

The Acolyte



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 at 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.



3 George Shimp 29 Mona Hess
25 Scott Smith 30 Joan Bell

May the Lord shower you with many blessings on your special day and throughout the year.

NOVEMBER LECTORS

November 6 – Nancy Cobb
November 13 – Allan Hermanson
November 20 – Karen Wirsing
November 27 – Susan Shields



NOVEMBER ALTAR GUILD

Chrissy Smith

NOVEMBER USHERS

Cindy Cairone
Brenda Mace

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Financials as of September 2022:

YTD Income: \$117,699.25
YTD Expense: \$124,211.39
YTD Net Income: **\$-6,512.14**
Total yearly budgeted income/expense: \$165,009.00

NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES AT EMANUEL

November 1 – In-person Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.
November 2 – Wed. night Bible Study via Zoom
November 5 – Daylight Saving Time ends – fall back
November 6 – All Saints Sunday
November 7 – Worship & Music at 6:00 p.m.
November 8 – In-person Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.
November 9 – Wed. night Bible Study via Zoom
November 12 – Men’s Group meeting at 9:00 a.m.
November 13 – LCW after Worship in social hall
– Food Pantry Sunday
November 14 – Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
November 15 – In-person Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.
November 16 – Wed. night Bible Study via Zoom
November 20 – Stewardship Sunday
– Altar Guild meeting after worship
November 22 – In-person Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.
November 23 – Community Thanksgiving Service
November 24 – Thanksgiving Day
November 25 – Stewardship Committee at 4:30 p.m.
– Pastor’s discipleship group at 6:30 p.m.
November 27 – First Sunday of **Advent**
November 29 – In-person Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.
November 30 – Wed. night Bible Study via Zoom

friesburg philosophy

If people stop thinking about things that offend them and start thinking about things that inspire them, what a wonderful world this would be.

ALTAR GUILD

There will be a brief meeting of the Altar Guild on Sunday, November 20, immediately after worship. We will discuss any problems, thoughts, etc. for 2023 and review the schedule, which will not change unless requested.

Thanks so much for all your help during the year with setting up communion and the other duties of the Guild. It is greatly appreciated.

Susan Shields



Giving thanks to God is important for us because he is deserving of our thanks and praise. Giving thanks to God is our

response to his goodness and mercy.

Psalm 106:1 tells says, *“Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!”*

In Deuteronomy 26:11, the Israelites were told, *“And you shall rejoice in all the good that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you.”*

That seems to me what we are to do on our annual Thanksgiving Day—rejoice in all that the Lord has given and done for us! While we are to offer the Lord our thanks and praise in everything and in all circumstances, this one day a year reminds us to look back and consider the steadfast love, mercy and goodness of God.

*Let’s count our blessings,
Dianne Hermanson*

WITH THANKS

Dear Emanuel Church family,

Thank you so very much for the bench you dedicated in memory of our father. The ponds and pavilion were his special creation, and he was the one to suggest having church there. Thank you again for honoring our parents.

*Love,
Muggsy, Nancy, David and family*

MEN'S GROUP

At the Men’s Group meeting in October, we assembled flood buckets for the NALC Disaster Response. In addition, we purchased several rakes and shovels. We then had a short devotional time and sharing.

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 12 at the usual time of 9:00 a.m. in the social hall. Pastor Mark will be leading the devotional time, and we will then share over concerns and topics. This is a real opportunity for the men of the congregation to get together and just talk about our concerns and interest. Why not give it a try? The meeting usually last only an hour. I think you would find the time rewarding. If you have any questions, please contact me at 856-832-4400 or via email at aahermanson@comcast.net.

Allan Hermanson

LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Our next meeting will be Sunday, November 13 after Church. Ladies are encouraged to bring a sandwich or snack. Drinks and dessert will be provided.

The October 8 Clean-up Day consisted of cleaning the balcony of the Church. Six ladies, Steve Kennedy and Pastor Mark all worked on this project. A special thanks to Steve for lugging all the items down two flights of stairs and helping us move items. Without him we never would have accomplished what we did. Check out the balcony and see how good it looks. We will schedule another day to clean the closet at the Social Hall.

The Christmas luncheon will be on Sunday, December 4 after Church. It will be at Chobani’s in Pennsville. We will order from the menu and have separate checks. A sign-up sheet will be posted.

Susan Shields

WORDS THAT CALM OUR FEARS

By Pr. Brian Triller

Every Wednesday morning, I call an out-of-town relative who gives me her grocery order for one of those shopping/delivery services. I use my computer to place her order, and then I monitor the shopper's activity via an on-line program.

During a recent shopping day, it appeared that I had lost contact with the person doing my relative's grocery shopping. It was unusual not to see any shopping activity for twenty minutes, so I sent the shopper a text message. If she didn't answer it, I would know something was wrong.

Within a minute or two, I received a text reply from the shopper. She had typed a simple five-word message: "I am here—don't worry." When I read her reply, I was relieved to know that I had not lost contact with her and that she was still working on my relative's order.

However, the shopper's text message took on a much more profound importance as I sensed our Lord speaking to me through those five words. I knew that God was talking to me in that text, saying "I am here—don't worry."

God's speaking to me through that text reminded me of how He speaks that same message frequently in the Scriptures. One of my favorite Old Testament passages is Isaiah 41:10-13. It starts off with these words in verse 10: "*Fear not, for I am with you...*"

At the beginning of Matthew's Gospel, a prophecy by Isaiah about the Christ child is repeated: "*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel' (which means, God with us).*" Matt. 1:23 (ESV)

At the very end of Matthew's Gospel, the last thing Jesus says to His disciples is this: "*And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*" Matt. 28:20b (ESV)

Whether or not we are aware of it, our Lord and Savior Jesus is with us every moment. He is with us as the One who redeems us, forgives us, heals us, and restores us in our relationship with our Father in heaven.

No matter what challenges and suffering we face in this earthly life, Jesus is with us to lead us safely through these things. When we find ourselves anxious or afraid in any situation of life, our fears are calmed as we remember and trust that He is right here with us!

FEED THE NORTHEAST CHALLENGE (Our efforts at supporting the Soup Kitchen)

How can such a small congregation come up with over 500 non-perishable items for a soup kitchen they have never seen? IN TWO WEEKS! It is with love in their hearts and a faith that love can move mountains.

I was speaking with a visitor this past Sunday, and she remarked about how much this congregation has to offer to its members and the area around it. Another told me she was thrilled to be a part of the service even though she is not a member. Sometimes, we don't realize the impact we are having on our neighbors – and also on ourselves.

Sunday, October 23 was such an inspirational time with the information Mary Bates shared about Disaster Response (the tool trailer, inspired by Anette & Sam Manno, is headed either to Kentucky or Florida – in high demand since there are only two), the dedication of the Disaster Relief Warehouse, and that wonderful Friesburg covered dish luncheon (feast). If you haven't stayed for lunch, it's time you did. So much fellowship between members just brings us closer together. AND the food is scrumptious. Maybe we should open up a restaurant!

In closing, I would encourage you to read Matthew 25:31-40. Jesus has shown us the way we are to live. God bless you all and the work you are doing to bring Jesus to others through your love and caring.

Nancy Cobb



Pastor's Perspective

November 2022

"The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." Matthew 13:31b-32

It has been said to me many times that we are a small church. Well yes, we are, at least when it comes to the numbers. But as the parable Jesus told, which I quoted above, small things can blossom and grow. One place where this was evident in our ministry was with Thrivent's challenge of Feed the Northeast. The challenge was simple. Collect 500 food items for a food charity of your congregation's choice. Take a picture of the group and submit the appropriate paperwork and photo. If our congregation is among the first 100 congregations or agencies to complete the goal, a check for \$500 will be sent to that food ministry you helped.

As I'm typing this perspective, I don't know if we finished in the first 100 or not. But I can tell you that we shattered the goal of collecting 500 items. Not only that, but we did it in 3 weeks. On Monday, October 17th I delivered the first 558 items to the Bridgeton Soup Kitchen. Margie Wasilek, whom you may have met this summer, was amazed at how much our little congregation collected. You should have seen her eyes when I asked her when she wanted me to deliver the rest of the items collected. My vehicle only held so much.

This coming Monday, October 31, I'll be delivering the rest of the items to the soup kitchen. To this point, I simply say to you all; THANK YOU! You are a generous congregation! You took a challenge and hit it like a Bryce Harper homerun (Go Phillies!). Again, thank you for your loving generosity to our neighbors.

QUESTIONS ANYONE?

Earlier this summer I sent out an email inviting members of the congregation to submit questions about topics or specific items that they'd like me to address in future sermons, newsletter articles, Bible studies, etc. I have received a handful of questions, most of which center around the afterlife and the return of Jesus.

Pastor Steven King from Sola Publishing has provided numerous handouts for congregations to use that describe from the scriptures the afterlife and Jesus' promised return. The one that follows describes well how the scriptures speak of the soul.

Also, please feel free to send me more questions that you'd like to see me address in future sermons or writings.

God bless,
Pastor Mark

Commented [DH1]: The two pages of the Bible references will follow this.

WHAT HAPPENS AT THOSE CONVOCATIONS?
Here's a recap of the most recent one.

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Today, I am asking you to play a leading role in supporting the ministry of the NALS. There is a crucial need for faithful pastors to serve our congregations. The NALS exists to prepare these laborers.

The importance of educating and forming Church leaders – particularly for Lutheran congregations is vital. Prayerfully consider if God is calling you to participate in this work of forming new pastors with a vibrant faith who are answering God’s call to serve the Church and be witnesses to the world of the truth of the Gospel.

In addition to ongoing prayerful support, your generous gifts will help 300 men and women to discern God’s call to become pastors and leaders to serve the growth of the NALC. The successful formation of these pastors and Church leaders over the next decade depends on all of us.

Thank you for your past contributions. Your gifts and prayers continue to make a difference in the lives of those called to serve God and His Church. Every gift makes a difference.

I ask you to humbly consider two more things:

- Please keep praying for the future of the NALC and the NALS. Pray that we remain steadfast in our commitment to classic, orthodox, biblical theological education in preparations for ministry.
- Together with your fellow congregants, join together to offer up just one potential NALS student. If each congregation does this, the future of the NALC will be on solid ground.

Thank you for helping us and God’s Church.

*Yours in the Mercy of Christ,
The Rev. Dr. Eric Riesen*

President, North American Lutheran Seminary

Here’s a snapshot of who we are ...

- The NALS is a network of fully accredited theological seminaries. It is centered in Ambridge, PA.
- The NALS is flexible and offers both residential and distance-learning opportunities for students.
- The NALS provides rigorous academic programs led by highly respected scholars.
- The NALS provides a supportive community in which students are mentored and disciplined.
- The NALS is affordable. Leaving seminary with heavy debt is not helpful for future pastors or the congregations they serve. Providing scholarships to qualified students is one way your gift will be used for good.
- The NALS welcomes all who seek a greater understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ today.
- The NALS is confessionally Lutheran and also ecumenically engaged with faithful Christians of other traditions.
- The NALS is the seminary of the North American Lutheran Church. Therefore we form students to understand the importance of our Core Values — Congregationally Focused, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded and Christ Centered.

(See the flyer of Ben’s story on the bulletin board downstairs. Ben McCrimmon is a current NALS Pastoral Candidate)

Commented [DH3]: Pastor, this will be replaced with a legible copy when I print the newsletter for distribution.