

Emanuel's Word

September 2023

A Return to Routine

“The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of flour until it was leavened.” ~Matthew 13:33

With the September page on my calendar poised to turn, I find myself both harried with the number of things that need to get done and looking forward to returning to routine. I find comfort in knowing what comes next and what to expect that comes with regular schedules... a movement from the frantic activities of “getting ready” into the steady everyday activities of summer ebbing into fall. What does this time of year look like for you?

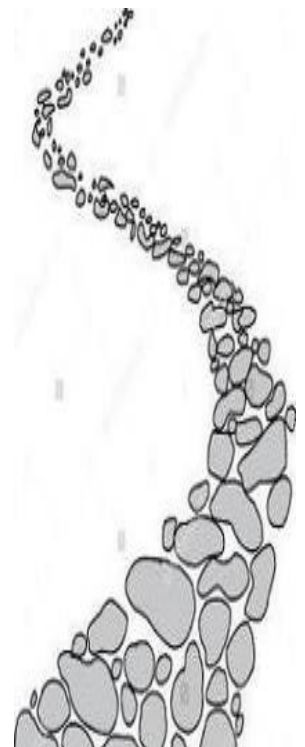
Routine, while it may seem good to return to, can also become tedious and boring. It can seem endlessly unchanging and unchallenging. Though I never fail to feel the comfort of a return to routine, as the year labors on, I can quickly tire of it. I can forget that God is present in these ordinary routines.

Jesus taught about God’s presence—not in places special or far away—but in the “usual” places. When stilling a storm, he and the disciples are in an ordinary boat, not unlike what they had once fished from before answering Jesus’ call. Stilling the storm was remarkable, but the place where it was stilled from? Not so much. Jesus regularly used farming metaphors to teach—farming was a customary work for those to whom he spoke. Or even using bread to describe what the kingdom of heaven was like... in all these examples I am reminded by Jesus that God is present and living in the ordinary moments we might miss or take for granted.

Sometimes, God is there, right and front of me, ready to be seen face to face, if I am open to see.

As fall activities resume, whatever they are: school, meetings, clubs, a certain pace at work, etc., I invite you to look for God in those ordinary places in your routine. Or if this is already something you do well, look for God in another place, an unexpected place. I would love to hear about what you find... see you soon.

Peace,
Pastor Jennifer





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

**149 West William Street
Corning, NY 14830
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.**

Church Phone: (607)936-4268

E-mail:

office@emanuelcorning.org

Pastor: Jennifer Long

Pastor's office hours:

by appointment.

**Pastor Jennifer can be reached via
phone & text at 586-727-9247 and
via e-mail at**

pastorjenniferlong@gmail.com

Organist: Lugene Mitchell-Hamilton

Administrative Assistant:

Janette Smith

2023 Church Council

President:	Sharon Trova
Vice President:	Annette Gardner
Exc. Secretary:	Caren Listopadzki
Financial Secretary:	Michael Hamilton
Treasurer:	Phyllis Brandes

Council:	
Josephine Sauer	Theresa Welfling
Marcia Ashworth	Janette Smith
Brenda Passmore	
Pastor Jennifer Long	

From the VP:

Infinity...

Most of you know that Ashley is having her wedding soon. She was already married in a quick wedding during Covid. Now she will celebrate with family and friends.

I have been trying to come up with decoration ideas. I have found out that you need a permit to harvest cattails. Those very pretty, flowing reeds along the highway are invasive and should not be picked as they can easily take over natural wetland areas. I can decorate with teasels, the tall spiky brown plants and maybe mums. I also decided to use grapevines.

I spent what felt like an infinity pulling and tugging on the grapevine, then I cut the main stem. I then pulled some more and the vine finally gave up the tree and shed. The next step was to remove the grape leaves. This I did while sitting and pulling the leaves off the vines and trying to get the different branches all going the same direction. I ended up forming an infinity circle (looks like an 8 on it's side) and spelling LOVE with the larger stems.

You are probably thinking, "that's nice but what does that have to do with Emanuel?"

I am trying to learn some of what I need to become a Congregation Approved Lay Minister. I have been reading different books including Luther's Catechisms. I am reminded that God's forgiveness is infinite. We should still try to obey the Ten Commandments, and not to sin. It is comforting to know that no matter how unworthy I am; God will forgive me all my sins. He will forgive me an infinite number of times. This forgiveness is not earned by anything I do, but because I believe that Jesus died to forgive the sins of those who believe in him.

Remember your sins are forgiven through the grace of Jesus Christ. You are forgiven "to infinity and beyond".

In Peace,

Annette, VP

Emanuel Lutheran Church Council Update

- Council met on 7/12/23 in person.
- Pastor Jennifer reports that there is one youth ready to start confirmation classes. Pastor Jennifer wants him to have opportunities to connect with congregation members, by members participating in presenting classes. Council members suggested possible collaboration with other denominations, for peer support for the confirmand, and because of the limited time of our half-time pastor and the busy schedules of our church volunteers.
- YTD Budget Income is \$452.97 less than YTD Budget Expense.
- Twitter update: We have 4 followers. Sharon is posting the Sunday sermon, Bible verses and our Mission Statement.
- AED update: it was purchased in 2014 and lasts about 8-15 years. It has not been properly maintained; thus for now a sign has been placed on the container that it is not to be used. Sharon, Brenda and Caren will form a Memorial Team to discuss how we should move forward, and how to handle memorials in the future. Phyllis Groeger will be invited to join the team, as she oversees Memorials, and whoever else wishes to join.
- RIC: Because Bill is not leading his regular Bible Study on 9/12 at noon, we will provide during that time an opportunity for people to ask questions. On 10/15 we will have a discussion with the theme “A place within our Walls”, as our plans for inclusion go deeper than just LGBTQ+ people. We will discuss a Welcome Statement.
- Outreach: For our ‘God’s Work our Hands’ Day on 9/10 we will wear our yellow T-shirts to church.
- Stewardship: At the meeting on 7/9 it was decided to have a Mission Moment as part of the Reflections during worship on 8/20. .
- Property: The ladies’ room dripping sink was fixed by Mike T. Augie and Tom continue to perform chores around the church. Mike T. power washed the sidewalk between the church and fellowship hall, as well as the wooden steps out of the Acolyte room, and Brenda stained the steps. The wooden sign at the front is being refinished. The handrails in the church were tightened, the toilet in the basement was stabilized and the dehumidifier was fixed. Three electrical issues are receiving attention. Corning Natural Gas Company was contacted about upcoming gas line replacements. The team meets on 8/20.
- Calendar Planning:
 - 8/20 Mission Moment, Property Team Meeting and Shepherd’s Table
 - 9/10 God’s Work Our Hands Sunday
 - 9/12 Bible Study: opportunity to ask questions about RIC
 - 9/13 Council Meeting via Zoom
 - 9/15 & 16 WELCA Rummage Sale
 - 9/30 Oktoberfest
 - 10/1 Pastor on vacation
 - 10/15 ‘A Place within our Walls’

Caren Listopadzki
Council Secretary



Reconciling in Christ—

Our RIC Team met on Sunday, August 20th to discuss what comes next in the process to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation. Most important is making sure everyone feels heard and concerns are addressed.

*We pray that even though scripture doesn't speak to all of us the same way,
we can all joyfully continue sharing the same pews, celebrating the God who made us all different.*

A rough draft of Emanuel's Welcome Statement is below. Because this statement would be voted on at our annual meeting, it's important to know what you think of it and our journey this far. There are options to do this:

- Contact Pastor Jennifer or one of our lay worship leaders Caren and Bill.
- Stop by the church on **Tuesday, September 12th at noon**. Caren and Bill will be there if you'd like to discuss your thoughts or questions on the Reconciling Scripture Bible Study we had in June. They will probably be in the church lounge because WELCA will be working in the Fellowship Hall for their sale.
- You can send an email to Church Council at council@emanuelcorning.org.
- We will place an RIC box in the narthex that you can use to place any questions or concerns.

Please SAVE the DATE: **Sunday, October 15th**

"A Place Within Our Walls" Conversation about Welcome and Hospitality

We hope to enjoy some snacks and beverages, learn more about Reconciling Works and what it means to be a Reconciling in Christ congregation and to try to answer the question "What does it take to answer God's call to share the good news, and to honor and celebrate the diverse Body of Christ, God's creation in all its forms, and to appreciate the giftedness of people of all abilities, ages, cultures, classes, races, sexual orientations, and gender identities?"

We hope you will join us for this important conversation.

OUR DRAFT WELCOME STATEMENT: *At Emanuel Lutheran Church, we believe you are a beloved and unique child of God, accepted just as you are - with all your gifts and differences. We invite all persons, including those of every race, culture, class, age, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, to join us as we joyfully and inclusively strive to make Christ known in our church, our community and the world.*




WELCA

The Ladies of WELCA are meeting August 31, 2023 at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall for their first meeting of the season. All women are invited to attend. The first item on the agenda is our upcoming Rummage and Bake sale to be held Friday September 15 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm and Saturday September 16 from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Items may be brought to church starting the week of Sunday Sept. 10 through Thursday September 14. Make sure items are clean and gently used.

This year, in lieu of a soup sale, we will be having a bake sale! All home baked breads, cookies, cakes, pies, jams, candy, muffins, and treats are needed. Please pack it for sale. We will price for you.

We are lucky to have Sunday Sept. 10 God's Work Our Hand Sunday which just happens to fit right in to our perfect time of need for the setting up for our sale! Right after church all members are invited to the Fellowship Hall to help us put the tables in place and items on the tables.

Refreshments will be served. See you there!



Why I chose to volunteer at Habitat for Humanity.

As I come from a long family history of home builders, masons, and contractors, I've always had a love and fascination for the craftsmanship of people who build beautiful things from a pile of lumber, or a stack of bricks and a bag of concrete. Over the many years, I've tried my own hands at building things for family, friends and ourselves – with variable levels of success. Although I chose a different career path than my father and grandfather, I've also always wanted to volunteer at Habitat for Humanity to apply some of my modest skills, and learn new ones, at that worthy cause. Prior to our retirement from work, we really didn't have the time available to make meaningful commitments to this worthy cause; however, now in retirement, we have much more flexibility in how we spend our days.

In May, Emanuel Lutheran sponsored a volunteer day at Habitat for Humanity on William Street in Corning. Sharon and I joined the Emanuel team as we spent about 5 hours performing painting, demolition, and landscaping duties at this old house on Williams Street. We were hooked.

Since then, Sharon and I have volunteered regularly at Habitat, almost exclusively at Hornby Road in Corning, where a small, brand-new duplex is under construction for two families of partially disabled US Veterans. We usually work two full days per week, as part of the larger build crew, doing everything from: installing drywall; taping, mudding and sanding the joints; plumbing; electrical; to vinyl siding installation; etc.

While it's hard work, it's also a fun way to spend time with like-minded individuals, all working to provide affordable, safe housing for deserving people less fortunate than ourselves. We've met the future owners of the properties, and uniformly they are very appreciative of the efforts of Habitat and the volunteers, some of whom have been volunteering for 15-25 years; and we're happy to help them in some small way. Following the devastating recent fire at the Habitat ReStore, which left their income generating building destroyed, helping to build new housing for deserving families is more important than ever. We expect to continue volunteering with Habitat until we are physically no longer able to do so.

Mike Trova



Shepherd's Table Dinner

We have successfully accomplished our three Sundays (for year 2023) of serving meals at the Salvation Army. The dinners have been take-out meals (since Covid), so sandwiches were prepared in Emanuel's kitchen and packed at the Salvation Army center.

"God's Work, Our Hands" Worship - Sunday, September 10

The ELCA has celebrated God's Work, Our Hands (GWOH) for a decade now! We'll celebrate it's encouragement to serve and love our neighbor on Sunday, September 10th. So if you have a yellow t-shirt, wear it to church! If you have a GWOH shirt that doesn't fit, a child's that moved away—you could bring it, so we can pass it on to someone else.

After worship we'll head over to the Fellowship Hall to help our WELCA ladies prepare for their September 14-15th sale by setting up tables and then loading them with donations. If you're donating for the sale, please drop your items off by that day so we can get your items set up.

Emanuel Lutheran Church Habitat for Humanity Build Day - Sat., Sept. 9, 9am-1pm 285 West William Street, Corning

They have quite a bit that still needs to be accomplished, so you are all invited to join us - a perfect opportunity to be the "hands and feet of Christ" literally, in our backyard. When renovated, this house will become a home for a couple and their family.

Here's another idea for service:

Saturday, September 9, 9am: 7th Annual Bampa's House 5K Run/Walk: The 3.1 mile course leaves from Craig Park and winds through the beautiful Painted Post trail. Your \$30 registration fee will benefit Bampa's House (Coming Comfort Care, Inc.) a nonprofit organization that provides a safe and comfortable place for end-of-life care when home care is not an option.





Stewardship News

Thanks to all who participated in our stewardship worship service on August 20th!

It was interesting to hear from individual members talk about our ministries here at Emanuel. We have the opportunity to participate in an exercise class, (Bone Builders), Support group (Al-Anon), and as we open our doors to the American Red Cross for Blood Drives, we can think about the possibility of being a blood donor. Lastly, we presented information regarding Habitat for Humanity and whether volunteering for that organization is of personal interest.

The goal of the stewardship team is to incorporate year-round stewardship, and after presenting the topics of “down”, “in” and “out” of our newly adopted guide “Stewards of God’s Love”, we will conclude with a financial appeal in the Fall.

We are amazing stewards at Emanuel Lutheran Church! Thank you for all you do, inside our walls, outside our walls and “behind the scenes”. We are in abundance of many talents and time!

God Bless,
The Stewardship Team

Stewards of God's Love



Emanuel Lutheran Facebook Views

07/09/23	29
07/16/23	48
07/23/23	43
07/30/23	59
08/06/23	41
08/13/23	29

Average Worship Attendance for:
June 2023: 30
July 2023: 29



Interested in membership here at ELC?

If so, new members will be received into our family of faith in worship on September 17, 2023..

Please contact Pastor Jennifer, phone & text at 586-727-9247 and via e-mail at pastorjenniferlong@gmail.com if you would like to become a member of Emanuel Lutheran Church.

DO YOU HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT?

PLEASE SEND TO JANETTE SMITH AT OFFICE@EMANUELCORNING.ORG OR PLACE ON CHURCH OFFICE DESK NO LATER THAN TUESDAY MORNING

Please remember the Corning Community Food Pantry, who is celebrating their 50th anniversary this year.

(<https://corningfoodpantry.com/>) This month our focus is soap, although any donation is welcome. Please place your donations in the bin in the narthex. Last month we donated 39 pop top cans.

Thank you!

Just a reminder for THRIVENT LIFE INSURANCE holders – You have THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS that you can direct to Emanuel. It can be distributed quarterly.

Thanks,
Phyllis B

Book Club

Hello to ALL!

I hope your summer is going well, and that you're having fun while getting some rest and relaxation.

If you haven't started reading our book for September yet, now's the time! We'll get together on Thursday, September 7, at 12:30, on Zoom, to discuss *The Nightingale*, by Kristin Hannah.

I started reading the book yesterday, and I'm very engaged in the story already!

See you on 9-7! - Carol

Anniversaries'

Cara and Kurt Groeger 2
 Coral and John Reed 2
 Laura and Aaron Clark 17
 Lugene Mitchell-Hamilton
 and Mike Hamilton 20

May God almighty bless
 your marriage and keep you
 both in bliss.

Happy Anniversary!



BIRTHDAYS

Caren Listopadzki 4
 Oskar Sauer 8
 Kurt Groeger 9
 Brenda Passmore 12
 Cara Groeger 12
 Eileen Sands 12
 Celine Schwesinger 16
 Lugene Mitchell Hamilton 19

Happy Birthday!

Wishing you another
 fabulous birthday full of
 God's blessing.



September 2023 Stewards

<i><u>Date</u></i>	<i><u>September 3</u></i>	<i><u>September 10</u></i>	<i><u>September 17</u></i>	<i><u>September 24</u></i>
<i>Worship Leader</i>	<i>Pastor Jennifer Long</i>	<i>Pastor Jennifer Long</i>	<i>Pastor Jennifer Long</i>	<i>Pastor Jennifer Long</i>
<i>Worship Assistant</i>	<i>Sue Doyle-Rector</i>	<i>Mary Ellen Brennan</i>	<i>Caren Listopadzki</i>	<i>Annette Gardner</i>
<i>Reader</i>	<i>Sue Doyle-Rector</i>	<i>Phyllis Brandes</i>	<i>Caren Listopadzki</i>	<i>Carrie Smith</i>
<i>Acolyte/Technology</i>	<i>Jacob Hufnagel</i>	<i>Ben Hufnagel</i>	<i>Gage Machuga</i>	<i>Josephine Sauer</i>
<i>Greeter</i>	<i>Charlotte Estep</i>	<i>Carrie Smith</i>	<i>Janette Smith</i>	<i>Jodi & Gage Machuga</i>
<i>Usher</i>	<i>John Rector</i>	<i>Lew Brandes</i>	<i>Tom Kleckner</i>	<i>Augie Andrukat</i>
<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Phyllis B & Charlotte</i>	<i>Phyllis B & Charlotte</i>	<i>Phyllis B & Charlotte</i>	<i>Phyllis B & Charlotte</i>
<i>Counters</i>	<i>Brandes Team</i>	<i>Hamilton Team</i>	<i>Brandes Team</i>	<i>Hamilton Team</i>

If you are scheduled to serve in some capacity and find that you will be unable to attend, please call someone to substitute for you.

2023

SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29 NOTE... Office Hours 2:30-4:30 EVERY TUESDAY	30	31	1	2
3 <i>10 am Worship</i>	4 Announcements for Bulletin due to Janette	5 AL-Anon 7:00 PM— 8:00 PM	6	7 BOOK CLUB 12:30 pm on Zoom	8	9
10 <i>10 am Worship</i> God's Work Our Hands Sunday	11 Announcements for Bulletin due to Janette	12 Bible Study @ noon Fellowship Hall (opportunity to ask questions about RIC) AL-Anon 7:00 PM—8:00 PM	13 Council Meeting Via ZOOM 6PM	14	15 <i>Rummage and Bake Sale</i> 9:00 am - 3:00 pm	16 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
17 <i>10 am Worship</i>	18 AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE 11:30am—4:30pm Announcements for Bulletin due to Janette	19 AL-Anon 7:00 PM— 8:00 PM	20	21	22	23
24 <i>10 am Worship</i>	25 Announcements for Bulletin due to Janette	26 AL-Anon 7:00 PM— 8:00 PM	27	28	29 <i>Oktoberfest</i>	30 <i>Oktoberfest</i>

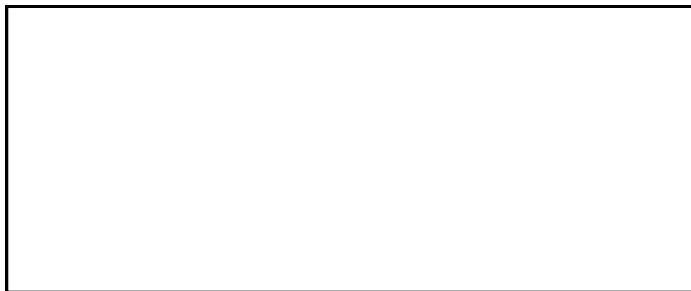
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September 2023



Facebook.com/ELCCorning



“A Christian congregation gathered by grace and sent to serve.”