



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

December 18, 2024

This is a Two-week mailing
There are bulletins for Dec. 22 and 29
Christmas Eve worship is page 4 of this mailing

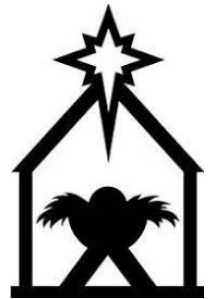
Christmas Worship and celebrations!

Christmas Eve – 3 pm. Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

By computer or smartphone: Go to www.zoom.us. Enter Meeting ID 923 3815 0341.

Christmas Day – 12 noon. Christmas Worship in Spanish
with Holy Communion

Christmas Day Dinner! Emmanuel is hosting Christmas Day dinner. Dinner preparation 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.



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

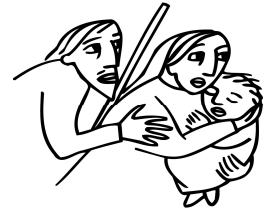


On Christmas Eve and Sunday, January 5, Thomas Lalor returns to support our worship on the piano and the organ. He is an experienced pianist who has accompanied us several times. He is gaining experience on the organ as he plays for us. Thanks be to God!!

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. Worship at 6 pm. English classes for adults at 7 pm. Bible in English for children at 7 pm. Volunteers are needed to teach.

Advent Special Offering Lutheran Disaster Response



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.

Every day there are holy families making their way to safety. Like Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus who had to flee from King Herod's jealous rage, millions of people are crossing political boundaries because of warfare, violence and persecution. Lutheran Disaster Response provides funding for Slovak, Polish, Romanian and Moldovan congregations and ministries who are welcoming Ukrainian refugees. Our offerings are at work in refugee camps in Jordan for Syrians. Migrants – including children – are receiving shelter and welcome throughout Central America, Mexico and the United States through congregations and ministries which are part of the AMMPARO network. In English AMMPARO means Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities. In Spanish, AMPARO means refuge.



Stewardship Reflection by Pastor Dennis

My/Our 2025 Giving Plan for Christ's Ministry through Emmanuel.

In the next mailing, you will receive a giving card with the information in the box below. 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.)

Having acknowledged that all my income, possessions and wealth are a gift from God, I plan to give to Christ's ministry, through Emmanuel, the following:

_____ dollars weekly monthly quarterly a one-time gift (circle one)

By: envelopes direct deposit Vanco (circle one)

The above amount represents approximately _____ percent of my/our household income.

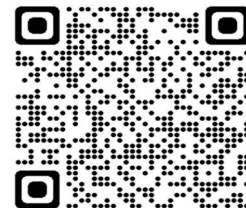
_____ The above amount represents growth in my giving.

_____ I plan to have a confidential conversation with ELCA Foundation representative Ryan Ebner to leave a portion of my remaining assets, after my death, to an ELCA ministry, or to more than one. (His phone # is 814-823-3285.)

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!

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.



Worship and pray

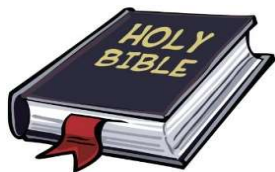
Come in person at 10 am every Sunday

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.

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 a prior 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.



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.

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

Sun., Jan. 5, 11:15 am – Epiphany Meal after worship

Fri., Jan. 10, 10 am – Budget Meeting

Tues., Jan. 21, 1 pm – Church Council Meeting

Sun., Jan. 26, 11:15 am – Annual Meeting (snow date Sun., Feb. 2)



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.

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2024 – 3:00 p.m.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the maker of heaven and earth, the Word made flesh, the Lord and giver of life. Amen.

O Come, All Ye Faithful ELW #283, LLC #309

Prayer of the Day. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the

.....brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing ELW #270,
Spanish Insert

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14

Alleluia. I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. *Alleluia.* (Luke 2:10-11)

"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah" ELW #172

Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

Luke 2: 1-20

Before the Gospel: Glory to You, O Lord
After the gospel: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Savior of the Nations Come ELW #263,
Spanish Insert

Prayers of Intercession

Offering Prayer

Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Holy Communion

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence ELW #490,
Spanish Insert

Eucharistic Prayer

Angels We Have Heard ELW #289, *Spanish Insert*
Go Tell It On The Mountain ELW #290, *Spanish Insert*

Prayer after Communion

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Candlelighting

Silent Night, Holy Night! ELW #281, LLC #301

Benediction

Joy to the World ELW #267, LLC #288

Thank you to all who provided poinsettias for Christmas: Marsha Kennedy, Judy Mayhood,