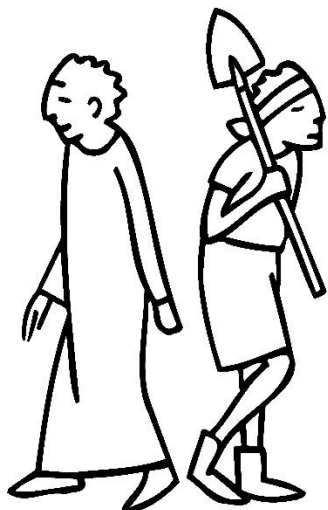




Emmanuel Lutheran Church

1229 Jefferson Heights Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

eastmontelc@hotmail.com

www.emmanuelutheraneastmont.org

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

September 23, 2026

I consider it very important that a suburban congregation remember the process of planting and harvesting. One reason is that God's first instructions to our first ancestors was to care for the garden of Eden. Today our care of creation



includes attention to data centers and climate change, pollution and overuse of plastic in daily life, clean water and healthy watersheds and depletion of water aquifers. Every fall Emmanuel has a Harvest Home Sunday. This year we overlap with the emphasis on creation care in Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Protestant denominations has evolved into the Season of Creation. Read more below to learn about the Season of Creation and the 2026 theme of Living Water. *Pastor Linda*

Thank you to everyone who has brought in samples of their harvest to decorate the sanctuary. Thank you to everyone who has provided mums for the sanctuary: Judy Mayhood, Sandi McMaster, Helen Williams, Pastor Linda Theophilus, & Marsha Kennedy

Love your Neighbor. Protect every child. September 27, 2026 World Day of Migrants and Refugees

Prayer Vigil, March, & Rally in the Strip District
Begin at 2 pm

Prayer Vigil At 21 St. and Smallman St. (in front of St. Stanislaus)

March to conclude at Denny Park (across from the Abraxas office)

Rally at Denny Park

Gather with Pittsburgh area neighbors for an interfaith vigil, march, and rally to advocate on behalf of child migrants and vulnerable immigrants.

Pastor Linda is one of the organizers.
You may carpool with her after worship on Sunday.



Spaghetti Dinner October 4, 2026

Proceeds benefit Emmanuel and Meals for Friends.

3 to 6 p.m. Take-out only

\$13 for adults, \$3 for children ages 3 to 10

Tickets available at the door or presale.

Sign up sheet in entryway

Set up and prep on Saturday October 3

Serve, direct traffic and clean up on October 4

Remember to invite friends neighbors and acquaintances

Worship and Pray

Come in person or on zoom 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.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/92338150341>

At home without technology: Read the bulletin. Read the Scripture. Pray. Meditate.

Last week we bid farewell to Johann Diaz & Abril Nunez

Johann and his wife Abril have richly blessed us with music for Sunday worship many times in the last two years. Now they are moving to South America.

Bad Girls of the Bible.

Rebellious, resilient, responsible, reprehensible

Sunday, October

1:00 p.m.

Optional lunch at 12 noon

The next series of Bible Studies taught by Pastor Ken Ofslager begins on October 20. Throughout the year we will learn the stories of familiar and unfamiliar women in the Bible.

The regular time is the third Sunday of the month at 1 p.m.

The class is held in the Fellowship Hall.

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



TO ORDER ALTAR FLOWERS or to **MAKE A PRAYER REQUEST**

CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE 412-824-4525
Or Marsha Kennedy at 412-824-4966 (phone or text)
Altar flowers cost \$50.



Sunday, September 27

Sunday, October 4

Sunday, October 11

Sunday, October 18, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, October 20, 1 pm

Sunday, October 25

Harvest Home Sunday

Spaghetti Dinner with Meals for Friends

Healing Sunday

Bible Study: Bad Girls of the Bible

Congregation Council

Reformation Sunday - Congregation Meal after worship

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIVING.

You may give in person, send a contribution in the mail or donate online.

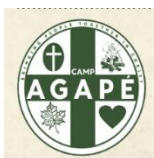
Go to <https://www.emmanuelutheraneastmont.org/> and you'll see the link.

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



PLEASE PRAY. AND IF YOU CAN, PLEASE INCREASE YOUR GIVING.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS RESPONDED TO THIS REQUEST.



Roof repairs are underway!! We're so excited to see the progress on-site, but we still need a little help crossing the finish line. We are still accepting donations to help cover the remaining costs from our March 2026 storm damage.

Prayer Request: The Agape Board of Directors requests our prayers as they figure out next steps and begin the process of selecting a camp director.

Faith & Civic Life Study Group Thursdays, September 17-October 22 7 PM on Zoom

Our Church encourages Lutherans to be civically engaged as people of faith. The upcoming midterm elections give us an opportunity to explore what it means to be both a Christian and a citizen through the study of the ELCA social statement [**Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All**](#) with the help of our synod's Church in Society Committee. Together, we will create a space to think out loud about the intersection of our government and our faith in supportive, challenging, and uniquely Lutheran ways.

To register for the zoom link go to swpasynod.org/calendar/civictudy



First Holy Communion Jordana Santaella is preparing for First Holy Communion. We will announce a date as soon as her mother can arrange a day off from work. Your prayers are requested for Jordana and her family.



If you are a woman reading this,
This Bible study is for you.

Multi-congregation women’s Bible Study

Tuesday, September 29 at 1 pm

Location: Zion Lutheran Church, 11609 Frankstown Rd, Penn Hills 15235

This is a monthly gathering. We usually meet on the last Thursday of the month.

Fall 2026: “Bold faith on an unexpected journey,” by the Rev. Tiffany Chaney

Faith often leads us down paths we didn’t expect—into wilderness places, across unfamiliar lands, and through seasons of grief and hope. This three-session study takes us on a journey with Hagar, Ruth and Mary Magdalene, women whose bold faith transformed their futures.



God’s Work, Our Hands

The day of service was just the beginning. Keep sending donations.

Our focus this year is collecting for a “Free Store.” A social worker friend of Pastor Linda, Kat Carrick, does a monthly pop-up free store in Duquesne Heights. *Kat invites us to accompany her to run the monthly free store.* The pop up free stores are often held on Saturdays. Pastor Linda will connect you with Kat Carrick.

Residents include Afghan refugees, many the families of those who assisted American military. She also reports that there are five Syrian families with children and toddlers who recently moved in, so diapers and items for small children are needed.

Can you bring any of the following? Some items may be lightly used.

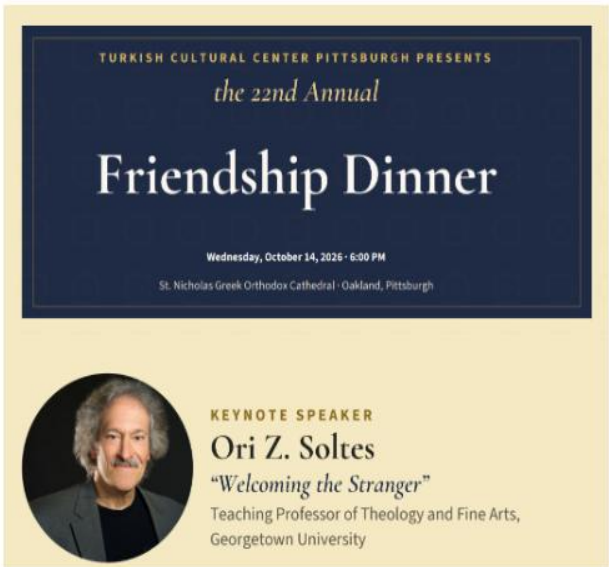
Great need for Handi wipes, Sanitary pads, Socks, underwear of all sizes, especially for girls & young ladies

Always need: Diapers for babies and toddlers, Cleaning supplies
Basic household and kitchen supplies, Toiletries

Special need: size 14 wide leg jeans for teenage girls

General need for basic household items for kitchen, bedrooms and bathrooms.

Or give an offering for “God’s Work, Our Hands” and someone else will do the shopping.
Or accompany Kat Carrick on a shopping trip to Costco.
Thrivent Action Grant which will give us \$250 dollars towards supplies.



We received an invitation to this annual event.
Would you like to go?
Let Pastor Linda know and we can make reservations together.

Friendship Dinner and Award Ceremony
Presented by Turkish Cultural Center Pittsburgh
Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at 6:00 PM at
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral,
419 S Dithridge St, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

This year's theme, "**Welcoming the Stranger,**" will invite us to reflect on the importance of hospitality, understanding, and compassion across the Abrahamic faith traditions and within our communities.

We are pleased to welcome **Dr. Ori Z. Soltes** of Georgetown University's Center for Jewish Civilization as this year's keynote speaker. His work in theology, philosophy, history, and interfaith dialogue offers a meaningful perspective on this year's theme.

The evening brings together community leaders, supporters, and friends for fellowship, conversation, and recognition of those helping strengthen understanding and mutual respect throughout the Pittsburgh area.

Earthquake Relief/ Fire and Flood Relief

If you are willing to give a donation that can be given directly to individuals or families in Venezuela whom our families recommend, please include the words **"Venezuela families"** with your gift. **Emmanuel is also sending your contribution for earthquake, flood and fire relief** through Lutheran Disaster Response to the Lutherans and their partners doing local disaster Response in the US and around the world. If there is a specific location that you want to help, please write that clearly with your contribution. **Aid is going to Nepal, Colombia, Venezuela and many places in the United States.**



Immersion in Living Water
EZEKIEL 47:9, 12

"Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. [...] Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing." **Ezekial 47:9,12**

The following is from the 2026 Celebration Guide prepared by the Ecumenical Season of Creation Steering Committee.

The Season of Creation unites the global Christian family around one shared purpose.

September 1 was proclaimed as a Day of Prayer for Creation for the Eastern Orthodox Church by Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I in 1989 since it symbolizes the day of God's creation of the world according to an ancient Byzantine liturgical tradition. It was embraced by the World Council of Churches in 2002 and the European Christian Environmental Network in 2006. Pope Francis established the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation in the Roman Catholic Church in 2015. Several denominations are now celebrating the 1st of September as the Feast of Creation or the Feast of Creation in Christ.

In recent years, many Christian churches have begun celebrating the "Season of Creation" (also known as Creation Time) between September 1 and October 4. The world's 2.2 billion Christians are invited to pray and care for Creation during this time. The Season of Creation ends on the 4th of October, the Feast of Saint Francis. Saint Francis is the author of the Cantic of the Creatures, and Pope John Paul II declared him, in 1979, the Catholic patron saint of those who cultivate ecology. A global ecumenical Steering Committee was established in 2016

This year's theme, "Living Water", explores Ezekiel 47:9 and 12 as a powerful biblical vision of hope and ecological healing. Set amid exile and loss, the image of living water flowing from God's sanctuary reveals divine healing that renews land, water, biodiversity, and human responsibility towards the whole creation. The symbol depicts water flowing from the Temple of God - at first a tiny stream that grows deeper, and deeper and as it does so, it brings life to dead areas and restores fertility to damaged or barren ecosystems. Through living water comes healing; but in order to receive new life, we too must step into the water and also become part of God's river of life, taking part in the healing of creation.

Thanksgiving for the Waters

Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for your love in all creation, and especially for your gift of water to sustain and cleanse all life. Christ is the living water, cleansing, refreshing, and making all things new. So now we offer our thanks for the waters that bring beauty to all that we enjoy, the wild places, the bush, the mountains, coast and the sea. We give thanks and praise for all good lands, for the trees and pastures, for our plentiful crops, and for the living water that quenches them.

(Adapted from Anglican Aotearoa NZ Prayer Book)

We praise you for giving us life through water, and for all waters everywhere. We especially praise you for the waters who sustain us in this part of our common home. Here local bodies of water may be named, as people from different churches or areas bring a bottle of water (avoiding plastic) from their context (river, ocean, lake) and pour it into the baptismal font or bowl. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and placed us in a well-watered garden. In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave your people water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life. You bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. You satisfy all who thirst, and give us the life only you can give.

(Adapted from All Creation Sings, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)