



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

Emanuel's Core Values Are: Love God, Love Neighbor; Be a Disciple, Make Disciples; Faith

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES AT EMANUEL

Feb 4 – Sunday School 9 a.m.
Feb 4 – Worship 10 a.m.
Feb 7 – Bible Study 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
Feb 10 – Men's Group, 8:00 a.m., Elmer Diner
Feb 11 – Sunday School 9 a.m.
Feb 11 – Worship 10 a.m.
Feb 11 - 4H Meeting in Social Hall 2-5 p.m.
Feb 12 – Council, 6:00 p.m.
Feb 13 – Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Social Hall
Feb 13 – Anniversary Committee 6:00 p.m.
Feb 14 – Ash Wednesday Service, 1:00 p.m.
Feb 15 – “Young at Heart”, 12:00 p.m., Alloway Twp.
Feb 18 - Sunday School 9 a.m.
Feb 18 – Worship 10 a.m.
Feb 20 – Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Social Hall
Feb 21 – Bible Study 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
Feb 25 – Sunday School 9 a.m.
Feb 25 – Worship 10 a.m.
Feb 27 – Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Social Hall
Feb 28 – Bible Study 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

STEWARDSHIP

Financials as of December 2023:
YTD Income: \$219,315.63
YTD Expense: \$164,582.69
YTD Net Income: \$54,732.94
Total yearly budgeted income/expense: \$182,672.00

FEBRUARY ALTAR GUILD

Dottie Lower

FEBRUARY USHERS

Scott Hitchner
Wayne May

FEBRUARY LECTORS

February 4 Wayne Knerr
February 11 Cindy Plummer
February 18 Nancy Cobb
February 25 Karen Wirsing

FEBRUARY SOUP KITCHEN

Ellen Filbey
Jullian Kidd
Pam Casella
Nancy Cobb

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Let's celebrate:

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 you all have a wonderful special day and a blessed year.

Friesburg Filisophy

Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards.

CHRONIGER FAMILY UPDATE

It has been a while since we have been in contact with the Chroniger family. Charlotte was our organist for many years and Pastor Don would substitute in the pulpit from time to time. Here is what they are up to now.

Don retired as pastor of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh and has been preaching at several local churches who are without pastors. He has also been asked to lead some funeral services of folks outside their church.

Charlotte has been subbing for Greenwich and Stow Creek Schools as often as possible. She also directs their church handbell choir and leads the children's chime choir. Charlotte served as President for the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference of USA and Canada in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She was privileged to design the program and activities, chair the business meetings that week, provide opportunities for the delegates to grow in their faith, enjoy the fellowship with other attendees and be blessed by seeing God at work in their personal lives and with their Seventh Day Baptist churches. She can also be seen frequently at the local Amish Market treating her grandchildren to ice cream.

Their son, Tyler, is the lead pastor of their church in Shiloh.

Son Jordan is an Alaska State Trooper, stationed in Fairbanks and North Pole (city). They have a three-year-old daughter, Emmalyne.

Daughter Bethany and husband live in the Rogers Park section of Chicago. She works for a non-profit international Christian organization that works with families and villages.

Daughter, Jessica is a Middle School Language Arts teacher in Pennsville. Her husband is renovating a 1707 house into their forever home. Their children are seven-year-old Abigail and five-year-old Drew.

What a busy Christ-centered family!

CONGREGATIONAL DIRECTORY

The Congregational Directory will be updated for 2024. Please submit any additions or changes of address, phone number, email address, birthdays or anniversaries to Lora Sweeney at office@emanuelelmer.church.

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

CASTING ALL OUR CARES ON GOD

By Pr. Brian Triller

When our daughter Sara was about 10 years old, she made a cross-stitch piece which she gave me to hang in my office at church. This framed work included the quote: *“Cast all your cares on him, for he cares for you,”* which is based on an older English translation of I Peter 5:7.

In the English Standard Version (ESV) of the Bible, which our congregation uses for Sunday worship, I Peter 5:7 reads as follows: *“casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.”*

But wait, that verse by itself isn't a complete thought. So we need to see what comes in the verse before it. Let's put verses 6 and 7 together to see if that helps us.

“(6) Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that at the proper time he may exalt you, (7) casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.” (ESV)
By combining these verses, we see that our being humble before God is necessary in order

for us to cast our worries upon Him.

Being humble means admitting our being powerless to save ourselves AND trusting in the saving power and love of almighty God in Jesus Christ. None of us can generate humility by our own efforts. Thanks be to God, we are able to be humble by the working of the Holy Spirit in us, as we hear and receive the Word of God—both Law and Gospel.

As we are nourished by God's Word, our trust in Him grows. He who has saved us from the power of sin, death, and the devil dwells among us; and He has both the desire and ability to take care of all our worldly anxieties as we give them to Him.

Here is a prayer which you and I can use when we are being troubled by worry:

Dear Father in heaven, I trust in Your love for me because You have kept Your promise to send Your Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to give eternal life to all who believe in Him. Today I am anxious about (name the situation). I am powerless to resolve this situation. However, You have all power; and so I cast this care on You. I trust that You will take care of this situation completely, in Your loving time and way. Amen!

Pastor's Perspective
By Pastor Mark Werner

"By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Genesis 3:19.

Picture it. Valentine's Day. It occurs each year on February 14th. Men and women eager to demonstrate their love for one another search for just the right card, just the right gift, be it flowers or chocolates, and then off to a nice dinner, ideally with a babysitter to watch the kids. The messages that you can put on gifts, flowers and cards can be poetic, humorous, thoughtful, and loving.

Now, the absolute last thing that you likely are expecting to hear on this Valentine's Day are the words from the second half of Genesis 3:19 printed above. Indeed, it would be a rather bitter message to open the valentine card and read "Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return." It is even worse than the haunting phrase at the exchange of marriage vows "...until death do you part". At least there, with the ceremony, guests, eager anticipation of the reception and the start of the honeymoon, you can tune that part out of your memory.

But here, by a convergence of the Liturgical Calendar with our secular calendars Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday fall on the same date. I am fully aware that for most couples, the observance of Valentine's Day is going to take greater precedence as far as what plans you have for February 14th. Even in most years when Ash Wednesday doesn't fall on Valentine's Day, the observance of Ash Wednesday that involves hearing God's Word in worship with the imposition of Ashes is not prioritized. Besides, who wants to hear the uncomfortable reminder that we are going to die?

We may not want to hear it, but we NEED to hear it. More to the point, we need to hear what God has done about our mortality. Within this same passage that speaks the judgment of sin which leads to death is the hope that comes to the disobedient who are remorseful and repentant. In God's address to the serpent are these words. *"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."* Genesis 3:15. God is speaking about the offspring of woman, namely the Son of God who was born of the virgin Mary. His name is Emanuel, which means "God with us." Jesus was born to save God's people from their sins. But that salvation comes at a cost.

The serpent will strike. The great enemy that is death temporarily claimed Jesus as he dies on the cross. Jesus is the ransom payment for winning back God's people. Jesus' resurrection destroys death's grip. His resurrection opens the gates of heaven to all who believe. *"But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive."* 1 Corinthians 15:20-22.

This is what true love looks like. *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall 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. Furthermore, *"God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God."* Romans 5:8-9.

Yes, February 14 may be Valentine's Day. It is also the start of Lent, where we follow Jesus who pours out the love of God for you to the cross where the love of God is on full display.

There will be an Ash Wednesday service at Emanuel. It will be held at 1:00 p.m. I realize some of you will be at work. But for those who are able, please plan to attend. Of course, each Sunday in Lent we will hear about the love of God.

WHO LOVES A PARADE?

The 300th Anniversary Committee is looking for someone to take the lead in coordinating the development of a float that would be used in area parades. This person would encourage congregation members to help construct a float and ride on the float. If you are interested in leading this project, please speak to Pastor Mark or Kyle Knerr.

NEED A VISUAL

During the season of Lent there will be opportunity for the congregation to see the love of God in a visual way. We hear the truth that Jesus died for our sins. This Lenten season, a wooden cross will be in the sanctuary near the choir loft. Individuals who come to worship throughout the Lenten season will be invited to write a sin on an index card and pin it to the cross. This is a way to help make the connection to the reason Jesus endured the cross.