



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

January 29, 2025

Dearly beloved,

The deluge of executive orders announced by the new U.S. administration is causing fear and confusion for many people, including but not limited to immigrants. I am following the new orders and policy changes closely. I am sharing Know Your Rights and emergency preparedness information with anyone who wants it. Our Lutheran leadership is very concerned also. We are taught by Jesus to welcome the immigrant and treat all human beings as precious to God, made in God's image. I am happy to talk with you about these things and how we can support each other. I share the following quote for comfort and strength.

Pastor Linda Theophilus

During his time as President of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Bishop Munib Younan of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land shared these words at an LWF Meeting of Officers in Budapest, Hungary, 16 November 2011.

"I am concerned. I feel challenged. But I am not worried. As long as the church is the church that serves and is not alive only for itself, the church will survive all turbulence, for the church does not preach itself, but Christ and him crucified. For the sake of our hope in Christ we must pray that the Spirit may continue to inspire and to empower the church to remain in faith, love, and hope. I pray that you may know the hope he has called you."

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING WAS HELD LAST SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

Our newly-elected council members are: Pastor Dennis Orsen, Judy Mayhood, Helen Williams and Darlene Neill. Installation of council members is part of our worship on Sunday, February 2.

Sunday evening Lutheran worship in Spanish is off to a great start!

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.**

Taize Prayer Service for Bishop Election

Sunday, February 2, 2PM

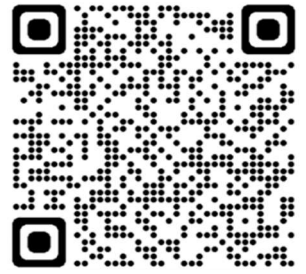
The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

4503 Old William Penn Hwy, Monroeville, PA 15146

Bishop Kusserow is retiring. All are invited to attend this contemplative prayer service for God's guidance. You may attend in person or online.

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

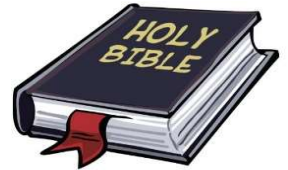
By phone: Call 312-626-6799. When prompted, enter the meeting ID 923 3815 0341.

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 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.



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.

Sun., Feb. 2, 11:15 am – Black History Month discussion

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

Sun., Feb. 9, 11:15 am – Black History Month discussion



Next 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.



FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

This year we will focus on **Paul Robeson's** life's journey during four sessions in February - a very interesting journey combining his artistic gifts and his commitment to social justice.

Do you know the song "Old Man River"? Maybe you have seen the movie "Show Boat"? If so, you have already encountered Paul Robeson, the singer and actor.

The four sessions are scheduled for Sundays in February, **beginning this Sunday, February 2**, immediately after worship. Let us know if you would like us to order a copy of his book ***Here I Stand***. The cost for a personal copy is \$10. One will be ordered for Emmanuel's library.

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.

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.



I CHRONICLES

When I did my pastoral internship, I was assigned to a big church in a small town. Many people were related to each other. Very quickly, I realized that I needed to know how everyone fit together. I began to collect information about family histories, grandparents and cousins, in-laws and out-laws, parents and grandparents, newcomers, and old-timers. As the new intern, this was survival information. For everyone in town, this was essential information for current and future community life. If you had given me family trees and genealogies before I moved to Rushford, I would have been bored silly. Once I began to know people and wanted to understand their community, this information was fascinating and highly relevant.

Chronicles was originally one book, which was later divided. I Chronicles includes creation to David with the last 20 chapters covering David's reign. II Chronicles covers King Solomon through the exile, concluding with the Persian emperor Cyrus who allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem in 538 B.C. The building of the temple, a project that began in David's reign but was given to his son Solomon to accomplish, is central to these books. These books were written sometime during the Persian rule (538-333 B.C.), probably around 400. Ezra and Nehemiah, which tell the story of the return from exile and the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the temple, may have been written as the conclusion of the Chronicles.

Basic tips for reading I Chronicles:

- Skip the parts where you lose interest. They are important, but genealogies are not easy reading or appropriate for beginners.
- Focus on King David. What were the accomplishments of his reign?
- If you read nothing else, read Chapter 17. The promise of God to David that God would "establish his house," that there would always be a son of David to rule God's people sets the stage for later history and for Jesus. I recommend that you read Chapter 17 first. Then read the rest of I Chronicles.

I Chronicles begins with lists and lists of fathers and sons (and a few daughters) from Adam to Abraham, Abraham to Moses, and the twelve tribes of Israel to the reign of King David. If you already know their stories, and know them well, you are more likely to find value in these lists.

It was important for the original audience for Chronicles to remember and understand their family history. They were the Jews who had inherited a history of good and bad kings, of faith and rejection of God. They were the Jews who had seen their homeland destroyed and grown up as refugees, as people cut off from their roots. Chronicles is written for people who need to know their place in God's promises, their place in the world and how they fit together as a community. These were exiles returning to a devastated land. They needed a basis to re-establish themselves as a people and a nation.

The first-time – and even the experienced – Bible reader of the 21st century in the United States will probably find that they do need to skip or skim the opening nine chapters of genealogy as well as the lists of musicians and temple servers whom King David appointed. The stories of King David, especially those stories found only in Chronicles, will seem more interesting and relevant.

There are several things which will make your reading more productive:

1. Read a Bible with chapter and section headings. Many new editions of the Bible have included headings which are not part of the original written text, but really help orient the reader. This will give you some sense of the content without getting bogged down.
2. Keep asking yourself: *How does this story or information help me, the church, and all of God's people be the community God has called us to be?* Do not expect all practical answers. Understanding self-identity is very important.
3. Ask yourself: *How is this book important for my Jewish friends and neighbors?*
4. Notice the prayers. (Challenge: See if you can find the prayer of Jabez.)