



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

MARCH HAPPENINGS AT EMANUEL

March 1 – Worship & Music Committee
March 2 – Anniversary Planning Committee
March 3 – Lenten Bible Study
March 4 – Finance Committee
March 10 – Lenten Bible Study
March 14 – Food Pantry Sunday
March 16 – Council Meeting
March 17 – Lenten Bible Study
March 24 – Lenten Bible Study
March 28 – Palm Sunday

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES GO VIRTUAL

We have decided to have our weekly Lenten Service as a virtual Bible Study via Zoom for everyone's safety and comfort. All are welcome to join in every Wednesday evening at 7:00. Pastor Mark will send anyone interested an invitation via email. If you would like to be included but don't know how to install the Zoom App on the computer, please let us know and someone will be glad to help you. Zoom is also available through a regular phone call.

The theme for this Lenten Season is "Road to Coronation." It is a study series from Crossways written by Dr. Harry Wendt.

Session 1 (Feb 17): "The Royal Background"

Session 2 (Feb 24): "Royal Beginnings"

Session 3 (Mar 3): "Royalty in Action"

Session 4 (Mar 10): "Royalty in the Holy City"

Session 5 (Mar 17): "The Royal Coronation in Matthew, Mark, and Luke"

Session 6 (Mar 24): "The Royal Coronation in John"

DISCIPLESHIP THOUGHTS

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable---if anything is excellent or praiseworthy---think about such things. (Philippians 4:8)

This is the passage shown in a recent devotional reading. Now...think about this...as it was quoted by the writer after being involved in a group looking at a book written about developing habits for increasing trust, joy...one habit she learned is to return her thoughts to something joyful when she feels conflict brewing. Science shows this helps her brain stay in a relational mode rather than jumping to an enemy mode. She was relating it to a marriage relationship but it can be compared to any relationship really. The practice of pausing when you sense conflict and return your thoughts to a joyful experience you shared helps you to stay relational. If you have difficulty thinking of a positive mutual experience because you are angry, then turn your mind toward your relationship with Jesus. Remind yourself who He says you are and His unwavering love for you. When you remember to value the relationship with your spouse or another person in your life---more than your desire to be right---then you know the conflict will have a healthier outcome. When you can train your mind to stay relational, then you can experience joy even in the midst of conflict. I think we all can relate to this and hopefully try to practice finding joy over conflict. ❤️ (by Patsy Madden)

“Disciples Feed on the Word of God”

(By Pr. Brian Triller)

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

(Matthew 4:4 ESV)

So Jesus quoted the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 8:3) when Satan was tempting Him during His forty days in the wilderness. As important as food is to our bodily health, this word from Jesus reminds us that we need a steady diet of God's Word to remain healthy in our relationship with our Lord.

In chapter 6 of John's Gospel, we read that many of Jesus' disciples stopped following Him because they said His teaching was too hard to accept. (See John 6:60-66.) At that point in His ministry, Jesus asked the twelve apostles, “Do you want to go away as well?” Speaking for all of them, Peter replied, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” (John 6:67-68 ESV)

The words that the Lord proclaims give eternal life to those who receive and believe them. Only because of the Holy Spirit at work in Peter could he give that answer to Jesus in the verse above. By the working of that same Holy Spirit, who came into our lives when we were baptized, we express faith in Jesus Christ. And by the working of the Holy Spirit, we hunger to be nourished by the Word of God, which matures us in our relationship with Jesus.

We are nourished with God's Word by participating in the Liturgy of Holy Communion, by personal reading of the Holy Scriptures, and by doing Bible studies on our own and with other believers. We are also spiritually fed by meditating on God's Word and responding to it in prayer and by applying it in our daily lives.

If you are already practicing these disciplines of meditation on and response to God's Word, you know how they are a source of God's blessing. If you would like to learn more about how to practice these disciplines, please let Pr. Mark know. He can help you to get started.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, I want to grow in my relationship with You as one of Your disciples because You alone have the words of eternal life. Through the working of the Holy Spirit in me, may I experience an ever-greater hunger to be nourished by Your Word. And by the leading of that same Spirit, may I make increasing use of all the means You provide to feed me with Your Word. For, as You nourish me with Your Word, You work through me to feed others with Your Word as well. Thank You! Amen.



THOUGHTS OF LENT (by Dianne Hermanson)

During Lent, we use a variety of symbols on our journey to the cross of Jesus. The forty days of Lent (not counting Sundays) are a reminder of Jesus' wilderness adventure and the devil's temptation. Ash Wednesday is so named because of the imposition of ashes, which was not done this year due to social distancing because of the pandemic. The ashes are usually made by burning palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday service. Last year, the adult and youth Sunday School members participated in the process of burning the palm branches.

The color purple for the sanctuary paraments is also a tradition with liturgical Christianity. The Bible tells us that the guards placed a purple garment on Jesus during his trial and beatings. (*Mark 15:17*) The use of purple may symbolize pain and suffering, as well as mourning and repentance. It is also a sign of royalty, and while the Roman soldiers were mocking Jesus, they ironically declared that Jesus is King of Kings.

Another symbol of Lent is the giving up of something to help focus more on sacrifice and repentance. As a Sunday School teacher, one year I gave each of the children a bag of candy on the first Sunday of Lent and asked them not to open it until Easter Sunday, encouraging them to think about and pray to Jesus. I do not know how many of them succeeded in the challenge, but the challenge was not the goal. Making Jesus a regular part of their lives was.

Today, instead of giving up something, many decide to do something extra, such as using a Lenten Devotional, spending more time in the Bible and with God, or reaching out to others.

So, how will I honor Jesus these forty days? I stopped giving up something a while ago since I seemed to use it more as a challenge to complete rather than an opportunity to deepen my relationship with my Lord and Savior. This year, I am focusing more on prayer time, offering my praise and thanks to God and lifting up those in need.

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Pastor's Perspective

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." –
Genesis 1:27

"For as many of you were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise." *Galatians 3:27-29*

"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb.'" *Revelation 7:9-10*

Are you curious yet? What do these three passages have in common? These passages speak of our relationship to God. These three passages also speak to our relationship with one another.

Now, that is all well and good. But there is a significant practical application that is reflected here and in other passages of Scripture as well. The practical application has to do with a very sensitive topic. Race relations.

On February 11th, I attended the 2020 (yes, we still called it that as the conference was to have taken place last year) Theological Conference of the Atlantic Mission Region. The topic of this virtual conference was, "Is it Really Black and White? Gospel in the Face of Chaos and Division." Leading the Conference was The Rev. Dr. Victor Belton (a Missouri Lutheran Synod Pastor from Georgia) and The Rev. Dr. Maurice Lee (a NALC Pastor from California and adjunct Seminary professor).

The foundational and Biblical anthropology as described in the above passages gives us a framework for how we are to view one another. God created humanity in His image. Thus, we are from the beginning fundamentally related to God. In Christ, we are redeemed through the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ who shed his blood for the sins of the world. In redeeming us, Christ unites us as one family of God, a family that is not segregated by the color of skin. Likewise, as the one family of God, the vision of what is to come is that people of all colors will be before the throne of God, praising and glorifying Jesus.

These foundational points are significant. They are significant in a world that wants to point out our divisions. They are significant in how we treat one another. Racism is a direct insult to God. It is also a direct insult to who we are as the family of God.

In the world, we are hearing a lot about how to eradicate racism. Companies have offered and/or mandated diversity training for employees. There have been discussions about social justice. There have been those who suggest that it is not enough to be against racism but that those who are Caucasian renounce their white privilege.

Like many issues, people may address this from a variety of perspectives. It is important that we not react in knee jerk ways, but listen carefully. In listening to each other, we hear the cry for healing that we long to see be a reality. In listening carefully, we can seek to avoid pitting groups of people against one another.

As Christians we have an important foundation that cannot be ignored. That foundation is in who we were created to be (*Genesis 1:27*), how we are to live with one another in the here and now (*Galatians 3:27-29*), and where we are going (*Revelation 7:9-10*). While there are a lot of voices calling to be heard, in all cases, let us never neglect the most important voice of all. That is the voice of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

God bless,
Pastor Mark

(See last page for March's Bible verses)

WORSHIP & MUSIC UPDATE

(Patsy Madden)

Moving back into in-person worship has been a challenge for those of us who are actively involved in making sure all areas are safe. We first were concerned about our Lakeside outdoor service, which we feel was a success. We were able to accommodate all those who wanted to participate. Whether they brought their chairs and sat in the pavilion or under a tree or sat in their car and listened from afar, our congregation came together to worship during the stress of the pandemic. Everyone was so thankful to be able to be together...safely. The outdoor attendance was great! Even during this time, we still offered indoor worship at 10:00 along with streaming on Facebook Live. Attendance was very small and everyone practiced social distancing.

Then, as cold weather approached, we had to totally move inside. This was a bit more challenging. We all continue to wear masks, and those with distance concerns are urged to use the balcony or choir loft as seating options. Pews are marked for social distancing; an usher is assigned to open the outside door for those entering; offering plates have been placed in the back pews; hand sanitizer is available in dispensers downstairs and upstairs; all surfaces are sanitized weekly. With social distancing, we even celebrate Holy Communion as was done at Lakeside

We believe we have been able to offer those wanting to attend in person a safe place in which to worship. As we move forward, we will continue all of the precautions currently in place. If anyone has any concerns, please let us know.

We are looking forward to continuing in-person worship every Sunday. Each Sunday is special, but this year Easter Sunday will be especially special since last year we were unable to attend in person. We thank everyone for your patience and support during this stressful time for us all and pray that everyone stays healthy going forward.



PRAYER LIST

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

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

MARCH ALTAR GUILD

Helen Cobb / Elizabeth Brooks

TELEPHONE CHAIN

Patsy Madden (856) 935-5552

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.

SPECIAL DATES

March birthdays

2	Anette Manno	19	Aubrey Brooks
10	Ashley Sutton Doerr	20	Gladys Elder
14	Regan Wilson	25	Brandon McAllister
16	Judy Cellmer	31	Annabelle Cobb
18	Owen Cox		Rene Wiker

May your celebrations and your year be blessed!



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

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.

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

As you may have by now surmised, we will not be having Sunday school until the fall. Our hope is that in the fall we can return to both children and adult Sunday school classes.

There is an ongoing Bible study on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. 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.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Wayne Knerr, President 2023
Patsy Madden, Vice President..... 2022
Cindy Cairone, Corporate Secretary 2022
Anette Manno 2023
Mike Clarke..... 2024
Jason Cobb..... 2023
Steve Kennedy 2024
Brenda Mace 2022
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 April Acolyte is March 24.

Check out our website
www.emanuelelmer.church



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MARCH BIBLE VERSES

- 1st – Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming says the Lord of hosts.” – Malachi 3:1
- 2nd – Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you. Jonah 3:2
- 3rd – But the Lord is faithful. He will establish and guard you against the evil one. 2 Thessalonians 3:3.
- 4th – His brightness was like the light; rays flashed from his hand; and there he veiled his power. Habakkuk 3:4
- 5th – he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, Titus 3:5
- 6th – This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Ephesians 3:6
- 7th – So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 1 Corinthians 3:7
- 8th – But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Colossians 3:8
- 9th – 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. 2 Peter 3:9
- 10th – When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it. Jonah 3:10
- 11th – let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. 1 Peter 3:11
- 12th – and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, 1 Thessalonians 3:12
- 13th – As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good. 2 Thessalonians 3:13
- 14th – God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM’. And he said, ‘Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ Exodus 3:14
- 15th – I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel. Genesis 3:15
- 16th – The Lord roars from Zion, and utters his voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth quake. But the Lord is a refuge to his people, a stronghold to the people of Israel. – Joel 3:16.
- 17th – The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. Zephaniah 3:17
- 18th – Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between the one who serves God and the one who does not serve him. Malachi 3:18
- 19th – Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. Zephaniah 3:19
- 20th – But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 3:20
- 21st – I will avenge their blood, blood I have not avenged, for the Lord dwells in Zion. Joel 3:21
- 22nd – The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; Lamentations 3:22
- 23rd – for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23
- 24th – If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. Mark 3:24
- 25th – He answered and said, ‘But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.’ Daniel 3:25
- 26th – It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. Lamentations 3:26
- 27th – John answered, ‘A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. John 3:27
- 28th – There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28
- 29th – The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. John 3:29
- 30th – Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon. Daniel 3:30
- 31st – Do not envy a man of violence and do not choose any of his ways. Proverbs 3:31

Hidden Pictures: Jesus' Temptation

Find these objects hidden in the picture below:
bucket, jug, leaf, magnet, needle and thread, plate,
ring, saw, spoon, star.

