

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

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Office Hours: Wednesday 10-2, Thursday 11-1

July 1, 2026

**"A Christian is the most free lord of all,
and subject to none; a Christian is the
most dutiful servant of all, and subject to every one."**

This quote is from Martin Luther's *The Freedom of a Christian* (1520).



A Prayer for the 250th birthday of the United States

Holy Trinity, you show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. We come from many nations with many languages; make us a united people that delights in our many different gifts. As the United States of America marks its declaration of independence, give those whom we have entrusted with authority the spirit of wisdom, and curb every abuse of that trust, so that both here and abroad, justice, humility, and peace may flourish. God of grace, **hear our prayer. Amen.**

On **Sunday, July 5**, we will have Holy Communion at Emmanuel and then (as many as are-able) will go to the Monroeville Community Park to participate in the Monroeville Interfaith Ministerium service event.



Monroeville Community Park.

Tall Trees Amphitheater
2399 Tilbrook Road
Monroeville PA 15146

It's "drop in" so folks can come anytime between 10:30 and 11:30.

- Parking for Handicap in the parking lot. All others, please park in the grass area. Directional signs will let everyone know where to go.



Pastor Linda will be on vacation from July 10 through 30.

Need a pastor during that time?

Contact Marsha Kennedy at 412-824-4966 (phone or text)
She has the list of pastors who are not on vacation in July.

On Sundays July 12 and 19, Pastor Dorothy Worth will lead worship.
Worship on July 26 is a Hymn Sing led by members of the congregation.

August 2, Pastor Linda will be back to lead worship.
We are planning a picnic after worship.

Venezuela Relief

This is a time of great sadness.

Our families report damage to family homes in Venezuela.

Information about how to donate further in this letter. You can give through Emmanuel.

Come to me, all you that labor and are burdened, and I will refresh you, where there is wondrous gifts, and joy without compare, rest unchanging, happiness without end, unceasing melody, perpetual glory, unwearied giving of thanks, loving absorption in divine things, infinite riches, a kingdom without end, through all ages and ages, depths of compassion, an ocean of mercy and kindness—which the human tongue cannot describe but makes known only through figures. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, and you shall find rest for your souls, where the hidden treasures of wisdom and knowledge shall be revealed. Come to me, all you that hunger and thirst after justice, and I will fill you with all that you desire. Come to me, for whoever comes to me I shall not cast forth.

—Ephraem

[Ephraem, in *The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers*, III, 310-311.]

**No Vacation Bible School in July.
We are planning an August activity for community children.**

On Saturday, July 4, Emmanuel will participate in the **Monroeville parade**. You may walk with Pastor Linda or ride in a car with Pastor Dennis.



The annual **Independence Day parade** in Monroeville starts at **9:00 a.m.** on **July 4th**. Participants line up at **8:30 a.m.** at the **Miracle Mile Shopping Plaza (4100 William Penn Highway)**. The parade travels **east along Route 22** to **Mall Boulevard**, enters the **Monroeville Mall complex**, and concludes at the **Monroeville Convention Center**.

Attendees are encouraged to bring candy for children along the route

The Monroeville Interfaith Ministerium will run a shuttle bus between the end and the beginning of the parade, assisting parade participants to get to and from their parked cars.

**Funding Forward: Summer Book Study
Thursdays, June 25-July 30 at 7 PM on [Zoom >>](#)**

Join a synod-wide book study on Funding Forward led by Pastor Erin Jones. Drawing on years of teaching, research, and field work, author Grace Duddy Pomroy offers new approaches for church and nonprofit finances. [Funding Forward](#) can help ministers and ministries move through the funding forward process from start to finish. Ask Pastor Linda for the book. Come to Emmanuel or join Zoom from home. Ask Pastor Linda to get the link.



Saturday, July 4	9 am	Monroeville Fourth of July parade
Sunday, July 5	10:30 am	Interfaith Service Event
Sunday, July 5	4 pm	Interfaith Picnic w/ Christian Associates
Monday, August 10	1 pm	Congregation Council

Sunday August 16

Joint Worship and Picnic with East Suburban congregations

Sunday, October 4

Spaghetti Dinner with Meals for Friends

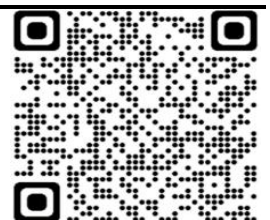
We decided that August is the best time for us to do community children's activities at Emmanuel in Eastmont and with Holy Trinity in Beechview.

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.



TO ORDER ALTAR FLOWERS

or to **MAKE A PRAYER REQUEST**

CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE 412-824-4525

Altar flowers cost \$50.



VENEZUELA RELIEF

Any donations given through Emmanuel will be sent through Lutheran Disaster Response for Lutheran work in Venezuela or sent to help family members whom our families recommend for direct assistance. Please identify your contribution with the words "Venezuela Relief." You can also go to www.elca.org and donate.



Lutheran Disaster Response is already responding through trusted, long-standing partners in the region, including the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Venezuela (IELV). ELCA partners have deployed assessment teams to affected areas, working together to identify urgent needs, provide immediate relief (e.g. food, shelter, water) and coordinate a plan for long-term assistance.

Your gifts enable this church to provide fast and effective support to communities in need and to remain for as long as recovery takes, whenever and wherever a disaster occurs. **Will you give today to provide critical aid in these early days and, crucially, in the months and years to come?**



Lutheran World Federation is the global Lutheran organization which brings together over 150 Lutheran denominations around the world. Here are pictures and quotes from the LWF website.

www.lutheranworld.org

(LWI) - In the wake of the devastating earthquakes that struck northern Venezuela last week, The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) has launched an emergency response. Local teams are already on the ground, delivering life-saving aid to traumatized communities, as humanitarian needs grow exponentially by the hour. Working swiftly through local partners and the ACT Alliance, LWF has navigated logistical hurdles to distribute emergency assistance, conduct rapid needs assessments, and coordinate relief in some of the worst affected areas. Aid is reaching communities, but shelter, sanitation and food supplies remain critical.



Working with local partners including churches, LWF staff put together relief kits for distribution in shelters at the Caribbean Maritime University, Catia La Mar, in La Guaira, Venezuela, on 30 June. Photo: LWF/Freisy Gonzalez



Many buildings were damaged or completely destroyed following the earthquakes. Here, buildings in La Guaira, Venezuela. Photo: LWF/María Laura Caba

“We have witnessed extraordinary aid mobilization by civil society in a very short time,” says Vanesa Dordelly, Program Coordinator for the LWF Venezuela-Colombia country program. “Thanks to our deep local connections, we were able to navigate restrictions, reach La Guaira and El Junquito, and immediately begin alleviating suffering.”

While access to the hardest-hit areas remains strictly regulated by the government, LWF’s long-standing trust within local communities has allowed emergency teams to deploy rapidly in Caracas, Miranda, La Guaira, and Carabobo.

Together with local partners and church networks, LWF is distributing emergency food kits and shelter packages containing blankets, flashlights, hygiene items, and essential household supplies. Volunteers are being trained on the spot to assess the evolving needs of survivors.

“God is not in the earthquake, but in the gentle breeze”

“God is not in the earthquake, but in the gentle breeze...” Pastor President Rev.

Gerardo Hands of the Evangelical Lutheran

Church in Venezuela (IELV) offered these words of comfort during an online prayer of solidarity organized by The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) on 30 June, following two consecutive earthquakes on 24 June.



An LWF staff distributing a package of emergency relief items in El Junquito, Venezuela. Photo: LWF/Freisy Gonzalezin



LWF staff conducting needs’ assessments in El Junquito, Venezuela. Photo: LWF/Freisy Gonzalezin

Addressing the gathering, the Venezuelan church leader Gerardo Hands shared the profound impact the disaster has had on the country and its people. "It is not easy to speak about something as complex as an earthquake, because human pain intensifies," he said, while acknowledging the immediate response of solidarity received from different parts of the world.

President Hands then shared words that set the tone for the entire gathering: "I keep silence and mourning in the face of so much loss and pain, but I also thank God, because in the midst of disaster, He accompanies us. God is not in the earthquakes, nor in the tsunamis, nor in the hurricanes, but in the gentle breeze, in love and accompaniment... in you and in the expressions of solidarity and service. Today it brings us comfort to know that we are loved by so many brothers and sisters," he said.

His reflection put into words the experience shared by millions of Venezuelans. The loss is not only material: for countless families, it is also the loss of mothers, fathers, children, friends, and entire communities. It is a mix of feelings where pain and hope coexist, while a people renowned for their strength and resilience find encouragement in the solidarity received and in the stories of survival and miracles that continue to emerge amidst the rescue and reconstruction efforts.



One of the locations visited was the collection and distribution center at El Junquito Church, where donations for the affected communities are received, sorted, and distributed. Photo: LWF/Freisy Gonzalezin