



## Emmanuel Lutheran Church

1229 Jefferson Heights Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

eastmontelc@hotmail.com

[www.emmanuel Lutheran eastmont.org](http://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 17, 2024

This coming Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday. On the fourth Sunday of Easter, we always read about Jesus the Good Shepherd from John 10. Brought over from the second Sunday after Easter in the medieval one-year lectionary is the beloved Good Shepherd Sunday. Despite the popularity of the image of the lone lamb held in the shepherd's arms, most biblical use of the imagery of sheep intends a communal interpretation. Here, the flock is the focus. On Sunday the flock gathers to eat and drink together.

The next day, April 22, is Earth Day, a modern day for creation care. This has always been a Christian concern, for God's instruction to Adam in the Garden of Eden was to tend the land.

Emmanuel follows ancient Christian practice of praying for fields, planting, and agriculture in the spring. Rogation Days were traditionally celebrated during the fifty days of Easter on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Ascension Day. The word Rogation has its roots in the Latin word that means to ask or petition, and it comes from the opening prayer for the Sunday preceding the Ascension. In some places the celebrations of Rogation Days included elaborate processions from the church to and around fields while asking for God's blessing.

*Abundant God, we give you thanks for the fruitful earth, which produces what is needed for life. Bless those who work in the fields; grant favorable weather to all engaged in agriculture; and help us to ensure that all people share the fruits of the earth, rejoicing in your goodness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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### Blessing of the Seeds – This 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.

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### Reading the Gospel of Mark Together

Wednesdays at 10 am

April 24 and most Wednesdays in May and June

**Together we read and discuss.**

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**“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.

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Workday at Camp Agape April 27, 2024  
Contact Pastor Dennis for more information  
412-804-1673

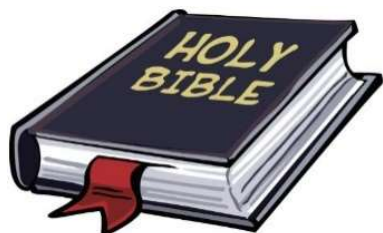
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### **Worship and pray in person in the sanctuary OR**

**By phone:** Call 312-626-6799. When prompted, enter the meeting ID 923 3815 0341.  
**By computer or smartphone:** Go to [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us). Enter Meeting ID 923 3815 0341.  
**At home without technology:** Read the bulletin. Read the Scripture. Pray. Meditate.

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**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 was included with last week's 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](http://www.emmanuelutheraneastmont.org).

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**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.



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.

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**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](mailto:Marsha_Kennedy@verizon.net) **or** 415 Kingston Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235.

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## BE A FRIEND TO AN ASYLUM SEEKER/ASYLEE/REFUGEE

Invite newcomers to do things with you.

### SPECIAL REQUEST: TAKE REFUGEES TO VISIT THE ZOO.

Contact Pastor Linda to set this up. 412-401-5742 or [revtheophilus@live.com](mailto:revtheophilus@live.com)

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## 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 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of LAMPa and also the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrating the ELCA's World Hunger program.



To register and for more information on the day's events, click here:

<https://www.lutheranadvocacypa.org/about/lutheran-day-2024/> Join Pastor Linda, Helen Williams and Nancy Sipe for this outing. Carpool with Pastor Linda on Wednesday, May 8. Overnight at a Lutheran retreat center just 20 minutes from the Capital.

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## 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 meeting is:

### April 24 - Housing and Homelessness

([Follow the link above to register.](#) Or ask Pastor Linda how to register and get set up for this online meeting.)

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!

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## 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](mailto:littlec2@einetwork.net).

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## Emmanuel's Welcoming Immigrants Housing Project needs these items to help an asylee in their new housing

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

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## SWPA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

FRIDAY, JUNE 14: 9:30 AM - SATURDAY, JUNE 15: 12:30 PM

In Person at PennWest California (Formerly Cal-U), 250 University Ave, California, PA 15419

**Emmanuel may send two lay Voting members and an unlimited number of non-voting participants to the assembly of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.** This assembly is the highest legislative authority of our synod; they will be making decisions that impact 143 congregations covering 10 counties in southwest PA.

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### CREATION CARE CORNER – From Church in Society Committee of the SWPA Synod

#### WAYS TO HONOR EARTH DAY

1. Take a hike. Even the little ones can participate.
2. Make it Meatless Mondays in your home. Try for a month, you'll like it!
3. Plan or join a local clean-up.
4. Plant a pollinator garden. To start, research specific local plants that pollinators are typically attracted to like milkweed, coneflowers, and goldenrod. A project sure to delight you and the bees and butterflies. 🦋
5. Plant a tree, the classic Earth Day activity! Whether in your yard or donating to a tree planting project like the Nature Conservancy's Plant a Billion Tree campaign.
6. Switch to natural products in home and garden. Eco-friendly and healthier.
7. Start composting. Less trash and great for your garden. 🌿
8. Brainstorm ways to reuse, reduce, rethink, recycle, and make a real effort to avoid single use plastics.
9. Turn out lights. The best saving of energy is the energy we don't use! 💡
10. Talk about your concerns about global warming and the steps you are taking to combat climate change. Tell everyone the money your solar panels are saving you, offer a ride in your electric car and sing its praises for local driving, by example keep your commitment to carrying your own refillable water bottle, your efforts to work for climate solutions and your support of legislators who do too.

**BOOK RECOMMENDATION:** Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer. In this beautifully written book by a botanist and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the author shares indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge, and the teaching of plants. These stories give new appreciation of all of God's creation, exploring the connection between living things and human efforts to cultivate a more sustainable world.

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