



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.

Let us prepare for the Season of Lent

Lent is a solemn time in the church year, yet it is filled with rich images of God's love. These images are often paradoxical and challenge our faith, but as we journey with Jesus to the cross, we find ourselves with a deeper faith in the one who came to save us. The cross, with all of its shame and horror, is also the symbol of God's loving commitment to the whole creation. The cross seems foolish, but in reality, it is the power of God to save.

Why the Ashes on Ash Wednesday?

We put ashes on our foreheads in Lent to remember that we are sinners in need of God's grace and mercy. When our first parents, Adam and Eve, lived in the Garden of Eden they enjoyed perfect love and perfect communion with the Lord. God instructed them not to eat from the tree in the middle of the garden. But Satan, the enemy, twisted God's words and created doubt in their minds. They wondered, "Does God really have our best interests at heart? Can we really trust him or is he holding out some special secret or power from us?"

The first couple believed the lie. They ate against God's clear instructions. They wanted to be like the Creator, to control their own lives rather than be obedient to God. This was the first sin - and every human since Adam and Eve has committed similar sins because we want to be in charge of our own lives rather than be faithful to God.

God searched for the couple after they had sinned. He knew they were ashamed and he covered them. But because of their disobedience they were cast from the garden and would spend their lives working the land and toiling for their needs. To the woman God pronounced pain in childbirth. To the serpent God cursed him to slither on the ground and eat dirt. And to Adam God said, "By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."



The ashes come from burning last year's dried palm fronds. The ashes are mixed with some oil so they will spread easily on each believer's forehead.



MARCH ACTIVITIES AT EMANUEL

March 2 – Ash Wednesday

March 8 – Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

March 9-10 – Pastor away at NALC meeting

March 12 – Men’s Group at 9:00 a.m. Social Hall

– Set clocks forward one hour (DST begins)

March 13 – Fellowship Potluck at 11:00 in Social Hall

March 16 – Wednesday Lentent Bible Study

March 19 – Garage clean-up day with Jordan

March 20 – Lutheran Church Women lunch meeting

March 23 – Wednesday Lenten Bible Study

– Acolyte article deadline



LENTEN BIBLE STUDY



The Wednesday night Bible Study will focus on the Lord’s Prayer. Pastor

Mark will start us off on Ash

Wednesday with “Our Father.” Pastor

Brian will lead us on March 9 at 7:00

p.m. as Pastor Mark will be away at the NALC

Executive Council meeting. Be sure to let Pastor

Mark know of your interest so that you can be added to the Zoom link.

GARAGE CLEAN-OUT

Dear members of our church,

Please join me on Saturday, March 19 at 9:00 a.m. to clean out the garage.

This is a crucial step in my Eagle project to use the garage for a North American Lutheran Church Disaster

Response Warehouse. I need the congregation's help in choosing what needs to be kept. There will be drinks and donuts for those who help. If you are going to help, please sign up on the sheet posted in the church entryway.



Thank you.
Jordan Werner

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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

May your celebrations be richly blessed.

Please let the office know if there are birthdays or anniversaries we have missed.

MARCH ALTAR GUILD

Helen Cobb / Elizabeth Brooks

MARCH USHERS

Wayne May / Karen Wirsing

MEN’S GROUP UPDATE

We last met on February 12th and had some very interesting conversations. One thing we learned is that we have a real need for some younger men to participate. This actually offers a great opportunity for the under 50 crowd. The majority of our current group are older, but young at heart, and we have discovered that we are loaded with excellent advice and information to share with the younger folk. We offer this advice at no charge and look forward to sharing our wisdom with all. Seriously, guys, give this group a chance. It is for ALL MEN, whether young or old. It is just one hour a month. Our next meeting is at 9 am on Saturday, March 12th in the Social Hall. Any questions or want to know more, call me at 856-432-4400.

Allan Hermanson

FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK

It’s been a while since we have gathered together around a good Lutheran potluck. So, pull out those casserole dishes and get ready to join in for a time

of fun, fellowship and food. March 13th is the date. The time is immediately after worship. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board as you enter the church building. Add your name to the list, how many in your group and what you will be bringing to share. Then join us for worship and potluck on March 13. There’s plenty of room for all!



STEWARDSHIP

Financials as of January 2022:

YTD Income: \$17,301.00

YTD Expense: \$10,566.75

YTD Net Income: \$6,814.25

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

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

a stewardship moment

What's the difference? Let's have a look at the Bible for some help. Tithes often get confused with offerings, but both are very different from each other. According to the Bible, tithes are 10% of your income. **Leviticus 27:30** *Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the Lord's; it is holy to the Lord. A tithe does not count as an offering. Anything you give more than the required tithe is what counts as an offering.*

It is easy to determine if your giving is a tithe. Take that giving statement that you received in January, add any other charitable donations you make throughout the year to that, and multiply the total by 10. If that total equals your gross income, you are tithing. If not, divide the total donations by your income, and you will know what percentage you are giving back to God. Most of us will find it is far less than the 10% God asks of us.

Proverbs 3:9-10 *Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.*

Psalms 4:5 *Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord.*

Matthew 6:21 *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Don't give up! God will help us do what he asks. If you find you are giving 3% now, try adding one or two percent. Then, when your income increases, add another percentage. It may take a few years, but before you know it, you will be tithing.

2 Corinthians 9:7 *Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

Emanuel has made it easier for us to remain faithful in our giving by providing mailing envelopes and online giving, that is available through our website (<https://www.emanuelelmer.church>).

Dianne Hermanson

OF FIRST IMPORTANCE

By Pr. Brian Triller

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. (1 Corinthians 15:1-5 ESV)

The Holy Spirit speaks through St. Paul to remind the Corinthian Christians--and all who read or hear this passage--what is the most important message of all time--the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The risen Lord Jesus appeared to Paul (then called Saul) on the road to Damascus, and He delivered His Gospel message directly to Paul. Then Jesus sent Paul out as one of His apostles, to deliver to others the Gospel that he had received from Jesus.

The Gospel by which you and I are being saved is the same Gospel which Paul delivered to the Corinthians, the same Gospel which has been passed on to others by disciples of Jesus down through the centuries.

Our congregation's Mission Statement proclaims that *"Emanuel Lutheran Church is a community of faith, leading people to Christ."* Through Jesus' disciples, including you and me, the Holy Spirit leads people to Jesus Christ as we disciples proclaim His Gospel in word and deed in our daily lives.

Prayer: *Dear Father, thank You for graciously saving us from sin, death, and the devil through faith in the Gospel of Your crucified and risen Son, Jesus Christ. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, may we hold fast to Your Word become flesh and share His Gospel with others, that they, too, may be saved as they are led to Christ. Amen!*

friesburg philosophy

When life knocks you down, roll over and look at the stars!

ATTENTION ALL LADIES

“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Good News!”

Romans 10:15

The first ever weekend retreat for Women of the Atlantic Mission Region is scheduled for Friday, May 6 – through Sunday, May 8, 2022 at Twin Pines Camp and Retreat Center in Stroudsburg, PA. The theme of the retreat is ***Beautiful Feet***. This is an excellent opportunity for women of the NALC Atlantic Mission Region to gather together to fellowship, study, share and worship together.

It is Mother’s Day weekend, but fear not! The retreat will close in time for you to return home to that delicious dinner your family will have prepared for you.

Cost of the retreat weekend is \$175 for a double occupancy room. From Friday supper through Sunday lunch, all meals are included, as well as linens and towels. All you need to bring is yourself, clothing, toiletries and your Bible.

Check out Twin Pines Camp at www.twinpines.org. To ensure your spot, complete the pre-registration form (available from the office) and send with your \$50 non-refundable deposit to the Atlantic Mission Region, noting retreat on your deposit. On-line registration is also available at <https://atlanticmissionregionnalc.regfox.com/amr-2022-womens-retreat-pre-registration>.

Hope you will join us! For more information, please speak with Amy Werner.

To all the Women of the Atlantic Mission Region:

You are invited!

What? A weekend get-away retreat with the Bible study

Beautiful Feet

When? Friday, May 6 – Sunday, May 8, 2022
(6 PM on Friday – noon on Sunday)

Where? Twin Pines Camp & Retreat Center
3000 Twin Pines Camp Rd.
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

How much? \$175 for a double room
\$200 for a single room
All meals & linens/towels are included!

Please see your pastor or church office for pre-registration materials and more information!



***How beautiful are
the feet of those
who preach the
Good News!***

Romans 10:15

Pastor's Perspective

March, 2022

Pastor's Perspective

And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. Philippians 4:15-17

The phone rings. You may be able to screen the call by looking on your caller ID. But I suspect that, even if you screen the calls, you likely get several a week asking you to donate for everything from supporting Police and Fire companies, to the American Cancer Society, to political candidates, and so on. Then there is the mail that comes, asking you to donate to a variety of given causes and charities, some of which you may have supported in the past.

The point is that we all get far more requests for our benevolent dollars than we can meet. We make those decisions for a variety of reasons, be it a personal connection or that it matches our individual values. The same is true of our congregation. We get numerous requests, usually by mail, for donations.

As I brought these items to council, they asked that I share with how we go about deciding who and what to support. The first decisions about who to support come directly to you through the proposed budget that you receive and approve each year at our congregation's annual meeting. Your decision includes what percentage of our benevolence budget to give, which amounts to about 10 percent of our overall budget. Under our outreach/benevolence budget we support the ministries of:

- The North American Lutheran Church – 40%
- The Atlantic Mission Region – 30%
- The North American Lutheran Seminary – 10%
- The North American Lutheran Church Disaster Response – 10%
- Other Benevolence – 10%.

Of course, this is not the only benevolence we do. While it is not a budgeted item, donations for soup kitchen are in and out. What is given goes directly out again for the purchasing of food used to make meals. Additionally, we collect change once a year to support the Cornerstone Women's Ministry of Salem County. Furthermore, in our Tractor Sunday planning, the committee recommends to council who to designate a special offering to support. Efforts are made to see that we have representatives present on Tractor Sunday so they can directly speak to the ministry we are highlighting. In the past that has included NALC Disaster Response and Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries.

Our generosity is not limited to the sending of money. We continue to support with donations of non-perishable food to the Bridgeton Food Bank, run out of Christ Lutheran Church. We have made health kits, school kits and flood buckets for NALC Disaster Response. At this year's annual meeting, we approved the request of Jordan Werner to use a portion of the garage for storing items to distribute to families suffering a disaster.

So, what do we do with all of the requests from groups, agencies or charities that I've not listed? The council has decided that such requests can be put on the bulletin board at church. Therefore, if there is an agency that you'd like to support, but is not part of our congregation's giving, you can copy the information and send a donation directly.

We hope this gives you a fuller picture about how we as a council and as a congregation make decisions with the resources God has given us to share beyond ourselves that is in keeping with our congregation's mission to be a "community of faith, leading people to Christ".

*God bless,
Pastor Mark*

Welcome March!

