



Emmanuel Lutheran Church

1229 Jefferson Heights Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

eastmontelc@hotmail.com

www.emmanuel Lutheran eastmont.org

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

Office Hours: Monday 9-1, Wednesday 11-3, Thursday 9-1

April 10, 2024

A Stewardship Reflection by Pastor Dennis Orsen

Olga in years past had been very active in her congregation of membership. Over the years she had sung in the choir, taught Sunday School, and was active in the church kitchen. She was homebound when I first met her. She was suffering from arthritis. During my first visit at her home, she showed me her prayer list. The prayer list was several note cards long with a list of names written on each card. Then she said, "Now that I can't do what I used to do at the church, I have more time to pray. I pray for everyone on this list daily."

Prayer was now her primary ministry in the congregation. Olga was a good steward (manger) of her time, recognizing what she could no longer do, yet recognizing there was a ministry she could handle. Every ministry needs to be wrapped in prayer.

Jesus in his mission sermon in the Gospel according to Matthew said, "The harvest is plenty full; therefore, pray to the lord of harvest for increased labors for the harvest." Emmanuel certainly has an abundance of opportunities for ministry. In the stewardship of your time, please pray to the lord of the harvest for an increase of labors for the harvest that has been given to Emmanuel.

Emmanuel's Welcoming Immigrants Housing Project needs these items to help an asylee move to his new apartment:

Single bed, bedding, towels

TV, Computer

Kitchen towels, dishwashing supplies, dish drainer, dish soap

Rice cooker, Microwave

Hot pads, serving and cooking utensils

Cleaning supplies, including broom and dustpan, scrubbies, bleach, vinegar, Murphy's Oil Soap

Kitchen Trash can



Worship and pray in person in the sanctuary OR

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.

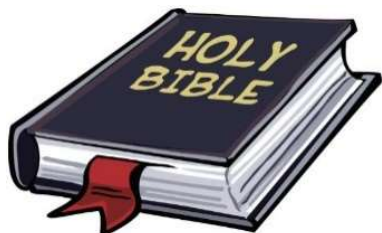
At home without technology: Read the bulletin. Read the Scripture. Pray. Meditate.



Blessing of the Seeds – Sunday, April 21

Prayers for a good harvest and the well-being of all who work in agriculture. Please bring in your seeds and samples of the soil in which you grow plants.

Mon., April 15, 10:15 am – WIHP Meeting
Fri., April 19, 1 pm – Parish Life Committee Meeting
Sun., April 21 – Blessing of Seeds, Soil and Water
Tues., April 23, 1 pm – Church Council Meeting
Mon., May 6, 2 pm – *Giving to God* session at Bob Evans
Thurs., May 9 – Lutheran Day at the Capitol
Sun., May 12 – Mother's Day including Bread for the World presentation
Sun., May 19 – Pentecost



Bible Book of the Month: The book for April is the Gospel of John. A guide for getting the most out of your reading is included with this mailing. You can find a link to the introductions to all the Bible Books of the month on the home page of our website, www.emmanuelutheraneastmont.org.

“Giving to God” Stewardship Study based on the book by Mark A. Powell. These sessions are held on the first Monday of the month. The next session is scheduled for Monday, May 6. There will be a session in June. There may be a new book and new study in the fall.

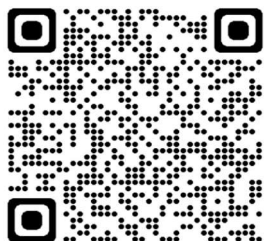
Reading the Gospel of Mark together

We are setting up a group to read and discuss the Gospel of Mark during the Easter season. Contact Pastor Linda or Pastor Dennis. Dates and times will be arranged to suit those who are interested. In person and/or zoom participants encouraged.



Outdoor Ministry & God's Love

Summer schedules for both Agape and Lutherlyn are now available. There are Grandparent and Family camp weeks in addition to programs for ages 5-18.



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.

We now have a new sound board and a lavalier microphone. We began using the new equipment during Holy Week. **Please give us feedback as we learn how to use this new equipment.** Thank you very much to the anonymous giver of the funds and to Pastor Bob Schaeffer who selected and set up the new equipment.



BE A FRIEND TO AN ASYLUM SEEKER/ASYLEE/REFUGEE

Invite a newcomer to a meal.
Play a game of chess or a video game or a board game.
Take a refugee to a concert or a basketball game.
Give rides to and from a library.
Go shopping.
Have a conversation; people learning English need people to talk with.
Go for a walk. Visit a museum.

Contact Pastor Linda to set this up. 412-401-5742 or revtheophilus@live.com

Lutheran Day in the Capitol – May 9, 2024

Join Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania (LAMPa) on Thursday, May 9, for a day of learning, inspiration, advocacy, and celebration. It's the 45th anniversary of LAMPa and also the 50th anniversary celebrating the ELCA's World Hunger program.



Register by April 11 to take advantage of early-bird rates. To register and for more information on the day's events, click here: <https://www.lutheranadvocacypa.org/about/lutheran-day-2024/>

Carpool with Pastor Linda on Wednesday, May 8. Overnight at Wittel Farm, a Lutheran retreat center just 20 minutes from the Capital.

LAMPa Launching Service and Justice Networks

Join Lutherans in Pennsylvania for noontime virtual gatherings around areas in which our ministries have a depth of experience and where Lutherans are expressing energy for making a difference. The next meetings are:

April 17 - **Human and Civil Rights**

April 24 - **Housing and Homelessness**

(Follow the links above to register. Or ask Pastor Linda how to register and get set up for these online meetings.)

You can sign up for a network or let us know where else God is leading you to act in love **here**.

Join us and share the news as we strive to be Church together in Pennsylvania for the sake of the world God loves!

Monthly Grief Gatherings at Monroeville Public Library

Every fourth Wednesday from 7-8:30 pm, come to share and explore our experiences with grief. All are welcome. For more information, contact Cory Little at 412-373-0500 ext. 122 or littlec2@einetwork.net.

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. You can pay for flowers online or by check.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Call Pastor Theophilus for yourself or others to be included in prayer. Contact Marsha Kennedy also; she sends cards to let people know that we are praying for them. You can reach Marsha at 412-824-4966 **or** Marsha_Kennedy@verizon.net **or** 415 Kingston Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235.



The Gospel According to JOHN

If you are reading John for the first time, you will find familiar verses and stories such as John 3:16, or Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In congregations using the common lectionary, most of John is read at Sunday worship over the course of three years. John is the Gospel for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

If you have read John many times and are reading it again, you will find something to draw you deeper into the mysteries and glory of God.

John has detailed stories and deep theological reflection. The Holy Spirit and your personality will lead you to focus on the narrative or on the spiritual meaning. I encourage you to read at the level which engages you.

The Beginning

The Gospel begins with the beginning of all that exists and quickly moves to reveal that Jesus is the Word of God which created all things. In the first 18 verses, the evangelist goes from Creation to Christmas, and introduces the themes of light in the darkness, belief, and rejection.

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. All things came into being with Him. John 1: 1,3

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory of the father's only son, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

Who is the writer?

Within the Gospel, the author identifies himself (or herself?) as the witness or disciple who testifies. The Gospel writer is "the evangelist," which means one who communicates good news. There is also an unnamed "beloved disciple." The traditional conclusion is that it is the same person, the apostle John. The evangelist is careful not to name the author or the beloved disciple.

Revelation & Belief

Jesus said: "If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." John 14:7

Each event, each character, each explanation is there to help us believe. Turning water into wine, conversations with Nicodemus at night or the woman at the well, healing, feeding, showing Thomas his wounds after the resurrection are all

ways that the evangelist shows us who Jesus is and the journey of believing and receiving life in Jesus' name.

As you read, look for:

Signs

I AM statements

How many are they? What are they?

Rejection

When Jesus feeds a large crowd with the five loaves and two fish, people want to be with Jesus. When Jesus says I AM the bread of life that you need, many turn away because his words were hard to accept. Jewish leaders recognize the claim to be God, the I AM. Those who remain say: *Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. John 6: 68*

The Gospel was likely written around 100 A.D. The Romans had destroyed the Temple and the city of Jerusalem. Although many Jews did believe and follow, by 100 A.D. the distinction between Judaism and Christianity had widened. The pain of rejection and fear of rejection in families and communities can be felt in this Gospel.

Often when John uses the term, "the Jews", he means the leaders. In later centuries this way of referring to leaders was wrongly used as a reason to mistreat Jews.

Reflecting on the individuals who believe or reject Jesus can help us understand our own journey of faith.