



Emmanuel Lutheran Church

1229 Jefferson Heights Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

eastmontelc@hotmail.com

www.emmanuelutheraneastmont.org

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

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

April 16, 2025

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

If you truly cannot get to Emmanuel in person, come via Zoom for worship (use the Sunday worship link), set aside time for Prayer and Worship where you are.

Need a ride? Call or text Pastor Linda.

Worship and pray

Come in person at 10 am every Sunday

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.

MAUNDY THURSDAY – 7 pm in the Emmanuel building

- Jesus gives us 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 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.

HOLY SATURDAY

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT – 2-3 pm in the Emmanuel building

Invite family, friends, neighbors, and acquaintances to the annual Community Easter Egg Hunt. Helpers (adult and teen) needed at 1 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY

FESTIVAL WORSHIP – 10 am in the Emmanuel building

The Festival of the Resurrection is one spectacular bilingual worship this Sunday, April 20. There is no evening Spanish worship. We will rejoice with many rhythms.

EASTER FIESTA MEAL – After worship

All are invited to a joyous meal prepared by the best Venezuelan cooks in our congregation.

There's enough for everyone.

LENTEN OFFERING FOR BETHEL AME

As I stood in the pulpit of Bethel AME on June 16 of this year, I spoke about Zacchaeus. I had been invited to participate in a celebratory Juneteenth worship service, following Bethel's long and hard-won battle for restoration ever since the congregation was displaced by the Urban Redevelopment Authority to build the Civic Arena in the 1950's. What I see in the story Zacchaeus is a story of systemic change...to the extent that his life was changed by Jesus' visit, the whole system of injustice was dismantled in equal measure. If Zacchaeus learned to see himself as part of the same family as those he habitually defrauded—all of them equally children of Abraham—then a new system of mutual respect was being built."

From Bishop Kurt Kusserow's letter to congregations to present the synod collection for Bethel AME. You can read more on the synod website <https://www.swpasynod.org/bethel> (or ask Pastor Linda for a copy.)

Emmanuel members have contributed almost \$400 as of March 16. The Emmanuel council designated contributions from the Crown (cell tower) benevolence money: \$200 in 2024 and \$250 in 2025. The total synod goal is \$25,000. The synod has received \$18,932 so far.

Your Lenten gift for Bethel AME may be placed in the Lenten envelope or your regular offering envelope. Please designate clearly on your envelope or check!!! Any undesignated envelopes or checks will go in the general fund.



Blessing of the seeds – Sunday, April 27

We pray for all gardeners and farmers, for a productive growing season and plentiful harvest, for the care of creation and that all may be fed. Bring your seeds, seedlings or implements for blessing.

SPRING UP WITH GOD

SAVE THE DATE – WELCA CLUSTERS #3 AND #4 SPRING MEETING – MAY 3, 2025

Here's a chance to learn about gardening, have fellowship with your sisters in Christ, share outreach ideas of what your WELCA clusters are planning this year, and enjoy lunch. The meeting will be held at St. Paul's Highfield Lutheran Church in Vandergrift. A representative from the Vandergrift Garden Club is the guest speaker. Doors open at 8:45 am and lunch is at noon; the fee to cover lunch is only \$10. Call Mary Jane Ramer at 724-568-2530 to reserve your spot.



The Welcoming Table:

Sunday evening Lutheran worship in Spanish

There is no Spanish worship at 6 pm on Easter, April 20

One joyous bi-lingual service at 10 am in the Emmanuel building.

This past January, Emmanuel began an evening worship service in Spanish hosted by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (1516 Beechview Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15216). Emmanuel is the only Lutheran congregation in our synod with Spanish-speaking participants.

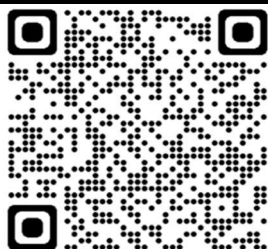


PRAYER REQUESTS: Call Pastor Theophilus for yourself or others to be included in prayer. Contact Marsha Kennedy also; she sends cards to let people know that we are praying for them. You can reach Marsha at 412-824-4966 or Marsha_Kennedy@verizon.net or 415 Kingston Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235.



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.

Thank you to the following who purchased lilies for our Easter service: Marsha Kennedy, Sandi McMaster, Darlene Neill, Rosa Snyder-Boyd, Pastor Linda Theophilus, and Helen Williams.



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

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

We Believe: Anniversary of the Council Nicaea

~~Sunday, April 27: 2:30 PM~~

THIS EVENT HAS BEEN POSTPONED; WATCH FOR NEW DATE

Sacred Heart Church: 310 Shady Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 1520



The Nicene Creed was written 1700 years ago in a place called Nicea. Bishops and theologians from many places came together to prepare a common statement of faith. This year the faithful of different denominations of Christianity unite to celebrate their 2025 shared date of Easter and share the 1,700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed. In Southwestern Pennsylvania, there will be an ecumenical celebration on the 1,700th anniversary of the Council Nicaea with a liturgy of the Word and reflections by Bishop Kusserow; Metropolitan Savas, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh; and Bishop David Zubik, Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh.



Lutheran Day at the Capitol

Join Lutherans from across Pennsylvania on Tuesday, May 13 to learn about and to advocate for our neighbors, especially to address hunger and poverty with Pennsylvania public officials. Carpool with Pastor Linda, leaving on Monday afternoon, May 12; return on Tuesday evening.

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania leads non-partisan advocacy for more than 1,000 congregations across the

Commonwealth, to, but particularly in addressing hunger and its root causes, striving to create a just world where all are fed.

Mary anointed Jesus' feet with pure nard, this incredibly costly, precious substance. Then she dried his feet with her hair.

In the Gospel story in the last Sunday in Lent, we hear about Jesus visiting with his dear friends, Martha, Mary and Lazarus. This happened just after Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead. And Mary was anointing Jesus' feet with pure nard, this incredibly costly, precious substance. And then she dried his feet with her hair. Nard is a very powerful, pungent substance, and the Gospel says the room was filled with the fragrance.

Now I did a little research on nard, and some people would describe the smell as being pungent or earthy, or musty, or musky or like feet. So it was an interesting choice that people had in those days. And they did two things with nard. One, they would use nard to anoint the bodies of the dead in order to offset the stench of death, which Jesus had only encountered with his friend Lazarus a few days before. And it was also used for kings as a sign of royalty because of the luxury of this whole thing.

Well, Jesus was himself, like us, like the first Adam, an earth creature — pungent and full of life, dense in this sense. And this earth creature was obedient to death, reversing the work of the first Adam, who disobeyed and brought sin into the world. And we've suffered the consequences. The chief consequence is death, separation from God.

And now Jesus, the new Adam, the new earth creature, he's anointed, he says to Mary, for his burial and so that he will be using this incredibly pungent substance, while at the same time being very clear that he is, in fact, part of this incarnation, this earth creature. But instead of it being oil put on him to remove the stench of death, it became the anointing of a royal king. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, the usual cycle of life and death has been disrupted forever. Jesus' death and resurrection promises new life and brings us new life.

Happy Easter, dear church.

Elizabeth A. Eaton

Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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