



Emmanuel Lutheran Church

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

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

November 21, 2023

Happy Thanksgiving!!

As you receive this newsletter, you may already be celebrating with friends and family, savoring the taste of turkey, pumpkin pie, and mashed or sweet potatoes. Or you may want to join friends at the community dinners hosted by neighboring congregations.

I am delighting in the memory and message of the Interfaith Thanksgiving program held at Emmanuel on Monday night, November 20. The culmination was singing "Won't You Be My Neighbor." Emmanuel began celebrating Thanksgiving with Parkway Jewish Center in 1986. This year, the program was led by the Monroeville Bahá'í community with participation from Hindu, Sikh, Christian, and Jewish faith communities in the Monroeville area. Gathering with neighbors of different faiths (or no faith) to express gratitude is indeed a beautiful night in the neighborhood!! Thank you to everyone from Emmanuel who came and provided hospitality, especially Helen Williams who set up, served, and cleaned up. She gets the award for the most hours!!

Pastor Linda Theophilus

OUR NEW WEBSITE IS LIVE!

We're excited to bring you our new and improved website. We think you'll enjoy the fresh look and easily-accessible content. Check it out and tell us what you think. Same address: www.emmanuelutheraneastmont.org. Some areas are still a work-in-progress; in particular, if any of you have photos from the "good old days," please feel free to share so we can add them to our church history page. *(Note: If you get a "page not found" error message when clicking on your old bookmark, delete the old bookmark, type in the web address, and set a new bookmark. We are using a new web host, and the old bookmark might still be trying to locate the page on the former host.)*



The Pine Ridge Cultural Immersion Experience will be shared by those who went to Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota this past June.

Monday November 27, 7:00 pm.

at St Mark's Lutheran Church, New Stanton, PA

Please help spread the word and invite your friends.

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. Enter Meeting ID 923 3815 0341.

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



LET'S GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS!

COMMUNITY YOUTH ACTIVITY

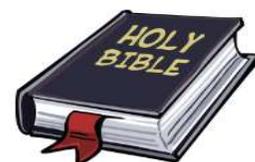
Sunday, December 3, 2023, 1-2:30 p.m.

For ages 3-10; teen helpers welcome

Crafts, stories, games, hot cocoa

Bible Book of the Month

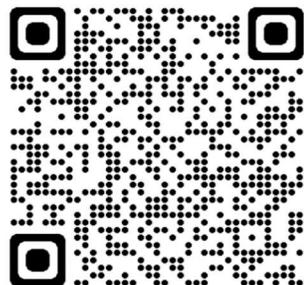
The books for November are I & II Thessalonians. The introduction to the current Bible book of the month can now be found on the home page of our website in the "News and Announcements" section. You can also go to the menu at the top of the page and click on the down arrow next to "Learning and Doing"; then click on "Bible Book of the Month" and you'll find the introductions to current and past Bible books of the month. Alternatively, call or stop by the church if you need a copy.



Monthly Grief Gatherings at Monroeville Public Library



Join death doula Diana McDade on Wednesday, November 29, 7-8:30 pm, in Johnna's Room at the Monroeville Library. This is a safe and supportive space where we come together to share and explore our experiences with grief. We begin with introductions followed by open and respectful discussion; all are welcome. The library is located at 4000 Gateway Campus Blvd., Monroeville.



Thank you for your financial contributions to Emmanuel.

We are grateful for every contribution that comes in the mail, and through our online and mobile giving app. You can make a general contribution for the ministry of Emmanuel, pay for altar flowers, or give a designated gift for the Welcoming Immigrants Housing Project.

Copy and paste this email address on your computer:

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YR86/home>. Or use the QR code for easy connection on your smart phone.

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.



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.

Pastor Linda will be on vacation from December 6- 12.

Thanksgiving Community Dinners

St. Bernadette (Christ the Divine Shepherd) - Don't eat alone on Thanksgiving! Come, share, and give praise and thanks to God. **Thursday, November 23, 2023**, in the Lourdes Center at CDS-Monroeville, 245 Azalea Drive, Monroeville, PA. Serving 12:30PM until 3PM or until the food is gone. Free of charge. Call 412-373-0050 for more information.

Zion Lutheran in Penn Hills – **Friday, November 24, 2023**, we will host our annual Community Thanksgiving Meal in the Parish Hall. As always, many hands make light work! We'll be looking for volunteers for set-up, teardown, and working the meal. This year the meal will be from 12:00pm – 3:00pm.

Pastor Dennis is offering a Stewardship Study based on the book "**Giving to God**" by Mark A. Powell. These sessions are held the first Monday of the month through February 2024. The next one is Monday, January 8 (no meeting in December). We'll be meeting at 2 pm at the Bob Evans in Irwin. Interested? Call him at 412-804-1673.

Mon., Nov. 27, 7 pm – Pine Ridge Experience

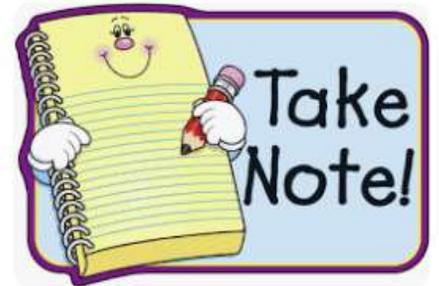
Tues., Nov. 28, 1 pm – Church Council Meeting

Sun., Dec. 3, 1 pm – Children's Program

Sun., Dec. 3, 7 pm – LIRS Card Making Party

Thurs., Dec 7, 12 noon - Meals for Friends Christmas Party

Fri., Dec 15, 11 am - Parish Life Committee Meeting



Christmas Eve worship with Candlelight and Holy Communion is at 3:30 pm on December 24.

HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Join Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and Emmanuel Lutheran Church in giving the gift of hope to asylum-seeking immigrants. You are invited to send greeting cards and to give gifts.

Come to a card making party at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Eastmont on Sunday, December 3, at 7 pm. Or prepare them at home and bring them to Emmanuel. All of our cards will be sent to LIRS for distribution to asylum seekers in immigration detention or welcoming centers. You can learn more on the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee website at [Hope for the Holidays | LIRS](#).

Emmanuel's Welcoming Immigrants Housing Project will distribute gift cards to local asylum seekers. We accompany families as they get started in the United States. We also collaborate with Casa san Jose, Jewish Family and Community Services, and Pittsburgh Literacy to meet essential needs.

Meryam* is expecting a baby soon. She, her husband, and children were in danger at home. They were able to escape but have not found work in Pittsburgh yet. Pastor Linda received a request from a resource coordinator to help them with rent. In the month when we celebrate Jesus' birth, it is a joy to help a family forced to travel and find a new home. Holy Families are in our midst.



It's time to Order Poinsettias for Christmas
\$10 per plant; choice of red, pink, white, or marble.

Deadline to order is next Sunday, December 3.

The sign-up sheet is on the table in the entry, or call the church office to place your order.



Christmas is coming!

December 24 is a Sunday. It is the fourth Sunday of Advent. Worship will be at 10 am.

That night is Christmas Eve, and Emmanuel leaders have chosen to have
Christmas Eve worship at 3:30 pm before dark.

Pastors Linda and Dennis are hosting a Christmas Dinner in the fellowship hall at Emmanuel on Christmas Day. All are invited. We will cook and eat together.

The twelve days of Christmas begin on Christmas Day, December 25.
The Epiphany Season begins on January 6, Epiphany Day.

On Sunday, December 31, we will celebrate Christmas and New Year's. After worship, please stay for a traditional western Pennsylvanian New Year's meal.

E2J: FROM EXILE TO JESUS: A HISTORY OF ISRAEL'S STORIES

What would Jesus read? In this class, we discover Jewish religious writings in the two centuries before Jesus' birth – some of them almost lost, others in the Apocrypha.
The heroine Judith, new discoveries in the Dead Sea Scrolls, and more!!

Participate in person, via zoom or watch the recording on Facebook.
The Zoom meeting ID is: 897 6086 7900.

December 17 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

Optional lunch at 12 noon for in-person participants.



LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME JOB? MEALS FOR FRIENDS HAS THE PERFECT JOB FOR YOU!

This is a part-time opportunity to cook meals for +/- 40 clients who cannot cook for themselves. The Cook also directs volunteers in the preparation of meals. Hours are 6:30am to 10:30am on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and 8:00am to 10:00am every other Thursday. Pay is \$15.00 per hour with some paid time-off benefits. Feel good about yourself for helping to feed others. Fun, team-oriented environment. If interested, call Mary at 412-244-6444.

Also, rewarding volunteer opportunities for food prep workers and drivers. Call 412-024-2400 to volunteer.
