

# The Acolyte

September 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.*

## SHARED VALUES BIBLE STUDY

Have you finished the Bible study? Were you able to define what is important to us here at Emanuel and how we compare with God's values? If not, please take the time to complete it and give your thoughts and ideas to Pastor Mark or any council member before the September 12 Council Meeting.

## HELP US STUFF THE TRUCK

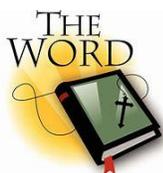


Donations are being gathered for 12 school kits and 6 flood buckets. Our donations will be taken to the AMR convocation in October to "stuff the truck"

for NALC Disaster Response. Check out the sign-up sheets to see how you can contribute to this important ministry.

## SEPTEMBER LECTORS

September 4 – Wayne Knerr  
September 11 – Nancy Cobb  
September 18 – Susan Shields  
September 25 – Annabelle Cobb



## SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES AT EMANUEL

*September 4* – Pastor Mark away  
*September 8* – Stewardship Committee at 4:30 p.m.  
*September 10* – Alloway Twp Prayer Breakfast at Camp Edge at 7:00 a.m.  
– Men's Group at Social Hall at 9:00 a.m.  
*September 11* – Food Pantry Sunday  
– LCW meeting after worship  
*September 12* – Council Meeting at 6:30 p.m.  
*September 14* – Bible Study via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.  
*September 15* – Atlantic Mission Region Theological Conference  
*September 19* – Worship & Music Committee  
*September 21* – Bible Study via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.  
*September 25* – Tractor Sunday – worship at 10:00  
*September 28* – Bible Study via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday greetings to all celebrating this month!

3 Ava Huff  
11 Patsy Madden  
15 Norah Pilling  
16 Dianne Hermanson  
26 Chrissy Smith  
Alexander Semler

Hoping all have a happy day and a blessed year!

## SEPTEMBER ALTAR GUILD

Patsy Madden

## SEPTEMBER USHER

Wayne May

## *friesburg philosophy*

Every man is guilty of the good  
he did not do. *Voltaire*

## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Check out the following opportunities to help, to serve or simply to participate.

### Theological Conference

– **Thursday, September 15**

The Atlantic Mission Region presents the 4<sup>th</sup> annual theological conference with the Rev. Dr. Paul R. Hinlicky, Lutheran theologian and author, as the keynote speaker.

This conference will be held at Mt. Union Lutheran Church, 5000 Middleburg Road, Taneytown, MD from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Registration and fellowship begin at 8:30 a.m. There is a registration fee of \$25, which includes lunch and a book signing. Registration deadline is September 6. Visit [www.Atlantic-NALC.org](http://www.Atlantic-NALC.org) for more information.

### Tractor Sunday – September 25

Bring Your Tractor to Church Sunday is scheduled for September 25 and is being held at the Scheese Pavilion. Festivities will begin at 8:00 a.m. as attendees are welcomed with a continental breakfast available from 8:00-10:00. The worship service will begin at 10:00. Immediately following the service, we will be serving hot dogs and hamburgers hot off the grill. There will be activities for the children, including face painting, craft activities, games, a wagon ride and more for a fun-filled day. Special music will entertain everyone during the afternoon with activities concluding at 2:00 pm. Please plan to join us for a day of worship, good food and fellowship. Bring a friend...and don't forget your tractor! Also, along with our tractors, there will be some vintage cars and trucks for everyone to enjoy so bring your walking shoes to take it all in.

*Patsy Madden*

### Atlantic Mission Region Convocation

– **Friday, October 21 and Saturday, October 22**

This year's convocation will be held at Annapolis Evangelical Lutheran Church in Edgewater, MD with a theme of *Trust in the Lord in Anxious Times*. The convocation begins at 10:30 a.m. on Friday with registration and lunch and continues through 2:30 p.m. on Saturday. This location is close enough that several people could participate.

## MEN'S GROUP

The men's group is coordinating the collection of items for flood buckets for the Disaster Relief Program of the NALC. We have currently been pledged all of the items needed but welcome any additional items/dollars given which will be used to build up a stockpile for the next drive. Please make sure to have your items put in the social hall by October 9th.

Our next meeting will be on September 10. We welcome all men of Emanuel, as well as other guests. If you have any questions, I can be reached at 856 832 4400. I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

*Allan Hermanson*

## LCW

The ladies of the congregation will meet in the social hall immediately after worship on Sunday, September 11 at 10:00 a.m. Please join us as we start to plan our fall activities.

## FINANCIAL

Financials as of June 2022:

YTD Income: \$76,837.00

YTD Expense: \$65,620.89

YTD Net Income: \$11,216.56

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

## OUR DAILY BREAD

By Pr. Brian Triller

*“Give us this day our daily bread.”*

Matthew 6:11 (ESV)

This verse is the fourth of seven petitions in the Lord's Prayer, and it's the only petition in the prayer that deals with our physical needs.

In his *Small Catechism*, Martin Luther poses the question, *“What does this [petition] mean?”*

*“Answer: To be sure, God provides daily bread, even to the wicked, without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that God may make us aware of his gifts and enable us to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.”*

Luther goes on to ask, *“What is meant by daily bread?”*

*“Answer: Everything required to satisfy our bodily needs, such as food and clothing, house and home, ...money and property; ...a pious spouse and good children, ...godly and faithful rulers, good government; seasonable weather, peace and health, order and honor; true friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.”*

Wow, that's a long list of divine gifts! And that list doesn't include everything that our Father gives us on a daily basis to care for our physical needs.

It is a blessing to me to be reminded of some of the countless ways in which God provides for me. Such a reminder prompts me to confess that I often am oblivious to how our Father is providing for my physical needs. Even if I consider all that I have, I often think to myself, “I deserve this because I worked for it.”

However, the truth is that my food, clothing, and shelter; my family and friends; my health, my money, and the good will shown to me by the people in my life—everything that helps me to survive and thrive in this earthly life comes from the loving hand of our Father in heaven.

As St. James writes: *“Do not be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights.”* James 1:19-17 (NIV)

**Prayer:** *Dear Father, as we meditate on Your generosity towards us and all persons, we are led to humbly express our heartfelt gratefulness to You. Thank You, gracious Father, for all the gifts that You provide to us each and every day. Give us this day our daily bread. And may we willingly receive it and share it with those in need, according to Your will. Amen.*

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# Pastor's Perspective

## September 2022

*"But Joseph said to them, 'Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.'" Genesis 50:20-21*

Do we believe that God brings good out of what was intended as evil? This very question goes to the nature and power of God. Do we believe God prevails in the face of evil? We may give a firm "yes" to this question in the abstract. But what does this mean when we are the ones who are suffering as a result of evil?

The story of Joseph begins in Genesis 37. Joseph was born to Jacob and Rachel, at a time when Jacob was advanced in years. Joseph had siblings, but they were not as loved as Joseph. "Now Israel (God had renamed Jacob, Israel. See Genesis 35:10) loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him." Genesis 37:3-4. Their hatred led them to sell Joseph to a group of Ishmaelites who would take him to Egypt.

Unbeknownst to his brothers, Joseph would find delight under Pharaoh for interpreting the ruler's dreams. This allowed the Pharaoh to prepare for a time of famine that would come. This would also provide for a great irony. It would be Joseph's brothers who found themselves hungry and in need. It would be Joseph that would provide for them. Genesis 45.

So, what turns out to be an evil perpetuated upon Joseph, God uses to bring about His plan that will yield great good, including good for the perpetrators of evil, in this event, Joseph's brothers.

This event in the life of God's people is not only significant to that specific time, but also foreshadows the coming triumph of God over evil's plans. It was the religious leaders and Roman soldiers under the orders of Pontius Pilate who perpetuated the devil's attack upon Jesus. The greatest evil, God turned into the greatest good. He raised Jesus from death. The evil that resulted in Jesus' death, leads to the great redemption of God's people.

In the course of our life, where the devil still tries to lead us away from God, bad things will happen. We will be tempted. The evil one does attack. We may endure suffering at the hands of people who intend us harm. The good news is that while God certainly could prevent evil, He will bring us through what was intended to harm to a great good we could not have imagined.

You may recall moments in your life where you endured what others intended as evil. Granted, you might be thinking that evil is too strong a word. However, I think we also sanitize events in the sense of failing to see the evil intent behind what happens.

There was a time in my own life where I felt that what occurred to me was evil. As I look back upon that situation, there were things I could have done better and differently. However, if I had not, by the grace of God and the help of the Holy Spirit, endured and persevered, I would not be a pastor at all. But as I started this article, I also end it as a word of encouragement for each of us and the evils we may yet face in our lives. What was meant for evil, God meant for good. "Do not overcome evil with evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:21. For with God, there is plenteous redemption. In God, there is hope. In God, we are loved and cherished.

God bless,  
Pastor Mark

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS was held the first week of August with 30+ individuals participating in various activities. There was a lot going on: food, music, crafts, Bible stories, fun and fellowship. The four days wrapped up with Emanuel's tradition of floating a cross surrounded by candles onto the lake by the Scheese Pavilion. These pictures represent just a small part of the activities.



# 20 MISSION 22 CONVOCATION

## Highlights from the 2022 NALC Mission Convocation

Hosted by the North American Lutheran Seminary  
August 5, 2022

The 2022 Mission Convocation has ended after more than 400 delegates and visitors gathered online to celebrate another year of ministry and mission in the North American Lutheran Church (NALC).

The biggest highlight came this year in the form of the **2022 NALC Ministry Report video**, which celebrated the growth of the NALC in a little over a decade, while also reporting on its work in the past year and sharing where it is headed in the next season. The full video, located online, touched on:

- Congregations and pastors which have recently joined the NALC;
- New mission starts as well as local, domestic, and global mission strategies;
- Newly appointed area assistants to the bishop and progress on the centralized office in the Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas area;
- The growing North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS) network of schools, faculty transitions, and a special call for congregations to raise up new ministry leaders;
- Expanding candidacy pathways, including the initiation of the NALC diaconate and "Ordination Under Special Circumstances" (OUSC), as well as pastoral care opportunities in small congregations;
- "Fresh Eyes for Mission" renewal summits, Renewal and Aging Ministry online courses, and NALC Life-to-Life Discipleship resources;
- Youth and Family Ministry transitions;
- Ongoing Disaster Response efforts;
- Continued Communication Ministry growth in mission districts;
- Launch of the Today, Tomorrow & Forever initiative;
- And snapshots of many other NALC ministries.

The NALC officially launched the **Today, Tomorrow & Forever initiative of its 2020 Vision**. This is the financial component to the NALC strategic plan that will provide the resources needed to turn this God-given Vision into a reality. Through this initiative, the NALC is asking pastors, congregations, mission districts, and individuals throughout the church to step out in faith and to help it to raise \$5 million above and beyond what it is already expecting to receive through regular giving over the next three years. This increased level of funding will not only strengthen the financial foundation of the church but will also enable a number of ministry and mission commitments we are making.

**Elections:** Mr. Jerry Roehr of Winnipeg, Manitoba, and the Rev. Theresa

Jacobson of Thornville, Ohio, were elected to three-year terms on the Executive Council. The Rev. Dr. George Black of Foresthill, California, and the Rev. Ronald Hoyum of Poulsbo, Washington, were elected to three-year terms on the Court of Adjudication. Mrs. Lynnae Douglas of Export, Pennsylvania, the Rev. Dr. Stephane M. Kalonji of Rosenberg, Texas, and Mr. Richard Jansak of Hendersonville, North Carolina, were elected to five-year terms on the Executive Council.

**A devotion on the Mission Convocation theme, "A Great Cloud of Witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1-3) was delivered by Dr. David Luy, the new Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at the NALS.** Dr. Luy's devotion highlighted the radical path to faithfulness, a call to endurance and perseverance, and a witness that points beyond what we see to what is real.

**The 2023 budget was approved.** The Mission Convocation approved a \$3.56 million budget for the ministry of the NALC. The 2023 unified budget combines the operating budget with the budgets of the church's designated funds – the Theological Education Fund (which includes the North American Lutheran Seminary), Great Commission Fund and Disaster Response Fund.

Per the NALC Constitution, the Executive Council also gave a report for the past year.

Documents, photos and videos from the 2022 Mission Convocation will be posted online at [thenalc.org](http://thenalc.org).

