



## Emmanuel Lutheran Church

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

March 5, 2025

Lent is a time to re-connect with God, a time for repentance and resistance to evil, a time of renewal. After his baptism, the Holy Spirit sends Jesus to the wilderness for 40 days. We know that he prayed and fasted. He contended with evil and resisted temptations.

As disciples of Jesus, we are also called to contend against evil, to resist whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor and to renew our efforts to truly love God and neighbor. Our efforts lead us past "I did not know" and "I did not want to know" to "Now that I know, I will."

Each year during Lent, the SWPA Church in Society committee seeks to lift up a way to better love God, ourselves, and our neighbors. This year, the focus is on mental health. Each week of this challenge, a new reflection, prayer, and resource page will be shared.

At Emmanuel during Lent, our special Lenten offerings are to assist Bethel AME congregation create low-income housing in the Hill District. I have been struck by similarities and differences in the Emmanuel and Bethel AME stories. Both lost buildings to eminent domain in the 1950's. Emmanuel was able to build a bigger church building next door to the old building when the parkway was extended to Monroeville. When Bethel AME lost their building to the Civic Arena, their compensation was only enough to build a church that seated 1/3 of their members. The work of replacing those losses continues to this day.

*Pastor Linda*



### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME STARTS THIS WEEKEND

Don't forget to turn your clocks **ahead** on Saturday night!

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

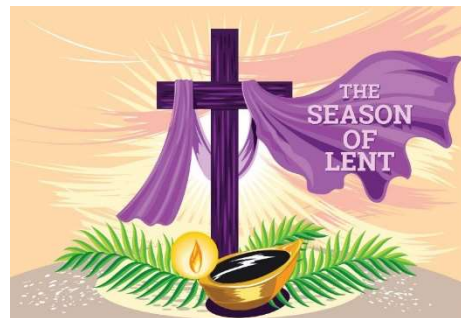
**At home without technology:** Read the bulletin. Read the Scripture. Pray. Meditate.

### The Season of Lent

Join us every Wednesday during Lent at noon in the fellowship hall for Midweek Lenten services with Holy Communion.

### INVITATION TO LENT

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ



is renewed. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

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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.



### IT'S TIME TO ORDER LILIES FOR EASTER

Easter will be here before you know it! If you'd like to order lilies to beautify our sanctuary on Easter morning, there's a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex, or you can call the office to place your order. Lilies are \$12 each; deadline for orders is Sunday, April 6.

**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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### LENTEN PRAYER

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



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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.**



**SUPPORT OUR SIBLINGS IN CHRIST  
AT BETHEL AME CHURCH AS THEY  
CREATE THE BETHEL-TRINITY  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION**

Our synod has walked alongside Bethel AME Church in recent years as they fought for restorative justice since being displaced in the 1950's. But the journey is not finished, it is just beginning, and our synod has been asked to help.



"Demolition of Bethel AME Church, Wylie Avenue and Elm Street, Lower Hill District, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, July 24, 1957." (Photo by Charles 'Teenie' Harris/Carnegie Museum of Art/Getty Images)

Bethel-Trinity CDC's vision grew out of the deep racial inequities experienced by the Bethel AME's congregation. When the congregation was displaced for the development of the Civic Arena, compensation for the taking was orders of magnitude below market rate and below rates that other organizations and property owners received. Through a multiracial, interfaith effort, the congregation was able to pursue an amicable agreement to restore some land that attempts to redress past harms.

Bethel-Trinity CDC is directly confronting the systemic racial inequities in the Hill District neighborhood and beyond by working to create a new model of community development, by and for the community and its people. Bethel-Trinity CDC will be creating a community center, offering opportunities for community members to thrive. Basic needs including safe and beautiful spaces for learning and living, will be co-developed *with* the community. Bethel-Trinity CDC will use a model that promotes home ownership and generational wealth-building.

Bethel-Trinity CDC is embarking on a pre-development process to evaluate options and identify the experts and consultants needed. Your financial gift will assist Bethel in finding their way forward for the community they love.



**MEALS FOR FRIENDS EASTER CANDY SALE**

Once again, Meals for Friends is selling Betsy Ann Chocolates for Easter. Brochures and order forms are available on the table in the narthex; for those of you who receive this newsletter via email, copies are attached to the email. The deadline for orders is

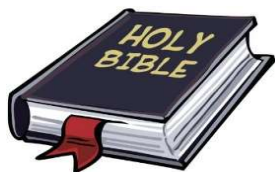
Monday, March 17; candy will be available for pickup in the fellowship hall from 8-10 am on April 2, 4 and 7. Questions should be directed to Glenn Seddon at 412-824-2400.

**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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### BIBLE BOOK OF THE MONTH: II Chronicles



The Bible Book of the Month for March is II Chronicles. The introduction to II 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](http://www.emmanuelutheraneastmont.org).

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**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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**Wednesdays during Lent, noon** – Midweek Lenten Service  
**Sun., Mar. 23, 1:00-2:30 pm** – Jesus the Suffering Servant  
**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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### Stewardship Reflection by Dennis Orsen

In the Affirmation of Baptism rite in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship book, those affirming their baptism vow "to strive for justice and peace in all the earth." Justice and peace go together. Peace is more than the absence of war. Peace is more than the absence of conflict.



The Hebrew greeting "Shalom" (often translated "peace") is wholistic: absence of conflict, well-being, good health, healing, justice. Jesus embodied shalom. Following his ascension, Christ gave us, who are the body of Christ, the Holy Spirit, that we may embody shalom in this world.

Last week there was a lot of talk about ending the war in Ukraine. I heard the word "peace" used a lot. I cannot remember the word "justice" uttered by anyone, until Monday. President Trump says he wants peace. President Zelenskyy wants peace and security for Ukraine.

In this situation, in light of Ukraine's experience with Russia, demand for a security guarantee is the same as asking for peace with justice. Peace without security for Ukraine equals oppression for Ukraine. Ukraine wants to remain a sovereign nation. It also wants to be a free country with a right to self-determination, a member of NATO and a part of the Western World.

How do we work for peace and justice in prayer and action?