



Emanuel Lutheran Church

366 Cohansey-Friesburg Road
P. O. Box 363
Elmer, NJ 08318
Phone: 856-451-5669

Sunday Opportunities:

Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.
Sanctuary Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
in-person and via Facebook live
The Rev. Mark A. Werner, Pastor

Emanuel Lutheran Church is a community of faith, leading people to Christ.

Jesus is the reason for the season

CHRISTMAS SEASON 2021

NOVEMBER 28 at 10:00 a.m. – 1st Sunday of Advent (*Prophets = Hope for the coming of Christ*)

DECEMBER 4 at 9:00 a.m. – Decorate the Sanctuary

DECEMBER 5 at 10:00 a.m. – 2nd Sunday of Advent (*Bethlehem = Love for those in need who have “no room”*)

DECEMBER 12 at 10:00 a.m. – 3rd Sunday of Advent (*Shepherds = Joy for spreading the message of Christ*)

DECEMBER 19 at 10:00 a.m. – 4th Sunday of Advent (*Angels = Peace on earth, as the message of the angels*)

DECEMBER 21 at 7:00 p.m. – Longest Night Service

Do you know someone who has difficulty with all the gaiety of the Christmas season?

Have you suffered a loss, a divorce, a tragedy?

Invite a friend and join us for a service of comfort, solace, peace and prayer.

Come, hear about Jesus, who comforts us in our sorrows.

“Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)

DECEMBER 24 at 7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Worship

Celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Favorite Christmas carols will be sung in a church decorated for the celebration, concluding with the singing of Silent Night in a sanctuary lit by candles.

“Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!” (Luke 2:14)

DECEMBER 26 at 10:00 a.m. – a Sunday Worship of Lessons and Carols

This service will focus on lessons about Jesus early life and the life of His church.

*“And the child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon him.”
(Luke 2:40)*

JANUARY 2, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. – the last Sunday of the Christmas Season

Please join us as we continue to celebrate the birth of Jesus and welcome in a new calendar year.

THE *Wonder* OF
CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS AT EMANUEL

December 1 – Wednesday Night Advent Study
December 4 – Decorate the Sanctuary
December 8 – Wednesday Night Advent Study
December 12 – Food Pantry Sunday
December 14 – Council Meeting
December 15 – Wednesday Night Advent Study
December 21 – Longest Night Service
December 22 – Wednesday Night Advent Study
December 24 – Christmas Eve Celebration
December 26 – Worship of Lessons and Carols
December 29 – January 3 – Pastor Mark and family on vacation



During our rush to Christmas, let us not forget that we are in the season of Advent, which is a time of preparation. Let's make sure we prepare our hearts for receiving our Lord and Savior, as well as our houses.

The NALC Advent devotional, "Come," is available for all at the website,

<https://www.thenalc.org/advent-devotional-2021/>.

Check your email for a link from Pastor Mark. The devotional is available as a download, a daily text message or a daily email.

LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Again this year, we are selling Wawa tickets for a \$5.00 shortie hoagie. The proceeds will go to the 300th Anniversary Celebration. We are also collecting toys for the Salvation Army. Bring an unwrapped toy and place in the "corral" in the front of the Sunday School rooms. The last day for donations is December 18 when the toys will be delivered to the Salvation Army for distribution.

A Christmas Luncheon will be held on December 5 at the Green Olive in Hopewell. There is a sign-up sheet to let us know who is coming.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2022.

Susan Shields

DECEMBER ALTAR GUILD

Nancy Cobb

DECEMBER USHERS

Kyle Knerr and Wayne May

CELEBRATIONS IN DECEMBER

Many people in our congregation celebrate birthdays this month:

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 Leady
	23 Kaye Whyte

Hoping you all have a wonderful birthday and a blessed year to come.

MEN'S DECEMBER UPDATE

Since December is such a busy time of year for all of us, we will not have a meeting this month. How about making a New Year's resolution to become a part of this men's ministry in 2022? The next meeting will be on January 8 at 9:00 a.m. in the social hall. Hope to see you there! *Allan Hermanson*

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Welcome to Advent and our journey to Christmas.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath will begin the first Sunday of Advent on November 28. "*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah.*"

Preparing for Christmas begins the following Saturday, December 4. The Wilson family will put up the tree and **YOU** are invited to decorate it beginning at 9:00 a.m. Please join us for this fun event in preparation for our celebration of the Birthday of the King.

Blue Christmas will be observed on December 21, the longest night of the year. There will be a worship service at 7:00 p.m. to include individual prayer for those who struggle during this time of year.

Christmas Eve Worship will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, December 24.

If you wish to add someone or need to remove a name from the Prayer Listing, please let Pastor Mark or Patsy Madden know.

STEWARDSHIP

Financials as of October 2021:

YTD Income: \$143,414.70

YTD Expense: \$132,762.70

YTD Net Income: \$10,652

Total yearly budgeted income/expense: \$165,009.00

SOUP KITCHEN NEWS!

I would like to introduce you to Bethann, the one who each day prepares the meals for the clients that come to the soup kitchen. Bethann first came at 10:30 am each morning and waited in line until noon to eat. She does admit she was homeless at times. Then she began to volunteer much as I do each Thursday, filling in where needed. As employees left she was offered a full time job as an employed cook which she did until she was needed at home to care for her two boys who were having serious issues with ADHD. When her life settled down, she again became chief cook and bottle washer.



Bethann is certified by ServSafe which means she took a rigorous test with 90 questions on the safety and responsibilities of her job. All who work in the restaurant industry must take this test for safety reasons.

Some, but not all of her responsibilities are making sure the food is stored properly and at the right temperatures in the freezers. Food that is cooked has to be kept at a certain temperature. She prepares, cooks, cleans up and locks up when everything is done.

There are many parts to preparing food for the public and one of them is to keep in mind that people have health issues; so Bethann is ever mindful of the sauces (acid), salt (hypertension); all meals have a protein, veggie and starch. She says her biggest challenge is having enough food, texture (dental issues) and taste. Adobo is always on the menu—but not in fruit. (running joke between us) She enjoys cooking each day but her favorite go-tos are chicken parm and green beans.

When asked whether she prefers eating in or take outs which are being served because of the pandemic, she says eating in is easier to clean up and she enjoys the interaction with the clients, employees and volunteers. *“How you act with someone rubs off—when you are irritated and you interact with someone in a negative way, now you are upset and the other person is upset and it sticks with them the rest of the day. So I try not to let my negative feelings show.”*

When asked how her life has changed, Bethann said, *“meeting all the people that need help. If I didn’t stick it out, the kitchen would have been closed.”*

(referring to the effect the pandemic had on the staff leaving.) Her mother now rents the large home in which they live. Because of her work at the soup kitchen, Bethann is able to pay the rest of the bills.

Bethann and some members of her family were baptized at the Spirit of Truth Worship Center.

Her heart—the house is large and welcoming to those family members who need a place to stay. *“What else are they going to do? I believe God has a lot to do with where I am as to where I was years ago.”*

(Italics indicate direct quote) Nancy Cobb

THE LIVING WORD AMONG US

Pr. Brian Triller

Having recently completed my Discipleship Guide training, I would like to share with you my key take-away from this learning experience. By the grace of God, I have grown more aware than ever of how precious to me and to all humankind is God's gift of His Word. Through His Word, God gives us the gift of eternal life with Him.

At this time of year, we prepare for the approaching season of Christmas, when we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He is the Word of God in the flesh, who came to dwell among us. As we hear in John 1:14, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...” (ESV).

After Jesus' sacrificial death and His resurrection, He ascended into heaven, where He sits at the right hand of God the Father. Even though Jesus is ascended, He still dwells among us. He is present in the Word of God—written, spoken, taught, preached on, and meditated on. He is present in Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Jesus is the living Word of God, the Giver of eternal life to all who believe in Him.

Prayer: *Dear Holy Spirit, as we journey through the season of Advent on our way to the celebration of Jesus' birth, please continue to help us to receive, believe, and obey God's living Word—whom we encounter in worship, Sunday school, Bible study groups, conversations and prayer with other disciples, and our own time alone with our Lord. By the grace of God, may we have open eyes, open ears, and open hearts to recognize and respond to the Word become flesh who dwells among us—experiencing Jesus' love, His forgiveness, and His working through us to draw others to Himself! Amen!*

Pastor's Perspective

"And the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father, David, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'" Luke 1:30-33

Jesus is coming. The Advent season is a time in the church year where we specifically focus on the impending arrival of the Son of God coming into the world. You'll note in a reading of the first chapter of Luke, there is no mention of buying presents, sending cards, preparing a feast, singing carols, Santa Claus, or even Joseph. For Joseph's reaction to the news given to Mary, you'll need to read Matthew 1. But for now, I invite you to stay in Luke.

In fact, I invite you to spend the first 24 days in the Gospel according to Luke. In an idea that is totally not my own, I invite you to read a chapter a day in the Gospel according to Luke. There are 24 chapters in all.

Along the way in this reading, you'll discover who this Jesus, whose birth we prepare to celebrate, has come into the world. You'll be told along the way the purpose for which Jesus was born from the likes of individuals such as Simeon.

"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for the glory of your people Israel." Luke 2:29-32.

Along this journey you'll see the power and authority of Jesus on display. He'll exercise power of illnesses, demons, and even death. He'll exercise authority over the religious leaders of his day.

You'll hear how Jesus invited people to follow him, individuals we call disciples. And from the lips of Peter, one of the 12 original disciples of Jesus will come this declaration. You are *"The Christ of God"*. Luke 9:20b.

What does it mean that Jesus is the Christ of God? Jesus reveals that not once, not twice, but three times with different words that all point to the same thing. *"The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."* Luke 9:22, 9:44 and 18:31-33

As you come to the last chapters of the Gospel according to Luke, you'll see that Jesus fulfilled not only what he said about himself but that he fulfilled what has been spoken by prophets. Jesus died to save people from their sins, to declare forgiveness even as he himself was dying on the cross (Luke 23:34).

On the third day, Jesus had risen from the dead. He began to reveal himself first to the women who came to the tomb to anoint his body. He then walked with disciples as they were traveling on a road to the town of Emmaus. Jesus would appear later to the disciples.

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures and said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.'" Luke 24:45-48.

In reading a chapter a day from the Gospel according to Luke, you'll hear the story of God's love for you in Jesus Christ, who was born, grew up, healed the sick, taught with authority, sought out the lost, and finally, to die and rise again for us and for our salvation.

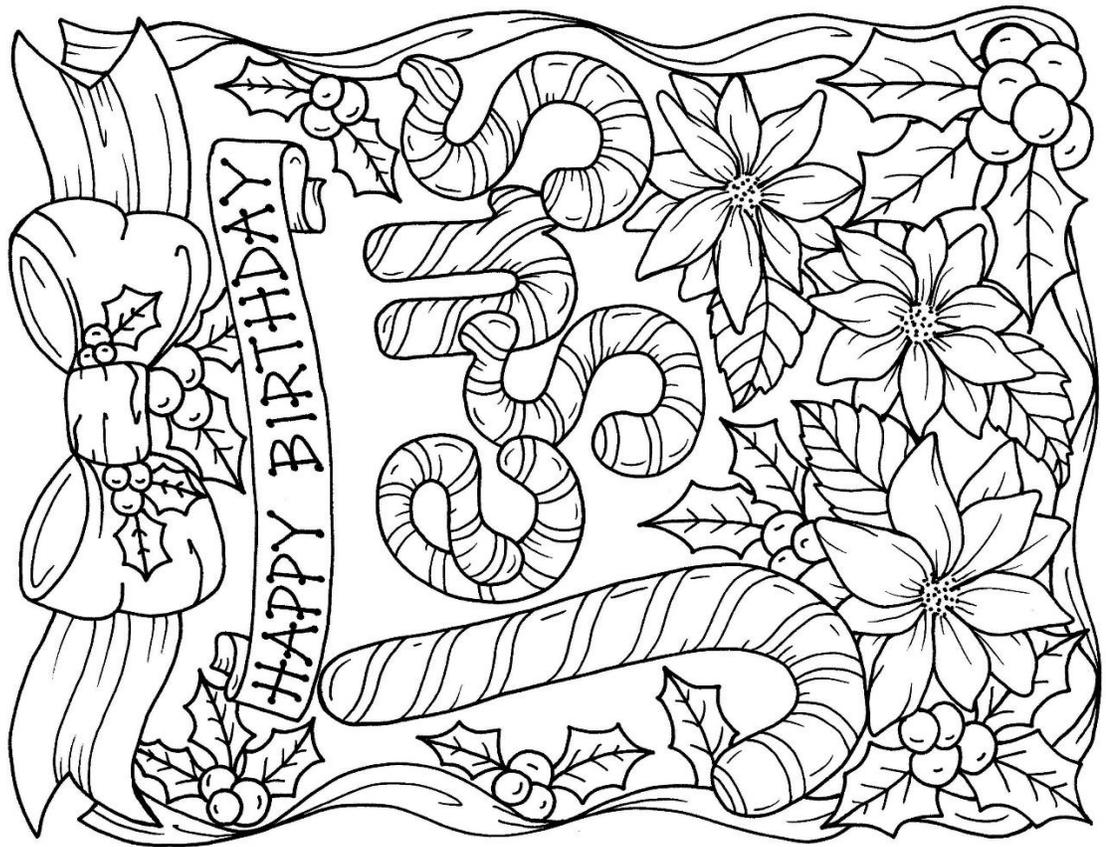
God bless you in this Advent season!
Pastor Mark

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild held its yearly meeting on Sunday, November 21. We are looking for more individuals to join this important ministry as two former members are moving away. It is only one month a year and includes setting up communion, changing

the paraments (if needed), and filling the candles. Any help would be appreciated. If you are interested in learning more or helping, please let Susan Shields know. She can be reached at (856) 455-4285.

THE YOUTH PAGES



Christmas Wordsearch

M E H E L H T E B U G H D S
Y C E O U R W J O S E P H A
S B D E A W M A R Y K Q I X
D F A T L B C K S U S E J Y
O C S B W T O P A T W T T E
N Q S D D R T R Z T Z I W U
K S S T E R T A V W V S Z D
E R W G N Y E N C I H G A O
Y I N G F E X H T D S M N S
Y A V F Y C S A P J V H G E
M G S L C S N E M E K E E V
S P I B I X G W R U H K L L
X X N X O U B W T P I S C C
U R H L E L B A T S Q I R F

Angel
Baby
Bethlehem
Cattle
Donkey
Jesus
Joseph

Manger
Mary
Nativity
Presents
Shepherd
Stable
Star