



## Emmanuel Lutheran Church

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

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

February 26, 2025

Thank you so much for all your prayers and expressions of support. I was able to spend a wonderful week with family in Albuquerque for my mother's funeral. I have been reminded how different and personal each person's experience of grief and loss is. I am deeply grateful for many things which my mother taught me and her example of Christian faith and service. She was my first evangelism teacher. She was never afraid of death. In her latter years, she was less able to go and do; she had all her faculties of speech but was less able to focus. She was less and less a part of my daily life because of distance and her changing abilities. In this last month, Emmanuel lost two women who were close to my mother's age: Georgetta Colton and Marilaine Jindra. Like my mother, they were not present for worship or social activities in their latter years. Sometimes, death and loss do come with sudden, emotional and obvious changes. Sometimes, death and loss come gradually, gently and with peace. However you experience grief, it is OK for you to feel it however you feel it. And may you find peace and comfort in the sure and hope of the resurrection from the dead.

*Pastor Linda*



### LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT

Lent begins next Wednesday, March 5. Save these dates on your calendar:

**Tues., March 4, 6 pm** – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Everyone loves pancakes!



**Wed., March 5, noon** – Ash Wednesday service with imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. This service will be held in the sanctuary and is also available on Zoom; use the Zoom link for Sunday services.

**Wednesdays during Lent, noon** – Midweek Lenten services with Holy Communion in the fellowship hall.

#### Why ashes?

To show sorrow over sin and humility in the face of death.

To receive ashes on the forehead is a recognition that "I am not God and I need God." It is acknowledgement which is personal and public. What is often hidden is openly confessed.

To receive ashes in the palm of your hand is also a recognition that "I am not God and I need God." Some people choose this because they want to be reminded every time they look at their hands. It is less public and more about reminding oneself.



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## SOUPER BOWL

While many feasted for Super Bowl festivities, Emmanuel took an offering to support local food banks. This offering was designated for the Pantry Network of the East Suburbs. We gathered \$105.



The Pantry Network's programs include the Westinghouse Valley Food Pantry (aka Turtle Creek Food Pantry). They serve over 200 families monthly throughout the whole Mon Valley. They also run a Holiday Toy Program.

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## 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](https://www.zoom.us). Enter Meeting ID 923 3815 0341.

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



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## The Welcoming Table

### Sunday evening Lutheran worship in Spanish

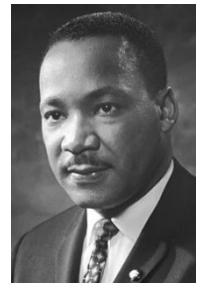
Worship services are being held at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at 1516 Beechview Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15216. Worship begins at 6 pm.

**Volunteers are needed to teach English for adults and Bible for children following the service at 7 p.m.**

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## SAVE THE DATE!

The fourth annual "Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." event will be held in the afternoon/evening of Sunday, April 6, 2025, at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Shadyside. The Rev. Dale B. Snyder of Bethel AME will be the guest preacher.



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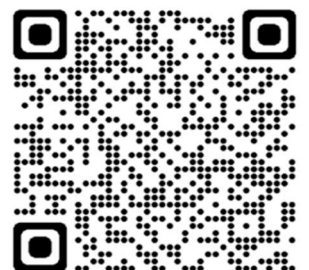
## Paul Robeson: Here I Stand

This year we focus on **Paul Robeson's** life's journey during **February on Sundays after worship** - a very interesting journey combining his artistic gifts and his commitment to social justice. He was a singer and a movie star, and his advocacy for coal miners and African Americans will inform and inspire us. This Sunday, March 2, will be our last session.

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**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.



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## Stewardship Reflection by Dennis Orsen

Somewhere in my reading during the last month I came upon a quote by Martin Luther King, Jr. that goes something like this: "I can never be a rich person as long as someone is poor." I will share the full quote when I come upon it.



At the Pine Ridge Reservation someone said, "Because of our commitment to care for one another, you will not find a rich Native American."

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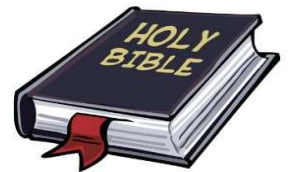


**To order altar flowers** for our weekly worship services, contact Judy Mayhood (412-760-0986), call the church office, or sign up on the Flower Chart in the entry way. The cost is \$50, or \$25 per vase. You can pay for flowers online or by check.

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### BIBLE BOOK OF THE MONTH: II Chronicles

The Bible Book of the Month for March is II Chronicles. The introduction to II Chronicles is included at the end of 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](http://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](mailto:Marsha_Kennedy@verizon.net) or 415 Kingston Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235.

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**Fri., Feb. 28, 1 pm** – Church Council Meeting  
**Tues., Mar. 4, 6 pm** – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper  
**Wed., Mar. 5, noon** – Ash Wednesday Service  
**Wednesdays during Lent, noon** – Midweek Lenten Service  
**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



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### LUTHERAN DAY IN THE CAPITOL, May 13

Join advocates from across Pennsylvania on Tuesday, May 13, for Lutheran Day in the Capitol.

This is a day to visit PA House Representatives and Senators and to learn about the issues that Lutherans promote in Pennsylvania.

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## II CHRONICLES

The quote which I hear most frequently from II Chronicles comes to King Solomon as a response to his prayer of dedication for the new temple in Jerusalem. The Lord comes to him in the night saying, *“I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice. When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain or command the locust to devour the land or send pestilence among my people, if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”* (II Chronicles 7:12-14)

These verses are often applied to encourage participation in the National Day of Prayer or when a Christian leader is calling for repentance from a problem in our country. For the writer and original audience of II Chronicles, these are words of hope. This is the experience lived in the past, and this is the promise they can expect for their future.

The first hearers of Chronicles were the exiles who began to return to Jerusalem in 538 B.C. After 70 or more years in Babylon, they were convinced that their leaders and whole nation had previously turned away from God. Exile was the punishment for idolatry and simply ignoring God. Now they are returning, literally, to Jerusalem and spiritually to God.

The Chronicler tells them their story, emphasizing how God has restored them whenever God’s people turned to Him in genuine worship and obedience. Chronicles was originally one book, which was later divided. In I Chronicles, the focus is on their identity which is traced through family genealogies that begin with creation. King David establishes the nation and the center of their life: Jerusalem.

II Chronicles begins with wise King Solomon. The Jerusalem temple is built. The highpoint of his reign is the dedication of the temple. He asked the Lord to dwell there and that if God was angry and gave them to an enemy, that he would bring them home when they repented *“with all their heart and soul”* (6:36-40). The Lord’s response to King Solomon, quoted above, assured them God would indeed dwell with his people and that God would heal them when they repent from relying on other powers or rejecting God’s teaching.

The kings in II Chronicles are examples that God has indeed brought punishment for persistent sin and healing

after repentance. There were numerous sins in the past such as relying on another country during a time of crisis or allowing worship sites to other gods. Eight good kings brought reform and renewal, although all have failings. The trend was away from God. Rulers like Queen Athaliah (the only Queen in Judah), Ahaz and Manasseh quickly undid the good of their predecessors. The last chapter of Chronicles recounts the Babylonian invasion in 587 B.C. and eventual destruction of Jerusalem in 598 B.C. The Persian emperor Cyrus decreed in 538 B.C. that the Jews return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple.

I and II Chronicles were written sometime during the Persian rule (538-333 B.C.), probably around 400. Ezra and Nehemiah, which tell the story of the return and rebuilding of Jerusalem and its temple, may have been written as the conclusion of the Chronicles.

Tips for reading II Chronicles:

- Pay attention to repeated behavior patterns and repeated phrases such as “walked in the way of...” or “did good/evil in the sight of the Lord.”
- Do not worry about keeping all the characters and names in your head. Focus on patterns.

### Important or exciting chapters

6-7	Dedication of temple under King Solomon
20	King Jehoshaphat calls for national prayer; attacking enemies destroy each other
22:1-12	Murderous Queen Athaliah seizes throne
23:8-21	Hidden King is crowned and Athaliah killed
30	King Hezekiah restores the Passover
32	Hezekiah prays; invading Assyrians leave
36:15-20	Fall of Jerusalem
36:22-23	Cyrus proclaims liberty to exiles

### **Challenge from I Chronicles: Can you find the prayer of Jabez?**

Answer: I Chronicles 4:9-10 includes his prayer in the genealogy and land assignments for Judah’s descendants. Jabez said, *“Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my border, and that your hand might be with me, and that you would keep me from hurt and harm.”* And the Lord granted what he asked.