



Emanuel Lutheran Church

366 Cohansey-Friesburg Road
P. O. Box 363
Elmer, NJ 08318
Phone: 856-451-5669

Sunday Opportunities:

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Worship 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

OCTOBER ACTIVITIES AT EMANUEL

Oct 1 – Sunday School 9 a.m.
Oct 1 – Worship 10 a.m.
Oct 3 – Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Social Hall
Oct 4 – Bible Study 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
Oct 8 – Sunday School 9 a.m.
Oct 8 – Worship 10 a.m.
Oct 10 – Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Social Hall
Oct 11 – Bible Study 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
Oct 15 – Sunday School 9 a.m.
Oct 15 – Worship 10 a.m.
Oct 16 – Mutual Ministry 6:30 p.m.
Oct 17 – Council 6:00 p.m.
Oct 17 – Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Social Hall
Oct 18 – Bible Study 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
Oct 22 – Sunday School 9 a.m.
Oct 22 – Worship 10 a.m.
Oct 24 – Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Social Hall
Oct 25 – Bible Study 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
Oct 29 – Sunday School 9 a.m.
Oct 29 – Worship 10 a.m.
Oct 31 – Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Social Hall

STEWARDSHIP

Financials as of August 2023:

YTD Income: \$127,174.00
YTD Expense: \$111,233.44
YTD Net Income: \$15,940.56

Total yearly budgeted income/expense: \$182,672.00

OCTOBER ALTAR GUILD

Allison Cox

OCTOBER USHERS

Helen Cobb
Karen Wirsing

OCTOBER LECTORS

October 1, Jordan Werner
October 8, Elle Cobb
October 15, Cindy Plummer
October 22, Wayne Knerr
October 29, Cindy Cairone

OCTOBER SOUP KITCHEN

Barbara Sinnema
Ellen Filbey
Pam Casella
Nancy Cobb

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday greetings for October are wished for:

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

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

May you all be blessed with a happy special day and
a wonderful year to follow.

Friesburg Filisophy

Some want it to happen, some wish it would happen,
some make it happen.

LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

The LCW has the following items scheduled:

- (1) A covered dish luncheon for new members this year and one taking first communion to be held on October 29
- (2) Ruritan dinner on Thursday, October 5
- (3) Looking into selling WaWa tickets this year - money to go to the 300th Anniversary fund
- (4) Christmas luncheon to be scheduled for December 10
- (5) Collecting for Cornerstone Pregnancy with baby bottles during month of October
- (6) Collecting items for Health and School kits. There will be more information on items as the year progresses.

Next meeting is Sunday, November 12 after church.

ATTENTION SENIORS

There will be a senior luncheon at the Alloway Township Building on Thursday, October 19 from noon to 2:00 p.m. There will be a speaker who will address Medicare.

CONNECTIONS MAGAZINE

One of the things we include in our budget is a mailing subscription of the Connections Magazine for our members. Connections is produced by Sola Publishing. It comes every other month. Articles in the magazine are on Biblical events. If you have any questions about the magazine, please speak to Pastor Mark.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Trunk or Treat is tentatively scheduled for October 27th at 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. More information will be in future bulletins.

SOUP KITCHEN NEWS

This summer was a special time for Emanuel at the soup kitchen. While the youth were off from school, they volunteered to help out. Originally, they were just going to put a mint on the clients' trays. But it turned out that some of the volunteers couldn't make it so they actually got to man the drinks station. They took to the task and did a great job. The clients were happy to see some refreshing faces—not the usual senior citizens. And the staff also enjoyed working with them. Some of the youth wanted to go every day. They all felt it was a need in the community. Most importantly, it gave them a glimpse of people they don't usually interact with in their daily lives. Hopefully it will become a yearly experience.



COUNCIL COMMITTEE LIAISONS

Anniversary Committee - Kyle Knerr

Christian Education - Wayne Knerr

Fellowship - Brenda Mace, Chrissy Smith, Kathy Willis

Finance - Mike Clarke

Mutual Ministry - Steve Kennedy, Chrissy Smith

Property - Jimmy Cobb

Safety & Security - Kyle Knerr, Mike Clarke

Stewardship - Wayne Knerr

Witness/Outreach/Evangelism - Chrissy Smith

Worship & Music - Wayne Knerr



of all, we are called to gather together every Sunday to be nourished by God's spoken and enacted Word in the Holy Communion service.

Our members are also invited to participate in Sunday School classes, Tuesday morning in-person Bible study, and Wednesday evening Bible study via Zoom.

In addition to gathering with others to be fed by God's Word, we are encouraged as individual followers of Jesus to read and meditate on Scripture daily during time spent alone with our Lord. Devotional materials (such as *The Upper Room*) are used by some members as a guide for this time alone with our Lord.

When Martha and Mary hosted Jesus and His disciples in their house, Mary chose to sit and listen to Jesus' teaching while Martha got herself distracted by the details of preparing a meal for her special guests. (See Luke 10:38-42.) Jesus commended Mary for choosing "the good portion" because she fed on the Word of God. By the grace of God, may we follow her example often!

THE FOOD OF ETERNAL LIFE

By Pr. Brian Triller

When Jesus was being tempted by the devil in the wilderness, He said, *"It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*
Matthew 4:4 (ESV)

By quoting that verse from Deuteronomy 8:3, Jesus is making it clear that people need to be nourished by the Word of God in order to live life as God intends. If a person doesn't eat physical food, they will die a physical death. And if a person is not nourished by God's Word, they will not have eternal life with Him.

The Holy Spirit gave Peter the faith to grasp this truth. In the 6th chapter of John's Gospel, when Jesus asked His twelve disciples if they wanted to stop following Him (v. 67), Peter answered, *"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."* John 6:68-69 (ESV)

You and I eat physical food every day to keep our bodies alive. Jesus is saying that, as important as it is to eat physical food, it is **crucial** that we be nourished by God's Word on an ongoing basis.

In our congregation, there are many opportunities to be fed by the Word of God. First

Pastors Perspective
October 2023

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of well-aged wine well refined. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. Isaiah 25:6-8

Over the course of my 25 plus years as an ordained pastor, I have officiated at many a funeral. I have presided over the funerals of very active members as well as individuals whom I had never met. The most common comment I have received when doing funerals for individuals I did not know or know well is "It must be hard to do a funeral for someone you didn't know." To the contrary, it is harder to do a funeral for someone I have come to know well. Why is that the case?

The first answer to that question is familiarity. In each congregation I have served, I have grown to know fellow brothers and sisters in Christ as we do ministry together. We worship together. We pray together. We study the word together. We serve together. I have come to love the people with whom I have been called to serve and with whom we have served the community together. I love you and am grateful to serve as your pastor as we go about the mission of Emanuel, "a community of faith, leading people to Christ." With that familiarity it is easier in the funeral for such active members to focus on the past and to focus on all the good things he or she had done in the congregation and community. With all due respect, while one doesn't want to ignore the life of the one lived, the focus must be on the future.

Death comes. The final breathe is breathed. The casket is closed and lowered into the grave. Yet, for the ones who believe in Jesus, death is not the end. The passage above is one of many passages throughout the scriptures that speak of the hope that is ours through Jesus.

What awaits us is not necessarily the earthly hobbies of this life. I can't tell you that we'll be golfing in that great golf course in the sky, or swimming in the great swimming pool in the sky or gardening in that great garden in the sky. What awaits us is a celebration akin to a feast. What awaits us is the ultimate healing. "...also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations." (Revelation 22:2b) What awaits us is a place in God's house, "In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." (John 14:2-3)

The fullness of God's Kingdom is free from all the pains, sufferings, trials and tribulations of this life. Gone will be the pain of seeing a loved one lose their memory to dementia. Gone will be the slow death that comes from numerous terminal diseases. Gone will be the heartache of unreconciled relationships. Gone will be the grief that seems to endlessly linger. Gone are the tears shed over the endings of this life.

Your funeral is an opportunity to proclaim the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who may attend. It is the opportunity to speak to the hope and faith in Christ that sustains us in this life. It is by faith in Jesus Christ, that your last breath was not the end, but that of a new beginning. For when the Lord opens our eyes, there we shall behold him in beauty and righteousness, in the perfect peace that passes all understanding.

To aid you in planning for your funeral, the Worship and Music Committee commends to you a funeral planning packet that is available in the church narthex. The first couple of pages covers information that family members will need when putting together your obituary. The last half of the packet are suggested scripture passages that can be used as well as hymns you would like. Understand, I'm in no hurry to see anyone die, yet the reality is that the day will come for each of us short of Jesus'

return. When you complete the packet, please let those close to you know where they can find it when the information is needed. If you want, we can also keep a copy of it in the church filing cabinet.

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.’” John 11:25-26a.

God bless,
Pastor Mark