



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

APRIL ACTIVITIES AT EMANUEL

Apr 1-7 – Pastor's Vacation
Apr 7 – Sunday School 9 a.m.
Apr 7 – Worship 10 a.m. with Pastor Brian Triller
Apr 9 – Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Social Hall
Apr 9 – Anniversary Committee 6 p.m. Social Hall
Apr 10 – Bible Study 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
Apr 13 – Men's Group 8:00 a.m. Elmer Diner
Apr 14 – Sunday School 9 a.m.
Apr 14 – Worship 10 a.m.
Apr 14 – Social Hall Reserved by 4H Club
Apr 16 – Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Social Hall
Apr 16 – Mutual Ministry 6:30 p.m.
Apr 17 – Bible Study 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
Apr 21 – Sunday School 9 a.m.
Apr 21 – Worship 10 a.m.
Apr 22 – Council 6:00 p.m.
Apr 23 – Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Social Hall
Apr 23 – Music & Worship Committee 6:00 p.m.
Apr 24 – Bible Study 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
Apr 28 – Sunday School 9 a.m.
Apr 28 – Worship 10 a.m.
Apr 29-May 2 – NALC Disaster Response Retreat

STEWARDSHIP

Financials as of February 2024:
YTD Income: \$45,797.40
YTD Expense: \$30,681.80
YTD Net Income: \$15,115.20
Total yearly budgeted income/expense: \$164,582.69

APRIL ALTAR GUILD

Helen Cobb
Liz Brooks

APRIL USHERS

Kyle Knerr
Jimmy Cobb

APRIL LECTORS

April 4 - Kyle Knerr
April 11 - Elizabeth Brooks
April 21 - Allison Cox
April 28 - Barbara Sinnema

APRIL SOUP KITCHEN

Barbara Sinnema
Rich Caldwell
Pam Casella
Julian Kidd
Cindy Cairone
Nancy Cobb
Gaye Uhland

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays for April are:

1 Tice Cobb	13 Reed Richey
2 Kathy Willis	Dave Wilson
7 Klay Knerr	20 Amy Gheysens
8 Stephen Gheysens	Monica Hess
9 Cindy Sutton	25 Logan Cocking
10 Katie Coleman	26 Avery Allen

May everyone enjoy their special day and have a blessed year to follow!

Friesburg Filisophy

If you feel pain, you are alive, if you feel other people's pain, you are a human being. *Leo Tolstoy*

SOUP KITCHEN NEWS

This winter has shown an increase of clients with food insecurity, averaging 110 diners each day at the soup kitchen. This puts a strain on the workers as well as the food supply.

So here is what Emanuel can do. Remember when we used to bring in food items the second Sunday of the month? That mission has dissolved and we are proposing picking it up again. It will work a little differently.

Each month Cheryl from the soup kitchen will tell us what they would like to have for the month— incidentals they don't normally get. The Acolyte will publish that item the month before. We will have that next month to bring in one of the designated item.

This month we are focusing on butter. So if you want to participate, bring in 1 pound of butter on a Sunday. There will be a marked container for collection in the room just inside the front door.

Pastor Mark stopped at my house to ask about past happenings at Emanuel. I mentioned at one time we had a missionary society. He said that is now structured differently in the NALC, that our participation in the soup kitchen could very well be called our mission. Please read his article in this Acolyte where he explains this in detail.

LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

LCW met on March 10. We did many things during the holidays: Gave \$300 for toys to Salvation Army along with donations from congregation. Sponsored a family and collected \$610 plus \$245 in gift cards and items for the family. Collected \$458.09 in baby bottles for Cornerstone. We will serve dinner for Alloway Ruritan on Thursday, June 6 and again in October. The National Gathering of WNALC will be on August 6 and be virtual. We will be collecting items for Disaster Response during the spring. There will be a posted list of items needed. The next meeting will be in May. Date to be announced as there are some conflicts.

Susan Shields

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.

UPPER ROOMS

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

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Pencil in July 22-25 for Vacation Bible School (tentative date). Please let Pastor Mark know if you are interested. Look for more information in an upcoming newsletter.



The Bennetts: New Members at Emanuel

Heather and Frank joined Emanuel at the end of last year. They have been living in Monroeville since 2016. Heather has been working in insurance / accident claims since 2011 managing the company's fraud department for the State of NJ. Frank owns a woodworking / construction company. His passion is woodworking: making custom tables, boats, and wooden skiffs. Frank also does construction—customer trim and kitchen installs. They also have a sawmill on their property for milling. Their son, Frankie, is a senior at WHS and has wrestled his entire life until this year. He is now concentrating on work and what is after graduation. Their daughter, Macy, is in 8th grade at Upper Pittsgrove where she is on the varsity basketball team. She will attend WHS next year.

They live in a house built in 1938 which Frank is slowly renovating. The “farm” consists of milk goats, chickens and a garden. Heather loves to bake bread, rolls, cakes and pastries. One of the questions asked was, “How did they find Emanuel?” This is Heather's answer:

“Our 17 year old son was involved in a terrible car accident at the intersection next to the church on the night of his junior prom. Quite literally one of the worst days of our lives as a family and Pastor Mark happened to be at the church that night. He came down to the scene, sat with my son, prayed with our family and provided a sense of peace that I cannot describe. I had just lost my father to lung disease and it was overall a very bad year. The next weekend I had an overwhelming sense of needing to give thanks to both the Pastor and to God; so myself and our daughter went to the next service at Emanuel. I can't quite explain it but I believe that the church is where I needed to be and Frankie's accident was the way I was shown that. Frank shared my gratitude and being raised in the church as a kid, felt it was his time to go back. So, here we are.”

And Emanuel is so pleased you are here.

JESUS' LOVE FOR US

By Pr. Brian Triller

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.” John 15:9 (ESV)

Jesus spoke these words to His disciples the evening before He died on the cross. And He speaks these precious words to you and me as well. As the Holy Spirit gives us the faith to do so, we believe what Jesus is telling us, even if we can't grasp the fullness of His loving words.

We know that God our Father loves His only begotten Son very much. At Jesus' baptism, our Father said, *“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”* Matthew 3:17 (ESV) During His earthly ministry, Jesus kept all of His Father's commandments, because He knew that obeying them was the way to abide (dwell, remain) in the Father's love.

Jesus freely went to His death in obedience to His Father. Jesus trusted that His Father would keep His loving promise to raise Him to new and everlasting life on that first Easter.

When Jesus tells us that He loves us just as His Father loves Him, that means we need not fear death. Because the Father lovingly raised Jesus from the dead, we can trust Jesus to share with us His gift of eternal life. And because God the Father has shared His kingdom with His Son, we can trust that Jesus, as King of Kings, will share His kingdom with us.

Therefore, regardless of the troubles, suffering, sin, and evil we encounter in this earthly existence, we are assured of Jesus' saving, forgiving love for us. How do we abide in that love which Jesus declares to us in John 15:9?

The answer is in John 15:10, 12: *“If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love...This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”* (ESV)

Jesus knows that our love for one another will never be perfect in this earthly life. However, He desires that we actively obey this command because of the joyful blessings that come to us and others through our obedience.

Loving one another keeps us close to Jesus, builds up the Church, and allows Jesus to work through us to draw others to Himself. So then, let us love one another as Jesus has loved us!

Pastors Perspective

Two of the core values of the North American Lutheran Church are Mission-Driven and Congregationally-Focused. These two values connect when it comes to how we go about doing the mission God has given us as a congregation in the NALC.

When The North American Lutheran Church was formed in 2010 it was explicitly taught (and continues to be explicitly understood) that each congregation would have one domestic mission and one foreign mission that they would support. Such support means more than simply writing a check. While such support does include finances, it is expected that the congregations would have a personal or grow to develop a personal connection to the missions they support.

I have come to find out in conversations to learn about our congregation's history, that we've taken such a hands-on approach to mission long before the formation of the NALC. Families in our congregation have sponsored orphans from places such as Vietnam. Our congregation at one time sponsored a Polish family as they moved to the United States. There was also a time when we sponsored a missionary group.

Today, the NALC helps congregations that want to sponsor missionaries who go overseas to share the Gospel. We call them Global Workers. Global workers are individuals who have a sending agency to manage their practical needs, health insurance, finances, and other support. New global workers are recommended by their sending agency. In the NALC, we work with sending agencies instead of creating our own sending agency. This allows for more direct support for our Global workers and utilizes already existing sending agencies who have years of experience. When an individual Global worker requests to become one of our Global workers, they are invited to connect with a sending agency. We recommend one of our Partner Agencies (often Spiritual Orphans Network, Awakening Lives to World Missions, and World Mission Prayer League), and then alert these agencies that we have had this inquiry so they can consider vetting that mission worker.

After being recommended by a sending agency, the new global workers are vetted by the General Secretary of the NALC, (Pastor Amy Little) which includes a background check. Once a global worker is vetted, they are recommended to the Executive Council for approval. As one who sits on the Executive Council of the NALC, I am honored to vote in favor of these Global workers. NALC global workers are not required to be NALC clergy.

One of our most recent foreign missions was to support Water Missions International. Not only do they install water systems in various places of the world, but they train individuals in the community to oversee the system and make repairs. Most significantly, they share the good news of Jesus in these communities.

So, if I were to ask you what is our domestic mission, what would you say? We could certainly point to the Bridgeton Soup Kitchen. Not only do we donate food and money to purchase food, but many of you have volunteered your time to serve. This is great as we are getting to know our neighbors.

We could also point to the NALC Disaster Response. Our shed is a storage facility for supplies that are ready to be distributed when disaster strikes. Scott and Karen Hitchner, Amy and Jordan Werner all are involved in overseeing and keeping inventory of the supplies. In fact, Amy is currently coaching a blanket drive led by students at Olivet Elementary School.

These are examples of what it means to be both Mission-Driven and Congregationally-Focused. Yes, we are part of a wider church body called the North American Lutheran Church. That said, we are a church body that believes mission happens well by the congregations in the community where God has planted them.

God bless,
Pastor Mark