



Emmanuel Lutheran Church

1229 Jefferson Heights Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

eastmontelc@hotmail.com

www.emmanuelutheraneastmont.org

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

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

February 4, 2026

We human beings resist bad news and change. When I took our son Daniel to viola lessons on Saturday mornings, I wanted to sleep as late as possible. He wanted to arrive early and was always concerned that traffic would be a problem. "Mom," he said, "You need more than an hour to get up and be ready to leave." He was right, but I still resisted. But he was right. I still want to be showered, breakfasted, and have a quiet time for prayer within one hour of waking up, but as I got older, I had to admit that I need more time or I that I have to give up either the shower, the breakfast, or the prayer time.

Martin Luther wrote that it is unnatural for human beings to accept our sinfulness, that we need the help of the Holy Spirit to realize our need for God's forgiveness and salvation.

It will soon be Lent. What illusions about yourself or others are you discovering, resisting, or denying? What changes are you called to make as you seek to love God with your whole heart and mind and strength and to love your neighbor as yourself?

Pastor Linda

Due to the continuing frigid weather, the annual congregation meeting was postponed and will be held immediately after worship this Sunday, February 8, 2026.



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.

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 IS FEBRUARY 8, 2026

This year our Souper Bowl offerings are designated for the Cross Roads Food Bank. Whether you are feasting at a Super Bowl party or not, this is a great time to remember those who need food.

Emmanuel has supported the Cross Roads Food Bank in Monroeville for 40 plus years. This is one of the older food banks in our area. It is a ministry of Cross Roads Presbyterian Church. Between 1983 and 1985, Emmanuel was in a cooperative relationship with Good Shepherd, Rosecrest, and St. Mark's Lutheran congregations. That strengthened the connection with the Cross Roads Food Pantry. They now serve approximately 150 households per month, which is double from one year ago. Cross Roads is one of four food banks in Monroeville with regular distribution hours. There is also an emergency food pantry at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Our location, at the boundaries of Penn Hills, Wilkins Township, and Monroeville places us between many food banks. As food needs have increased over the years, more pantries have emerged. Emmanuel looks for ways to support food distribution in whatever direction you look from our location.

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

Retired professor Mark Allan Powell shared with me two documents he had prepared for a presentation to a group of retired ELCA bishops. In the documents he has some quotes from Daniel R.M. Carroll, author of *The Bible and Borders: Hearing God's Word on Immigration* (Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2020)

Quotes from Professor Powell:

The purpose of the law in Israelite religion (and politics) was to offer a description of what life pleasing to God should look like—and for Israel, treatment of non-Israelites was an essential component of this description. So, Carroll: “we should recognize that the way [Old Testament law] deals with the foreigner says something very important about Israel’s fundamental character and about the God who gave it these rules.”

This is one aspect—perhaps the most notable aspect—of Israelite law that contrasts with other law codes known to us from the Ancient Near East. Possibly unique to Israel was the understanding that their very identity as a nation was dependent upon their commitment to those who were not a part of that nation. Carroll suggests that for modern nations, the treatment of “outsiders” reveals something “about the soul of the host country.”

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 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

“American Christian Nationalism, Christian Zionism, and Islamophobia: Examining our Cultural and Theological Frameworks”

Every Wednesday in Epiphany, ONLINE, 1-3pm EST

The sessions began on Wednesday, January 14th and end on Wednesday, February 11th.

All sessions are 1-3 pm and will not be recorded.

This series is offered to us through **United Lutheran Seminary**. Instructor: Rev. Dr. David D. Grafton, Ph.D., Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations at Hartford International.

Come to Emmanuel for the classes or request a zoom link from Pastor Linda.

It will also be presented at Zion Lutheran Church in Penn Hills.

- **11 February: *The Promised Land or the Land of Promise: Israel/Palestine and Middle Eastern Christian Perspectives (including a live conversation with Bishop Dr. Imad Haddad of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land).***
-

Sunday, February 8 - Souper Bowl Offering

Annual congregational meeting after worship

Sunday, February 15, 1-2:30pm – Pastor Ken's Class

Tuesday, February 17, 6pm – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

1-2:30pm – Women's Bible Study at Zion

Wednesday, February 18, 1pm – Ash Wednesday

Sunday, February 22 – Bishop Allende visits.



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

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

The 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.



We are now waiting for dates from the contractor for the kitchen renovations. THANK YOU for your donations!!!

The Emmanuel kitchen must be equipped with a food prep sink and a grease trap. The estimate to install this equipment and to rearrange/replace cabinets is at least \$10,000. This kitchen is essential for Meals for Friends and a valuable asset for ministry in our local community. (We also anticipate expensive updates to the fire suppression system in 2027; any money left from the current work will go towards those updates.)

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.