



## 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*

## DECEMBER ACTIVITIES AT EMANUEL

*Dec 3* – Sunday School 9 a.m.  
*Dec 3* – Worship 10 a.m.  
*Dec 3* – Decorate the Sanctuary  
*Dec 5* – Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Social Hall  
*Dec 6* – Bible Study 7:00 p.m. via Zoom  
*Dec 9* – Elmer Men’s Group 8 a.m. Elmer Diner  
*Dec 10* – Sunday School 9 a.m.  
*Dec 10* – Worship 10 a.m.  
*Dec 10* – LCW Christmas Luncheon  
*Dec 12* – Council 6:00 p.m.  
*Dec 12* – Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Social Hall  
*Dec 13* – Bible Study 7:00 p.m. via Zoom  
*Dec 17* – Sunday School 9 a.m.  
*Dec 17* – Worship 10 a.m. with Children’s Program  
*Dec 19* – Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Social Hall  
*Dec 20* – Bible Study 7:00 p.m. via Zoom  
*Dec 21* – Alloway Twp Young at Heart 12-2 p.m. at  
Alloway Twp Building  
*Dec 24* – Sunday School 9 a.m.  
*Dec 24* – Worship 10 a.m.  
*Dec 24* – Christmas Eve Service 7:00 p.m.  
*Dec 31* – Sunday School 9 a.m.  
*Dec 31* – Worship 10 a.m.

## STEWARDSHIP

Financials as of October 2023:

YTD Income: \$160,931.40  
YTD Expense: \$135,745.58  
YTD Net Income: \$25,185.82

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

## DECEMBER ALTAR GUILD

Nancy Cobb  
Mason Cobb

## DECEMBER USHERS

Kyle Knerr  
Wayne May

## DECEMBER LECTORS

December 3, Kyle Knerr  
December 10, Rita Bowen  
December 17, Elle Cobb  
December 24, Nancy Cobb  
December 24, Christmas Eve, Helgi Viire  
December 31, Brendan Miller

## DECEMBER SOUP KITCHEN

Ellen Filbey  
Barbara Sinnema  
Pam Casella  
Nancy Cobb

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Many people at our church celebrate birthdays in December:

3 Daryl Halter	16 Josh Hitchner
5 Zack Sutton	Dalton Wilson
7 Irving Halter, Jr.	17 David Willson
8 Kathy McGettigan	
12 Linda Halter Conover	20 Sharon Coleman
15 Paige Smith	Shannon Leadly
	23 Kaye Whyte

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

## *Friesburg Filisophy*

Preach the truth, even if only one person accepts it.

## SOUP KITCHEN NEWS

### 857

The final count of food items donated to the Soup Kitchen by Emanuel in response to the FEEDENE 2023 challenge. AND we have word that the soup kitchen will receive the \$500 that is awarded to the first 100 completed entries. Margie (soup kitchen coordinator) was beside herself.

This soup kitchen is a very special soup kitchen. They operate five days a week all year, providing for those who might not get a nutritious hot meal that day.

And they aren't just run-of-the-mill meals. Each day they are prepared from scratch, including at least a choice of an entrée, a starch, vegetable, bread and dessert. Depending on what they receive, there might be a fresh salad. There is a homemade soup served (again using what is available) during the winter months. This is a big favorite with the clients.

Let me tell you about one particular dessert Cheryl makes: bread pudding made from croissants donated by the local WaWa. And she even makes a topping. It is the best. That's not all she does with croissants—sometimes they serve a breakfast and she uses croissants to make French toast. Being dependent on what is available, they become quite inventive.

A very big THANK YOU to all who helped make this project such a success.

Lord when was it we saw you hungry?

*The King (Jesus) said, "Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it to me." Matthew 25:40*



## LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

We have many things happening in December:

- WaWa tickets \$6 - money to go to 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. See Brenda Mace
- Sunday, December 10-Noon Christmas Luncheon at Chobani's in Pennsville
- Collecting unwrapped toys for Salvation Army, deadline is December 10. Corral downstairs in Sunday School room.
- The LCW is sponsoring a Christmas family this year. A young mother with a young daughter. If you would like to help, she could use gift cards from Wal Mart, Target and Shop Rite or a monetary gift and your prayers. If you have any questions, please contact Lorraine. Lorraine will be collecting these items until December 17. Thank you for your love and giving. Items needed diapers size 7, girls clothing 3T, gift cards to Target, ShopRite or Walmart, monetary gifts give to Lorraine May. There is a Christmas bag for items.

Next meeting will be Sunday, March 10 after Church in the Social Hall.

### THANK YOU (Debbie Hinkle)

*I would like to thank all of the members of Emanuel Lutheran Church for their prayers and cards while I was going through my cancer treatments. The chemo and radiation are finally all behind me and I will continue with Immunotherapy for the next year. Thankfully, this treatment does not have any side effects for me and has helped me to feel much better.*

*You have all been a blessing to me.*

*Debbie Hinkle*

### COUNCIL COMMITTEE LIAISONS

Anniversary Committee - Kyle Knerr

Christian Education - Wayne Knerr

Fellowship - Brenda Mace, Chrissy Smith, Kathy Willis

Finance – Steve Kennedy

Mutual Ministry - Steve Kennedy, Chrissy Smith

Property - Jimmy Cobb

Safety & Security – Kyle Knerr

Stewardship - Wayne Knerr

Witness/Outreach/Evangelism - Chrissy Smith

Worship& Music - Wayne Knerr



## HELGI VIIRE

Meet our new associate member, Helgi Viire. Helgi was introduced to us by another congregant, Carol Parsons, who attends the same senior center. Helgi mentioned to her that her home church, Northville Estonian Lutheran Church, does not meet during the summer months. Carol told her about our congregation, so Helgi, not sure what to expect, came one Sunday just before we started holding services at the pavilion--and never left us. Now we see her the second and fourth Sundays of the month when her home church does not meet. Being an associate member allows her to maintain her membership in her Estonian congregation while enjoying all the amenities of Emanuel, except voting. Helgi has a story that rings so loudly right now. She, her mother, brother and sister were displaced persons after WWII, shifting between countries until they were sponsored by Seabrook Farms. She was 7-1/2 years old when they left Estonia and 12 when they arrived in the US. So they spent almost five years in limbo, not always having food or a bed. If you get a chance, ask her about her journey; it's remarkable how they survived.

Helgi attended nursing school and was employed as a nurse at Owens-Illinois. Her impression of Emanuel—she was “overwhelmed” with how Emanuel embraced her; she was immediately surrounded by the women from the church and made to feel welcome.

## THANK YOU (Cornerstone)

Thank you for your support of the Cornerstone Women's Resource Center. This year we collected \$458.09 through the Baby Bottle collection drive. Thank you also to Karen Wirsing for organizing the drive.

## THANK YOU (AMR)

The following is an excerpt from a Thank You note that we received for our contribution to the Atlantic Mission Region of the North American Lutheran Church. Supporting the work of our mission region means partnering with other congregations in our Mission Region for important ministries for the growth of the church, not just our congregation. The Atlantic Mission Region covers the geographic area of New England, Central and Eastern New York, Central and Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, and Maryland. In addition to our financial support, Wayne Knerr from Emanuel serves on the Atlantic Mission Region Council. Thank you, Wayne.

The Atlantic Mission Region of the NALC (AMR) would like to thank you for your continued support of the AMR with your prayers and benevolence offerings. The AMR receives no direct funding from the NALC and has responsibility for working with the NALC to support our own ministries and new mission congregations through funding at our local level. The money that we have on account is the result of the direct giving of our members and member congregations within the region.

During the twelve years the AMR has been in existence, over \$300,000 has been given to support our member congregations, pastors, and the NALC and the NALC's ministry partners. This support includes:

- Assisting victims of numerous natural disasters in cooperation with the NALC's Disaster Response,
- Providing financial assistance to member congregations and pastors to attend the NALC and AMR Annual Convocations,
- Supporting the NAL Seminary and seminarians through scholarships,
- Pledging financial support for the NALC Domestic Ministry position,
- Pledging financial support for the Assistant to the Bishop for the Eastern Area position,
- Granting mission outreach assistance to member congregations and organizations of the AMR and the NALC,
- Reimbursing the costs of our Dean and AMR Council members as they conduct the work of the AMR, and

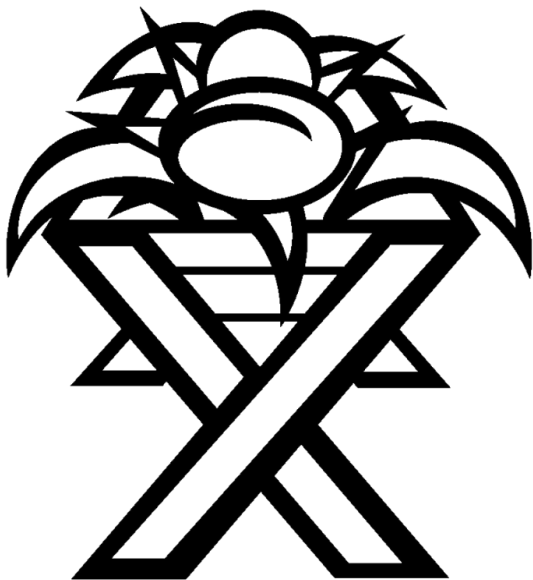
- Covering the administrative costs that pertain to regular business of the region, the annual convocation, the theological conference and activities of the AMR Women of the NALC.

As a congregation of the AMR that is supporting the organization financially, we thank you for your continued generosity. It is only through prayer and your offerings that we are able so support many ministries and conduct the business of the AMR as we work together to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world.

Yours in Christ,  
Kathaleen Lilley  
Atlantic Mission Region Treasurer

## OPEN COUNCIL POSITIONS

The council is open to receiving nominations for persons willing to serve on Emanuel's council. We currently have two open spots. A council member provides leadership to the congregation in attending worship, making decisions concerning our ministry and how we carry out our mission. The council meets approximately 9-10 times per year. Members of Council also serve on a committee where they provide feedback to the council regarding ideas and proposals from said committee. Council members must also maintain confidentiality in certain matters. If you or someone you know is interested in serving, please speak to a council member.



## RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

By Pr. Brian Triller

During a recent Bible study led by Pr. Mark, our group started talking about how the Scriptures make it clear that God wants relationship with all people.

Having a relationship with every person has always been His desire, and He has expressed that desire since He created our first parents. Adam and Eve originally lived in close relationship with God. However, they broke that loving relationship when they disobeyed Him. And since that critical moment, all people conceived and born into this world enter it separated from God by their sin.

God's plan to redeem and restore all people to Himself is based on His love for all humankind. As we study the books of the Old Testament, we see God's plan unfold as He chooses and forms the people of Israel. From this chosen people would come the Savior of the world. This Savior, to whom all the books of the Old Testament point, is the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

This Son of God, who was born of the virgin Mary, laid down His life and rose again to win for all people the forgiveness of their sins, so that they might be restored to right relationship with God the Father.

Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Jesus Christ. (See John 14:6.) By the grace of God, those who believe in Jesus Christ and are baptized are restored to right relationship with the Father and are identified as members of the family of God.

When a person is baptized, they receive the Holy Spirit. Only by the active presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in the Church are we able to remain in right relationship with our Father in heaven. As we hear and receive the Gospel in Word and Sacrament, the Spirit continues to work in us faith in Jesus, that we may remain connected with our Father between now and when we see Him face to face.

Let us pray: Dear Father, thank You for answering Jesus' prayer to pour out the Holy Spirit upon Your people. According to Your will for us, may we not quench the Spirit but allow Him to continue His work in us, that we may remain in relationship with You through our belief in Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen!

## Pastor's Perspective

*Oh, come, O Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emanuel, Shall come to you, O Israel.*

*"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emanuel – Lutheran Book of Worship #34 vs. 5.*

One of the things we like least in life is waiting. It doesn't matter what we are waiting for, we generally don't like it. Who likes waiting in line for 45 minutes to ride a roller coaster at an amusement park? We don't; so many amusement parks will help you avoid such long waits with the purchase of a fast pass. Who wants to wait in the long lines of a grocery store? Well, you can check out by taking the self-checkout scanners, which are usually faster. Then there is traffic, which really tests our appetite (or lack thereof) for waiting. Waiting is one of the most counter cultural things we can do in life. Everything is designed and marketed toward us saving time (and money).

The church is called to be counter cultural. It means rejecting the values of the world which praises self-indulgence. Yes, that includes patient waiting, or what has been translated in the Bible as long-suffering.

The most significant wait we have as disciples of Jesus is for his promised return. Jesus himself stated that he does not know. "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven or the Son, but the Father only." (Matthew 24:36)

There is great purpose in this time of waiting. Waiting is a time not of idleness, but preparation. Jesus illustrated the need for preparation in waiting with the Parable of the Tenants (Matthew 21:33-44), the Parable of the Wedding Feast (Matthew 22:2-14), the Parable of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13) and the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30) to name a few. The Apostle Paul noted that the waiting for the coming judgement of God which accompanies the return of Jesus has an crucial purpose. "Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?" (Romans 2:4)

The season of Advent is a time of active waiting. Lost in the hustle of all things on our personal lists to get done for Christmas is the focus on our spiritual preparation, that of actively waiting for Jesus return, even as we prepare to celebrate his first arrival. One of the ways in which the one holy catholic and apostolic church has done this through the centuries is through hymns. While the secular festivities of a Christmas holiday start even before Halloween, the church pumps the breaks to focus on our spiritual preparation. Yes, this is hard for us in the church because we fall too easily into the trappings of Christmas and the way we think the season should be celebrated.

This means that as you hear jingle bells and other secular or religious Christmas songs on the radio or over the speaker while you're shopping, the church is singing the advent hymns that speak to the coming of Christ, both his first and second coming. In other words, we are in active preparation mode of waiting.

So not every hymn in December is going to be a Christmas carol. There will be hymns that focus on that spiritual discipline of patient waiting. Yes, there will be Christmas hymns sung. Some of the favorites will be part of the Sunday school Christmas program. Others will be sung on Christmas Eve or at the Lessons and carols service on December 31st, which is part of the 12 days of Christmas.

In this Advent and coming Christmas season, I encourage you to reflect on the words of each of the hymns that we sing. In this, may you find the Holy Spirit at work deepening your faith and encouraging you in your walk as a follower of Jesus.

God Bless,  
Pastor Mark