



Emanuel Lutheran Church

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

Sunday Opportunities:

Lakeside Worship through September
Worship at 9:00 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.

JUNE ACTIVITIES AT EMANUEL

- June 2* – LCW hosts Ruritan Club Dinner 6:30 p.m.
June 4 – Gathering of Discipleship groups at 4:00-7:00 pm in the Social Hall
June 6 – Stewardship Committee at 4:30 p.m.
June 11 – Men’s Group at 9:00 am in Social Hall
June 12 – Food Pantry Sunday
June 19 – Father’s Day
June 21 – Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. in Social Hall
June 25 – Seed Group meeting 8:30 a.m. in Social Hall

LAKESIDE WORSHIP HAS BEGUN!



Sunday Worship has moved to the lakeside. Services are held at 9:00 a.m. Chairs are available under the pavilion, or bring your lawn chair and sit in the grass as we worship and praise the Lord of creation. There is only one worship service each Sunday. Inclement weather will move us into the sanctuary, still at 9:00.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study continues through the summer on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Pastor sends out a Zoom link to participate, If you would like to take part in this weekly study and have not received a link, please let the office know your email address, and you will be included.

JUNE CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the many folks celebrating this month:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Kyle Knerr | 21 Trent Cellmer |
| 2 Kristina Hess | 22 Laura Pratt |
| 9 Mary Kennedy
Amy Werner | Donald Scheese
Lindsey Jacob |
| 10 Evan Harding | |
| 13 Marion Layton | 24 Nancy Cobb |
| 14 Kathy McAllister | Penny Welch |
| 15 David Cobb, Jr. | |
| 16 Libby Cobb | 28 Allison Cox |

May your year be richly blessed and full of peace.

Please let the office know if there are celebrations we have missed.

JUNE ALTAR GUILD

Nancy Cobb / Susan Shields

JUNE USHER

Donald Bell

CEMETERY UPKEEP

It is that time of year again when the cemetery lawn needs regular mowing. Thank you to Donald Bell for taking such good care of our cemetery, keeping it mowed, trimmed and picked up all summer long. It sure makes for a beautiful Sunday setting.

If anyone would like to make a donation towards the cost of maintaining our cemetery, use your church offering envelope and mark “cemetery” with your dollar amount, or use an envelope in your pew and mark it for “cemetery,” and put it into the collection plate.

Thanks! Wayne May

STEWARDSHIP

Financials as of April 2022:

YTD Income: \$62,830.00

YTD Expense: \$52,476.58

YTD Net Income: \$10,353.42

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

ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

A stewardship moment

What is stewardship? A steward is a person who is responsible for taking care of the property that their Master entrust to them. In the church, stewardship is sharing of the time, talents and the possessions that have been entrusted to us by God. Since we know that everything we have is a gift from God it is imperative that we make good use of all of these gifts.

Stewardship begins with an attitude of gratitude for all the things we've been given.

All the activities within the congregation are a part of stewardship. Whether our involvement is preaching, teaching, singing, cleaning, cooking, changing paraments, mowing the lawn, simply worshipping, or a multitude of other activities, they are all a part of our stewardship. We encourage everyone to "count their blessings" and look for opportunities to make the most of these gifts to further growth of God's kingdom and his people here at Emanuel and wherever those gifts may be shared.

The Stewardship Committee

WHAT ABOUT THE MEN'S GROUP?

The men's group met on Saturday, May 21st. We started off with a devotion from 1 Peter, led by Pastor David and spent the next hour plus in some very enlightening discussion. The time spent on this discussion was rewarding for all. This is one of the things that makes this group so rewarding. We do not have a set agenda for our meetings. We "go with the flow." Each meeting goes where we feel led by the Holy Spirit. Sometimes someone brings up a subject, sometimes the devotion leads us forward and sometimes we just share concerns or opportunities. It is a chance for the men of the church to just get together and talk.

Our next meeting is on Saturday, June 11, at 9:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. Mark your calendars to attend and see if this becomes a rewarding time for you. Any questions, call me at 856 832 4400. Look forward to seeing you there.

Allan Hermanson

LCW SPRING LUNCHEON

The spring luncheon was held to share with all the women of the congregation a time of fellowship and to encourage them to join us in ministry and service.

Amy Werner provided a summary of the recent AMR Women's Retreat that she and Dianne Hermanson attended. The theme was *Beautiful Feet*, and Amy displayed the flip-flops that were signed by all in attendance. It is hope that others will attend future retreats.



Trish Mariano from Cornerstone Women's Resource Centers shared information about this Salem County organization and how it supports women in need. LCW supports this ministry through our annual Baby Bottle coin collection.



Twenty-three ladies attended the luncheon and heard from Susan Shields what LCW is about and how it serves the community of Emanuel. Some of those ministries are funeral luncheons, fundraisers to support other ministries, Christmas toy drive, etc.

LCW meets five times a year. The next meeting will be the annual picnic on July 12. LCW provides fried chicken. Each attendee brings a side to share and a place setting. All women are invited. Please join us!

LECTORS NEEDED

Looking for a way to get involved in the ministry of Emanuel? Here's an easy first step. Volunteer to read the lectionary lessons on Sunday mornings. Speak to Nancy Cobb or Annabelle Cobb to find out how you can be part of this important ministry.

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED!

On May 1st, Margaret Dare, Martha Hubschmidt, and Ken and Debbie Hinkle were received into membership. A welcome luncheon followed in the Social Hall.

Two weeks later, on May 15th, Evan Harding and Jordan Werner were received into adult membership through the rite of confirmation, with a cookie and punch fellowship time afterwards,



VBS UPDATE

Vacation Bible School is coming. If you haven't already done so, please mark the dates of August 1-4 for this four-day VBS with the theme: "The Tree of Life: God's Promise of Salvation". The VBS will be held at Emanuel from 5:30 until 8:00 p.m. The last night of VBS will go longer as we will have special surprises.

To make Vacation Bible School a success, many people will be needed to help. Please consider whether you can help in the following areas:

Kitchen supervisor – oversees supplies needed and arranges for volunteers to provide meals

Craft station – leads in and assists in making of crafts

Science station, Storytelling, Games, Music

If you can help in any of these areas, please speak with Pastor Mark.

PROMISES MADE, PROMISES KEPT

By Pr. Brian Triller

In the Book of Genesis, we read that God changed Abram's name to Abraham, which means "father of many nations." And the Lord promised Abraham that He would establish an everlasting covenant with Abraham, Sarah and their many descendants, leading those descendants into the land of Canaan. (See Genesis 17:1-16.)

Abraham's descendants, the chosen people of God, often failed to obey Him, and so suffered many consequences at His hand as a result. Nevertheless, God kept His covenant promises by loving them, protecting them, providing for them, and bringing them into Canaan, the Promised Land.

The Lord later promised that one of King David's offspring would reign over an eternal kingdom. (See II Samuel 7:11-16.) This offspring was described by the prophets of the Old Testament as a servant, a shepherd, a Messiah who would save God's people.

God kept this promise by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world. Jesus died on a cross and was raised from the dead, winning forgiveness of sins and eternal life for all who would believe in Him, both Jews and non-Jews.

Before the risen Jesus ascended into heaven, He gave the Great Commission to His disciples:

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:18-20a ESV)

Right after proclaiming the Great Commission, Jesus made a promise to His first disciples and to all of His disciples, which includes us: *"And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20b ESV)*

Since making that promise to His disciples almost 2,000 years ago, Jesus has kept His promise down through the centuries. And He still keeps that promise today--to us and to all who believe and follow Him.

Prayer: Thank You, dear Jesus, for keeping Your promise to be with Your disciples always, to the end of the age. Because You have kept this promise to disciples who have come before us, we have been baptized and taught to observe all that You commanded Your first disciples. Work in us and through us also, we pray, to make disciples according to Your Great Commission. Thank You, Lord Jesus! Amen!

NALC DISASTER RESPONSE UPDATE

NALC Disaster Response is responding to the Kentucky tornadoes which occurred on Dec. 10, 2021, in addition to Hurricane Ida that struck Louisiana on Sept. 4, 2021. Mission trips are scheduled in both states for the summer, and NALC Disaster Response is booking trips for the fall months at this time.

The most significant need is school kits and backpacks. The Mayfield, Ky, donations center is trying to obtain up to 3,000 empty backpacks for area students when the new school year begins. Lots of school supplies are being delivered from major corporations, but no backpacks are available to fill. NALC Disaster Response has committed to providing 500 empty backpacks and volunteers from the Carolinas Mission Region to fill them.

Donations management is a significant part of NALC Disaster Response. When disasters strike, store shelves are emptied, and material goods are needed to help families start the clean-up and recovery process.

Regional disaster warehouses are in need of filled backpacks for future disasters and NALC Disaster Response is scheduling “Stuff the Truck” events to collect items at this time.

If you would like to schedule a “Stuff the Truck” event or for more information, please contact Mary Bates, disaster response coordinator, at 740-509-1132 or disasterresponse@thenalc.org. You can learn more online at thenalc.org/nalc-disaster-response. *Reprinted from NALC NEWS April-May 2022*

300th ANNIVERSARY

It is still four years away, but our congregation is preparing for the celebration of what God has done among us and through us. We've been richly blessed over those years. In preparation for this celebration, the anniversary committee is asking for two things.

1. Reach out to individuals who at one time may have been part of our congregation. These might be persons who stopped coming for whatever reason. We want to build a database of addresses so that those who have been part of our congregation's life may be invited to attend one of the many celebrations we are planning for the year 2026.
2. We have found a number of items from our recent history. Thank you for sharing books, photos, newspaper clippings, plates, shirts, etc. One area where we don't have a lot of information is in the first 200 years of our congregation's life. If anything has been handed down to you in your family from the years of 1726 through the early 1900's, please share that with us.

Please keep checking back for more information about our congregation's history.

Trivia question:

Which is older: Emanuel Lutheran Church or the Hallelujah Chorus?

CONGRATULATION GRADUATES!

Paige Smith was graduated from Converse University in Spartanburg, SC with a Bachelor's of Science in Chemistry and minors in Math and Marketing. Proud parents are Chrissy and Scott Smith.

Annabelle Cobb, daughter of Sara and Jason, graduates from 8th grade at Alloway Township School. She plans to attend Salem County Vo-Tech in the fall.

Faye Brooks, daughter of Elizabeth and Jeffrey, is graduating from Kindergarten at Alloway Township School where she will start first grade in the fall.

Pastor's Perspective

June 2022

"But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person." – Matthew 15:18-20a

"Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good...Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:9 and 21.

From Columbine to Sandy Hook, Nickle Mines to Virginia Tech, Marjory Stoneman Douglas in Parkland, Florida to Robb Elementary in Uvalde, Texas, a grocery store in Buffalo, a night club in Florida and a movie theatre in Aurora, Colorado, the senseless loss of life is nothing less than evil. Sadly, this is only a small sketch of the mass shootings experienced in our country over the last 25 years. Yes, people use the words horrific, devastating, tragic, etc., and those are true words to use. However, what we need to recognize is that the actions of mass shooters are evil. When hatred begins to fester in the heart, the outcome of that evil can result in many ways.

It is the responsibility of elected officials, administrators, and management to put into practice policies, procedures and laws that aim to minimize the threat. Some of us have those very vocations. Once such laws and policies are created, they need the resources to implement them, be it with personnel or other means.

A lot of attention has recently been devoted to issues of mental health. That, too, needs to be addressed in our society. To what extent such evil is taking place as a result of mental illness is still being discovered. We've learned a lot, but we still need to learn more about how to treat people with mental illness, in a loving, compassionate way that does not stigmatize such illness to the point of refusing help. If anything, we could encourage the people we see struggling with their mental health to get the help that is needed.

With all this being said, there is another aspect from which our society needs to look at such evil. That is the perspective of God. As Christians, we must not be shy about bringing God into the conversation about issues that arise on a national level, but also issues that don't get the headlines. Yes, many are those who will say that the victims are in our thoughts and prayers. God simply doesn't want us to come to him in tragedy, but to be proactive in living a godly life. To that point, we can and must pray, but we also need to ask God in our prayer how He is leading us to action.

One of the first things we need to do, not just as Christians but as human beings is to cherish life at all stages, from conception through natural death. From the very beginning, it is God who breathed into Adam the breath of life. *"...then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature."* Genesis 2:7.

God does not delight in murder, be it a mass casualty situation or the murder of a single individual. "Thou shall not murder" is the fifth commandment. From Luther's Small Catechism we understand this to mean, "We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need. As you can also see, this means that we are to support and help our neighbors. It means being involved in the communities in which we live. It means communicating what God has communicated to us. *"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well."* Psalm 139-13-14

Jesus warned us that there would be evil in the world. He warned us that we would experience evil because of our relationship with him. He also revealed the true good news that it is in him that we have life, even amid the things we don't understand. Jesus is "the way, the truth and the life" impacts how we live our lives in the here and now, not just as words for gaining eternal life. Jesus is the one who redeems life. It was he who laid down his life for the life of the world.

In the verses I quoted above, we are to let love be genuine. Be sure to read through the verses between Romans 12:9 and 12:20. Let us walk with the hurting to comfort and console. Let us walk with those who are scared that we may assure them of your love and the love of God. Let us guard our own hearts that we may not let our righteous anger fester and harden our hearts. And for all people, let us cherish the life of our neighbors, no matter who or where they are in life's circumstances.

In closing for now, I encourage you to take comfort in these words of our Lord. *"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."* John 16:33

God bless, Pastor Mark