



Emmanuel Lutheran Church

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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 30, 2025

Christ is Risen. He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!

Jesus' death and resurrection changes everything. It changes the ordinary, the daily activities, the way we understand our place in the world. When Jesus' disciples returned to fishing after the resurrection, the morning was transformed. (See the Sunday reading from John 21.)

I share this quote from Rev. Lura Groen to help us realize this:

What would change for you if you knew deep in your bones, that God would rather die than be separate from you, would rather defeat death than allow you to be lost to it? If you knew that every facet of your quirky personality delights the One who creates the orbits of the planets and the atoms? That the one who taught the roses to unfurl put you on this earth to enjoy it, to be connected to others, and to make the world even better? What would it change if we all knew how loved we are, deep in our bones?

This Sunday, May 4, join us at **1 pm** when Pastor Ken Ofslager will present:
Glory and Holy – Old Words for a New Day

You can participate in person in the fellowship hall, via zoom, or on Facebook

To attend and participate on your phone, I-pad or computer use this zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89760867900>

For audio only, you may call 312 626 6799 and then enter the Meeting ID: 897 6086 7900

The class will be live-streamed on the Emmanuel Facebook page. You can watch live or view the class later at a time that's more convenient for you. The internet address for the Emmanuel FB is www.facebook.com/emmanueleastmont

There is lunch at 12 noon in the fellowship hall. Please RSVP to Pastor Linda or the church office 412-824-4525 if you will be attending the optional lunch.

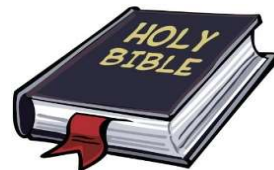
Pastor Kenneth Ofslager is a retired ELCA pastor in SWPA Synod with extensive study in the Old Testament at Temple University.

BIBLE BOOK OF THE MONTH: JOB

The Bible Book of the Month for May is Job. The introduction for Job is included in this mailing.

The remaining book in the series is Psalms 73-106. The series ends in June.

We began the Bible Book of the Month in January of 2021. Usually, the featured book has been included in the Sunday morning readings for the month. The introductions to all the Bible Books of the Month are available on the home page of our website, www.emmanuelutheraneastmont.org



Sunday, May 4, 1:00 pm – Old Words for a New Day
(Pastor Ken Ofslager Study)
Monday, May 5, 10:00 am – WIHP Meeting
Tuesday, May 6, 1:00 p.m. – Church Council Meeting
Monday, May 12, 10:30 am – Parish Life Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 13 – Lutheran Day at the Capitol
Saturday, May 17, 9:30 am – Synod Assembly (via Zoom only)



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.

Sunday evening Lutheran worship in Spanish (The Welcoming Table)

In person only at 6:00 p.m.

Held at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at 1516 Beechview Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15216.



Fair Trade helps farmers and people who eat.

We have a fair-trade sales table - Coffee, Tea and Chocolate.

- Fair trade means that the growers and producers sell their products to a distributor who wants to help the growers instead of exploiting them.
- Fair trade often means that farmers can afford both food and school for their children.
- Fair trade means the farmers can decide how to care for the land they know and love instead of complying with dictates from multinational corporations.
- Fair trade means that you can buy high quality food at attainable prices. Especially when you get coffee, tea or chocolate through your congregation.

Chocolate sales special

Chocolate prices have gone up worldwide. But at Emmanuel we have chocolate bars from last season. To make room for new and fresh chocolate bars, there are discount prices right now. Last year's price for fair trade, organic Equal Exchange 2.8 oz. chocolate bars was \$2.75.

\$1.00 Lemon Ginger

\$2.00 for all other chocolate bars – milk chocolate, caramel crunch, mint and dark, very dark, and extremely dark chocolate bars

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.



CHANGING & UNCHANGING

GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS

2025 SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Saturday, May 17 @ 9:30 AM - 1 PM

Online Only through Zoom.

At this meeting we submit nominations for the bishop's election.

AND

Thursday, June 12 @ 6 PM - Saturday, June 14 @ 12:30 PM

In-Person Only at La Roche University

Our synod will elect a new bishop at this year's synod assembly. Bishop Kusserow has served well and faithfully for 18 years as our bishop. He is ready to retire.



ASSEMBLY CHAPLAIN



Pastor Blair Morgan

Retired Director for Evangelical Mission

The business of assembly includes elections to synod council, several committees of the synod and agencies of the synod. There is a budget to be approved. There will also be learning forums on a wide variety of topics.

This is a time to hear good news from far and near. Deacon Sue Rothmeyer, the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, will report on developments in denominations.

Worship will be led by a son of Emmanuel, the Rev. Blair Morgan, who grew up in Eastmont.

The voting participants from Emmanuel are Helen Williams, Pastor Dennis Orsen, and Pastor Linda Theophilus.

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.



JOB

There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job.

So begins the timeless story of undeserved suffering and the search for an answer from God.

Job truly was a good and faithful believer. When grief, poverty, and physical pain overwhelmed him, he refused to curse God. All his anger, confusion, depression, sorrow, and weariness were expressed toward God. The powerful, passionate words of Job can help us also when we are hurting and only God can give the relief we need.

The book of Job is regarded as one of the world's truly great literary masterpieces. It contains some of the finest, most expressive poetry in the bible.

The first-time reader – or even the umpteenth reader – may find it helpful to remember that the action takes place in the first two chapters and the last chapter. This is where you find Satan (the Hebrew “ha satan” means The Accuser) destroying Job's ten children, many animals, and possessions, and finally afflicting him with a painful disease. Do people only trust God because they get rewarded for it? Job refuses to curse God and is consumed with misery. In Chapter 42, he is blessed with family and wealth again.

However, the real drama is the search for an answer. Why has this happened?

Imagine a stage. On it sits a man in rags, three friends in quality clothing, and a quiet younger friend. They come to comfort and grieve with Job. After seven days of silence, they begin to speak. What was Job's sin that this tragedy has occurred? Nothing, says Job.

The theories of Job's guilt expressed by his friends continue to be common answers to suffering today. Job is correct. He is no victim to be blamed. His suffering is not a punishment. But it is a mystery. When God answers out of a whirlwind, Job is silenced. He never gets an explanation, but he gets God. Job discovers that God is God, and he is not God. Now he repents of his arrogance. Now he is healed.

As you read, watch for the beginning and ending of each speech. Read each speech as a unit whether it is one chapter or more. Note the name of the speaker. Try summarizing the point of each speech in one sentence.

Here is an outline of action and speeches:

Chapter 1 – Satan takes Job's children and wealth.
Chapter 2 – Sick and grieving, Job sits in silence.
Chapter 3 – Job curses the day he was born.
Chapters 4-31 – Job and his three friends debate his guilt and innocence.
Chapters 32-37 – Elihu defends God and Job.
Chapter 38 – the Lord answers Job.
Chapter 42 – Job is humbled, satisfied and restored.

In the early church, the book of Job was read during Holy Week. Job is the clearest example of a good man who suffered unjustly. In fact, he proclaims “*I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.*” (19:25) Jesus is the perfect man who suffered even more. In Jesus, we find more than an explanation for human sin and suffering; we find God's solution.

P.S. If you need a short introduction to Job. Read Chapters 1-3 and 38-42.

Are you suffering and seeking an answer from God?
Let the words of Job help you express your pain, weariness, and outrage.

Are you the friend or bystander trying to comfort and encourage?
Job's friends show us what to do and what not to say.