

## **Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

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Office Hours: Monday 9-1, Wednesday 11-3, Thursday 9-1

February 7, 2024

Lent begins on February 14, next Wednesday. We are reminded of human love and God's love on the same day. It's a good connection.

During Lent,  
What acts of love, prayer and good works will you add?  
What will you give up? Will you commit to daily self-examination and repentance?

**This mailing includes Daily Prayers for Lent. This year we are recommending a series of 40 scripture readings from the Evangelical Immigration Table.**

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A quote from The Rev. Jennifer McNally, and The Rev. Anna V. Ostenso Moore:

*Ash Wednesday begins Lent, a season of repentance and renewal of our faith. On Ash Wednesday we remember with prayer, and with the tangible symbol of ashes, our mortal nature, our place in the cycle of life, and our dependence on God. Many people prepare for Lent's humbling nature and call to simplicity the day before Ash Wednesday, on what is called Shrove Tuesday or Mardi Gras, by using the sugar and fat from the cupboards in their last feast or large celebration before Easter. The Lenten season of reflection and simplicity spans 40 days, not including Sundays. (Sundays always celebrate Jesus' resurrection.) This commemorates the 40 days Jesus spent fasting and praying in the desert at the beginning of his public ministry, as recorded by the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Though this season is solemn and reflective, it is also a time of preparing our spirits for all that is to come; a "spring cleaning" for the soul. As is said in Godly Play, Lent is a time spent "getting ready to come close to the mystery of Easter."*

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### **Ash Wednesday Worship – February 14 12 noon with Holy Communion & Ashes 7 pm Imposition of Ashes with Prayers of Confession**

Central to Ash Wednesday is the invitation to reflect on our own mortality, with a focus on the words God speaks to Adam in Genesis 3:19: "For dust you are and to dust you shall return." The sign of the cross on our forehead with ashes recalls our baptism and reminds us that in both life and life beyond life we belong to God; we are "marked as Christ's own forever."

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**Pancake Supper – Shrove Tuesday, February 13, at 6 pm in the fellowship hall.** Invite friends, family, neighbors!  
Everyone loves pancakes!

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## It's time for the SOUPER BOWL!!

This year the Emmanuel Souper Bowl collection is designated for the **Crossroads Food Bank in Monroeville**. Pastor Lindsey White of Crossroads says the need is greater than ever. The food bank in Pitcairn is currently closed, so Crossroads has added new clients. Meanwhile Emmanuel does have a small collection of non-perishable foods so that we can respond to occasional emergencies.

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Pastor Linda will be on vacation from February 15-23. Pastor Dorothy Worth will preach and preside on Sunday, February 18. If you need pastoral care during that time, contact Marsha Kennedy (412-824-4966) or Pastor Bob Schaefer (412-372-2934).

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## The Cross and the Lynching Tree

During February, Pastor Dennis will lead a weekly one-hour discussion of The Cross and the Lynching Tree by James Cone. Books are available now. Contact Pastor Dennis at 412-804-1673 to request a copy or for more information.

The discussions will be every Thursday in February at 11 am in person and on zoom. For zoom use the Emmanuel Class meeting ID 897 6086 7900, or use the following link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89760867900>

The theologian James H. Cone explores these emotionally charged symbols. This unique book opens up the legacy of slavery and racism, and helps Christians of all colors embrace one another as brothers and sisters in Christ today.

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## News from the Annual Congregational Meeting

Marsha Kennedy, Sandy Loughery, and Leonard Hill were re-elected to Church Council. A budget of \$118,736 was passed. Adjustments to the congregation constitution were introduced.

**There will be a special congregation meeting on Sunday, March 3,** to approve changes allowing electronic meetings for council and congregation meetings. This will be a very short meeting.

Annual reports, as presented at the meeting on January 28, 2024, are available at Emmanuel.

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Emmanuel supports the capital campaigns of the Lutheran social service ministries and educational ministries which are affiliated with our synod. This year we are promoting the capital campaign at Lutherlyn and encourage you to consider a one-time or three-year gift.

Thank you for your time and for considering a gift to this important ministry in our synod.

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**You are invited to the Stewardship Study** based on the book "**Giving to God**" by Mark A. Powell. These sessions are held on the first Monday of the month. The next session is Monday, March 4, at 2:00 p.m. at Bob Evans in Irwin. Call Pastor Dennis at 412-804-1673 if you're interested in joining.

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## Order altar flowers for 2024 and Lilies for Easter.

**Lilies for Easter are \$11. The last day to order is Sunday, March 3.**

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.



**Tues., Feb. 13, 6 pm** - Pancake Supper

**Wed., Feb. 14, noon** - Ash Wednesday mid-day service with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

**Wed., Feb. 14, 7pm** - Service with Imposition of Ashes

**All Thursdays in February at 11 am** - Book Discussion on *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*

**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.

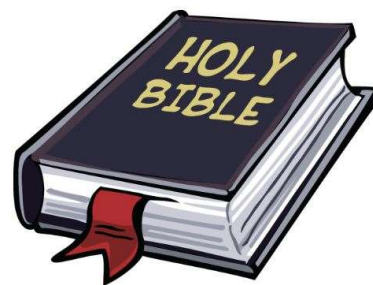
**New this year:** there is a link on our website to make giving even easier. Go to <https://www.emmanuelutheraneastmont.org/> and you'll see the link.

Or use the QR code for easy connection on your smart phone.

*Thank you for giving your offerings regularly!! Many of you have been very generous and faithful. We are grateful for every contribution that comes in the mail, and through our online and mobile giving app.*

**Bible Book of the Month:** The books for February are the Old Testament prophets of **Joel, Nahum and Obadiah**. *The Old Testament lesson for Ash Wednesday is Joel 2*. It is a powerful call to repent and fast for people of all ages, all status, all situations in life.

The introduction to these books was included in last week's newsletter. You can also find a link to the introduction on the home page of our website, [www.emmanuelutheraneastmont.org](http://www.emmanuelutheraneastmont.org).



## Worship and pray every Sunday at 10 a.m.

**In person in the sanctuary OR**

**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.

## ASH WEDNESDAY AT HOME

**IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO COME TO EMMANUEL ON ASH WEDNESDAY, HERE ARE PRAYERS FOR YOU TO USE AT HOME.**

Consider burning your own ashes from palms blessed last Palm Sunday – or you may simply mark your forehead with your thumb. Whether with ashes or your thumb, the following Ash Wednesday prayer is appropriate. You may do this alone or with members of your household.

### PRAYER

God of all mercy, you love all that you have made. You forgive the sins of all who are truly sorry. Create and make in us clean hearts, that we, humbly confessing our sins and knowing our brokenness, may receive forgiveness and blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives with you and the holy Spirit, on God, forever and ever. Amen.

### READ Psalm 103:8-14

The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
God will not always accuse, nor keep anger forever.  
God does not deal with us according to our sins,  
Nor repay us according to our iniquities.  
For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
So great is God's steadfast love;  
As far as the east is from the west,  
So far God removes our transgressions from us.  
As a parent has compassion for their children,  
So the Lord has compassion.  
For God knows how we were made;  
God remembers that we are dust.



Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes [or this action] be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*Then make the sign of the cross on your forehead or the forehead of a family member. You may say: "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

After the cross is marked, offer your own prayer to God.

- What do you notice as you receive or contemplate receiving ashes?
- Is there anything you would like to let go of and place in God's hands?
- What does it mean to you to be claimed as God's own, in life and in life beyond life?