. Our actions and words, proclaiming that “God is love,” can truly be the water that makes the seeds of faith, hope and love sprout and grow!
(Judy Cellmer)



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 your celebrations and your year be blessed!

Offering Envelopes

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

Pastor's Perspective

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

There are three phrases that mark Holy Week. The first word is one associated with Palm Sunday. Jesus is entering Jerusalem. He comes riding on a colt, not an easy task given that colts that have never been ridden are hard to ride the first time. Jesus is greeted by a crowd of people as they shout, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the coming kingdom of your father David! Hosanna in the highest." (*Mark 11:9b-10*) The word "Hosanna" is a prayer. It means "Oh, save now" or "Please save now." It is a prayer for Jesus to accomplish the very act for which he was sent.

"For God so loved the world that he sent his only Son, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." John 3:16-17

As Jesus enters Jerusalem he is greeted with this prayer. He answers this prayer by his death on the cross.

The second phrase we hear during Holy Week is the chant of the crowd, "Crucify Him." John 19:6. In the reading of the passion narratives that are typically done during the service on Palm Sunday, many people have commented how jarring it is when we come to the congregation's part and we say this phrase together. It is supposed to be jarring. For you see, our sinful nature is very much on display in the passion narratives of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. It is to redeem us from our sin, from death and the work of the devil, that Jesus endured the cross. We bear the same guilt for Jesus' death as anyone who was present there in the flesh, for Jesus died for all sinners, past, present and future.

The last phrase we hear is not so much of a direct quote as it is the proclamation of Jesus victory of the powers of sin, death and the devil. It is the phrase we say on Easter Sunday. "Alleluia! Christ is risen! The response to hearing this good news is to answer with the phrase statement, "He is risen indeed! Alleluia!" This is the church's way of saying that Jesus has won the battle against the spiritual forces we cannot defeat without him. In proclaiming the victory of Jesus, we are sharing the hope that is ours. We also share this declaration with all who have ears to hear it.

With all the negativity we hear in the world, with all the skepticism that we are met with on a daily basis, the phrases of prayer, confession and proclamation keep us grounded in Christ. For he is our rock. He is our salvation. In him, we have life and we have that life abundantly.

God bless,

Pastor Mark

(See last page for April's Bible verses)

SCRIPTURE IN ART

Do you ever think how you could pass the time if, at the age of 19, you were given a life sentence for killing a young girl? Well, that is what happened to Bill McPherson, a member of a family of our church for years. The goal to stay away from all gangs, get along with roommates that may be hard to love, be polite to all the police and get along with all in a working situation in prison.

This has been Bill's goal for 22 years now. Anxiously awaiting visitors' day and hoping someone comes. Hoping someone might think of him and send him a card or letter. Then one day God led him to start drawing. He had no previous experience or teachers. And he started to make gift cards to be sold in the prison store.

Then came the virus and the lockdown – no visitors, limited time around anyone – and depression set in badly. We noticed that our letters changed from a Bill who was coping to a Bill very depressed. We were concerned that he might try to kill himself. One night after prayer about this problem, we were given a plan from God to expose him to life-changing scriptures in God's Word and to draw a picture of what he read.

Church in jail is run by the folks in jail and may not be anything like you know about church on the surface and is sometimes run by gangs. So, getting into the Word was a must. We decided that this and drawing would fill the lonely hours with worthwhile creative work, which is essential to all human beings to stay sane. We consulted Bill, and he was thrilled with the idea.

The first pictures came from reading the Gospels about Christ's crucifixion, and quickly Bill produced pictures. There is an album in the lower level of the church building by the sign-in book that contains pictures for sale. I am hoping there will be many more to offer more choices.

Some have requested a special picture of Christ on the cross with the soldiers dividing his garments and then rolling dice to see who would get his robe that was all one piece. (*It is also mentioned in Psalm 22:18 and had so much meaning for them.*) That person agreed to pay \$25.00 for that drawing. This project has lifted Bill out of depression, and in spite of a bad back, he is stable again and producing pictures.

If you have a special scripture that you would like him to draw, give the scripture passage to Pastor Mark or Bill's mom, Cindy Plummer. Bill thinks that is a lot of money for a color pencil drawing and hoped we would let people donate what they want for a drawing. The money will be used to help buy more art supplies.

Check out the scrapbook downstairs and see what picture you might want. Give any donation to Pastor Mark. There are plastic pages behind the table to place your picture in until you frame it or just to keep it safe.

We all need a reminder of what Christ did on the cross for us – you, me, all of us – and Bill.

(Rene Wiker)



PRAYER LIST

Please keep these individuals in your prayers for health and healing.

Sarah Romig	Elizabeth Shimp
Leona Knerr	Elaine Williams
George Shimp	Edna Halter
Mona Hess	Pauline Benjamin
Betty Heil	Ruth Peterson
Rick Pfeffer	George Moore
Nancy Wilson	Harold Tyson
Ron Roedell	Rob Innes
David Duffield	Jim Wenger
Nancy Heck	Pastor Polk
Susan Powel	Rex Cobb
Ray Dilks	Joe Snowden
Laura Bisconte	Kevil Ulhand
Scarlett Weist	Ken Hitchner
Kevin Flaim	Dawn Colonna
Sharyn Fooks	Wayne Wright
Julie Sapp	
The Miller Family	

If you have a prayer concern to be shared with the congregation, please email Patsy Madden at pbmadden11479@gmail.com or call her at 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.

ON-GOING COLLECTION NEED

As you may recall, one of the ways the North American Lutheran Church Disaster Response assists individuals and families clean up from floods is by providing flood buckets. One type of bucket that serves this purpose are buckets that held kitty litter. If you purchase kitty litter please donate the bucket once you've used the litter to the church. We can then collect other items to make the flood buckets. Buckets can be left in the Sunday school section of the church or the fellowship hall.

CHRIST LUTHERAN FOOD PANTRY

The second Sunday of each month is Emanuel's day to provide non-perishable food items to support this important food pantry in our area. Donations can be placed on the back steps of the church building on that Sunday.

FACEBOOK LIVE SERVICES

Links to the Facebook Live services can be found on the church's website under Church News.

PASTORAL EMERGENCIES

If you need to contact Pastor Mark for any reason, 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

THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING COMMITTEE

If you are interested in helping plan our anniversary celebration, please speak to Kyle Knerr.

FUNERAL LUNCHEONS

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, LCW is not currently providing funeral luncheons.

EMAIL LISTING

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

It is hoped that Sunday School classes will resume in the fall for both children and adults..

In the meantime, here is an ongoing Bible study on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. The study of the book of Daniel will resume on April 7. To be included in this learning opportunity, let the church office or Pastor Mark know of your interest. This study is held via Zoom, and an email invitation will be sent to your email address.

APRIL ALTAR GUILD

Helen Cobb / Elizabeth Brooks

TELEPHONE CHAIN

Patsy Madden

(856) 935-5552

CHURCH COUNCIL

Wayne Knerr, President2023
Patsy Madden, Vice President.....2022
Cindy Cairone, Corporate Secretary2022
Anette Manno2023
Mike Clarke.....2024
Jason Cobb.....2023
Steve Kennedy2024
Brenda Mace2022
Sarah Wilson, Treasurer

Elizabeth Brooks, Bookkeeper
Dianne Hermanson, Financial Secretary, Office Secretary

COMMITTEES

Chairpersons for the following committees were appointed for 2021.

Anniversary Committee..... Kyle Knerr and Cindy Carione
Christian Education Helen Cobb and Wayne Knerr
Fellowship Brenda Mace and Anette Mano
Finance Sarah Wilson and Mike Clarke
Mutual Ministry Brenda Mace and Steve Kennedy
Property Jason Cobb and Wayne May
Safety & Security Jason Cobb and Brenda Mace
Stewardship Wayne Knerr and Mike Clarke
Witness/Outreach/Evangelism Patsy Madden and
.....Cindy Carione
Worship & Music Patsy Madden

ACOLYTE DEADLINE

The deadline for submitting articles for the May Acolyte is April 28. This is your newsletter, a means of sharing ideas and thoughts. If you have something to share or an idea for an article, let us know by speaking with Pastor Mark or sending an email to office@emanuelelmer.church .

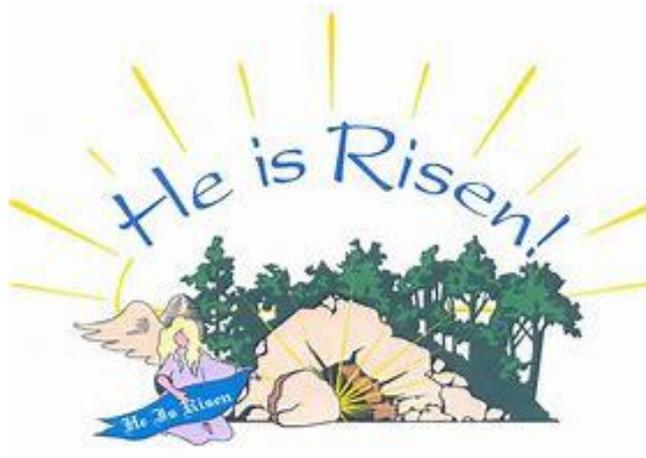
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www.emanuelelmer.church



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He is risen indeed! Alleluia!!

APRIL BIBLE VERSES

- April 1 – Therefore, having this ministry, by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. – *2 Corinthians 4:1*
- April 2 – Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. – *Colossians 4:2*
- April 3 – And in every province, wherever the king's command and his decree reached, there was great mourning among the Jews with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and many of them lay in sackcloth and ashes. – *Esther 4:3*
- April 4 – There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call.
– *Ephesians 4:4*
- April 5 – Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand. – *Philippians 4:5*
- April 6 – Better is a handful of quietness than two hands full of toil and a striving after wind. – *Ecclesiastes 4:6*
- April 7 – But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.
– *2 Corinthians 4:7*
- April 8 – Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. – *1 Peter 4:8*
- April 9 – Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another. – *1 Thessalonians 4:9*
- April 10 – Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. – *James 4:10*
- April 11 – Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. – *1 John 4:11*
- April 12 – Then the Lord spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of words, but saw no form; there was only a voice. – *Deuteronomy 4:12*
- April 13 – I can do all things through him who strengthens me. – *Philippians 4:13*
- April 14 – For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. – *1 Thessalonians 4:14*
- April 15 – Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,
– *Ephesians 4:15*
- April 16 – He shall speak for you to the people, and he shall be your mouth, and you shall be as God to him.
– *Exodus 4:16*
- April 17 – Can mortal man be in the right before God? Can a man be pure before his maker? – *Job 4:17*
- April 18 – The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen. – *2 Timothy 4:18*
- April 19 – And my God will supply every need of yours, according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. – *Philippians 4:19*
- April 20 – for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard. – *Acts 4:20*
- April 21 – And he shall carry the bull outside the camp and burn it up as he burned the first bull; it is the sin offering for the assembly. – *Leviticus 4:21*
- April 22 – And she said, 'The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured. – *1 Samuel 4:22*
- April 23 – So on that day God subdued Jabin the king of Canaan before the people of Israel. – *Judges 4:23*
- April 24 – Then the work on the house of God that is in Jerusalem stopped, and it ceased until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia. – *Ezra 4:24*
- April 25 – Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. – *Proverbs 4:25*
- April 26 – Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am he.' – *John 4:26*
- April 27 – And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian. – *Luke 4:27*
- April 28 – Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of the promise. – *Galatians 4:28*
- April 29 – But from there you will seek the Lord your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul. – *Deuteronomy 4:29*
- April 30 – And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
– *Ephesians 4:30*

Easter Coloring Pages

