



Emmanuel Lutheran Church

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www.emmanuelutheraneastmont.org

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

Office Hours: Wednesday 10-3, Thursday 9-1

April 2, 2025

The most important week begins on Sunday, April 13.
Make sure Holy Week is in your calendar.

During this Lent, our focus for self-denial Lenten offerings is the restoration of land to Bethel AME and supporting Bethel AME to build low-income housing. In 2021, our Bishop, Kurt Kusserow, led our synod into accompanying Bethel AME in this work. On April 14, 2023, the Penguins, the city of Pittsburgh, and Bethel AME announced the agreement to return land to Bethel AME. Sadly, the work to develop that land – especially to organize the funding for building low-income housing – has met one obstacle after another. Bishop Kusserow and the synod council invited congregations in our synod to contribute for this. The Emmanuel council has allocated \$250 from the 2025 rental tower income for this. The council and I encourage you to give a special Lenten offering for this also. We can make a difference!

JESUS THE SUFFERING SERVANT

This Sunday, April 6, 1:00-2:30 pm at Emmanuel

Pastor Ken Ofslager shows us how Isaiah 52-53 came to describe the New Testament Savior.

Optional lunch provided at noon; please RSVP to 412-824-4525 FOR LUNCH.

In person at the Emmanuel fellowship hall

Or you may participate by zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89760867900>

For audio only, you may call 312 626 6799 and then enter the Meeting ID: 897 6086 7900

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT – Saturday, April 19, 2-3 pm

The community Easter Egg Hunt is Emmanuel's most effective way to connect with families in our neighborhood. We need people to lead crafts, hide Peeps and generally assist with welcoming families. We need contributions of dyed eggs also. This year we will give each child two or three eggs after they have found Peeps in the yard. Invite friends and acquaintances!

IT'S TIME TO ORDER LILIES FOR EASTER

There's a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex, or you can call the office to place your order. Lilies are \$12 each; **DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS THIS SUNDAY, APRIL 6.**

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.



Worship and pray

Come in person 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.

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

Wednesdays during Lent, noon – Midweek Lenten Service

Sun., April 6., 1:00-2:30 pm – Jesus the Suffering Servant

Maundy Thurs., Apr. 17, 7 pm – Holy Communion

Good Friday, Fri., Apr. 18, noon-3pm – Meditation and Music

Good Friday, Fri., Apr. 18, 7 pm – Worship

Sat., Apr. 19, 2-3 pm – Easter Egg Hunt



Easter Sunday Bilingual Festival Worship and Meal – watch for news!!

Sunday, April 6: 3 PM

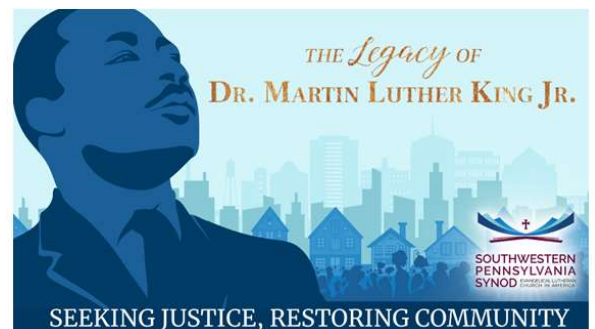
*An Ecumenical Service of Holy Communion
& Call for Anti-racist Action*

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

304 Morewood Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

At 3pm, we'll begin with education time focused on the history of urban renewal in Pittsburgh and its impact on Black neighborhoods, using the book [Root Shock](#).

Worship will begin at 4:30pm with light refreshments to follow. [The Rev. Dale B. Snyder](#) of Bethel AME will be the guest preacher, and Bishop Kurt Kusserow will preside.



Stewardship Reflection by Dennis Orsen

Again, being a good steward involves being grounded in truth. In this world, there is a lot of misinformation that needs to be countered by truth. During the first Holy Week, Pilate asked Jesus, "What is truth?" (John 19:38).

Earlier in the Gospel According to John, Thomas said, "Lord, we do know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus replied, "I am the way, and the truth, and the Life." (John 14: 5-6). The Greek word translated into the English word "truth" can also be translated into the English word "reality."

Jesus Christ is truth and reality for us. His death and resurrection is truth and reality for us. We need to hear this again and again, lest we be swept away by misinformation. We live in a culture where people say, "been there, done that." Such does not work while following Jesus. That is why those affirming their baptism vow:

"to live among God's faithful people.

"to hear the word of God and to share in the Lord's supper."

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship book.)



Good stewardship means taking time to practice the vows made when we affirmed our baptism.



The Welcoming Table

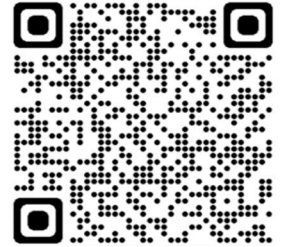
Sunday evening Lutheran worship in Spanish

Worship begins at 6 pm.

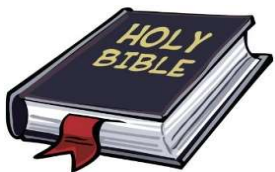
Pastor Linda leads worship services at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at 1516 Beechview Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15216. Emmanuel is the only Lutheran congregation in our synod with Spanish-speaking participants so we started worship in the area where they live.

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.



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.



BIBLE BOOKS OF THE MONTH: PHILIPPIANS and I AND II PETER

There are 12 chapters in the three short books for April Bible Books of the Month. Last week we provided the introduction for Philippians; this week's mailing includes I and II Peter.

As a reminder, introductions to all the Bible Books of the Month can also be found on the home page of our website, www.emmanuelutheraneastmont.org

Lutheran Day at the Capitol

Join Lutherans from across Pennsylvania on Tuesday, May 13, to learn and to advocate for our neighbors, especially to address hunger and poverty in our state.

Carpool with Pastor Linda, leaving on Monday afternoon, May 12; return on Tuesday evening. Registration is \$55 plus housing and transportation.



I and II PETER

DEAR EXILES AND ALIENS, (and) people who experience suffering and abuse

Begins Peter in these letters. The Christians who first received them lived far from Jerusalem, Judah, and Israel. Many probably were Jews who had settled in what is now Turkey long before the apostle Paul and others had brought news of Jesus.

But Peter is not simply addressing Jews far from their homeland. He is writing to all Christians who know that their true home is in heaven and wait for *an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last times.* (I Peter 1:4-5)

The first letter was probably written by the apostle Peter from Rome. He writes: *your sister church in Babylon sends you greetings.* Babylon was often used as a code word for Rome in those days. It may have been written as early as A.D. 57 and the latest date given by scholars A.D. 96. Many place it between A.D. 60 and 75. Although the second letter does not include names of people or places, it is also considered to be from Rome.

Peter has four main points to make:

1. Affirm the truth of the Gospel

He speaks of Jesus' resurrection and divinity. He is a witness to this and wants to strengthen believers who face scoffers and false teachers.

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. II Peter 1:16.

Once every three years, we read I Peter during worship during the Easter season.

Thought question: How does I and II Peter help you live the resurrection in your life?

2. Lift up their identity as God's people

We are "people who have received God's mercy."

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." I Peter 2:9

3. Encourage believers to live holy and peaceful lives while we wait to get to our homeland

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, but rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. I Peter 4:12-13

Are you suffering? Are people surprised about what you do and do not do? Does your boss treat you meanly? Is your spouse hard on you? Respond with patience and kindness as Jesus did. Your gentleness and hope will surprise and convert them.

4. It seems like a long time to wait, but Jesus is coming back

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. II Peter 3:8-9