



## 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 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.*

## Welcome to Advent and our journey to Christmas.

### WHY AN ADVENT WREATH?

The use of an Advent Wreath and candles as part of worship is a relatively recent custom in the church. Originating among Lutherans in northern Europe from earlier cultural traditions, it has been adopted by many Christian denominations over the last few centuries. A German pastor created it in 1839 as a means to count down to Christmas for children.

Designating the names for the various candles is a very recent phenomenon (probably mid-20th century), and multiple traditions have developed. These often vary by denomination, region, religious publisher, and even in the literature of various candle supply companies!

Strictly speaking, there is no single set of traditional names for the candles; there are, in fact, many different traditions. Some of these names were related to old lectionary texts that are no longer in use. The most commonly used names among Protestants for the candles are the designations: 1) Prophets' Candle (Hope for the coming of Christ, 2) Bethlehem Candle, Love for those in need who have "no room" 3) Shepherds' Candle, Joy for spreading the message of Christ and 4) Angels' Candle, Peace on earth, as the message of the angels.

An even more recent tradition among various churches is to name the candles by Advent "theme" words, the most common four being Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace (or in the order: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love).

Since there is no single tradition regarding the names of the candles, in its materials, Sola has used the most common designation of:

- 1) **Prophets' Candle,**
- 2) **Bethlehem Candle,**
- 3) **Shepherds' Candle,**
- 4) **Angels' Candle.**

Keep in mind: The use of candles in Advent is a human tradition, neither mandated nor prohibited in Scripture. There is no right or wrong in the use of these names. Local congregations are free to use what they choose.

*"And to the true unity of the Church it is enough to agree concerning the doctrine of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments. Nor is it necessary that human traditions, that is, rites or ceremonies, instituted by men, should be everywhere alike." (Augsburg Confession 7)*

## The Advent of Our God

The Season of Advent is marked as a period of anticipation and waiting. The waiting we do in Advent is not done with worry or anxiety, but with hope and joyful longing for the fulfillment of God's promises in the here and now and in eternity. As God's people, it is our discipline of faith to set aside the trappings of the world that lead up to Christmas and focus on the journey to the manger and ultimately, the cross.

*(reprinted from Sola Publishing Worksheet)*

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## Pastor's Perspective

*"You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." Luke 12:40*

On Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> the one holy catholic (Christian) Church will celebrate a new year with the season of Advent. The Advent season is one of preparation. On the one hand, we are preparing to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, the incarnate Word of God, born out of heaven through a virgin's womb (John 1:1, 1:14, Luke 1:31), whom God sent into the world to save us (John 3:16). On the other hand, it is a season in which we are reminded that Christ will one day return to judge the living and the dead (2 Timothy 4:1).

As you see from Luke 12:40 and other related verses, Jesus' return is going to come suddenly. The call for us as Christians is to be alert. Even Jesus himself does not know the time of his return. "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only."

While no one knows the day or the hour, that hasn't stopped people from speculating on when Jesus will return. It is one of the great mysteries of the faith. Various scripture passages speak of being prepared for that day, as it will come like a thief in the night.

*"For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night." (1 Thessalonians 5:2)*

*"But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you must also be ready for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." Matthew 24:43-44*

Jesus speaks of the suddenness of his return using the image of virgins who let their lamps to meet the bridegroom. Only half of the 10 had enough oil. The ones who ran out of oil were unprepared and missed out on meeting the groom. "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." (Matthew 25:13)

So, what shall we take from the unknown return of our Lord. I hold before you these things:

1. Do not be complacent. Another way to say it is to be prepared. Preparation is a spiritual one of scripture reading, prayer, worship, service and witnessing to the truth of Jesus. Such disciplines are not additions to our lives, but are the lifestyle we are called to live as followers of Jesus. So as parents, we are witnesses to Jesus to our children. So as employees, we serve our neighbors when we do our work honestly, with integrity and faithfulness. As Christians, we not only offer to pray for people, but to pray with them, in the moment, be it at the doctor's office, the shopping aisle, a parking lot or on the phone.
2. While we do not know when the Lord will return, we do know that each day brings us one day closer. When Jesus comes it will be to judge the living and the dead. From that perspective, such a perceived delay in the return of Jesus serves the purpose of extending God's kindness that it may lead to repentance (Romans 2:4).
3. We continue to pray, "Come, Lord Jesus." His coming will usher in the final defeat of Satan and the bodily resurrection of the dead to life everlasting. Amen.

May we all be prepared,

*Pastor Mark*

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**FINANCIAL SECRETARY** is needed. Dianne Hermanson has resigned this position as of December 31. The role of the Financial Secretary is to record contributions, send out the yearly contribution statements and see to the distribution of the offering envelopes. Dianne will train and work with someone to transfer this task. If you are interested in serving Emanuel in this capacity, please speak to Pastor Mark or a Council member.

## DECEMBER HAPPENINGS AT EMANUEL

December 4 – LCW Christmas Luncheon

December 7 – Wednesday Night Bible Study

December 10 – Men's Group  
– Wedding at noon

December 11 – Food Pantry Sunday

December 13 – Council Meeting

December 14 – Wednesday Night Bible Study

December 24 – Christmas Eve Celebration

December 25 – Christmas Day Worship

January 1 – A worship service of Lessons & Carols

## LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Again this year, we are selling Wawa tickets for a \$5.00 shortie hoagie. The proceeds will go to the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. We are also collecting toys for the Salvation Army. Bring an unwrapped toy and place in the "corral" in the front of the Sunday School rooms. The last day for donations is December 11 when the toys will be delivered to the Salvation Army for distribution.

A Christmas Luncheon will be held on December 4 at Chobani's in Pennsville. A signup sheet will be posted, or if you can't sign up but want to go, let Cindy Cairone know.

The \$157 collected for the tote bags will be donated for the 300th Anniversary.

The women decided and voted on the following statement: "Women will do luncheons for active members and their families. Members and/or families will supply the meat."

The next meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2022.

*Susan Shields*

## MEN'S DECEMBER UPDATE

Time to think about changes to make for the New Year. How about giving the Men's Group a try. We have had a productive year and have been able to do a couple of projects for our church. A good time is had just talking and sharing also as only men do. We have also had some very interesting devotionals that led to special discussions. Please consider giving one hour of your time one Saturday a month to spend with other men of our church. I think you will find it time well spent.

Our next meeting is on Saturday the 10th of December at 9:00 am in the Social Hall. Feel free to call me at 856-832-4400 if you have any questions. I look forward to seeing some new faces

*Allan Hermanson*

## CELEBRATIONS IN DECEMBER

Many people in our congregation celebrate birthdays this month:

3 Daryl Halter	16 Josh Hitchner
5 Zack Sutton	Dalton Wilson
7 Irving Halter, Jr.	17 David Wilson
12 Linda Halter Conover	20 Sharon Coleman
15 Paige Smith	Shannon Leady
	23 Kay Whyte

Hoping you all have a wonderful birthday and a blessed year to come.

## WORSHIP & MUSIC

The Committee wishes to thank those who completed the Christmas Survey. Hopefully, the Christmas schedule at Emanuel will be satisfactory for everyone.

**Children's Christmas Program** - December 18

**Longest Night Service**, December 21 - We are awaiting information from Elmer Presbyterian who may be hosting the service.

**Christmas Eve Service** - 7:00 PM

**Christmas Day Service** - 10:00 AM

**Bible Study** - We will continue with the study of Hebrews

**January 1 Service** 10:00 AM with Lessons and Carols

During COVID, for safety reasons, we changed the procedures for Holy Communion. We think it is time to return to the process of tables. As of the first Sunday in Advent, November 27, we will commune by tables with distribution of wine and grape juice in prefilled cups.

If you wish to add someone or need to remove a name from the Prayer Listing, please let Pastor Mark or Patsy Madden know.

## ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild held its yearly meeting on Sunday, November 20. Any church member is welcome to assist the Altar Guild. It is only one month a year and includes setting up communion, changing the paraments (if needed), and filling the candles. Any help would be appreciated. If you are interested in learning more or helping, please let Susan Shields know. She can be reached at (856) 455-4285.

## Advent/Christmas Opportunities

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath** will begin the first Sunday of Advent on November 27. “*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah.*”

**Children’s Christmas Program** is scheduled for December 18 as part of our worship with light refreshments in the back Sunday School room afterwards.

**Christmas Eve Worship** will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 24.

**Christmas Day Worship** will be at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 25.



During our rush to Christmas, let us not forget that we are in the season of Advent, which is a time of preparation. Let’s make sure we prepare our hearts for receiving our Lord and Savior, as well as our houses.

This year’s NALC devotional — entitled *And He Shall Reign* — was written by sixteen members of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) staff and based on words in Revelation 11:15. The readings each day are based upon the daily lectionary provided in the NALC *Devoted to Prayer* daily prayer and reading guide, which is also an adapted version of the daily lectionary in the *Lutheran Book of Worship*. Click [here](#) to access this devotional or download at [Advent Devotional 2022 - North American Lutheran Church \(thenalc.org\)](#)

## THANKS!

Dear Church Family,

*Thank you for all your prayers, cards, phone calls and visits. They were all appreciated. Looking forward to being back with you (and with a new knee).*

*Yours in Christ,  
Wayne & Lorraine*

## Thanks!

*Thank you for all you do to bring people to Christ.  
God’s Peace,  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Joppa, MD*

## And More Thanks!

*Thank you for your generous donation of canned goods to the Good Shepherd Dining Room. The support you provide is deeply appreciated.*

*St. Vincent de Paul Society  
St. Teresa of Avila Conference*

## AN ADVENT HYMN

*Hark, the glad sound!  
The Savior comes.  
The Savior promised long.  
Let every heart prepare a throne  
And every voice a song.*

This hymn was written by Philip Doddridge in 1735. Doddridge was a pastor of a Dissenting church, which means that he did not accept the authority of the Church of England. He wrote this hymn and many others—perhaps 400 in all—not for publication but to be sung by his congregation. His congregation didn’t use hymnals, but instead had someone sing the hymn line by line from the pulpit with the congregation repeating each line in turn. Most of Doddridge’s hymns were inspired by a particular scripture, and that was true of this hymn, which was inspired by Isaiah 61:1-2.

*The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn...*

When Jesus spoke in his hometown synagogue in Nazareth, he quoted those verses from Isaiah and then said, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing” (Luke 4:21). In other words, Jesus was saying that he had come to preach good news, to bind up those who were broken, to proclaim liberty to captives, and to comfort those who mourn. It is in celebration of this work of Christ that we sing this hymn.

— Copyright 2006, [Richard Niell Donovan](#)

# FUN ACTIVITY PAGES



JESUS  
The reason for the season!

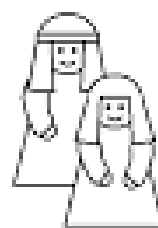
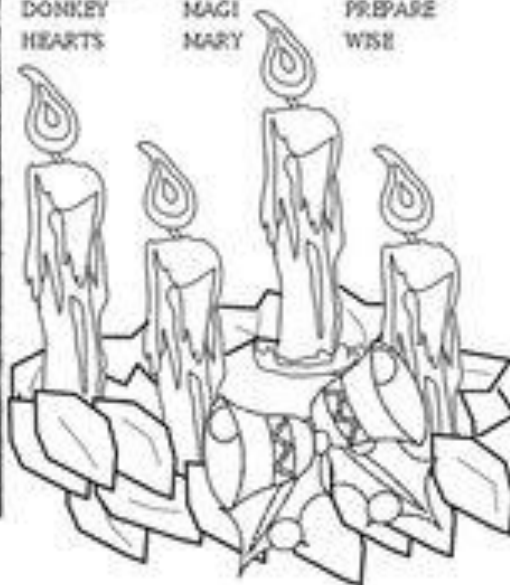




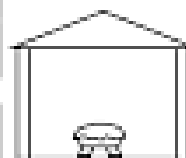
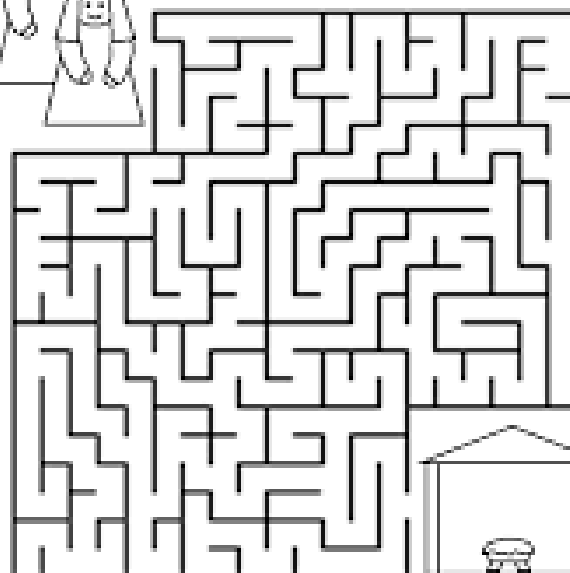
# A Time To Prepare



- |           |        |          |
|-----------|--------|----------|
| ADVENT    | JESUS  | MANGER   |
| ANGEL     | JOSEPH | NAZARETH |
| BETHLEHEM | LORD   | PRAY     |
| DONKEY    | MAGI   | PREPARE  |
| HEARTS    | MARY   | WISE     |



Help Mary and Joseph get to the stable.



For more activities, visit [www.makinglearningfun.com](http://www.makinglearningfun.com)