



Emmanuel Lutheran Church

1229 Jefferson Heights Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

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

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

February 5, 2025

As I write this, my mother is dying. She is surrounded by family, both in person and in prayer. At some point this month, I will travel to Albuquerque. I do not yet know when. We are experiencing the paradox of death coming suddenly and yet slowly. I ask for your prayers for Ardys Theophilus and our whole family.

On Thursday, January 30, **Marilaine Sensabaugh Jindra** died. Her funeral was held on Monday, February 3, at Soxman Funeral Home. Marilaine came to Emmanuel as a child when Eastmont and Emmanuel were new. She and her sisters, Carole Hill and Judy Headley, were all confirmed at Emmanuel. Marilaine and her family have been part of Emmanuel's ministry for over 70 years.

Here is a prayer for commending people into God's care.

 Name , child of God, go forth in the name of God the Father Almighty who created you; in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, who redeemed you; in the name of the Holy Spirit who was poured out upon you. May you rest in peace and dwell forever in the paradise of God. **Amen.**

Congregation Council Training

Mt Lebanon United Lutheran Church, 975 Washington Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15234

Saturday, February 22: 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

swpasynod.org/calendar/council2025

This gathering for congregation leaders is intended to strengthen your skills and your faith. From stewardship and financial management to constitution and bylaws, there will be training for a variety of council interests and duties. Topics include domestic violence and addressing hunger and poverty. RSVP by Monday, February 17; \$20 includes lunch.

The Welcoming Table

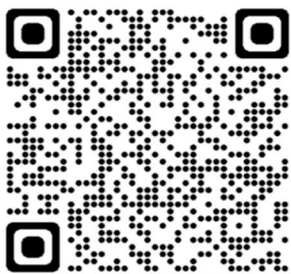
Sunday evening Lutheran worship in Spanish

Worship services are being held at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at 1516 Beechview Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15216. Worship is at 6 pm. **Volunteers are needed to teach English for adults and Bible for children at 7 p.m.**



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.



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.

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

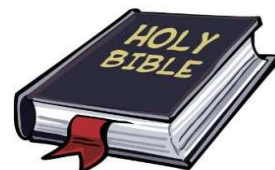
By phone: Call 312-626-6799. When prompted, enter the meeting ID 923 3815 0341.

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.

BIBLE BOOK OF THE MONTH: I Chronicles

We are entering the last phase of the Bible Book of the Month. Usually, the chosen book is one that we read during worship in that month. In the final six months of this project, that will not be the case.



The Bible Book of the Month for February is I Chronicles. The introduction to I Chronicles was included in last week's 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.

Fri., Feb. 7, 10:30 am – Parish Life Committee Meeting

Sun., Feb. 9, 11:15 am – Black History Month discussion – Paul Robeson Here I Stand

Sun., Feb. 16, 11:15 am – Black History Month discussion – Paul Robeson Here I Stand



This Sunday, February 9, at 7:30 p.m., St. Olaf Lutheran College Choir will perform at East Liberty Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh. Composed of 75 mixed voices, the St. Olaf Choir is hailed as one of the nation's premier a cappella ensembles, renowned for its artistry and beauty of sound. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$10 for all students, and are available at stolaf.edu/tickets/choir or 800-363-5487.

Hope in a Divided World - LAMPa/ULS Event

Registration is open for [Hope in a Divided World: A Faithful Response to Christian Nationalism](#) on **March 7-8** at ULS Gettysburg. Speakers are Dr. Lori Brandt Hale, president of [The International Bonhoeffer Society - English Language Section](#) and Amanda Tyler of [BJC - Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty](#)



and Christians Against Christian Nationalism. Discover how people of faith can authentically and humbly act at the intersection of civic life

and faith, in contrast and response to the forces of Christian Nationalism, using the legacy and theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer as a guide.

For more information and to register, visit www.lutheranadvocacy.org/event/bonhoefferlecture.



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 learning about the issues that Lutherans promote in Pennsylvania.



Stewardship Reflection by Dennis Orsen

In his book, *Our Shared Witness*, former Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land and former President of the Lutheran World Federation, Bishop Numib A. Younan quotes Martin Luther King Jr.:

"Any religion which professes to be concerned with the souls of people, but is not concerned with the slums that damn them, the economic conditions that cripple them – such a religion is a dry-as-dust religion."

Monthly Grief Gatherings at Monroeville Public Library

Every fourth Wednesday from 7-8:30 pm, come to share and explore our experiences with grief. All are welcome. For more information, contact Cory Little at 412-373-0500 ext. 122 or littlec2@einetnetwork.net.



Encouragement and Guidance from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, has written several important messages to all the congregations in all the synods of this denomination. She always addresses us as “Dear Church.” Here are excerpts from three letters.

On January 14 she wrote:

This church is committed to upholding the humanity of everyone, regardless of who we are or where we come from. We are a church called to love our neighbors and accompany all people in their joys and struggles. We must remain steadfast in this calling. As the ELCA, we will continue to proclaim the radical inclusivity of Christ's love.

On January 24 she wrote:

On Monday, our nation witnessed the peaceful transfer of power central to our democracy, followed by sweeping actions by the incoming Trump administration. Facing such changes, we receive guidance through Martin Luther's words in the Large Catechism.

In the fourth petition of the Lord's Prayer, where we pray “Give us this day our daily bread,” Luther writes about the importance of praying for our leaders, asking God to grant them wisdom and strength. He also speaks to the responsibility of leaders to provide stability, sufficiency and equity, saying, “[I]t would be very proper to place in the coat-of-arms of every pious prince a loaf of bread instead of a lion, or a wreath of rue, or to stamp it upon the coin, to remind both them and their subjects that by their office we have protection and peace, and that without them we could not eat and retain our daily bread.”

Luther also writes that in asking for daily bread, we are to pray for our leaders. We should pray that they act wisely and justly, protect all people and not cause harm. Prayer is not passive; it's an act of hope. Prayer reminds us to ground ourselves in God's promise. We pray for strength, to love unconditionally and to serve one another. As we lift up our petitions, we must also act—advocating for policies that affirm the dignity of every person and standing against actions that demean or exclude.

In her letter on January 28, she wrote to encourage congregations in our ministries with immigrants:

Many of us in the ELCA come from immigrant peoples. As Lutherans, we have a long tradition of hospitality, dating back to the end of World War II, of helping displaced Lutheran refugees, assisting subsequent refugee groups and welcoming new immigrants. The ELCA supports the view that nations have the responsibility to protect their borders and safeguard their communities. However, these policies must cause “neither undue repercussions within immigrant communities nor bias against them.” Just policies include recognition of the humanity of immigrants without status, respect for the dignity of those at the border and refuge for displaced people.
