

# 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 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.*

## MARCH ACTIVITIES AT EMANUEL

- March 1* – Bible Study at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom  
*March 5* – Sunday School, Worship, Luncheon  
*March 7* – Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. in social hall  
*March 8* – Bible Study at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom  
*March 11* – Men’s Group at 9:00 a.m. social hall  
– Set clocks forward one hour (DST begins)  
*March 12* – Sunday School and Worship  
– Food Pantry Sunday  
– LCW meeting after worship in social hall  
*March 13* – Worship & Music Committee 6:30 p.m.  
*March 14*– Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. in social hall  
– Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. social Hall  
*March 15* – Bible Study at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom  
*March 19* – Sunday School and Worship  
*March 22* – Bible Study at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom  
*March 26* – Sunday School and Worship  
*March 28* – Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. in social hall  
*March 29* – Bible Study at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom  
– Acolyte article deadline

## STEWARDSHIP

Financials as of January 2023:  
YTD Income: \$21,465.10  
YTD Expense: \$12,365.01  
YTD Net Income: \$9,022.69  
Total yearly budgeted income/expense: \$182,672.00

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 Anette Manno         | 18 Owen Cox           |
| 9 Pastor Mark          | 19 Aubrey Brooks      |
| 10 Ashley Sutton Doerr | 20 Gladys Elder       |
| 14 Regan Wilson        | 25 Brandon McAllister |
| Bill McPherson         | 31 Annabelle Cobb     |
| 16 Judy Cellmer        | Rene Wiker            |

May your celebrations be richly blessed.

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

## MARCH ALTAR GUILD

Helen Cobb / Elizabeth Brooks

## MARCH USHERS

Helen Cobb / Karen Wirsing

## MARCH LECTORS

- 5 – Dianne Hermanson  
12 – Helgi Viire  
19 – Kyle Knerr  
26 – Wayne Knerr

## MARCH SOUP KITCHEN

Karen Wirsing  
Julian Kidd  
Rich Caldwell  
Ellen Filbey  
Barbara Sinnema  
Nancy Cobb

*friesburg philosophy*

Hate has caused a lot of problems in  
this world, but it has not solved one yet.  
*Maya Angelou*

## WHERE DOES FAITH COME FROM?

By Pr. Brian Triller

In John 6:40, Jesus says: *“For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”* (ESV)

It is the best of news to hear that, by the grace of God, we are saved from sin, death, and the devil through faith in Jesus Christ. There's just one problem. None of us human beings, by our own power, can believe in Jesus.

As Martin Luther says: *“I believe that by my own reason or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to Him.”* (*Small Catechism*, Part II, The Creed)

So if we can't believe in Jesus by our own reason or strength, then how can we be saved? Luther tells us the solution as he continues his comments on the Creed: *“But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith, just as He calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian church.”*

Not only did Jesus die on the cross and rise again to conquer sin, death, and the devil, He also gave the Holy Spirit to His apostles and to the Church. It is *“...the Holy Spirit...who works faith, when and where he pleases, in those who hear the Gospel.”* (*Augsburg Confession*, Article V: 2)

On that Pentecost Sunday after Jesus' ascension, He poured out the Holy Spirit on His apostles and the other disciples with them in the Upper Room. The Spirit worked faith, when and where He pleased, in the people who heard the Gospel in Peter's sermon that day. *“So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.”* Acts 2:41 (ESV)

The same Holy Spirit has worked and continues to work faith in you and me, baptized followers of Jesus, as we continue to hear the Gospel. And as we share—in word and action—the Gospel of Jesus Christ with those around us, the Spirit works faith, when and where He pleases, in those who hear that Good News.

**Prayer:** *Dear Holy Spirit, I thank You for working in me the faith to believe in Jesus. Please use me to share the Good News of Jesus with others, that You may work saving faith in them. Amen!*

## SOUP KITCHEN NEWS

If you remember, last month I told of a family whose baby daughter had been in the hospital. I was elated we could manage to communicate pretty well. Turns out, I was wrong. During our conversation, they were talking about clothing. The mother was pointing to the baby's shoes, making me think she was looking for baby clothes. I told her we didn't have any right then. I found out later that what she was saying was that they had baby clothing to donate! Modern Tower of Babel

God is good!  
Nancy Cobb

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

Registration 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://atlanticmissionregionnalc.regfox.com/2023-retreat-pre-registration>.

## LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Spring is almost here and we are eager to get back together. There will be a meeting of LCW on Sunday, March 12, in the social hall immediately after worship. All women are welcome and invited. You do not have to be a member. Please join us for a time of fellowship and a little business. It will be good to get together again.

# Pastor's Perspective

March 2023

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." John 3:16-17*

The first verse quoted above may be one of the most well-known verses of the Bible. It speaks to the great desire of God that all people should be saved. In fact, when you look at the verse, there is no one for whom this verse doesn't apply.

God loves you. God gave Jesus for you. God wants you to have eternal life. Jesus has done all the work. God desires the world to be saved through Jesus. That is the key.

You see, our salvation isn't dependent upon how good a life we lived. Yes, we should desire to be good people. But when you look at the standard, what is good enough, we could never be sure that we've measured up. We'd always wonder about something we failed to do, a word misspoken, an action not taken, a promise we forgot to keep and so on.

We have entered the season of Lent. The lessons we hear, particularly from the Gospels, speak to Jesus being drawn to Jerusalem where he will undergo great suffering, be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate, died and buried. Jesus endures this for us. "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." 2 Corinthians 5:21.

Who we believe in matters. It is of eternal consequence. "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12. That is the good news. Jesus saves. This is what makes Christianity unique. We are not just one religion among many from which to choose. The relationship we have with Jesus, is based on his love for us. For in no other religion is there a belief that someone died and rose from the dead.

Such belief in Jesus is not simply head knowledge. Rather, our salvation in Christ is received through faith that comes to us as a gift. "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.

Having been saved by Jesus, we are free from the burden of trying to be good enough. Freed from that burden, God's purpose for us is that we serve our neighbors, who rely on the good works we do in this life.

*God bless,  
Pastor Mark*

## **COUNCIL COMMITTEE LIAISONS**

Anniversary Committee.....	Kyle Knerr
Christian Education.....	Wayne Knerr
Fellowship.....	Brenda Mace, Chrissy Smith, Kathy Willis
Finance.....	Mike Clarke
Mutual Ministry .....	Brenda Mace, Steve Kennedy, Chrissy Smith
Property.....	Jimmy Cobb
Stewardship.....	Wayne Knerr
Witness/Outreach/Evangelism.....	Chrissy Smith
Worship& Music .....	Wayne Knerr

