

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

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

January 8, 2025

Thank you to everyone for your Christmas gifts and greetings to me and Pastor Dennis. Sweet generosity indeed!!

Pastor Linda

Brightest and Best of the Stars

This hymn makes the journey from Christmas awe and wonder to our response as followers and believers. Last Sunday we celebrated the Epiphany of our Lord as the Wise men arrived bringing gifts. We presented our plans for financial support of Emmanuel. Now we look for God's guidance for ministry in the year to come.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining;
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
angels adore him in slumber reclining,
maker and monarch and savior of all.

What shall we give him, in costly devotion?
Shall we bring incense and off'rings divine,
gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favor secure;
richer by far is the heart's adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant redeemer is laid.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt.

THIS WEEK WE REMEMBER THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD.

The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus, affirming his identity as Son of God.

The Holy Spirit also comes to us in our baptism.

You are given the identity of child of God.

You are equipped with the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit to do God's work.

We need this reminder every January as we work on budgeting and planning for the year.

Pray for our leaders and the election of council members at the Annual Meeting.

This year the new project is starting a Spanish/bilingual worship service.

There is great potential and a lot of work, especially for Pastor Linda.

Please pray and help as much as you can.

**THE ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING IS SUNDAY, JANUARY 26
IMMEDIATELY AFTER WORSHIP.**

If you were not able to bring/send your Commitment to Give last Sunday, we will gladly receive it in the coming week. You may recall that these commitments (pledges) will be kept at Emmanuel unopened and returned to you at the end of 2025. Thank you.

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 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in the Beechview neighborhood. Worship is at 6 pm. English classes for adults will be held at 7 pm. Bible in English for children at 7 pm. **Volunteers are needed to teach.**



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

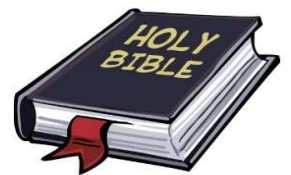
By phone: Call 312-626-6799. When prompted, enter the meeting ID 923 3815 0341.

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: II Samuel

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. There are some books which are not read for Sunday worship or are rarely read such as II Samuel, I & 2 Chronicles and Job. We will also read Philippians and 1 & 2 Peter, which are read for Sunday worship, but this April we only hear Philippians. Psalms 73-106 will conclude the Bible Book of the Month Series in June. This is timed with Pentecost when we will read Psalm 104.



The Bible Book of the Month for January is II Samuel. The introduction to II Samuel was 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.



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.

**THE ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING IS SUNDAY, JANUARY 26
IMMEDIATELY AFTER WORSHIP.**

Wed., Jan. 15, 10:30 am – Meals for Friends Board Meeting
Tues., Jan. 21, 1 pm – Church Council Meeting
Sun., Jan. 26, 11:15 am – Annual Meeting (snow date Sun., Feb. 2)
Sun., Feb. 2, 11:15 am – Black History Month discussion



FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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.

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.

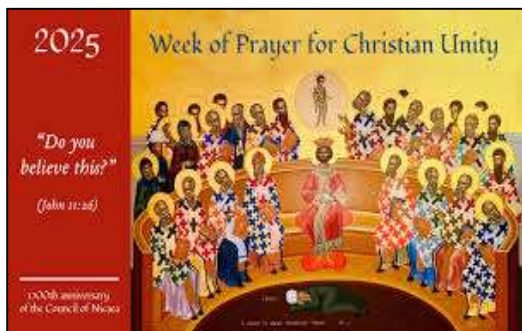
The four sessions are scheduled for the Sundays in February, beginning February 2 immediately after worship. Let us know if you would like us to order a copy of his book ***Here I Stand***. The cost for a personal copy is \$10. One will be ordered for Emmanuel's library.

ELCA National Day of Racial Healing Event Schedule

Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025, 11 a.m., 3 p.m. Eastern time

Welcome by ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Purpose of the Day by Judith Roberts, Community Guidelines presented by Jennifer DeLeon, opening worship guest preacher the Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, and music by Ali Paris. There are a wide variety of workshops. The event closes with worship at 1:20 pm. Musical performance by Benhi !Khabeab, closing sermon and sending song by the Rev. Felix Malpica, bishop of the La Cross Area Synod.

On **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 and \$10 for all students, available at stolaf.edu/tickets/choir or 800-363-5487.



**Prayer for Christian Unity
Tuesday, January 21, 7 pm
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

The traditional period in the northern hemisphere for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is 18-25 January. Those dates were proposed in 1908 by Paul Wattson to cover the days between the feasts of St Peter and St Paul, and therefore have a symbolic significance. In the southern hemisphere where January is a vacation time churches often

find other days to celebrate the Week of Prayer, for example around Pentecost (suggested by the Faith and Order movement in 1926), which is also a symbolic date for the unity of the Church. Mindful of the need for flexibility, we invite you to use this material throughout the whole year to express the degree of communion which the churches have already reached, and to pray together for that full unity which is Christ's will.

"Do you believe this?" (John 11:26) For this year, 2025, the prayers and reflections for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity were prepared by the brothers and sisters of the monastic community of Bose in northern Italy. This year marks the 1,700th anniversary of the first Christian Ecumenical Council, held in Nicaea, near Constantinople in 325 AD. This commemoration provides a unique opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the common faith of Christians, as expressed in the Creed formulated during this Council; a faith that remains alive and fruitful in our days. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025 offers an invitation to draw on this shared heritage and to enter more deeply into the faith that unites all Christians.

**Taize Prayer Service for Bishop Election
Sunday, February 2, 2PM
The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
4503 Old William Penn Hwy, Monroeville, PA 15146**

You have heard that Bishop Kusserow is retiring. There will be a synod election at the next synod assembly. The Bishop Election Team is planning a contemplative prayer service to support our synod in discernment. All are invited to attend in person or online.

Local Methodists have organized and invite us to an

**MLK WORSHIP SERVICE
JANUARY 19, 4 pm
United Methodist Church on Center Ave in Monroeville**

The preacher is Dr. Joe Smith, who is an Adjunct professor Duquesne University and the Director of spiritual formation, First United Methodist Church in Pittsburgh.

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.
