

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

1229 Jefferson Heights Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

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www.emmanuelutheraneastmont.org

412-824-4525 (office); 412-401-5742 (Pastor's cell)

Office Hours: Wednesday 10-3, Thursday 9-1



April 1, 2026

Holy Week & Easter are too important to miss because Jesus' love is too important to miss.

EASTER SUNDAY

FESTIVAL WORSHIP – 10 am in the Emmanuel building

Alleluia. Christ is risen. We rejoice with many rhythms.

Fabio Machado, Cellist, and Franklin Serrano, drummer, are our musicians.

EASTER FIESTA MEAL – After worship

All are invited to a joyous meal. There's enough for everyone.

If you truly cannot get to Emmanuel in person,

Come via Zoom for worship (use the Sunday worship link for all Holy Week worship)

By phone: Call 312-626-6799. When prompted, enter the meeting ID 923 3815 0341.

By computer or smartphone: Go to www.zoom.us. Enter Meeting ID 923 3815 0341.

At home without technology: Read the bulletin. Read the Scripture. Pray. Meditate.



Holy Week

MAUNDY THURSDAY – 7 pm in the Emmanuel building

- Jesus gives us the Sacrament of Holy Communion.
- He teaches us to love one another as he has loved us. We wash each other's hands or feet - as he did - because we want to love and serve as Jesus does.
- The service ends with the removal of everything from the altar. This symbolizes Jesus being arrested, led away and put on trial.

GOOD FRIDAY

12 noon to 3 pm. in the Emmanuel building – Wherever you are, remember that Jesus hung on the cross from noon to 3 pm. During this time, the sanctuary is open for prayer and meditation. Hear the Passion according to Matthew or John composed by Johannes Bach.

7 pm in the Emmanuel building – We gather to hear from the Gospel of John how Jesus was betrayed, and crucified and buried. The Savior of the whole world completes his sacrifice.



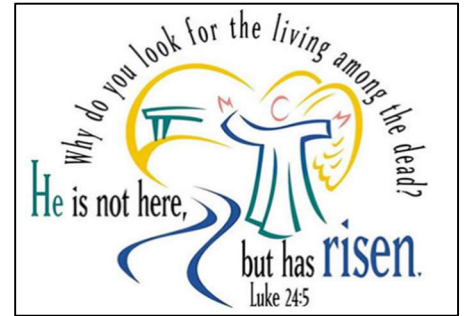
COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT Saturday, April 4, from 2-3 pm

Come to lead crafts, hide eggs, and welcome families. Or bring children and enjoy!! Helpers are needed at 1pm. We need contributions of dyed eggs, also. Invite all your friends and neighbors!

Resurrection Stories April 12, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm There is lunch at 12 noon.

Pastor Ken Ofslager teaches once a month on a Sunday afternoon.

You can participate in person or via zoom.
To join via zoom, use the Emmanuel class link:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89760867900>
Meeting ID: 897 6086 7900



Blessing of the Seeds Sunday, April 19

We may not all be farmers or gardeners, but we all depend on plants for oxygen and agriculture for food. Together we will pray prayers for water and soil, seeds and seedlings and all those who care for the land and the growing of food. You are invited to bring seeds and seedlings, or tools and symbols of your care for the earth.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIVING. You may give in person, send a contribution in the mail or donate online.

Go to <https://www.emmanuelutheraneastmont.org/> and you'll see the link.
Or use the QR code for easy connection on your smart phone.

Thursday, April 2, 7 pm – Maundy Thursday service with Holy Communion
Friday, April 3, noon-3 pm – Prayer and meditation in the sanctuary
Friday, April 3, 7 pm – Good Friday service
Saturday, April 4, 2-3 pm – Community Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday, April 5, 10 am – Easter Sunday Festival service
Sunday, April 5, 11:30 am – Easter dinner after worship
Tuesday, April 7, 1 pm – Congregation Council Meeting
Sunday, April 12, 1-2:30 pm – Pastor Ken's Class
Sunday, April 19 – Blessing of the Seeds, Soil & Water
Sunday, May 10 – Mother's Day/Bread for the World offering of letters





They'll know we are Christians by our love. In a time of turbulence in our nation and around the world — with consequences that threaten our neighbors, our democracy and our common home — what does it mean to show up as church together for the sake of the world God loves?

Join us in Harrisburg on Monday, April 20, for a day of learning, community-building, inspiration, and advocacy. Gather with advocates from across the Commonwealth to be grounded in our faith and equipped to act together on issues that make a difference to the wellbeing of all. For decades, this has been known as Lutheran Day in the Capitol. This year we are leaning into a call to equip all disciples to act for justice and peace — building more welcoming communities and a more resilient Commonwealth.

Registration is open now until 5 p.m. on **April 13**. Registration Rate – \$60
 To register or to learn more, go to lutheranadvocacy.org/about/citizenswiththesaints. To carpool, contact Pastor Linda Theophilus at revtheophilus@live.com or 412-401-5742. Depart Sunday afternoon at 2 pm from Emmanuel. Pastor Linda recommends the Hampton Inn (not a Hilton Affiliate) in Camp Hill.

**Easter Fair Trade Chocolate Sale at Emmanuel
 Today through May 1**

All fair-trade large chocolate bars are marked down
 Equal Exchange chocolate bars are \$2.00
 The Divine chocolate bars are \$3.50
(The small Divine Chocolate bars are \$2.50)



Emmanuel's Mission Statement:

Gathered by the Holy Spirit, Emmanuel is called by God to worship the Lord Jesus Christ with a Lutheran emphasis on God's grace and forgiveness. As people who have received God's mercy, we support each other in faithful living. Emmanuel's purpose is to welcome ALL people into its fellowship, to share the Good News with ALL people, to strive for peace and justice in ALL the world, and to serve ALL people following Christ's example.



TO ORDER ALTAR FLOWERS for our weekly worship services, contact Judy Mayhood (412-760-0986), call the church office, or sign up on the Flower Chart in the entry way. The cost is \$50, or \$25 per vase.



PRAYER REQUESTS: Call Pastor Theophilus for yourself or others to be included in prayer.



GATHER BIBLE STUDY

1:00-2:30 pm – Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Zion Lutheran Church, 11609 Frankstown Road

Join other women in the eastern suburbs for a monthly Bible study on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1:00 pm. In April, we'll begin a three-part study on "I AM: God's holy name and promise." Each session is self-contained, so if you miss one, feel free to come to the next one.

Putting God first:

When I was a poor student, I learned to tithe. Tithing means several things to me.

1. God first;
2. A percentage;
3. A minimum not a maximum. Be generous with what you have.

I **set aside my offering before** using money for anything else. I give to God before I pay bills or spend money on anything. This is about priorities and trust. God is most important, more important than food or entertainment or paying the credit card. I don't just pray "Give us this day our daily bread," I count on God to provide even when I cannot understand how it will happen. And I have always had everything I need. My personal experience is that the only time my finances are in chaos is when I forgot to write the offering check.

A tithe is a **consistent percentage**. Usually ten percent. The very literal meaning of tithe is 10%, but consistency is more important than the precise percentage. If your income goes up and down, you just adjust the amount of your gift, but you keep the percentage the same.

A tithe is a **minimum**. That consistent 10% which my husband and I give to Emmanuel is not all we give for God's work through the church and God's work of caring for the hungry, the poor and the stranger. We set aside extra money for charitable giving. We sometimes hear about a need and feel compelled to help. The tithe is the minimum we give away, but not the limit.

Tithing is not just for individuals and families. Tithing is for congregations. This year, Emmanuel passed a budget very similar to last year. It is realistic for what we do as a congregation. Like many years, local income (offerings, tower rental, spaghetti dinner, etc.) has been less than actual expenses. The regular givers are faithful and consistent. We have had savings to draw from. (Thank you to Apostles and the memorial gifts from Norma Schweilart's son Kenneth.) This year, there is no savings.

Therefore, at the annual congregational meeting, I said that is very important that we use the money we have with the right priorities and with trust. I proposed and we adopted this order for paying bills:

1. Benevolence;
2. Insurance, utilities & other obligations;
3. Pastor's salary.

If you hear that the treasurer cannot always write my paycheck, that is true. I am not worried. God is taking care of us and God is taking care of me.

We do have a big challenge: The income has to go up or the expenses go down. But a different priority would not be faithful or trusting.

The congregation council and I ask for your prayers. And I ask you to tithe, if you are not already doing so.

Pastor Linda Theophilus