



## Emmanuel Lutheran Church

1229 Jefferson Heights Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

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[www.emmanuelutheraneastmont.org](http://www.emmanuelutheraneastmont.org)

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

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

June 17, 2026

On Sunday, June 21 we remember the Emanuel Nine martyrs.

On Sunday, June 28 we will celebrate the Nativity of John the Baptist.

### 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](http://www.zoom.us). Enter Meeting ID 923 3815 0341.

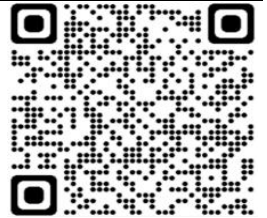
**At home without technology:** Read the bulletin. Read the Scripture. Pray. Meditate.

### 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.



### 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.



Monday, June 22	10 am.	Parish LifeCommittee
Wednesday, June 24		NATIVITY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST
Monday June 29	10 am	The Welcoming Table
Monday, August 10	1 pm	Congregation Council
Sunday August 16		Joint Worship and Picnic with East

Suburban congregations  
Sunday, October 7

Spaghetti Dinner with Meals for Friends

We have decided that August is a better time for us to do community children's activities at Emmanuel in Eastmont and with Holy Trinity in Beechview. Watch for news in coming announcements.

### ~~Vacation Bible School June 29 - July 2~~



### TO ORDER ALTAR FLOWERS

or to **MAKE A PRAYER REQUEST**

CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE 412-824-4525

**Altar flowers cost \$50.**



Topic: I Am Worthy

1:00-2:30 pm – Tuesday, June 23, 2026

Zion Lutheran Church, 11609 Frankstown Road

Join women in the eastern suburbs for a Bible study

## Emanuel Nine, martyrs, 2015

On June 17, 2015, Congregation members, in the middle of a Bible Study, welcomed a visitor. As soon as they bowed their heads for prayer he opened fire, killing nine. The young man who killed them was Dylan Roof who had been confirmed at a nearby Lutheran congregation which family members still attended.

The congregation is the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church (often referred to as Mother Emanuel) in Charleston, South Carolina. Those who died were Clementa C. Pinckney, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Sanders, Daniel Lee Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, and Myra Thompson

Pastors Pinckney and Simmons were both graduates of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.

A resolution to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance for the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine was adopted by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on August 8, 2019.

Congregations of the ELCA are encouraged to reaffirm their commitment to repenting of the sins of racism and white supremacy which continue to plague this church, to venerate the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine, and to mark this day of penitence with study and prayer.

***O God, in your divine mystery you embrace difference in unity, and you call your people to live in peace with all. We pray for an end to racial and ethnic prejudice. Free us from the dread of difference. Free the church from constricting traditions. Free our society from centuries of violence against the other. Break down the walls that separate your people by color, culture, or religion. Call us to repentance for our sins of racism and prejudice, known and unknown. Transform discrimination into a passion for justice. Guide us to nurture a society that embodies reconciliation and cooperation among all, for the sake of the one who embodies your love, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

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### Stewardship Reflection by Pastor Dennis Orsen

In 1985 I had the opportunity to take a trip to the Holy Land. During the trip I was struck by the power of King Herod, known as Herod the Great, who ruled over Roman Palestine from 37 4 B.C.E.

Herod was a client king which meant that he had to please the Roman Emperor and the Jewish people. He was a great builder. Ruins of his monuments were/are visible to see. The city of Caesarea with an aqueduct built to provide water to it. Masada, a fortress against the Romans and a palace for himself, and a renovation and expansion of the Jewish temple that was rebuilt following the Jewish return from the Babylon Exile. It has been noted that he may have paid for a portion of it with his own wealth. He also built temples in "honor of Romans" emperors and gods.

In short. Herod built these "monuments" to his glory. He loved having his name plastered wherever he could. He was paranoid. The Bible contains the story of his being so threatened by the birth of Jesus that he ordered all the children in Bethlehem under the age of two to be murdered. History notes that he murdered Mariame I (one of his wives), two of her sons, (Alexander & Aristobulus) and his eldest son Antipater: because they were a threat to his power. In summary, Herod the Great was a brutal King.

Living in a democracy we have an opportunity to prevent such brutal kings rising to power by not voting for them. This means we must keep informed and advocate for good public education so others can be informed. This means voting and working to protect the right for all citizens to vote.

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.

On Sunday, July 5, we will have Holy Communion at Emmanuel and then (as many as are-able) will go the Monroeville Community Park to participate in the Monroeville Interfaith Ministerium service activities for the July 4 & 5 celebrations at the Monroeville Community Park



## BLESSING FOR FATHER'S DAY

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, creator of heaven and earth.

We give thanks to you for all the men of faith who have done your will throughout the ages.

We thank you for Abraham, the father of Israel, Moses the deliverer, Samuel the judge, David the king, Isaiah the prophet, Simeon the Black and Lucius of Cyrene, prophets in Antioch, and for Joseph, husband of Mary and guardian of our Lord.

God of our ancestors in faith, we ask your blessing upon the faithful men of this congregation, our brothers and friends, our spouses and sons, our grandfathers and fathers.

Bless them and all men who place their trust in you.

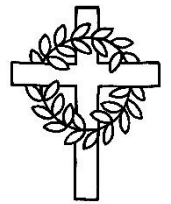
Empower them to hold fast their faith and reject all that is evil.

May they not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of their minds, so that they may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Andrew Bins died on Wednesday, June 17.

Andy was an active member of Emmanuel in the 1990s and 2000s. He was on the board for Meals on Wheels. His funeral will be held on Friday, June 26 at 1 pm at the St Peter Cemetery. They are also planning a reception & sharing of memories on Sunday, July 12 at 1 pm at Emmanuel.



*Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Evelyn. Acknowledge, we humbly ask, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. Amen.*

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Agape invites families to join us each weekend for simple, meaningful experiences designed to bring people together. From movie nights and pool parties to campfires, games, and time outdoors, each event is an opportunity to relax, connect, and enjoy the beauty of camp.

**Learn more at  
[campagape.org](http://campagape.org).**

+ June 27 – Kite Day – 10am-2pm

+ July 5 – 250th Celebration – 2pm-6pm

+ July 10 – Glow Stick Night – 8:30pm-11pm

+ July 19 – Nature Discovery – 2pm-6pm

+ July 25 – Water Olympics – 2pm-6pm

+ July 31 – Outdoor Movie Night – Doors Open at 8pm | Movie Starts at 9pm

+ August 8 – Fishing Day – 10am - 2pm

+ August 16 – Talent Show – 6pm-8pm

+ August 22 – Summer Festival – 11am-4pm

**LOOK FOR "EVENTS" and then chose "Community Summer"**

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NATIVITY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST June 24

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**John the Baptist** is a unique figure in Christian memory, a hinge between the Old Testament prophets and the first Christians. In the gospel stories, he recognizes Jesus as one greater than himself. John prepares the way for Jesus. But still from his prison he asks if Jesus is truly the Expected One. He is a figure of perpetual Advent and in that way stands for all of us who may be Christian believers but still wait and wonder, discern and doubt. His birth is described in Luke 1. His father sang about him and that song is part of the Morning Prayer.

### Prayer of the Day

*Almighty God, by your gracious providence your servant John the Baptist was born to Elizabeth and Zechariah. Grant to your people the wisdom to see your purpose and the openness to hear your will, that the light of Christ may increase in us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

NATIVITY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST June 24

## Saint John the Baptist Celebration in Venezuela

Undoubtedly the birth of the one who announced the coming of Jesus is something to celebrate. Venezuela is a country that has great cultural diversity, which is why each region has very unique customs and traditions. The mixture of colors and rhythms are present in these popular celebrations. Every June 24 the colorful and joyous celebration in honor of Saint John the Baptist is held. In some places, especially along the Venezuelan coast, it is a three day festival.

In Venezuela the celebration has its origin in the colonial era. Spanish colonizers brought Christianity. They also brought slaves from Africa.

Consequently the celebration in honor of Saint John the Baptist is full of popular songs, drums, processions and dancing and rituals which are based in African traditions.

The states where this colorful celebration is very big are Aragua, Miranda and Vargas. Also in the East of the country, specifically the Bolivar State. In the Bolívar state the festivals include displays of the San Juan horse.

In addition, drum beats, “zanguero” songs and siren songs are common in this joyous celebration in honor of Saint John the Baptist. “Zanguero” are a Genre of Afro-Venezuelan music whose purpose is to venerate Saint John the Baptist with colorful scarves and flags.

As part of the celebration of Saint John the Baptist, a procession is held in the towns. For this Saint John the Baptist image is carried by the members of the community on shoulders.

Then, the mass is carried out with all the praises, prayers, requests and acknowledgments.

In addition, after mass, the beat of the drums begins, to honor Saint John the Baptist, this being a very beloved and venerated saint.



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### “If Saint John has it, Saint John gives it to you”

This is one of the most popular phrases in the celebration of St. John the Baptist. Well, it’s not just the party and the dance, but the faith that each one puts into this saint. Therefore devotees ask with great faith that their requests be fulfilled.

So the phrase that resonates the most in this celebration is the following: *“If Saint John has it, Saint John gives it to you”*

Among the requests from parishioners often make are the following: Health, abundance, and even new couples top the request list. Indeed, on this day full of color, magic and music everything seems to be possible.

*I based this article on the writing of [Gustavo Mirabal Castro](#) who is a devotee of St. John the Baptist. – Pastor Linda*