



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

MAY ACTIVITIES AT EMANUEL

May 4 – Anniversary Committee 9:00 a.m.
May 5 – Sunday School 9 a.m.
May 5 – Worship 10 a.m.
May 5 – Congregational Meeting after Worship
May 5 – LCW after Congregational Meeting
May 11 – Men's Breakfast at Elmer Diner, 8:00 a.m.
May 11 – NE Mission District Meeting
May 12 – Sunday School 9 a.m.
May 12 – Worship 10 a.m.
May 14 – Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Social Hall
May 15 – Bible Study 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
May 16 – Senior Luncheon at Alloway Twp Building,
12:00 p.m.
May 19 – Sunday School 9 a.m.
May 19 – Worship 10 a.m., Confirmation, Reception
May 21 – Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Social Hall
May 22 – Bible Study 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
May 26 – Lakeside Worship 9 a.m.
May 28 – Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Social Hall
May 29 – Bible Study 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

STEWARDSHIP

Financials as of March 2024:
YTD Income: \$67,906.10
YTD Expense: \$51,729.46
YTD Net Income: \$16,176.64
Total yearly budgeted income/expense: \$199,704

MAY ALTAR GUILD

Karen Wirsing

MAY USHERS

Scott Hitchner
Wayne May

MAY LECTORS

May 5 – Susan Shields
May 12 – Barbara Sinnema
May 19 – Nancy Cobb
May 26 – Wayne Knerr

MAY SOUP KITCHEN

Karen Wirsing
Julian Kidd
Gaye Uhland
Nancy Cobb
Pam Casella

MAY BIRTHDAYS

In the month of May the following folks will be celebrating birthdays:

5 Caitlin McAllister
10 Emery Allen
18 Mary Ellen Knerr
30 Les Sutton

Celebrating their wedding anniversary are:

22 Dan and Courtney Pilling

Enjoy your special day and have a blessed year to come.

Friesburg Filisophy

A bad attitude is like a flat tire, you can't go anywhere unless you change it.

LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Pastor Mark will be attending the NALC Disaster Response retreat from Monday, April 28 through Thursday, May 2. Pastor Mark will also be attending the NALC Executive Council meetings May 7-9. If you need to reach him, send him a text at 724-244-4248 and he will return your call during breaks in his meetings.

LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

The May LCW meeting will be on Sunday, May 5, after church. This is a change from the date we had selected at our last meeting.

NORTHEAST MISSION REGION DISTRICT

Pastor Mark, Amy and Wayne Knerr will be attending the Northeast Mission District meeting on Saturday, May 11th at Clark Summit, Pa.

SENIOR LUNCHEON

The Community Senior Luncheon will be held on May 16th at noon at the Alloway Township Building. We will have a speaker addressing pharmacy issues.

ATTENTION GRADUATES

Do you know of someone who is graduating 8th grade, High School, college or university? Please share that information with Lora Sweeney at office@emanuelelmer.church so that it can be included in the June newsletter. You are welcome to submit a photo and a description of what is next for the graduate.

ANNIVERSARY INVITATION LIST

We are collecting contact information for former members of Emanuel so that we can invite them to activities celebrating our 300th anniversary. If you have such contact information for individuals once connected to Emanuel, please give that to 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.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank all of you for your generosity in the gifts and donations you gave to Jenna and her daughter Avery. They are overwhelmed with everyone's thoughtfulness and kindness since the passing of Matt. She is so grateful!! Thanks again, Nancy Wilson

THANK YOU

Emanuel Lutheran Church extends its deep thanks and appreciation to those who moved, cleaned, discarded trash, discovered historical treasures, mopped, dusted, made decisions what to keep, put things back, etc., prior to and following the painting that was done in the first floor of the church. This was a much needed project. The painting looks well done. To all of you who helped, your service is much appreciated.

THANK YOU

We wanted to take a moment to show our appreciation for you and your support of our shared mission in the city of Bridgeton and surrounding townships. It is thanks to your kind support that we are able to serve and show love to the community. We pray God's continued blessings over you and your family. Sincerely, Your friends at the Bridgeton Salvation Army.

SOUP KITCHEN NEWS

As of last Sunday, the congregation donated 24 pounds of butter for the soup kitchen. And we have one more Sunday to go. This is our first time for designating a specific item for the kitchen to be collected during the month. So far, so good. May is designated as WIDE EGG NOODLES month. If you would like to participate, bring in a bag of noodles comparable to the picture below:



There is a container in the front room downstairs for the collection. Looks like the clients are going to get a delicious bowl of soup. Soup is one of the dishes they particularly like.

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

Mark your calendars for July 22-25 for Vacation Bible School. Please let Pastor Mark know if you are interested.

BECOMING MORE LOVING—GOD'S WAY!

By Pr. Brian Triller

One of the most familiar passages in the Bible is Chapter 13, the “Love Chapter,” in St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. In this devotional, I would like to focus on the following verses from this Love Chapter:

“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.” I Cor. 13:4-8a (ESV)

I was drawn to meditate on this Love Chapter recently during some times alone with our Lord. I found verses 4-8 particularly helpful to me as I considered how I am commanded by God to love my neighbor as myself. (See Matthew 22:39.)

For example, according to verse 4, loving other people and myself includes being patient, which I often fail to be. I tend to want people to do things sooner than later. Also, according to verse 5, love does not insist on its own way. My natural

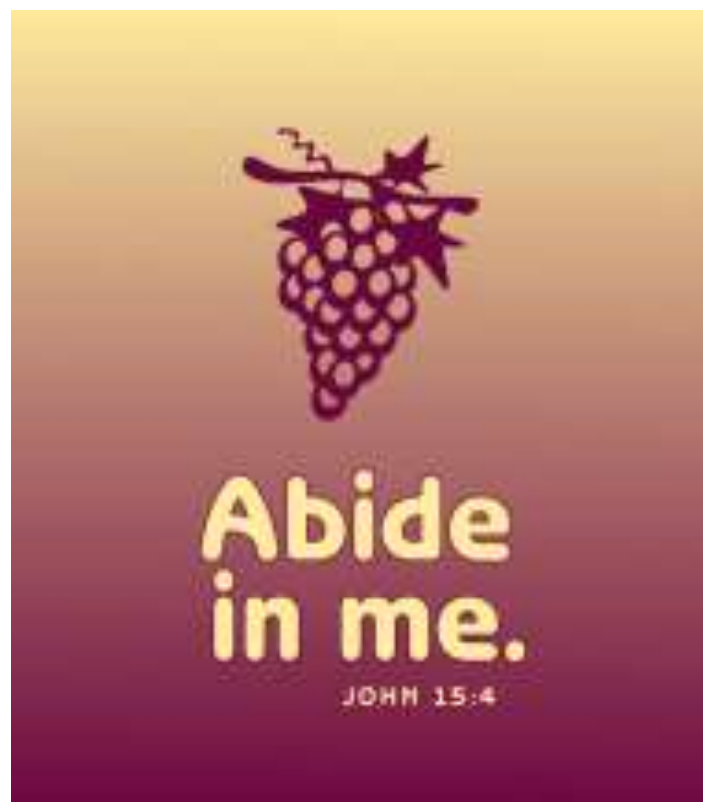
inclination is to insist on my own way, which has me acting against what our Lord says love is.

As a result of my recent encounters with these four verses and with the entire Love Chapter, I have experienced the Holy Spirit showing me ways in which I have been missing the mark as a follower of Jesus. The Spirit works in this way to bring me to repentance and to the forgiveness that Jesus won for the world by His suffering, death, and resurrection.

The outcome of these encounters with the Holy Spirit has been my receiving the Lord's forgiveness and my being given the grace to be more loving towards others and myself, in accord with God's Word.

Of course, during our earthly lives, we who follow Jesus will never love others or ourselves perfectly. However, by the grace of God, the Holy Spirit transforms us day by day so that we may imitate Jesus more closely as we mature in our relationship with Him.

I encourage you to spend some time alone with our Lord to meditate on 1 Corinthians 13. May He bless you as you receive His Word for you with an open heart. Amen!



Pastor's Perspective

"...because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, 'Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing riches on all who call on him. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Romans 10:9-13

This year, on the Day of Pentecost (which is May 19) six young persons will be asked to affirm their Baptism. These young persons: **Aubrey Brooks, Elle Cobb, Mason Cobb, Annabelle Cobb, Libby Cobb, and Tice Cobb**, will have completed two years of confirmation instruction and will be asked to affirm their baptism, pledging to take on the same adult responsibilities that each member has before them. In other words, they will be confirmed, adult members of Emanuel, able to serve in leadership roles and share in the ministry God has called us to as a congregation.

"Confirmation marks the completion of the congregation's program of confirmation ministry, a period of instruction in the Christian faith as confessed in the teachings of the Lutheran Church. Those who have completed this program were made members of the Church in Baptism. Confirmation includes a public profession of the faith into which the candidates were baptized, thus underscoring God's action in their Baptism." Lutheran Book of Worship, Pg. 198.

As you know, Lutherans and many other churches baptize infants. One of the critiques about this raised by churches that do not baptize infants has been based on the above passage from Romans 10. While it is true that an infant cannot form the words or know what he or she is confessing, that does not invalidate their baptism, nor should it stand in the way of Baptism. The sacrament of Holy Baptism is God's work. It is the Holy Spirit at work joining the baptized to the death and resurrection of Jesus (Romans 6:3-4). It is the Holy Spirit who gives us new birth or makes us born again (John 3:3).

The rite of Confirmation then is where the baptized young persons profess the faith of the church through the words of the Apostles' Creed. The Apostles' Creed is known as the baptismal creed of the church. As such, it is used at each Baptism and the Affirmation of Baptism. Each phrase of the Apostles' Creed is rooted in the Scriptures.

So, to confess one's faith using the Apostles' Creed, or even the Nicene and Athanasian Creed is to do what is stated in Romans 10. God is our creator. Jesus is our redeemer. The Holy Spirit is our sanctifier, one God in three persons. Yes, we confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' or Nicene Creed each Sunday (if you're wondering why we don't use the Athanasian Creed, you can find it on pages 54 and 55 in the front of the green hymnal). In the rite of Confirmation, which is not held every Sunday, the confirmands are further asked:

"Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear his Word and share in his supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?" Lutheran Book of Worship,

pg. 201.

Such profession of faith is also the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. *“Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says ‘Jesus is accursed!’ and no one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except in the Holy Spirit.”* 1 Corinthians 12:3. Additionally, Martin Luther stated in the Small Catechism, “I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me in the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in one true faith.”

I greatly rejoice and ask you to join me in rejoicing that God continues to work bringing young persons to faith. This happens because their parents, grandparents, pastors, and you, the congregation have nurtured them in the faith that we believe, confess, and teach. Thanks be to God!

God bless,
Pastor Mark

P.S. There will be a cookies and punch reception following the service on Sunday, May 19th in honor of our confirmands.