

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)

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

August 28, 2024

On September 5, the Thursday before "God's work, Our hands" Sunday, all seven ELCA bishops in Pennsylvania will gather with colleagues and faith leaders from across the Commonwealth at the Capitol in Harrisburg to call for peace in this election season. Their letter, titled "[Choices and Voices for Peace](#)," encourages "our fellow Pennsylvanians to choose hope over hate. To build bridges of understanding that reach toward reconciliation. To work together to create communities of peace, where all can thrive." You are also welcome to help us fill the Capitol on September 5 at 11am. You can add your voice by taking the "[Peace is Possible](#)" pledge.

Peace Is Possible

I pledge to embrace dialogue over division, to seek understanding over assumption, and to prioritize compassion over cruelty. I recognize that peace is not passive, but an active pursuit requiring courage to engage with those whose views diverge. I commit to sitting down with those I disagree with, to listening with an open heart and mind, and to searching for common ground, however hard to find. I believe that through respectful dialogue, we can bridge divides and build understanding towards a future where peace is possible for all.

40 Days of Reflection Before an Election Prayer Devotional

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania (LAMPa) will be compiling and distributing a 40 Day Devotional "Reflections Before an Election," beginning September 27.

[Sign up to receive daily emails here.](#) You can also request a weekly set of prayers from Pastor Linda or the church office.

God's work. Our hands.



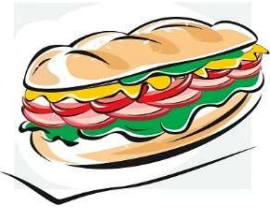
September 8, 2024

["God's work. Our hands."](#)

Sunday, Sept. 8, is the annual day for service in the world for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This day continues to be an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the ELCA — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

This year we also celebrate [50 years of ELCA World Hunger](#). Emmanuel's project on September 8 fits with this emphasis. Many congregations are choosing projects to assist ministries focused on alleviating hunger and poverty in their plans for "God's work. Our hands."

Emmanuel's project supports Meals for Friends. We will give the Emmanuel kitchen a thorough cleaning on Sunday, September 8. Pizza dinner included.



Meals for Friends Hoagie Sale. Delicious Triangle Bar & Grill Italian hoagies with chips (with/without onions) for only \$7.00 each. Order deadline is Mon., Sept. 9; pickup is from noon-2pm on Thurs., Sept. 12, at Emmanuel. Call 412-824-2400 to place your order.

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.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

What does our church teach about complex moral and social issues in our world today?

United Lutheran Seminary offers a series which we are doing at Emmanuel.

You can choose the time and location.

1. At Emmanuel with other people on Sunday after worship.
2. At home on zoom on Tuesday evenings for the premier joining other Lutherans.
3. A replay at home on your computer or phone – you choose the time.

The topics are

- Introduction to Social Teachings -
- Corporate Social Responsibility -
- Abortion -
- Sexism and Justice -
- ELCA Earth's Climate Crisis Study Guide -
- Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture -

The dates at Emmanuel are

September 15
September 22
October 13
October 20
October 27
November 3

Please contact Pastor Linda for the link to see the webinar "live" when it premieres or to get the link to watch on your own time in your own space. The "live" zoom presentations are on Tuesday evenings beginning August 27 (every other week).

The social statements are also available to read. We have many available in the church building and all are available on the website www.elca.org.

Sun., Sept. 8 – God's Work Our Hands
Mon., Sept 16, 10 am – WIHP meeting
Sat., Oct. 5 – Setup for Spaghetti Dinner
Sun., Oct. 6 – Spaghetti Dinner
Sun., Oct. 13 – Harvest Home
Fri., Oct. 18, 11 am – Parish Life Committee Meeting
Sun., Oct. 20 – Healing Service

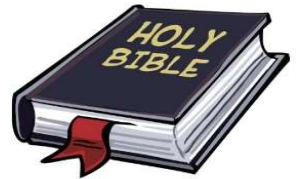


Worship and pray in person in the sanctuary OR

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.

BIBLE BOOK OF THE MONTH: Song of Solomon & Titus

The Bible Books of the Month for September are Song of Solomon and Titus. The introduction to these books is included in this mailing. 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.



Spaghetti Dinner – October 6, 2024, 3-6 pm

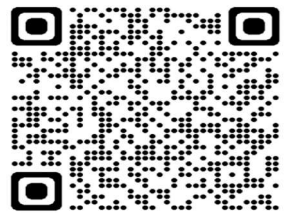
Plans for the annual spaghetti dinner on the first Sunday of October are underway. Your help and support are needed.

We will do this again with Meals for Friends as a takeout meal. All of the profits will be shared equally.

Can you help prepare sauce, desserts and more on Saturday, October 5? Can you help welcome, take orders and package meals on Sunday, October 6? There's a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex. Or contact Darlene Neill at 412-825-0790.

This will be take-out only with spaghetti, salad, bread and dessert.
\$12 for adult meals, \$3 for children ages 3-10.
Invite friends, neighbors and acquaintances for this delicious meal!!

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.



Stewardship Reflection by Pastor Dennis

What is/are your motive(s) for giving? Mark Allan Powell, in his book *Giving to God*, presents several motives for giving. Powell notes that some of the motives are negative and some are positive. I am sharing them to help you reflect on your motive(s) for giving:

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|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. To gain recognition. | 6. To support a worthy cause. |
| 2. To gain power or influence. | 7. To divest themselves of unwanted mammon. |
| 3. To appease God. | 8. To give thanks. |
| 4. To earn rewards. | 9. To express love for God. |
| 5. To fulfill an obligation. | 10. To convey the Christ within. |

SONG OF SOLOMON and TITUS

SONG OF SOLOMON

Song of Solomon is full of hope, waiting and longing. It is also known as Song of Songs and as Canticles or Cantic of Canticles. Selections such as chapter 2:8-17 and 8:6-7 are often read at weddings, but it is not assigned for any Sundays. It is read for Passover in the synagogue.

Song of Solomon is a love song or poem – really more like a collection of related poems that tell the story of two lovers. There is nothing else like it in the Bible. There are more references to animals and plants, gardens and spices than any other book of the bible. Expect something beautiful and surprising.

Believers have read this book as an affirmation of love between a man and a woman. It is a celebration of creation, including human sexuality – a taste of the Garden of Eden. The title suggests that it is about King Solomon and his beloved (perhaps the Queen of Sheba?), but neither one is named clearly as the lover in the book. Song of Songs teaches us about the joys and sufferings of love, about the beauty and power of love. It is about you and the one you love.

Believers have also read Song of Solomon as a love song between God and his people, between Jesus and the Church. This book teaches us about the tenderness and passion of God's love for us. It is about you and the One Who Loves You.

There are two main voices in Song of Solomon, the man and the woman OR the Lord and the believer. "The daughters of Jerusalem" are a third voice which is similar to the chorus in Greek drama. This is a group which speaks with one voice, responding to or clarifying the experiences of the lovers. Some Bibles have headings which the English editor has added. These may help identify the voices. It may also help to think of this as a series of connected poems instead of one continuous poem.

Names for the beloved in Song of Songs have been used in the new Testament and Christian literature for Jesus: "lily of the valley," "Rose of Sharon," "fairest of ten thousand." Song of Solomon has inspired many devotional gems which help us understand the love of Jesus, spiritual renewal and loving Jesus in return. Two that I especially recommend are Hinds Feet on High Places and Mountains of Spices by Hannah Hurnard. You are welcome to borrow them from me.

TITUS

The New Testament letters have only a few passages which refer to Jesus' birth. Titus has two, and they are often read for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship (2:11-14 and 3:4-7). This passage from Titus 3 may also be familiar because it is quoted in Luther's Small Catechism in the section on Holy Baptism.

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the waters of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This spirit he has poured out on us richly through Jesus our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:4-7

Titus is a short, powerful letter from one church leader to another. *I left you behind in Crete for this reason, that you should put in order what remained to be done and should appoint elders in every town.* (Titus 1:5) The good news about Jesus is stated clearly and quickly. Most of the letter is practical instruction for selecting leaders, handling troublemakers and guiding groups within the church. These three chapters address timeless issues, but they are expressed within a specific history and context.

The New Testament character of Titus is a companion of the apostle Paul. He is named in Galatians 2:1-3 and II Corinthians 2:12-13. When Paul travels to Jerusalem to get approval for his teaching from the church leaders who knew Jesus, Titus is with him. It is during these meetings (see Acts 15) that they decide that Gentiles do not need to follow Jewish law in order to be Christians. Titus, a Gentile, does not need to be circumcised. He is therefore an excellent choice to silence bad teaching and to establish good leadership.

Titus, like I and II Timothy, is not about introducing the Gospel or starting a new congregation. This is a later phase than most New Testament writing. Many have questioned if this is a letter from the historical Paul to the historical Titus. Perhaps an anonymous writer has compiled the wisdom of Paul and Titus for the next generation of the church. The question of authorship does not change its value. Each generation must faithfully select leadership and maintain organizational structure which promote gospel preaching and godly living

Good things come in small packages. Song of Solomon has eight chapters. Titus has three.