

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

5000 Old William Penn Hwy
P.O. Box 396
Export, PA 15632



Phone: 724-327-2190
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January 29, 2020

Dear Emmanuel Church Family,

Grace and Peace be yours in Christ Jesus.

I am looking forward to being with you over this next year to serve you and the Church as Interim Pastor at Emmanuel Lutheran. Thank you and the church council for your welcome and greeting over the past three months during which time I been with you as your Supply Pastor leading worship services and making calls to homebound and hospitalized members.

I see God's Presence at the church and among you, and believe God has good plans for Emmanuel Lutheran's future. Moving forward in that regard is part of what an interim pastor is called to do during a time of congregation transition. I will be serving you and the church approximately twenty hours a week, leading worship, having office hours, providing pastoral care and guidance and with you preparing the way for a good new chapter of God's work in this 200th Anniversary year of Emmanuel's ministry. I look forward to it.

I retired this past spring following forty-nine years of ordained ministry and had not intended to serve an interim ministry during my first year of retirement. I had a full agenda planned. However, I have come to believe God has called me to be with you at this time and will serve you and the Lord gladly with the best of my ability. Major priorities will be helping to bring about healing and preparing the way for the congregation to call a new pastor when God intends. We are also going to have some fun and some good times together in the coming months!

Relationships are important in our life together with each other and the Lord. It is with that in mind that I want to share with you something about myself.

I was born in Washington, D.C. and grew up in Arlington, Virginia. In college at the University of Richmond in Virginia I majored in chemistry and English. I was planning to be a medical doctor before God's call to the ministry. I graduated from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, Pa with a Master of Divinity degree and later from the University of Chicago and the Lutheran School of Theology with a Doctor of Ministry degree.

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Over the years I have served four congregations in Ohio and Pennsylvania; one suburban congregation and three downtown/city churches as senior pastor. One year I was chaplain to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. I have been blessed with the privilege of serving in different leadership positions in the community and the greater church. Most recently while serving as Pastor at St. Mark's in Butler I served as Dean of the Mid-Northeast Mission District and represented the NALC on the Executive Board of Christian Associates of Southwestern Pennsylvania as a member of the Council of Bishops and Judicatory Leaders of Southwestern, Pennsylvania.

My wife, Sandy and I live in Butler, Pennsylvania, about a forty-five-minute drive to Export. (Please know that even as I am not living in the Monroeville/Export community, that whenever you need me, I will make it a priority to be there to serve you.)

Sandy is an ordained Pastor in the North American Lutheran Church. She is serving a long-time Interim Ministry as Pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Grove City, Pennsylvania. Sandy is a writer, musician, and birdwatcher/nature lover among her many interests and talents.

Our daughter Tiffany is a Lutheran Pastor as well and serves in the Washington, DC Metropolitan Synod. Tiffany and Jim and our two grandchildren Nolan and Grace Anne live in Leesburg, Virginia.

Some of my interests include travel, sports, cars, model railroading, gardening and nature.

In the church one of my favorite areas of ministry has been with our children, youth and young adults.

All of this being said, what is most important in my life as I shared in a recent sermon is that I am a Baptized Child of God. I believe God has a plan and purpose for each of our lives.

Please call upon me at any time I may serve you or assist you and your family with your spiritual needs - or stop in for a visit at the church. (Church Office: 724-327-2190; Hm. Phone: 724-586-3161; Mobile Phone: 724-698-3644). If you have been away from church for whatever reason and are starting back again as Lent approaches please introduce yourself to me after the worship service.

May God Bless us in our time together as a New Day begins at Emmanuel Lutheran.

With You, Following Christ Jesus,
Pastor Al Towberman