



## 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.*

## FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES AT EMANUEL

*February 1-2* – Pastor Mark at NALC Pastor’s Conference  
*February 7* – Bible Study at 10:00 am in social hall  
*February 8* – Bible Study over Zoom at 7:00 pm  
*February 11* – Men’s Group at 9:00 am social hall  
*February 12* – Food Pantry Sunday  
*February 13* – Council Meeting at 6:30 pm  
*February 14* – Bible Study at 10:00 am in social hall  
*February 15* – Stewardship Committee at 2:00 pm  
– Bible Study over Zoom at 7:00 pm  
*February 16* – Pastor’s Discipleship at 5:00 pm in social hall  
*February 21* – Bible Study in social hall at 10:00 am  
*February 22* – Ash Wednesday Service at 6:00 pm  
– Acolyte article deadline  
*February 28* – Bible Study in social hall at 10:00 am  
*March 1* – Bible Study over Zoom at 7:00 pm

## BIBLE STUDY

The current Bible study continues with a look at the Creeds, focusing on the scriptural basis upon which they were developed. In-person study is held each Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. in the social hall. Wednesday participation is held at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom with a link sent from Pastor Mark. Discussions are interactive and usually pretty lively.



## FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

### *Birthdays*

3 Keith Elder  
17 Margaret Dare  
18 Wayne Knerr  
28 Mason Cobb

### *Celebrating anniversaries are:*

9 Les and Cindy Sutton  
18 Scott and Chrissy Smith

May your celebrations be richly blessed.

Please let the office know if there are birthdays we have missed.



## FEBRUARY ALTAR GUILD

Dottie Lower

## FEBRUARY USHERS

Kyle Knerr and Wayne May

## FEBRUARY READERS

*February 5* – Cindy Cairone  
*February 12* – Karen Wirsing  
*February 19* – Susan Shields  
*February 22 (Ash Wednesday)* – Nancy Cobb  
*February 26* – Allan Hermanson

## FEBRUARY SOUP KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS

Barbara Sinnema  
Ellen Filbey  
Nancy Cobb

## A QUIET CHRISTIAN'S JOURNEY TO DISCIPLESHIP

by Holly Kennedy

I have been a Christian my entire life. As an infant, I was baptized in the Lutheran church, I went to Sunday school, and VBS was the highlight of my summer. When I had my children, I taught Sunday School and went to church regularly. But my life was busy, and I only gave God time on Sundays.

Outside of church I rarely spoke of my church connection or better yet my Christ connection. I was a quiet Christian. I truly believed in my heart, but I was completely fine with keeping it to myself.

Even after tragedy struck in my life and God comforted me in my darkest days. I had so much to share with others of God's goodness and that God can see you through all things; I was still a quiet Christian.

One evening, my phone rang, and it was Judy asking if I had received her letter in the mail. I had not, somehow this letter had gotten lost in the mail; her letter was an invitation to join a discipleship program. I did not know about the program, but I truly felt pulled to be a part of it.

My life is still busy, but I now set time aside every day to read scripture, pray to God and sometimes just marvel at God's creation. God is no longer just something to get around to; God is now first and foremost in my thoughts. I find ways to share God's love and His Word in my relationships and at my job. I have started a morning prayer group at my job. I am also discussing scripture with a co-worker, who has had a recent loss in her life. And I hope to work along with a fellow member of the discipleship program in an outreach program for Emanuel.

I still have a long way on this journey, but thanks to Judy's invitation and what I now know was the Holy Spirit pulling me to join others, this quiet Christian is finding a new bolder voice and my life is so much better for the journey.

### *friesburg philosophy*

Nature takes care of her appearance. What makes nature ugly is the behavior of human beings.

## LIVING OUT OUR BAPTISM DAILY

by Pr. Brian Triller

In last month's issue of *The Acolyte*, I wrote about how we have new life in Jesus Christ. That new life is ours every day because we are baptized believers in Jesus Christ. Although we, the baptized, remain sinners in this earthly life, we are also saints because the Holy Spirit dwells in us. Because of the work of the Holy Spirit in us, our sins are forgiven and we are seen as righteous in the Father's sight.

In my daily walk with our Lord, I often tend to ignore the reality that I am still a sinner. It is uncomfortable to face the sinner in me, who still thinks, speaks, and acts in rebellion against God often.

In Luther's *Small Catechism*, he says to all baptized persons that "...the old Adam [sinner] in us together with all sins and evil lusts, should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance and put to death and...the new man should come forth daily and rise up, cleansed and righteous, to live forever in God's presence."

"Where is this written? In Romans 6:4, St. Paul wrote, 'We were buried therefore with him by baptism unto death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.'"

Because the old Adam remains in us who are baptized, we need the Holy Spirit's help every day to die to our "sins and evil lusts." Working through God's Word, the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin and gives us the strength to turn away from it. The Holy Spirit leads us daily to seek God's forgiveness and live as more obedient followers of Jesus.

As we, the baptized, are transformed by the Holy Spirit, the light of Christ shines more brightly in us. And the light of Christ in us draws people to Him as the Father so wills.

Prayer: *Dear Father, living out our Baptism is a way for the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to be proclaimed through us. By the working of the Holy Spirit in us, may we live out our Baptism daily. May we turn away more and more from our sinful thoughts, words, and actions; and may we give witness more and more to the new and everlasting life which Jesus, our crucified and risen Lord, has freely shared with us. Thank You! Amen!*

## 2023 SPRING WOMEN'S RETREAT

*My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness."*

(2 Cor. 12:9a)

Last spring the Women of the Atlantic Mission Region held their first ever weekend retreat—and we had an absolute blast! So, we're doing it all over again, and YOU are invited!



**Do you like chocolate?** This year we will use chocolate as a metaphor for savoring God's grace (and we can even eat it, if you want)! We will draw closer to

Jesus by diving deeply into His miracles and what they teach us about grace. Sessions will include fresh Bible stories, small group discussion, worship, personal reflection, Christian service, and more.

This retreat will be held on **Friday, May 5—Sunday, May 7 at Mount Asbury Retreat Center in Newville, PA** (off I-81 south of Carlisle).

We understand the cost of the weekend is a lot all at once which is why we are offering a "save my spot" pre-registration. Pre-registration deadline is **February 28**. Forms are available on the entrance bulletin board. Regular registration will run until **April 8**. Participants may register online as well. The link for that is <https://atlanticmissionregionalc.regfox.com/2023-retreat-pre-registration>.

## CHURCH COUNCIL 2023

Mike Clarke, President

Wayne Knerr, Vice President

Brenda Mace, Corporate Secretary

Steve Kennedy, Treasurer

Jimmy Cobb, Kyle Knerr, Chrissy Smith

Kathy Willis

### Reporting to Council

Elizabeth Brooks, Bookkeeper

Helen Cobb, Financial Secretary

Dianne Hermanson, Office Secretary

## SOUP KITCHEN NEWS

WOW! We are averaging close to 100 clients each day. Who wouldn't want a nice hot meal in the dead of winter? Fortunately, the other Thursday volunteer knows a little Spanish, so we are able to converse with clients using signs and her limited Spanish. My turkey "gobble, gobble" gets a heart laugh each time, right up there with "oink, oink."

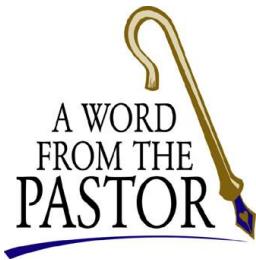
One mom, dad and baby come in each Thursday. I like to go to them and fuss with the baby girl, about six-months old. A couple of weeks ago, the dad told me the baby had been in the hospital two days with constipation. We were happy to get through the conversation without too much confusion. The Soup Kitchen isn't just about feeding the body. It's also about feeding the soul, mine and theirs.

I have been picking up bags of clothing that I see downstairs. I hope they are for the soup kitchen! Thank you, whoever you are. They are much appreciated. *Nancy Cobb*



# Pastor's Perspective

February 2023



For this month's perspective, I want to share with you two items. One I verbally reported at our Congregational meeting. The second involves our North American Lutheran Church. As I do that, please know that I am deeply grateful to the Council and Staff of Emanuel, as well as each one of you. Our staff does good work ensuring that much of the ministry that occurs between Sundays goes well and that we are prepared for each Sunday's worship service. Our Council has provided excellent leadership over the past year. Most importantly, each of you participating in the mission and ministry of Emanuel contributes to the sharing of the good news of Jesus Christ in our Alloway Community and well beyond.

## VALUES

During 2022, our congregation identified the core values of Emanuel Lutheran Church. We started with a Bible study that was completed by the Discipleship seed group. This was a similar Bible study used in the development of our congregation's mission statement. The Discipleship seed group then led the council in the process of the Bible study to identify what they saw as our congregation's values. In the September newsletter, the congregation was invited to do this Bible study and offer their feedback to the council.

Throughout the process, we identified many values that our congregation holds. While there are many values we hold dear, there were three specific values that we found in common. I have highlighted the actual value in bold print. Behind it is just one scriptural passage to serve as the basis for this value.

**VALUE 1 – Love God, love neighbor:** *“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.”* Mark 12:30-31

This value is reflected in three keywords: *Fellowship, Truth and Unity*. We seek fellowship together with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. We speak the truth in love. We maintain the unity of our congregation.

**VALUE 2 – Discipleship:** *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always to the end of the age.”* Matthew 28:19-20.

The great commission is Jesus' work given to the church. In other words, he is with us, and we are joining him in the task of calling people to follow him. This means being a disciple (“Follow Me” John 1:43 and “Come and see” John 1:46). *Be a disciple; make disciples!*

**VALUE 3 – Faith:** *“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”* Ephesians 2:8-10

Make no mistake. We are saved by God's grace alone through faith in Jesus. We contribute nothing to our salvation. Having been claimed by God, we are people of faith and what all we do flows from our faith in God.

## NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

As many of you know, Emanuel joined the North American Lutheran Church in 2015. Since joining the NALC, we have found a refreshing denominational home that is Christ-centered, Mission-driven, Traditionally-grounded and Congregationally-focused. Today, the NALC is 480 plus congregations strong. We give thanks to God for His faithfulness.

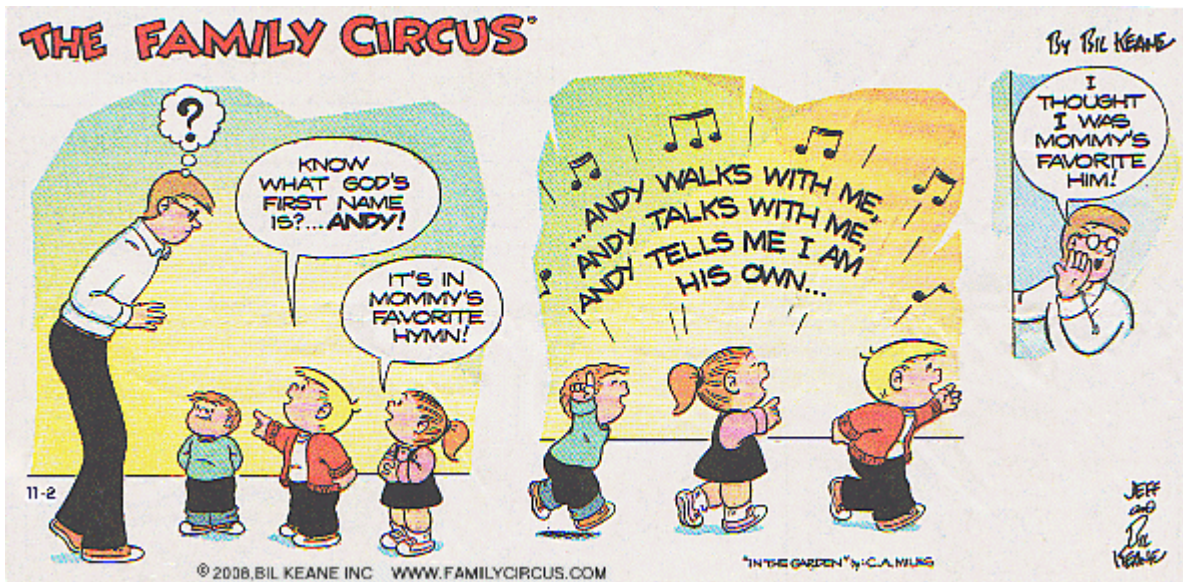
In 2022, the NALC launched its Today, Tomorrow and Forever initiative. This initiative was launched to support the 2020 vision our Bishop outlined and which our 2020 Convocation endorsed. The financial goal is to raise five million dollars (\$5,000,000) over the next three years so as to see the vision come to fruition. The ten bullet points of that vision have been condensed to four primary objectives. The first of the objectives is to grow. This includes discipleship, stewardship and the planting of new congregations.

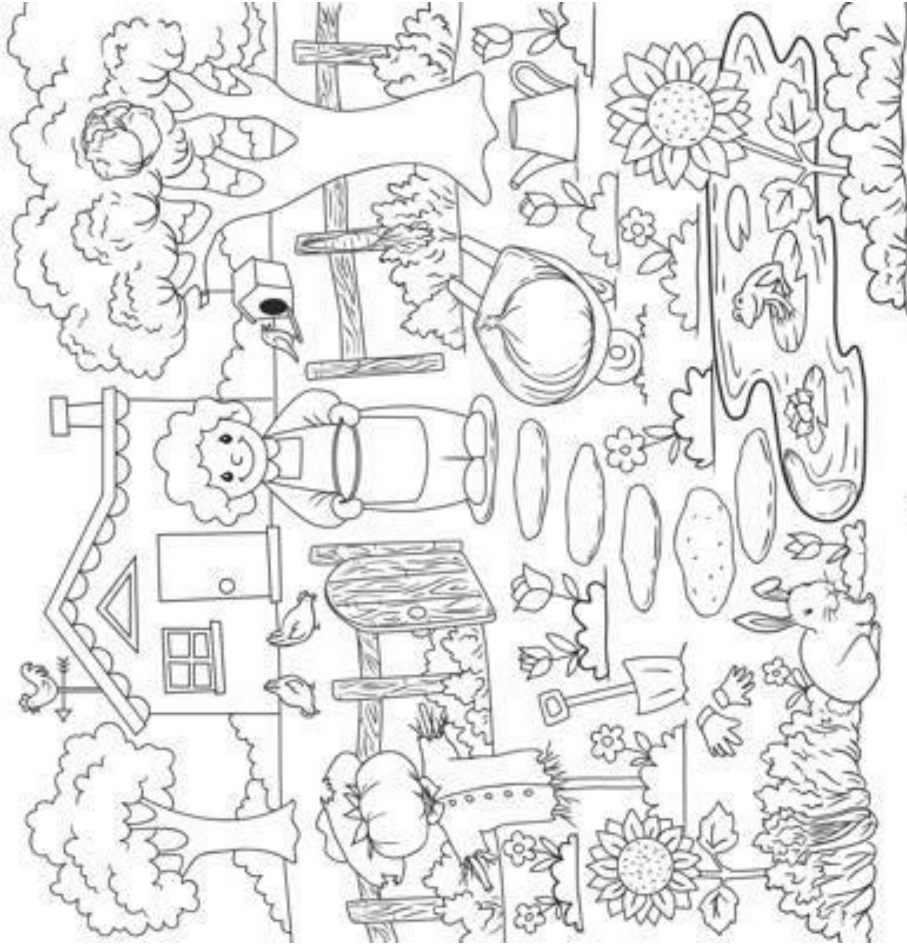
All NALC Congregations are asked to participate in the raising of funds to meet the needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ for the sake of the Gospel. As a member of the North American Lutheran Church Executive Council, I was among the first to be asked to support this initiative with a financial pledge over the course of the next three years. It is a joy to share in the wider work of the church. So yes, I am personally invested in this initiative.

As I presented this material to our council, it was decided that we'll invite the congregation to participate through a series of special offerings that will be received four times a year. A special container will be available the last Sunday of the month to receive contributions toward this initiative.

Thank you in advance for your continued support not only of Emanuel's mission and ministry, but for the work of our North American Lutheran Church as we seek to be Christ-centered, Mission-driven, Traditionally-grounded and Congregationally-focused.

God bless,  
Pastor Mark





-  Onion
-  Potato
-  Carrot
-  Cabbage
-  Tomato
-  Celery
-  Zucchini

*Granny loves making soup, but first she needs to find all the vegetables hidden in her garden! Find the vegetables and then color the garden!*