



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

MARCH ACTIVITIES AT EMANUEL

Mar 3 – Sunday School 9 a.m.
Mar 3 – Worship 10 a.m.
Mar 5 – Zoom Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Social Hall
Mar 10 – Sunday School 9 a.m.
Mar 10 – Worship 10 a.m.
Mar 10 – Social Hall Reserved by 4H Club
Mar 12 – Music & Worship Committee 6:00 p.m.
Mar 12 – Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Social Hall
Mar 13 – Bible Study 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
Mar 16 – Men's Group @ Elmer Diner 8:00 a.m.
Mar 17 - Sunday School 9 a.m.
Mar 17 – Worship 10 a.m.
Mar 18 – Council 6:00 p.m.
Mar 19 – Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Social Hall
Mar 20 – Bible Study 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
Mar 23 – Easter Egg Hunt 9:00 a.m.
Mar 24 – Sunday School 9 a.m.
Mar 24 – Worship 10 a.m.
Mar 26 – Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Social Hall
Mar 27 – Bible Study 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
Mar 28 – Maundy Thursday Service 6:00 p.m.
Mar 31 – Sunday School 9 a.m.
Mar 31 – Worship 10 a.m.

STEWARDSHIP

Financials as of January 2024:
YTD Income: \$21,481.70
YTD Expense: \$13,367.91
YTD Net Income: \$8,113.79
Total yearly budgeted income/expense: \$164,582.69

MARCH ALTAR GUILD

Helen Cobb
Liz Brooks

MARCH USHERS

Helen Cobb
Karen Wirsing

MARCH LECTORS

March 3, Steve Kennedy
March 10, Cindy Cairone
March 17, Annabelle Cobb
March 24, Elle Cobb
March 31, Brendan Miller

MARCH SOUP KITCHEN

Karen Wirsing
Julian Kidd
Pam Casella
Nancy Cobb

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

The following folks are celebrating March birthdays:

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

Enjoy your day and have a blessed year to come.

Friesburg Filisophy

Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you.

UPPER ROOMS

Please bring in old copies of The Upper Room devotional books. We can include them in the disaster response program.

THANK YOU

Dear Pastor Mark & Emanuel,
Thank you for a lovely baptism, the use of the parish after, and the adorable baby blanket. So glad to be a part of this church family. Love, the Millers

UPCOMING BAPTISM

On Sunday, March 3, Charlotte Elizabeth Kennedy, daughter of Andrew and Colleen Kennedy will be baptized during the service.

HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday – There will be a covered dish meal at the social hall beginning at 6:00 p.m. The Maundy Thursday service will follow in the social hall at 7:00 p.m. Part of the service will include foot washing. If you are willing to have your feet washed, please see Pastor Mark.

Good Friday – There will be a community Good Friday service on March 29 at the Elmer Presbyterian Church at 7:00 p.m.

Easter – There will be a community Easter Dawn Service at 6:30 a.m. at the gazebo in Elmer. Everyone is welcome to go to the Elmer Diner following the service for breakfast.

EASTER EGG HUNT

There will be an Easter Egg hunt on Saturday, March 23rd at 9:00 a.m. Volunteers will meet at 8:00 a.m. to hide Easter Eggs. The hunt will be for those 8th grade and younger. Donations of candy, stickers, etc. are needed to fill the eggs by March 3rd.

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.



The Miller Family
New Members at Emanuel

From time to time, Russell is known to chime in on the sermon with his appropriate comments. Russell recently acquired a new American Flyer wagon for his mode of transportation. Since wagons are not licensed for the road, he relies on his parents to take him to church.

So, here is a little bit about them. Lindsey and Brendan met in college in 2012. Upon graduation they moved to New York until the energy center where Brendan worked closed in 2021. They moved to this area where Brendan is now employed at the Salem Nuclear Power Plant as a Reactor Engineer. He enjoys spending time with his family, playing music, reading, and working with his dog, Rex.

Lindsey is a ceramic artist, painter and teaching artist and is a member of Salem County Art Tour. She has her home studio in Alloway where she makes and sells her work, making it possible to be a stay-at-home mother to Russell.

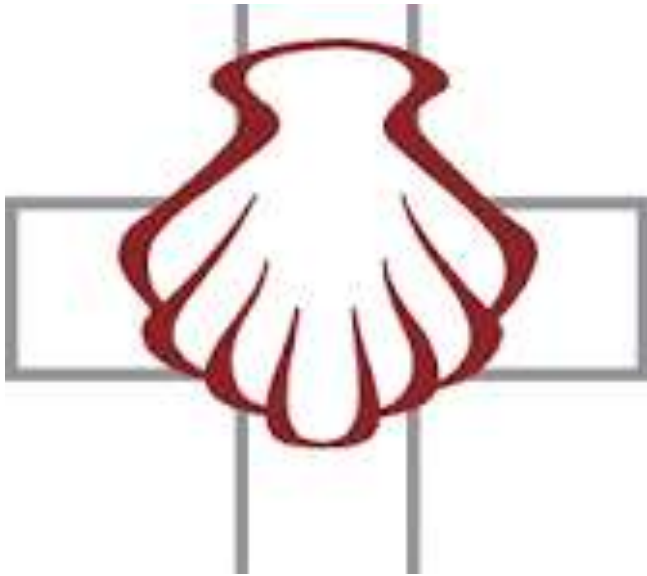
They have always been Lutherans and chose us because we were the closest Lutheran church to their home. Brendan was recently elected to church council.

Brendan and Lindsay are proud parents of Russell and a happy part of the Emanuel family and appreciative of the church's kindness since they joined.

And we are proud to be quasi grandmoms and grandpops of Russell.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE LIASONS

Anniversary Committee - Kyle Knerr
Christian Education - Wayne Knerr
Fellowship -
Finance – Steve Kennedy
Mutual Ministry – Brenda Mace, Steve Kennedy
Property - Jimmy Cobb
Safety & Security – Kyle Knerr
Stewardship - Wayne Knerr, Brendan Miller
Witness/Outreach/Evangelism -
Worship& Music - Wayne Knerr



LIVING OUT OUR BAPTISM

By Pr. Brian Triller

We who are baptized believers in Jesus Christ have recently begun again the annual Lenten journey of following Jesus to Jerusalem. There, about 2,000 years ago, He suffered, was executed on a cross, and was buried. As He had promised, He arose again three days later, on Easter morning.

Our risen Lord Jesus proclaimed to His first disciples, *“Go into all the world and proclaim the*

gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized shall be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:15-16, ESV)

In his *Small Catechism*, Martin Luther refers to this Bible passage as he deals with the question, “What gifts or benefits does Baptism bestow?”

He answers this question by stating, “It [Baptism] effects forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and grants eternal salvation to all who believe, as the Word and promise of God declare.”

Because you and I are baptized children of God, we have been blessed to receive the forgiveness, deliverance, and salvation which Luther speaks of.

Having been so blessed by God in Baptism, how are we to live our daily lives between now and when we meet our Lord face to face in glory? Luther answers this question by putting it another way:

“What does such Baptism with water signify?
Answer: It signifies that the old Adam in us, together with all sins and evil lusts, should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance and be put to death, and that the new man should come forth daily and rise up, to live forever in God's presence.”

As is typical for Luther, he supports his teaching by quoting Scripture: “In Romans 6:4, St. Paul wrote, *‘We were buried therefore with him [Christ] by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.’*”

One way for us to apply this Bible verse is by praying every morning that our Lord would guide and help us to live out our Baptism.

Let us pray: Dear risen Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit who came to me in Baptism, may I this day die to my sinner self. May I allow You to live Your resurrection life in and through me as my Lord, all to the glory of the Father. Amen!

Pastors Perspective
March 2024

"Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man (Jesus) forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses." Acts 13:38-39

In him (Jesus) we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace..." Ephesians 1:7

The season of Lent is a time in the church where our focus is on the events of Jesus earthly life that led up to his death on the cross. He was very direct with the disciples that his mission was to go to Jerusalem where he would "... *be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise.*" Mark 10:33b-34.

But why? Why did Jesus have to die? Jesus was born with the express purpose of saving the world. *"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 that the world might be saved through him."* John 3:16-17. Jesus came to save us from our sins, our sinful nature inherited from Adam and Eve when they disobeyed God (Genesis 3). Justly deserving the wrath of God for our sin, Jesus bore the punishment upon himself and in a delightful exchange, clothed us in his righteousness. That exchange reconciled us to God. Through Jesus death and resurrection, we are forgiven of our sins.

Forgiveness is not something we earn. In other words, we don't do 10 good things to erase the 1 bad or evil thing we have done. Every sin committed in thought, word, and deed, things done and left undone, is like a nail being hammered into Jesus on the cross. He is there, on the cross, in place of us.

If you have been to church or watched a recent service on the live stream, you'll see a large cross in the choir loft. At the top of the cross are the words, *"He was wounded for our transgressions"* (Isaiah 53:5a). Tacked to the cross are slips of red paper that have a sin written on it. The purpose is to provide a visual for the reality that Jesus bore our sins on the cross. The red paper is representative of the blood Jesus shed.

There are plenty of sins that we can write down and tack to that cross. The point is not to argue over which sin is worse. The point is that there is no sinner for whom Jesus didn't die. You, me, the annoying neighbor, the drug dealer, the murderer, the adulterer, the abuser, the thief, and many more sinners are individuals for whom Jesus died. *"he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed."* (Isaiah 53:5b).

There is a familiar hymn that describes well what Jesus has done. It is hymn number 305 in the Lutheran Book of Worship (Green Hymnal).

*I lay my sins on Jesus, the spotless lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us from the accursed load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus to wash my crimson stains
Clean in his blood most precious till not a spot remains.*

It is in this Lenten season that we hear anew the call to repent, to literally turn away from sin that we may hear the beautiful words of Jesus, that your sins are forgiven. It is also the calling of Jesus that we speak the words of forgiveness. So I invite you to come, hear the Spirit speak aloud that you are forgiven your sins. And then, as you go about your daily lives remember that each person you meet is one for whom Jesus shed his blood on the cross.

God bless,
Pastor Mark