



Emmanuel Lutheran Church

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

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

February 11, 2026

What are you giving up for Lent?

The better question is "What are you giving up for life?"

This year I am thinking a lot about giving up cherished ideas and beliefs. Not all cherished ideas and beliefs but the ones that are actually illusions, delusions, or not true.

For example, I have lots of books which I will never read. Yet I want to keep them because maybe I will read them some day. Well, if I am honest, I won't. Even if I try, I will not live long enough. This is a relatively harmless delusion, but symptomatic of the human resistance to change or to admit that I am wrong.

For over 25 years, I have been telling the stories of refugees and immigrants. Two of my brothers married women from other countries. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service invited and trained me to be an LIRS Ambassador in 1998 and when that program ended, I kept speaking. I have been able to bring good news and bad news about immigrants and the immigration system in the United States. Over and over, I have experienced gratitude and rejection. Gratitude for clarity, for stories of good work done by Lutherans, of lives saved and lives rebuilt. Rejection because I also told the dark side of US immigration which people did not want to hear. That can't be true. Our government would not do that. Sadly, human beings are truly capable of great cruelty and brutality, yes, even Americans and Christians.

Recognizing that each person, even those in groups we fear, is inherently precious to God is a truth to embrace for Lent and all the time. Acknowledging the human capacity for sin – even by usually good people, by those we want to trust and believe - is painful. And, I believe, necessary for life.

This Lent, I ask you to give up illusions and delusions, to see truth – both the good and the bad – in ourselves and other people.

Pastor Linda



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

February 17, 6 pm in the fellowship hall.

Invite your friends and family; everyone loves pancakes!

Please rsvp to the church office at 412-824-4525. (Set up at 5 pm)

ASH WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 18

1 P.M. – Holy Communion with imposition of ashes.

If you cannot come for the midday worship,
please make an appointment with Pastor Linda to receive ashes.



Bishop Allende Visits on Sunday, February 22

Bishop Abraham Allende is our guest preacher on the first Sunday of Lent.

After worship, we have the opportunity to talk with him about Latine Ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Potluck meal featuring Venezuela chicken will be served. RSVPs requested but not required,

Bishop Allende is the bishop emeritus of the Northeastern Ohio Synod. He grew up in Puerto Rico. He is a baseball fan and has a special fondness for Roberto Clemente.

JESUS' BAPTISM AND TRANSFIGURATION

Pastor Ken Ofslager is teaching every third Sunday afternoon through May. Each month we will dig into the Biblical texts for the festivals in those months.

Next class is this Sunday, February 15, 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

There is lunch at 12 noon.

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

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.



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY WAS FEBRUARY 8, 2026

(you can still give)

This year our Souper Bowl offerings were designated for the Cross Roads Food Bank. Thanks to your generous donations, we raised \$115 for the food bank.

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. The prices remain the same in 2026 as 2025. You can pay for flowers online or by check.



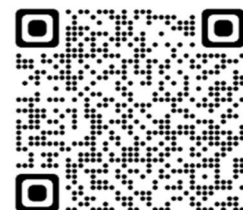
PRAYER REQUESTS: Call Pastor Theophilus for yourself or others to be included in prayer. Contact Marsha Kennedy also; she sends cards to let people know that we are praying for them.

You can reach Marsha at 412-824-4966 **or** Marsha_Kennedy@verizon.net **or** 415 Kingston Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235.

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.





Stewardship Reflection by Pastor Dennis Orsen

More quotes from Dr. Mark Allan Powell's document, *The Earth is the Lord's: The Bible and Borders—Old Testament*.

- Nothing in the Old Testament laws ever suggests any distinction between “legal” or “illegal” status. We do not know whether there were procedures for immigrants to obtain some kind of recognized status that distinguished them from other “non-citizens.” If so, such status appears to have been irrelevant with regard to the moral demands of the law concerning the attitude and behavior expected of Israelites toward all “outsiders” residing among them.

- “The Bible does not provide a blueprint for modern legislation, but it does clarify the spiritual and moral call . . . the purpose of looking at biblical laws is to ascertain a moral compass for Christians as they enter these discussions.”⁹

⁹ Carroll author of *The Bible and Borders: Hearing God's Word on Immigration* (Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2020)

Sunday, February 15, 1-2:30pm – Pastor Ken's Class
Monday, February 16, 1pm – Church Council meeting
Tuesday, February 17, 1pm – Women's Bible Study at Zion
Tuesday, February 17, 6pm – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
Wednesday, February 18, 1pm – Ash Wednesday service
Sunday, February 22 – Bishop Allende visits Emmanuel
Wednesday, February 25, 1pm – Mid-week Lenten service



GATHER BIBLE STUDY

For all women in the east suburban
Lutheran congregations and our friends.



1:00-2:30 pm – Tuesday, February 17, 2026
Zion Lutheran Church,
11609 Frankstown Road

Our usual meeting time is the fourth Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm. We are adjusting in February to the third Tuesday which is Tuesday, February 17, 2026. Our March meeting date is Tuesday, March 24.

In February and March, our Bible Study is “*Embodied Prayer*” by the Rev. Liv Larson Andrews.

In April, we'll begin a three-part study on “I AM: God's holy name and promise,” by the Rev. Hannah Hawkinson. Each session is self-contained, so if you miss one, feel free to come to the next one.



KITCHEN RENOVATIONS BEGIN FEBRUARY 23.

The Emmanuel kitchen will soon have a new food prep sink and a grease trap. The plumber will start with the grease trap on Monday, February 23. That equipment will be installed below the kitchen in the furnace room. Meals for Friends will be able to prepare meals on Monday. The work will continue on Tuesday, February 24, to install the food prep sink.

Before the plumber begins, the cabinet along the wall under the window facing Northern Pike will need to be removed. If it is sturdy enough, it will be placed in the fellowship hall along the wall facing Northern Pike. Once we know if that cabinet can be used in that location, we can determine what we need to do for storage cabinets for Emmanuel and Meals for Friends.

The estimate to install this equipment and to rearrange/replace cabinets is over \$10,000. (We also anticipate expensive updates to the fire suppression system in 2027; any money left from the current work will go towards those updates.)

This kitchen is essential for Meals for Friends and a valuable asset for ministry in our local community.
THANK YOU for your donations!!!

Congregation Council Training - Saturday, February 21: 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM St. John's Lutheran Church, North Versailles

You don't need to be a council member to attend. Lots of good information and inspiration.

There are a wide variety of workshops!! And great fellowship with other Lutherans.



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.

The annual meeting was held this past Sunday, February 8.

Sandy Loughery, Len Hill, and Marsha Kenedy were re-elected to serve on the congregation council. We reviewed changes to the congregation constitution based on the ELCA 2025 Churchwide Assembly revisions. There will be a special congregation meeting on Sunday, March 8, to approve these changes.

Other matters discussed were goals for 2026, authorization to apply for grants, and approval to join the Pennsylvania Immigration Coalition. The budget was passed as presented. Projected expenses require additional income. Written reports are available. We encourage you to read the Annual Report.

