



## Emmanuel Lutheran Church

1229 Jefferson Heights Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

[eastmontelc@hotmail.com](mailto:eastmontelc@hotmail.com)

[www.emmanuelutheraneastmont.org](http://www.emmanuelutheraneastmont.org)

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

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

April 8, 2026

### **Christ is Risen! Alleluia!** **Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**

Easter is more than a day.

Easter is seven weeks, a week of weeks. There are seven Sundays in the Easter season. Easter ends with the celebration of Pentecost, the festival that marks the coming of God's Holy Spirit to all of God's people. This year Pentecost is May 24.

Seven is the ancient Biblical number for completeness. In Genesis 1, God created the world in six days and rests on the seventh. This is the season of rejoicing for all that God has done. With Jesus' death and resurrection, Jesus completed the work of rescuing humanity from sin and death and hell.

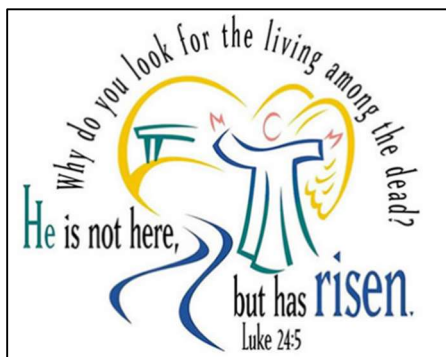
Easter is a way of living. St. Paul writes in Romans 6: <sup>3</sup>*Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?* <sup>4</sup>*Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.* <sup>5</sup>*For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.* <sup>6</sup>*We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin.* <sup>7</sup>*For whoever has died is freed from sin.* <sup>8</sup>*But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.* <sup>9</sup>*We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.* <sup>10</sup>*The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God.* <sup>11</sup>*So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

---

### **Resurrection Stories**

**April 12, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm**

Optional lunch at 12 noon.



What are the resurrection stories in the New Testament? How many times did Jesus appear after his death? Where? When? What happened?

Pastor Ken Ofslager teaches once a month on a Sunday afternoon, usually on the third Sunday. On May 17, we will focus on the Holy Spirit and stories of Pentecost.

**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

---

## For Such a Time as This

This final week we learn about Dietrich Bonhoeffer, whose death date is April 9.

As we move through the Sundays of Easter, we are gently encouraged to listen for our own calling and to take faithful steps in love of neighbor and care for the world. This devotional series was created by members of the synod's Authentic Diversity and Justice Working Group for the Lenten season of 2026.

---

### 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](http://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 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 for water and soil, seeds and seedlings and all those who care for the land and the growing of food.

Bring seeds and seedlings, or tools and symbols of your care for the earth.

---

### 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.



## The Joy of Easter

### Easter Greetings from Bishop Yehiel Curry, ELCA presiding bishop

In his Easter message, Presiding Bishop Curry says that even though we consider ourselves to be an Easter church, we must remember that we are also a Lenten church, a time when we live in uncertainty, waiting and hoping for renewal. Curry reminds us that in the midst of that uncertainty comes God's promise of reassurance and hope. Death does not have the final word. "Yes, we are Easter people. Even when the ground below us is shaking, we will not grow weary. We know that Jesus is our foundation. Christ is risen, and that truth strengthens us. It gives us courage to live, to hope, and to proclaim joy. Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!"

Watch the complete video from the ELCA website - [elca.org](http://elca.org). [The Joy of Alleluia | Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry | Easter 2026](#)



# CITIZENS WITH THE SAINTS

April 20, 2026

Kelly Latimore Icons



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](http://lutheranadvocacy.org/about/citizenswiththesaints). To carpool, contact Pastor Linda Theophilus at [revtheophilus@live.com](mailto: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.



## 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.

## 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.



---

**Good News:** Emmanuel has consistent, reliable givers who tithe generously.

**Difficult news:** We do not have enough givers and especially do not have enough that give consistently or who tithe.

**Good News:** Offering for April 2026 so far is \$4,000.

**Difficult news:** Average offering per month for January, February and March of 2026 has been approximately \$3,950. We need \$5,000 in offerings to meet our budget.

**Good news:** We received significant gifts in the past that provided a cushion, a source of savings to supplement monthly income. For example, Apostles Lutheran Church gave Emmanuel a portion of its closing assets in 2019.

**Difficult news:** The savings have been used up.

---

**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

**Sunday, May 17, 1-2:30 pm** – Pastor Ken's Class

**Sunday, May 24** -- PENTECOST



---

*This is the poem which Pastor Linda spoke about during the sermon Maundy Thursday.*

### COMMUNION

There's no bread.  
The bakers have gone into hiding.  
The seats at the table are empty.  
The Twelve are out marching with the thousands.  
The streets are filled with a new song.  
Only Judas sits at Target Plaza, counting his silver,  
While Pontius Pilate issues a carefully-worded statement.  
Meanwhile, the centurions have quotas to fill.  
But out on the streets there's a Communion.  
Jesus takes the city in his hands and says,  
"This is my body, broken for you."

*Rob Hardy, February 2, 2026*

---