



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 25, 2026

Last Sunday we had a wonderful visit from Bishop Allende.

I have included a brief excerpt from his sermon. See the italics below. Bishop Allende preached in Spanish and provided a printed English translation. The complete sermon is available to pick up at Emmanuel, or you may request special delivery.

The meal after worship was magnificent. Everybody worked together in total harmony. There was animated conversation in English and Spanish about numerous topics ranging from how someone becomes a bishop in the ELCA to Holy Communion to Roberto Clemente until 2 pm.

Pastor Linda

Beloved sons and daughters of God, welcome to Lent. I call you, dear children of God, because I want you not to forget who you are, and what your identity is.

Every day we are surrounded by countless advertisements that seek to create in us a sense of lack, insecurity, and inadequacy, weakening our God-given gift of identity, with vain promises that if we buy this car, if we wear that makeup, if we have a certain drink, or if we wear fashionable clothes, we will be acceptable.

Whenever we feel inadequate or unworthy, we also remember, clearly and firmly, that God has declared in Jesus that we are sufficient, actually more than sufficient, because God has accepted us as God's beloved sons and daughters.

*As we prepare our hearts to the journey of Lent, let us remember who we are and, more importantly, **who** we are. Beloved sons and daughters of God, may our identity enable us to resist any temptation that the devil throws at us.*

LENTEN MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 1 PM



It's time to order Easter lilies for our Easter Service! The cost is the same as last year, only \$12 per pot. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex.

DEADLINE TO ORDER LILIES IS SUNDAY, MARCH 1.

HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday – April 2

7 pm - Holy Communion – we remember Jesus' Last Supper

Good Friday – April 3

12 to 3 pm - Come for prayer and meditation in the sanctuary

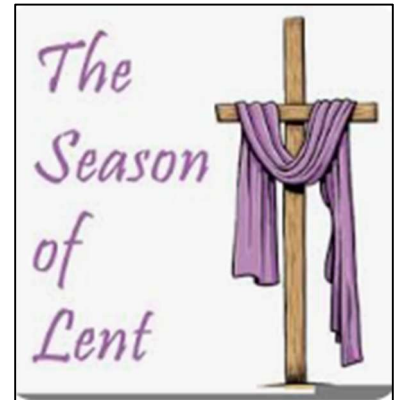
7 pm - The Good News of the Cross

Easter Saturday – April 4 - Community Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Sunday - April 5

Festival Worship 10 a.m.

Easter Dinner 11:30 after worship



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.

On Sunday, March 8, we will have a special congregational meeting to approve updates to the congregation constitution. This will take five minutes following the benediction. At the annual meeting on February 8, we reviewed the changes. They come to us from the ELCA 2025 Churchwide Assembly.

We encourage you to read the Annual Report as well as these constitutional changes. You may pick them up at Emmanuel or request special delivery.

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

A second quote from Dr. Mark Allan Powell's essay, *Citizenship in Heaven: The Bible and Borders—New Testament*:

- *The entire New Testament is probably written to be understood by people who identify themselves in some sense as "aliens." Adopting the perspective of undocumented migrants (or simply, the perspective of uninvited and potentially unwelcome foreigners) may be a prerequisite for understanding these scriptures in a manner congruent with the expectations of their authors.*
- *So, Carroll notes, "This is where foreign believers in our midst can be helpful. They can remind native-born Christians of what it means to be an outsider and to carry that label wherever they go."²*

² Carroll, *Bible and Borders*, p. 103.

The above quote is the last in this series of Stewardship Reflections sharing/consisting of Powell's reflections on immigration.

Wednesday, March 4, 1pm – Midweek Holy Communion

Sunday, March 8 - Special congregational meeting at end of worship

Sunday, March 15, 1 pm – Pastor Ken's Class

Monday, March 23, 10 am - Parish Life Committee Meeting

For Such a Time as This

We are including a weekly Lenten devotional series, created by members of the synod's Authentic Diversity and Justice Working Group. The series centers on the theme "For such a time as this." Beginning with Esther and continuing through the stories of faithful people across scripture and history, each week highlights someone who responded to the needs of their moment with courage, compassion, and conviction. Through brief storytelling, reflection, and prayer, the series invites us to notice where God may be at work in our own time and to consider how our faith shapes the ways we respond. As we move through Lent toward the hope 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.

MEALS FOR FRIENDS is once again selling Betsy Ann Chocolates for Easter. Order forms are available at Emmanuel. Orders are due March 9, and pickup will be March 20 or 23 at Emmanuel during Meals for Friends hours.





GATHER BIBLE STUDY - Join other women in the eastern suburbs for a monthly Bible study on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1:00 pm. We meet at Zion Lutheran Church in Penn Hills.

1:00-2:30 pm – Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Zion Lutheran Church,
11609 Frankstown Road

In March, our Bible Study is *“Embodied Prayer: Part 2”* by the Rev. Liv Larson Andrews. Part 2 focuses on praying with and for the earth.

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.



Good news about the KITCHEN RENOVATION

The plumbers came to work on Monday, February 23. As this newsletter goes to print on Wednesday, February 25, we can report that the plumbers are finishing the last fittings and getting ready for inspection. The Emmanuel kitchen has a new food prep sink and a grease trap.

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

The remaining work is to install a small storage unit in the kitchen for Meals for Friends and to rearrange the church storage in the fellowship hall and the kitchen. We also anticipate expensive updates to the fire suppression system in 2027; any money left from the current work will go towards those updates.

Riding into Jerusalem

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 Sun., March 15, 1:00 pm - 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

