



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.

Happy New Year!

*** ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ***

The annual congregational meeting of Emanuel will be held Sunday, January 22nd immediately following the worship service. According to our constitution, to be eligible to vote, confirmed members must have communed and made a contribution of record (meaning that you put an offering in an envelope with your name on it or your church envelope or wrote a check with your name) in the current or preceding year (2022 or 2023). In the event of inclement weather, the meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29th. It is important to gather together to review our actions over the past year and to discuss and determine how we want to further the Lord's ministry here at Emanuel as we continue our discipleship journey. Mark your calendar and plan to participate. Agenda includes:

- † Ministry Financial Plan
- † Election of council members
- † Ratification of Emanuel Constitutional Amendments

JANUARY ACTIVITIES AT EMANUEL

January 1 – We welcome Pastor McGettigan
January 3 – Pastor's Discipleship Group at 5:00 p.m.
January 8 – Food Pantry Sunday
January 9 – Council meets in social hall at 6:00 p.m.
January 14 – Alloway Twp Prayer Breakfast at
Aldine United Methodist Church at 7:00 a.m.
– Men's Group at 9:00 a.m. in social hall
January 16 – Worship & Music via Zoom at 6:00 p.m.
January 18 – Bible Study via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.
January 22 – Annual Congregational Meeting
January 24 – Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. in social hall
January 25 – Bible Study at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
January 25 – Acolyte article deadline
January 28 – Seed Group Meeting at 8:30 a.m.
January 29 – Healing Service in social hall

JANUARY ALTAR GUILD

Dawn Clarke

JANUARY USHERS

Jim Cobb and Allan Hermanson

SUNDAY LECTORS FOR JANUARY

1 Annabelle Cobb
8 Allison Cox
15 Barbara Sinnema
22 Amy Werner
29 Dianne Hermanson

CELEBRATIONS IN JANUARY

Happy New Year and Happy Birthday to all celebrating this month.

1 Donald Bell	22 John Maloney
15 Parker Smith	28 Sam Manno
15 Jordan Werner	29 Ellenore Cobb
19 Courtney Pilling	24 Pastor McGettigan

Many blessings are wished for the year to come. Please let the office know of any birthdays or anniversaries that we may have missed.



MEN'S UPDATE

It's a new year! Let's give a look at the men's group as a new activity/opportunity for the year. It is a chance to get out with the guys and talk about whatever we want actually. We have a short devotion each meeting and then we get into all types of discussions.

We meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month in the social hall at 9:00 a.m. Our meetings usually last about an hour to hour and a half. If you have any questions, please call me at 856-832-4400, see me at church or email me at ahermanson@comcast.net. Looking forward to seeing some new faces at our next meeting.

Allan Hermanson

STEWARDSHIP

Financials as of November 2022:

YTD Income: \$146,850.65

YTD Expense: \$152,912.95

YTD Net Income: \$-6,062.30

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

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

The next Bible Study will begin on January 18 with a look at the Creeds, focusing on the scriptural basis upon which the creeds were developed. The in-person study will start one week later on Tuesday, January 24 at 10:00 a.m. in the social hall.

THE ABCs OF CHRISTMAS



What a great message our Sunday School youth shared with us this year! Do you know your ABCs? They sure did!

NEW LIFE – EVERY DAY

Pr. Brian Triller

The newness and excitement of every New Year usually fades rather quickly; and the regular routine of life returns—with its challenges, problems, and even despair. However, there is a newness that always remains and never fades. That is the newness of life which is ours in our relationship with God.

In Romans 6:4, we read: “We were buried therefore with him [Jesus Christ] by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.” (ESV)

Because we are baptized, we share in Jesus' death and in His resurrection life. By His death on the cross, Jesus has conquered sin, death, and the devil. As our risen Lord, He shares His gift of eternal life with each of us. And as a guarantee of our future life with God in heaven, Jesus has given His Holy Spirit to dwell with us and in us. (See Ephesians 1:13-14.)

In the Word and water of Baptism, the Holy Spirit renewed us by cleansing us of our sins, thus making each of us a “new creation” in Christ. (See Titus 3:2-7 and 2 Corinthians 5:17.) And the Holy Spirit remains in each of us to keep us new—holy in our Father's sight—as we live out our earthly lives in relationship with Jesus.

Every day of this earthly life, regardless of how challenging it is, we are blessed to live as beloved, forgiven children of God. Even though we remain sinners in this earthly life, because of the forgiveness won for us by Jesus, we are also saints.

In his Small Catechism, Martin Luther encourages all Christians to live out their Baptism every day. By our own human power, we could never live out our Baptism on a daily basis. However, because each of us who is baptized has the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, it is vital for us to turn to Him daily, relying on Him to lead and empower us to live in God's newness of life.

“If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.” Galatians 5:25 (ESV)

Prayer: Dear Holy Spirit, having made us new in Baptism, help us this day and every day to live out our Baptism, walking in newness of life with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thank You! Amen!

FEED NORTHEAST 2022

We at Emanuel accepted the challenge from Thrivent Financial to collect 500 non-perishable food items for a soup kitchen or food bank of our choice during the month of October. The offer went to every person in the ten states in the northeast and DC who had affiliation with Thrivent. If we could do this and be the first of all those to do so, our designated charity would receive a donation of \$500 from Thrivent. So, we chose the St. Vincent DePaul soup kitchen in Bridgeton and went to work. By the second week in October, we collected well over the 500 items needed! A couple of weeks ago, we were notified that St. Vincent DePaul would receive the extra \$500.



The soup kitchen is now dine-in after two years plus of take-out only. It is a lot of work and takes a tremendous amount of money to provide a hot meal for a large group of hungry people five days a week. One person checks the clients in, four people are needed to assist the clients as they come through the food line, two people are in the back washing trays and pans, and two people are out front ushering clients to their seats. There is usually clothing and Wawa sandwiches on a special table that is available and must be monitored so everyone has a chance to pick something up. And then comes the time to clean up and get everything ready for the next day!

Presently, there are three Emanuel members who are serving on Thursdays with a couple more who are on call if needed. If you would like to be on a call list when someone can't make it, let me know. The timing is 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It's a very humbling service and at the same time uplifting.

Pastor Mark has been instilling in us that we are here on this earth to help those who need us. Just the fact that you were able to collect all that food in two weeks is a testimony to your commitment to do your part in making our little corner of the world a place where Christ is present through us.

Nancy Cobb

friesburg filosophy

A wise man fills his brain before emptying his mouth.

BABY BOTTLE THANKS!

Dear Friends,

The Board and Staff at Cornerstone would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who helped make the Baby Bottle Boomerang a success! This has been a wonderful fundraiser and God has blessed the return of bottles even in these difficult economic times. Knowing that we have such a great number of you who believe in the ministry is a true blessing. Thank you for being so generous with your hearts, your gift giving, and most of all, your prayers.

God has surely blessed all of your hard work and dedication, which ensures the continuation of our services and ministry. Due to your efforts, over \$61,939.00 has been collected so far this year! You have truly show us that *'with God all things are possible'* and that He meets all our needs!



His for Life,
Christy Burnham
Executive Director

Emanuel's Contributions to date:
\$514.47

WITH MUCH APPRECIATION

Pastor Mark, Amy and Jordan extend their thanks and deep appreciation for the Christmas gift you have shared with us. We are blessed to be part of a loving congregation.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY'

We are continuing our search for a full-time preschool teacher and would like to ask for your help once again. Would you please make our need known to your congregation and encourage interested parties to contact us?

Thank you so much for partnering with us in ministering to the young people in our community.

Glenn Clement

Administrator
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Pastor's Perspective

Christmas Day, December 25, 2022

Sermon text: Hebrews 1:1-12 and John 1:1-14

The Word of God, present at the very beginning, before the creation of time itself, entered the world. The heir of all things, through whom God the Father created the world is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature.

The preacher who delivered the sermon called Hebrews goes on to say that the Word of God is much superior to the angels, such that the angels themselves worship the one who the Father says, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you."

With such a glowing witness to the Christ, we are talking about one who enters the world in total dependence. The one who as an adult would declare that the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head, has for his first crib a feed trough.

Yet, this too seems fitting. Where else but a feeding trough should we look for the one who says, "I am the bread of life". Where else should we look for this child but, in a town, called Bethlehem, whose name means "house of bread"? As Jesus is nursed in his infancy, it will be us who need to be fed by him, the one who is the true bread from heaven. "As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me." John 6:57

So, it is in the Lord's Supper, that Jesus feeds us with the food of eternal life. We come as beggars, looking for that which endures. All things eventually fade. As the prophet Isaiah foretold, "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever." Isaiah 40:8. The very Word of God became flesh with his birth on Christmas. Jesus, the Word made flesh, is the one is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, whose years have no end.

Jesus, like every newborn child enters the world naked. Baby Jesus is wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. This too is fitting. It is fitting in the sense of the rags we cloth ourselves in. For when we take off all pretenses, pride, vanity, successes, if not for us but for our loved ones, the labels, our arrogance, selfishness, and self-importance, we are just as naked as we were when we were born.

No fine Christmas clothing, no adornment of jewelry, or the layers of clothing on a cold winter's day can hide the sin-soaked flesh we wear. And yet, Jesus, the one who enters the world naked is the one who clothes us in his righteousness.

This is no ordinary clothing. The righteousness of Christ is clothing put upon us in our baptism, exchanging our sinfully stained fleshly rags for the breastplate of righteousness. This breastplate is part of the full armor of God, "...that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm." Ephesians 6:14

Jesus was conceived and born in perfect righteousness, unmarked by inherited sin that infects us. This inherited or original sin taints our hearts and inclines them away from God. Conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus purifies us for he is pure. Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God. This image was lost in the first sin of Adam and Eve, that turned humanities heart away from God. In Christ, this image is restored for us and in us, because of Jesus.

The great reversals that I've been speaking of highlight that he who entered the world dependent upon the care of the Mary and Joseph becomes the one in whom we (including Mary and Joseph) are totally dependent for our life, both in this world and in the world to come. Try as we might, we cannot save ourselves from the relentless attacks of the devil and the evil of the world. Fortunately, we don't have to try. Our salvation is a gift, but it has come at a cost to God.

This was the cost Jesus was willing to bear. He entered this darkened world, filled with lies of the devil, death and sin, all to save you and I. He endured the temptation to think of himself, to prove himself, to acquire earthly glory, fame and power for himself.

Jesus picked people to follow him who he knew were not capable to do so come crunch time. He loved a thief named Judas, one who would be close enough to Jesus to betray him. He loved the outspoken Peter, a man with a courageous exterior, but one who goes hiding when confronted by Jesus' haters calling for Jesus' crucifixion.

The wood frame of a manger that held the Christ child is not much different from the wood of the cross that would be used to hold Jesus to suffer, and die. The pain of experiencing death, the pain of experiencing hell was endured for us, that we would be spared. Of all the reversals that come with Jesus, this is the greatest.

Jesus, the word became flesh, suffered, died, descended to hell, rose victorious accomplished all this for us. That is what love truly is. Jesus loved us to lay down his life for us.

So now, as the redeemed people of God who are called to celebrate Jesus, let us do so with love. Let us love our neighbors, sharing in word and deed what Jesus has done. We demonstrate the reality of Jesus feeding us as we feed the hungry. We demonstrate the healing of Jesus as we use the gifts given us by the Holy Spirit to heal the sick. We speak the forgiveness of Jesus in forgiving those who have sinned against us.

"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." Amen.

Can You Find Thirty (30) Books of the Bible in This Paragraph?

There are 30 books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing on his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elain Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund-raising event, which featured this puzzle, Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, *The Chronicle*, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right there in plain view, hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus; there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph, waiting to be found. God Bless.