

The Acolyte

October 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.

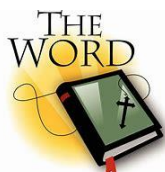
STUFF THE TRUCK DONATIONS



School Kit and Flood Bucket donations are due in the Social Hall by October 9. Our contributions will be taken to the AMR convocation later this month to “stuff the truck” for NALC Disaster Response. Additionally, the NALC Disaster Response is also collecting GIFT CARDS from Home Depot, Lowes, Walmart and other building supply stores, to purchase building materials as our Volunteer Teams rebuild homes after disasters.

OCTOBER LECTORS

October 2 – Allison Cox
October 9 – Barbara Sinnema
October 16 – Cindy Plummer
October 23 – Helgi Viire
October 30 – Kyle Knerr



OCTOBER ALTAR GUILD

Allison Cox

OCTOBER USHERS

Helen Cobb
Karen Wirsing

friesburg philosophy

*Practice kindness all day with
everyone and you will realize
you are already in heaven.*
Jack Kerouac

OCTOBER ACTIVITIES AT EMANUEL

October 4 – In-person Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.
October 5 – Wednesday Night Bible Study via Zoom
October 6 – LCW hosts Ruritan dinner at 6:30 p.m.
October 8 – Men’s Group meeting at 9:00 a.m.
– LCW Clean-up in Social Hall at 9:00 a.m.
October 9 – Called Congregational Meeting
– Food Pantry Sunday
October 11 – In-person Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.
October 12 – Wednesday night Bible Study via Zoom
October 13 – Stewardship Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
October 18 – In-person Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.
– Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
October 19 – No Wednesday Night Bible Study
October 20-21 – Pastor in Dallas
October 21-22 – AMR Convocation
October 22 – Private event in Social Hall 11am-5pm
October 23 – Dedication of Warehouse and luncheon
October 24 – Pastor discipleship group at 6:30 p.m.
October 25 – Stewardship Committee at 4:30 p.m.
– Pastor’s discipleship group at 6:30 p.m.
October 26 – In-person Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.
– Deadline for November Acolyte articles
October 27 – Bible Study via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.
October 28 – Trunk or Treat (cars at 6:30, guests 7:00)
October 29 – Seed Group meets at 8:30 a.m.

OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS

8 Addison Rinnier	25 Karen Wirsing
Kate Gheysens	27 Alivia Huff
20 Ben Pasternak	29 Deborah Hinkle

Celebrating a wedding anniversary are Terry and Kathy McAllister on the 10th.

May you all be blessed with a happy special day and a healthy year.



UPDATE

August 1 — Kentucky Flooding
NALC Disaster Response was deployed to Hazard KY on Monday Aug. 1. The 26' box has been sent

with flood buckets, health kits, Bibles, clean up tools and supplies. The volunteers in Hazard were so very thankful for the church's support and prayers. The death toll continues to rise, now at 28 fatalities. More than 10 inches of rain fell in eastern Kentucky last week. The area is expected to see additional rainfall this week. Keep those prayers coming!

Gift cards are needed for the NALC Disaster Response – we are completely out of gift cards after serving in western Kentucky and tornado recovery. If you would like to help, please send your support as soon as possible to **NALC Disaster Response, 16500 Noble Ave., Caldwell, Ohio 43724.**

For more information, contact Mary Bates at 740-509-1132 or disasterresponse@thenalc.org

Remember: God can do the most with what we think is the least!

SOUP KITCHEN UPDATE

There is great anticipation at the soup kitchen right now. For the first time since 2020, the soup kitchen is planning to have in-house dining. Thanksgiving is the target date. So, this means many things are going to change. One of the perks of dining in is the fellowship clients experience, not only with each other, but also with the staff and volunteers. So that means we should see more clients coming daily; and that means more food, more cooking, more help needed. Right now, with food costs rising, the soup kitchen is feeding an average of 65 clients a day, five days a week. That is where **HELP FEED THE NORTHEAST** can help. And that is where you are coming into play. (See Pastor Mark's article in this *Acolyte*) We have \$563 in our coffers. Pastor Mark is due for a shopping spree shortly which will significantly diminish that amount. Please keep the soup kitchen on your minds and in your prayers.



Nancy Cobb

WOMEN OF THE NALC

The Women of the North American Church (WNALC) recently had a presentation by Mary Bates, the NALC Disaster Response Coordinator. NALC Disaster Response works solely with volunteers, and Mary expressed her sincere thanks to the WNALC for providing generously. Last year at the NALC Convocation in Texas, the WNALC presented Mary with over \$15,000 in gift cards. Those gift cards have all been used in rebuilding several hundred homes in just this last year. December 10, 2021, tornados hit Mayfield, Kentucky, and 225 miles east. To this one event 15 truckloads were sent to 11 affected counties. Mary hoped for \$10,000 in toys for children and received over \$32,000 in new toys!

Mary shared stories of the various disasters up to just two days prior to the presentation, such as Hurricane Ida rebuilding projects, wildfires in multiple places, floods and so on. They had 9 Disaster Response Sundays, attended district convocations, had 4 preparedness trainings, had 10 mission team trips totaling 248 youth and adults, and attended 15 Stuff the truck events. Mary's mantra is "With your help."

Mary suggested that each congregation plan a service project for every other month and focus on one of the 6 main needed areas: Bibles, Flood buckets, Health care kits, Quilts, School kits and Gift cards. Mary stated, "When these disasters happen, if we don't have full warehouses we cannot serve!" Currently the warehouses are depleted, and once the resources are gone, work stops. The cost of building materials has risen; her example was a sheet of plywood now costs \$65.

Mary is currently in need of gift cards and flood buckets. Please donate gift cards for Home Depot, Lowes, or Walmart.

"With Your Help," we can help serve the greater needs of those facing disasters.

MEN'S GROUP

We will be holding our October meeting in the social hall on Saturday, October 8 at 9:00 a.m. In addition to our usual meeting and discussion, we will be assembling flood buckets for the NALC Disaster Response project. If you have not yet brought your pledged items to the social hall, please do so by the meeting time. Any question, please give me a call at 857-832-4400. We hope to see a few new faces.

Allan Hermanson

LCW

Susan Shields

The ladies met on Sunday, September 11 and set the following dates:

October 1 – Ladies signed up for two-hour intervals to host our table at Elmer Harvest Festival.

October 6 – We will once again host the Alloway Ruritan dinner.

October 8 – Clean-up scheduled for 9:00 a.m. in the social hall. Men and strong arms are also needed for this activity.

December 4 – Christmas luncheon, details to follow. Wawa tickets will be available once again to support the 300th Anniversary Committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 13 immediately after worship. Ladies are encouraged to bring a sandwich or snack. Drinks and dessert will be provided.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Financials as of August 2022:

YTD Income: \$107,613.55

YTD Expense: \$109,942.14

YTD Net Income: **\$-2,328.59**

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

THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS

By Pr. Brian Triller

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9 (ESV)

In his sermon on September 18, Pr. Mark reminded us that we live in a world that yearns for the Good News that there is the forgiveness of sins for all who believe in Jesus Christ. Pr. Mark said that people around the globe are yearning to hear the Good News that “...your sins are not going to be held over your head for the rest of your life.”

Every Sunday when we members of Emanuel gather together for worship, we are given the opportunity to examine our consciences and confess our sins to God at the beginning of the service.

And then the pastor, with the authority granted to him by the Lord Jesus Christ, proclaims this Good News to us:

“Let it be known to you, that through Jesus Christ, the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. (1 John 1:6-7) He commanded us to preach and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. (Acts 10:42-43)”

When we respond “Amen” to this proclamation, we are saying “Yes!” to the gift of forgiveness granted to us through Jesus' name.

What a priceless treasure we have in the Gospel of Jesus Christ! What Good News it is for you and me to hear that our sins are not going to be held over our heads for the rest of our lives! If we, who have been graced with years of hearing the Gospel and receiving God's forgiveness, still need to hear about and receive this precious gift, how much more do those who don't yet know Jesus Christ need to hear that same Good News and receive forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ?

Prayer: *Dear Holy Spirit, we thank You for working faith in us so we believe in Jesus and receive the forgiveness which He won for all by His death and resurrection. Please work through us to lead others to Jesus, that they also may know the peace with God which comes from having one's sins forgiven through Jesus' name. Thank You! Amen!*

CHRISTMAS ALREADY?

The Shiloh Seventh Day Baptist Church has been singing Christmas cantatas for many years. We always enjoy having our own choir join with community folks to present a musical testimony about the birth of Jesus.

This year, we have chosen *What Kind of Throne*, a Christmas Musical of Worship and Wonder. The cantata will be presented on Saturday (Sabbath), December 17 at 4:30 p.m. at the church.



Rehearsals begin Friday evening, September 23 at 7:40 p.m. There are books and CDs to borrow or feel free to order your own copy online.

For those who cannot make the Friday night rehearsals, we can also rehearse on Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m. Just let us know.

Questions? Pastor Don 609-364-1238
Charlotte 609-364-3021

CORNERSTONE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER – Fall Baby Bottle Campaign

It's October and our turn to fill those baby bottles in support of Cornerstone. Please take a bottle, fill it with checks, bills or change and return to the church by October 30.

These funds are used for the growing need for education and support of those facing an unplanned pregnancy and at-risk youth. Your gift gives hope and support to our moms and babies.



Karen Wirsing

WORSHIP & MUSIC UPDATE



As we resume worship service in the sanctuary, flowers will adorn the altar each week. Please check out the flower chart downstairs on the bulletin board if you would like to donate the flowers for a given Sunday. To lessen the cost, you can share the week with someone. Donation slips are available near the chart. Fill one out with the selected date and give to the office secretary for inclusion in the bulletin. The weekly cost is \$40.00

Patsy Madden

SPEAKING OF CHRISTMAS (Survey)

The Worship & Music Committee is seeking your opinion about worship opportunities for the upcoming Christmas Season. Please take a few moments to complete the following survey. Then turn it in so that appropriate decisions can be made regarding our Advent/Christmas observances.

Upcoming Christmas Season Survey

The Worship and Music Committee is asking for your assistance. We are looking ahead to the Christmas season and scheduling of services.

1. For Christmas Eve service: Please circle the best times for you and your family.

5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m.

2. If we were to have a Christmas Children's Program would you prefer that to be on the Sunday before Christmas or at an early Christmas Eve service?

Dec. 18th Early Christmas Eve

3. Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year? Would you prefer to keep the service at 10:00? If no, what time do you suggest?

Yes No Time:

4. Over the past couple of years, we have had a Longest night service (Dec. 21) for individuals coping with a death or other loss as the holiday season can be challenging. Is that something you would benefit from?

Yes No

5. Would you be willing to participate in an Advent Bible Study?

Yes No Depends on time and day offered

Name (optional) _____

Please return this via the offering plate or mail by Oct. 23rd

Pastor's Perspective

October 2022

A reading from one of our recent lessons during worship raised some interesting questions and emotions. The passage in question is from First Timothy 2, a portion of which reads:

“Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.” First Timothy 2:11-15

Needless to say, this passage sounds like something that would have been said over a century ago, comments that are long outdated by the reality of the world in which we live that is still trying to overcome sexism and a whole bunch of other “isms”. Nonetheless, no matter how uncomfortable a Biblical passage makes us feel, we need to look at passages in their totality.

A key way in which Lutherans study the scripture is by way of the scripture itself. In other words, “Scripture interprets Scripture.” What does the Bible say about itself? Central to the Bible is Jesus. Martin Luther referred to the Bible as the cradle that holds the Christ. This means that all Scripture must be read through the eyes of our salvation through the justifying faith in Jesus. *“Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.’ (Remember that the Scripture of Jesus day was the Old Testament). Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.’” Luke 24:44-48.*

Another key component to reading the Bible is to understand that there were real world issues that the Biblical writers were inspired by the Holy Spirit to address. So, it is important to know the historical context which various passages address.

With this in mind, let's look at the issue of submissiveness. It is gravely sinful to read this or other verses in the Bible as some have done to abuse women. Using such passages to justify abuse is evil. Men themselves are to live in submissiveness. *“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he may sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.”*

To be blunt, men are expected to be submissive to the Lord to the point of doing as the Lord himself did for us, laying down one's life. Both men and women are to be submissive to the Lord. It has also been the expectation that the head of the household, which in many cases is the man of the house, is to take responsibility for spiritual leadership. Again, it is not exclusively so, especially in cases where the man of the household is not a believer in Jesus. The family unit is the first place for children to learn about the faith.

That leads to the next point of the above passage. Paul is blunt in that he does not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man. There are many within the whole Christian church who have understood this verse to mean that women are not permitted to be pastors, such as the Roman Catholic Church, some Baptists and non-denominational churches, and even some Lutheran churches.

For those churches that do ordain women, such as our denomination, the North American Lutheran Church, how do we justify that based on the above text? Here is where it is necessary to go back to the two things I noted about how Lutherans read the Bible. Does this fit with the rest of the Scripture?

To be ordained is to be set apart for a specific calling within the church. For the sake of good order, it is taught that individuals be trained and called to serve as ordained ministers. The primary function of the ordained is to preach in accord with the Scriptures and to rightly administer the sacraments. So, let's look at the scriptures.

The clearest Old Testament example of a woman in leadership is Deborah. Deborah is described as a prophetess. A prophetess is one who would speak a word of the Lord. Judges 4:4-10 speaks of her prophetic role in guiding Barak. Later in Judges 5:7 she is referred to as a mother of Israel. The Israelites would look to her for spiritual judgement and guidance, which would include preaching.

A lesser-known example is found in 2 Kings 22:11-20. There the priests Hilkiah, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan and Asaiah sought out the Prophetess Huldah, who proclaimed to them the law and the mercy of God.

The preaching of God's Word is not an activity that the pastor does apart from the Holy Spirit. The Spirit guides the preacher in his or her preparation of the sermon as well as during the act of preaching. The prophet Joel 2:28-29 foreshadows the giving of the Spirit upon the church, which is fulfilled in Acts 2. It is the Spirit who gives us a variety of gifts, including the gift of preaching (Romans 12:4-8 and 1 Corinthians 12). In neither of those passages is it implied or explicitly stated by Paul that the Spirit only empowers men to preach. More on that in a moment.

One of the most obvious places that lifts up the role of women in preaching the good news comes in the resurrection accounts from each of the four gospels. In each one, it is the women who proclaim the gospel to the disciples that Jesus is risen from the dead (Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20).

As for the prohibition against women preaching, referenced in 1 Timothy, two things are important. The first is the personal pronoun. Paul is saying that **he** doesn't permit women to exercise authority over a man. Paul does not make the claim that this is a word from the Lord. Secondly, in looking at the historical context, there is an issue regarding the women in Ephesus, which is where Timothy is serving, who were disrupting the congregation. It was a result of that disruption that Paul extends this advice to Timothy, that was specific to his situation.

As I mentioned toward the beginning of this perspective, different churches do read these passages differently and do not come to the same conclusion. As for the North American Lutheran Church, we have and will continue to encourage both men and women to answer God's call to serve as ordained pastors.

Lastly, as it pertains to child-bearing, Paul is *not* saying that women have to have children to be saved. It is women (and only women) whom God has designed to give birth. Awkward sounding as it may be, Paul intends to affirm the unique role of the vocation of motherhood. Humanity is dependent upon women conceiving (in the holy union of marriage) and giving birth. As it pertains to salvation, it has come in the child whom Mary gave birth to long ago in the town of Bethlehem, Jesus, the Christ.

God bless,
Pastor Mark

TRUNK OR TREAT



Join us for Trunk or Treat on Friday, October 28. Get your costumes ready and decorate your trunk. If you are providing a trunk, please meet at the Social Hall at 6:30 p.m. Costumed guests should join us at 7:00 p.m.

TRACTOR SUNDAY

The rain held off, the tractors arrived, and food, fun and fellowship was enjoyed by all as we praised and thanked our Lord in his creation. It was another blessed day as we enjoyed doughnuts, apples, cookies and Muggsy's grilling expertise of hamburgers and hotdogs. Thanks to everyone who contributed to another successful Tractor Sunday.



WAREHOUSE UPDATE

The shed warehouse construction has been finished. The NALC Disaster Response warehouse will be dedicated on October 23. Thank you to Jason Cobb and Jimmy Cobb for helping and building most of it. Thank you to those that donated towards it, too.

Jordan Werner



The Warehouse will be dedicated on Sunday, October 23, with a potluck luncheon

HELP FEED THE NORTHEAST

Well, at least our small area of the Northeast!

Are you up for a challenge that will benefit the Soup Kitchen in Bridgeton? Thrivent Financial has issued a challenge to any congregation to collect five hundred (500) items of food in the month of October. Here's how it works. During the month of October, we will be collecting food for the Soup Kitchen in Bridgeton. A list of suggested items is listed below. Once we collect the five hundred non-perishable food items, we will take a group picture and submit it to Thrivent. Yes, that group picture includes us wearing the awesomely soft, free, Live Generously T-Shirts. If we are among the first hundred congregations or organizations, the soup kitchen will receive a check for \$500.00. That money will help them purchase perishable items. In speaking with Margie Waselik, Director of the Soup Kitchen, the following items are especially needed as they prepare to serve Thanksgiving dinner.

Stove top stuffing	Cranberry sauce
Canned Yams	Collard Greens
Green Beans	Peas
Corn	Beef Broth
Chicken Broth	

This may seem daunting. But keep an eye out for specials. If shopping isn't your thing, remember you can put a financial donation in the Soup Kitchen Jar.

