

The Acolyte

July 2022



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.



JULY ACTIVITIES AT EMANUEL

- July 6 – Wednesday night Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.
- July 9 – Alloway Twp. Prayer Breakfast at 7:00 a.m.
– Men's Group at 9:00 a.m.
- July 10 – Food Pantry Sunday
- July 11 – Council Meeting at 6:15 p.m.
- July 12 – LCW Picnic at 6:30 pm.
- July 18-23 – Pastor at In-Tents Camping
- July 25 – Worship & Music Committee at 7:00 p.m.
- July 26 – Stewardship Committee at 4:30 p.m.
- July 27 – Wednesday night Bible Study
- July 31 – Healing Service during Worship

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the everyone celebrating this month:

- | | | | |
|----|----------------|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Cindy Cairone | 25 | Troy Cellmer |
| 6 | Rylee Doerr | | John Bourquin |
| 17 | Brenda Mace | | Philip Bourquin |
| 18 | Lily Pasternak | 28 | Kristen Jacob |

May your year be filled with blessings and peace!

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



LECTORS AT EMANUEL

Nancy Cobb and I are taking over the job of making sure we have readers each Sunday. We will be planning on a monthly basis. If you would like to read, please contact us. Right now, with the list we have, you would have to read only every two months. But if we can grab some more, that would make it even less. This is a wonderful, easy way to contribute to our worship. So, reach out to me at 856-777-2741 or email at amcobb08@icloud.com. We are waiting to hear from you. *Annabelle*

LECTORS FOR JULY

- July 3, Susan Shields
- July 10, Annabelle Cobb
- July 17, Nancy Cobb
- July 24, Karen Wirsing

July 31, Amy Werner

JULY ALTAR GUILD

Cindy Cairone

JULY USHERS

Donald Bell / Jordan Werner

WHAT ABOUT THE MEN'S GROUP?

The men's group will have its next meeting in the Social Hall at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 9th. Since this is the same date as the Alloway Prayer Breakfast and is being hosted by our church, how about joining for breakfast at 7:00 a.m. and then meeting right after that at 9:00? Hope to see some new faces. It's been a good place for the men of Emanuel to get together, share and fellowship. Any questions, call me at 856-832-4400. *Allan Hermanson*



LCW PICNIC

**Tuesday, July 12, 6:30 pm
Pavilion or Social Hall**

All the ladies are welcome to join us for some GREAT food and fellowship. Weather permitting,

we will meet at the pavilion. If not, the social hall will suffice. Chicken and beverages will be provided. Ladies should bring a side to share. There will be a sign-up sheet each Sunday at the pavilion.

300th ANNIVERSARY

We purchased a display case for the German bible that we found from the 1700's in the church safe. Money was raised by the LCW and we sincerely appreciate their help and support.

We would like to encourage any of our members to share any Memorabilia that may have been passed down through the generations of their family that pertain to our church.

We would like to encourage all of our members to share addresses or phone numbers that they may have for past members. We would like to create a database. We would like to encourage and welcome them to join us during our 300th celebration. Please feel free to email me that information at kyleknerr@gmail.com

We have had discussions about working with or visiting the historical societies in Cumberland and Salem counties to see if they have anything to share pertaining to Emmanuel for the 300th anniversary.

We look to have our meeting in mid-September.

Kyle Knerr, Anniversary Committee

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

VBS UPDATE

Online registration is now open for students, helpers and adults wishing to participate in our 2022 Vacation Bible School, *The Tree of Life: God's story of Salvation*. We need adult class leaders, craft helper, science station leader and helper, and people willing to float to stations where needed. We will have an adult class as well. VBS will be Monday through Thursday, August 1-4 from 5:30 until 8:00 p.m. To register someone or to volunteer, visit our website at <https://www.emanuelelmer.church/>.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Financials as of May 2022:

YTD Income: \$76,837.45

YTD Expense: \$65,620.89

YTD Net Income: \$11,216.56

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

friesburg filosophy

We are all in the gutter, but some are looking at the stars.

THE "TRINITY" OF STEWARDSHIP

It occurred to me as I was in church a few weeks ago celebrating Trinity Sunday, that like the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), Stewardship is also a trinity (treasure, time and talent). Most of us focus on the Treasure aspect of this subject (if we think much about it at all). But just like the Holy Trinity is a combination of all three, so too is the concept of Stewardship. All three are joined together like a pretzel is linked together with three individual sections becoming one. I would like to focus on the Time and Talent part of this Trinity.



If you go to a play or a movie, all the attention is on the actors. They would not be able to be successful if not for the supporting cast of workers behind the scene. Actually, these workers far outnumber the actors. The same is true in the church. We have leaders in the church to guide/lead us as a congregation. However, without the support of the congregation stepping up to support the mission of the congregation, the congregation would not achieve its mission. Each of us has an obligation to use our God given time and talents as part of our stewardship. Why do we have an obligation? **BECAUSE WE ARE ALL BLESSED!**

Those of you who have listened to me in Adult Sunday School know that I have a Southern Gospel song for almost any subject. Here are a couple of verses from two songs by Michael Combs on the subject of "Blessings."

I've got a house to keep me warm and to shelter me from storms, yes I am, one blessed man.

I've got a wife who holds me tight and who prays for me at night, you know I am, one blessed man.

I've got children and grandkids. I don't know what I ever did, to be what I am, one blessed man.

I've got Jesus in my heart and I know he won't depart, you know I am, one blessed man.

These are a few of blessings that I have known. If I had time, I could go on and on.

AND

I've never made a fortune, I guess it's too late now.

Oh, but I don't worry about that much, cause I'm happy anyhow.

As I go along life's journey, I'm reaping better than I've sown.

I'm drinking from my saucer cause my cup has overflowed.

I thank God for all his blessings and the mercy he's bestowed. I'm drinking from my saucer cause my cup has overflowed.

When we look at our lives, I guarantee that all of us can consider ourselves much blessed. How do we respond to these blessings? Do we have an obligation to share and give thanks for all we have received?

Acts 20:35 says "In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, It is more blessed to give than to receive," and in 1Peter 4:10 "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another." A wise man name Carlyle one said "Only one life, will soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last." In The Eerdmans Companion to the Bible, the author's comments on Hebrews says "In other words, humans bear responsibility, not for earning God's grace, but for responding to it appreciatively with appropriate actions."

To sum up my thoughts, we all have a responsibility to respond to God's love and many blessings by being good stewards in our church and communities. There are countless opportunities for us to donate time, use our God given talents, and help and support the various tasks that present themselves in our daily lives. The behind-the-scenes tasks are many, and the laborers not enough. Let us all strive to give more attention to the time and talent sections of our stewardship pretzel.

Allan Hermanson, Stewardship Committee

SPEAKING OF TALENT!

Special thanks from the Altar Guild to Helen Cobb for replacing the holey one and making a new altar cloth and communion covers for use in the sanctuary and at the lakeside. Helen has blessed us with her seamstress talent. Much thanks, Helen!

YOU ARE PRECIOUS

By Pr. Brian Triller

“Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life.” Isaiah 43:4 (ESV)

These words of God were originally addressed to God's chosen people, the Israelites.

However, this divine message of being precious in God's eyes is for more people than just Jewish people. I am not Jewish; but when I read, hear, or recite this verse, I sense that our Father in heaven is telling me that I am precious in His sight, and honored, and He loves me. And I believe that this message from God is meant for you, too.

This verse talks about God giving up people in exchange for the lives of His precious ones. Who has God given up in exchange for your life, my life, and the lives of others?

By reading and hearing the Holy Scriptures, I know that God gave up His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die on a cross in our place. Jesus suffered and died to pay for our sins because we couldn't possibly pay for them.

You and I benefit from Jesus' death on the cross because we believe in Him. We share in Jesus' gift of eternal life because, through the Word of God, the Holy Spirit has worked in us the gift of faith to believe in Jesus.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16 (NIV)

For me, there is great comfort in knowing that I am precious in God's sight. There is even greater comfort in knowing that I belong to a world-wide family of believers in Christ who, along with you and me, are precious in our Father's eyes.

As I close this article, I want to assure you that you are precious in God's sight. You can trust this and every Word that God speaks to you.

The proof that you are precious in God's sight is the sacrifice of His Son on the cross. And the proof that God's Word can be trusted is that the Father kept His promise to raise Jesus from the dead on the third day.

Prayer: *Dear Father, thank You for giving up Your Son for us and for the world! Amen!*

SAFETY AND SECURITY UPDATE



Emanuel Lutheran Church Council is pleased to inform the Congregation that a fully functional AED (Automated External Defibrillator) is on the premises at all times!!!!

In an effort to ensure the safety and ability to help in a cardiac event of our members, as well as outside groups, to respond to emergency situations regarding cardiac incidents, the Council voted to purchase an AED in 2021. Fortunately, we were put in touch with a wonderful group known as the Heroes Foundation NJ (*HeroesFoundationNJ@gmail.com*) founded in Cumberland in 2016 after a sudden cardiac event struck the founder Pepi Dragotta. During this event, there was not an AED available, and his friends performed CPR until help arrived, saving Pepi. Pepi and those involved created the mission of the foundation to supply groups with the necessary equipment and training to make people aware of the help they can offer in a cardiac arrest event.

The Council applied to the Heroes Foundation NJ requesting an AED for Emanuel to have on hand in case of a cardiac event. The foundation graciously supplied an AED to our church at no cost, saving us between \$1,500 and \$3,000. The AED can be found in the downstairs vestibule as you enter the front doors of the church. The AED is fully portable, which will enable it to be used in the social hall as well as the lakeside services each Sunday this summer!!

In closing, please understand that the AED will speak to you and walk the person utilizing it through the process. Training is not a necessity to use this equipment since the AED will interact with the operator by talking that person through the entire process. If there is an incident, please feel confident and comfortable enough to use this wonderful life-saving equipment in an emergent situation.

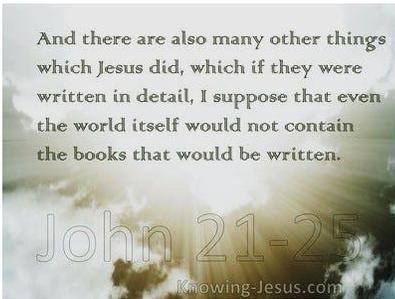
Thank you, Mike Clarke

Pastor's Perspective

July 2022

"Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." John 20:30-31

"Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written." John 21:25



Have you ever wondered why each of the four gospels are different? If you look carefully at them, you'll see that in some of the Gospels there are certain miracles, events or teachings of Jesus that are not in the others. For example, only in the Gospel according to Matthew and Luke do we have information about Jesus' birth. The Parable of the Prodigal Son (*Luke 15*) is only found in the Gospel according to Luke. It is only in the Gospel according to John that we learned of Jesus bending down to wash the feet of the disciples on the evening that he would be betrayed (*John 13*).

It may surprise you to know that, aside from the events of Jesus death and resurrection, the only miracle recorded among Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John is the feeding of the 5,000. So, what does this mean?

Among those who do not believe in God, they point to such differences as so-called proof that what we have about Jesus has all been made up. The reality is very much different. In fact, if the gospels were made up, you'd expect them to be nearly harmonious in the sense that all four writers plagiarized another's writing.

What we have in the Gospels is that each writer recalls what was important to share with the original hearers of these texts. So, in the above passages quoted from the Gospel according to John, what has been written is shared with a purpose. The purpose is that we would know Jesus. Each Gospel writer shared what the Holy Spirit inspired them to report, what they observed and was important in the telling of the central purpose for which Jesus was born. "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" is written that we would know Jesus, the Son of God who died and rose from the dead.

Consider this scenario. Imagine I asked each one of you to write a paper describing this year's upcoming Tractor Sunday. After that Sunday (this year it will be September 25), you each provided your description of the day. Do you think all our reflections would match? In some respects, yes, but in other aspects there would be differences. That is because each of us would make a conscious choice as to what to include and what to leave out (and in some cases, we'd have omissions simply because we forgot). So, one person's writing wouldn't be correct and another's wrong.

The scriptures themselves are a gift from God, inspired, true, God-breathed out that those who read them would know the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that believing in Jesus, we receive the free gift of God's grace. In the Gospels, as well as the rest of the scriptures, we see unfold the work of Christ to reconcile us to God, receiving the full forgiveness of our sin, making us a new creation.

Yes, there is more that the writers could have included. Yet, what we do have is enough and has been written that we may believe in Jesus and have life through him.

God bless, Pastor Mark

INDEPENDENCE DAY

W W R E B M E M E R U E C
 C D A T D Y A Y C H I
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AMERICA REMEMBER
 CELEBRATE STATES
 COUNTRY UNITED
 DAY INDEPENDENCE
 DECLARATION JULY
 EVENT PATRIOTIC

