



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

December 11, 2024

The purpose of Advent is to prepare us for Jesus' coming.

We tell the stories of the faithful people and prophets in the centuries before Jesus' birth.

We pray "Come, Lord Jesus" because we long for Jesus' second coming.

We choose the changes we need to be God's holy and righteous people now and when Jesus comes again.

We wait, we repent, we rejoice.



St. John's Lutheran Church of Highland is presenting A Visit to Bethlehem this weekend, December 14 and 15, from 1-4 pm. Walk through the streets of Bethlehem as they existed in the time of Christ. Participate in the story of the Nativity firsthand, as the people of Bethlehem go about their work. Meet the rabbis, carpenters, potters, weavers, basket makers, winemakers, herbalists, musicians, bakers, innkeepers, soldiers and shepherds who live in the village and listen to their stories. Take part in the Roman census just as Mary and Joseph did as they returned to Bethlehem that historic night. Finally, along with Mary and Joseph,

welcome the Christ Child in the stable.

Admission is free and open to the community. Members of Emmanuel will be participating in this living nativity at 2 pm on Dec. 15. If you would like to join us, please be at St. John's by 2 pm (do not meet at Emmanuel). St. John's is located at 311 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237; call 412-365-1606 ext. 106 for more information.

Advent Midweek Worship with Holy Communion on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m.
December 4, 11 and 18 in the fellowship hall (no stairs!!)

Christmas Worship and celebrations!

Christmas Eve – 3 pm. Candlelight Service with Holy Communion
Christmas Day – 12 noon. Worship in Spanish



Don't eat alone on Christmas Day! Following its Spanish/Bilingual service at noon, Emmanuel is hosting Christmas Day dinner. Dinner prep begins at 1 pm, feasting at 2 pm. Emmanuel will provide ham, potatoes and beverages; you're asked to bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert.

Advent Special Offering Lutheran Disaster Response

Domestic Lutheran Disaster Response is currently providing funds and expert guidance for local disaster relief and rebuilding in 34 states. The disasters include major fires, hurricanes, floods, tornadoes and more. As you name the major weather events and fires in the last few years, you can be sure that your list matches the events on this map. You can read more at the ELCA website. The direct link to this map and stories of the work of the ELCA disaster response is here. [Thrive 2024 \(Interactive\) - ELCA Resources](#)

We are collecting a special Advent offering for Lutheran Disaster Response. In an earlier mailing you received a blue envelope for this purpose. Every contribution given in the blue envelopes (or clearly designated in regular envelopes) will be forwarded to the ELCA Domestic Disaster Response for hurricane relief and other additional disaster response.



The enclosed insert highlights the ELCA partnerships in the Middle East, especially the Lutheran Church in the Holyland and Jordan. Whether the disaster response is domestic or overseas, it is always local leadership that administers our offerings to the benefit of local residents and affected communities.

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.



Stewardship Reflection by Pastor Dennis

Enclosed with this mailing is: **My/Our 2025 Giving Plan for Christ's Ministry through Emmanuel.**

You are invited to prayerfully fill it out, place it in a sealed envelope with your name and address printed on the outside of the envelope, and return it to Emmanuel by Sunday, January 5. After presenting these envelopes as an offering to the Lord on Sunday, January 5, 2025, the envelopes will be placed in a safe and returned to you, unopened, early in December 2025.

Why January 5? The Festival of the Epiphany of Our Lord is on January 6. This is the date on the church calendar when we remember the Kings from the East bringing gifts to the baby Jesus. On January 5, we will join the Wise Men from the East by presenting our giving plan to the baby Jesus throughout 2025.

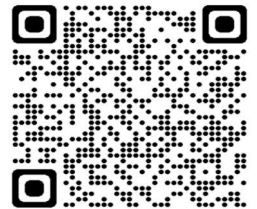
Understanding that all your income, possessions and wealth are a gift from God, you will be asked how much you plan to give to Christ's ministry, through Emmanuel. You may give any amount, whether weekly, monthly, quarterly, or a one-time gift (whichever works best for your budget). You may also give via offering envelopes, direct deposit, or Vanco.

You may also have a confidential conversation with ELCA Foundation representative Ryan Ebner to leave a portion of your remaining assets after your death, to an ELCA ministry, or to more than one ministry. (Ryan's phone number is 814-823-3285.)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIVING. You may give in person, send a contribution in the mail or donate online.

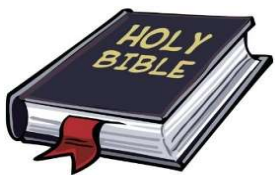
Go to <https://www.emmanuelutheraneastmont.org/> and you'll see the link.

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



2024 Donations Deadline: All 2024 contributions must be received by **Sunday, December 29** (last Sunday of the year) whether placed in the offering plate or mailed ahead of time. Any contributions that are received in the church office after December 29 will be recorded as year 2025 donations regardless of the date on the check or the offering envelope used. Keep in mind that mail delivery is slower around Christmas. Please plan ahead!

BIBLE BOOKS OF THE MONTH: Zephaniah and Malachi



The Bible Books of the Month for December are Zephaniah and Malachi. During Advent this year, both of these prophets are in the Sunday readings. The introductions to these books were included in the last 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.

Planning for Spanish Language Worship - January 19

Pastor Linda and the Spanish speaking families have set January 19 as the start date for a Sunday evening worship service in Spanish. This will be held at a Lutheran church in the Beechview area.



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.

Epiphany Party – Sunday, January 5

On Sunday, January 5, we will have a festive meal following worship. We remember the three kings with an Epiphany cake with a hidden gift. Our meal will be the traditional Western Pennsylvania New Year's Pork and Sauerkraut. Please bring your personal favorite side dishes or desserts to enjoy. There may be special guests.....

Welcome Thomas Lalor, keyboard musician

On Christmas Eve and Sunday, January 5, Thomas Lalor returns to support our worship on the piano and the organ. He is an experienced pianist who has accompanied us several times. He is gaining experience on the organ as he plays for us. Thanks be to God!!



Wed., Dec. 4, 11, 18 – 12:30–1:15 pm – Midweek Advent Worship with Holy Communion

Tues., Dec. 24, 3 pm – Christmas Eve Worship

Wed, Dec 25, 12 noon – Christmas Day Worship in Spanish

Wed., Dec. 25, 2 pm – Christmas Day dinner in Fellowship Hall

Good Gifts

ELCA Good Gifts is your opportunity to provide critical support to the ministries and programs that mean the most to you and the people you love.

How to give a Good Gift?

Get a Catalog at Emmanuel.

You can send a check in the mail.

Go to www.elca.org. In the upper right corner of the home page, choose the button for good gifts.

