



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

November 13, 2024

Have you ever heard of a Thankoffering service? Wonder how it all got started? Beginning in the late 19th century, Lutheran women were given small Thankoffering boxes to place in a special location in their homes as a visible reminder of blessings received. Women would add coins to those boxes almost daily as particular blessings were noted. From their use came the idea of an annual church service to celebrate their collection. Thus was born the Thankoffering service.

Everyone is encouraged to give thanks daily. When you set aside coins (or more) as an expression of your gratitude to God, that is a thankoffering. On Sunday, November 17, we will collect our thankofferings at Emmanuel.

Thankofferings support the Women of the ELCA (WELCA). We benefit from Bible Studies and educational programs for women (and men). The synod WELCA organization provides retreats and smaller gatherings. WELCA has many ongoing ministries including our many online and printed communications, Bible Studies, training and development for leaders, the administration of our grants and scholarship programs, and so much more.

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT IS DECEMBER 1. **PREPARE TO PREPARE.**

A TASTE OF VENEZUELA

Begin the new church year with a taste of Venezuela, a lunch prepared in Emmanuel's kitchen by our friends from Venezuela. The menu consists of Amarillo Rice, Venezuelan Chicken and a Caribbean fruit salad. You can pick up your meals following worship on the First Sunday of Advent, December 1. Each meal costs \$10. **Prepaid orders need to be received by Emmanuel by November 26.** Send orders, with payment, to: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 1229 Jefferson Heights Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235. Checks should be made payable to Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

Emmanuel provides office space for Casa San José, a social service agency reaching out to the Latine Community. This ThriventAction Team Fundraiser is to assist Emmanuel by offsetting costs related to this space.

Monroeville Area Interfaith Thanksgiving Program, Monday, November 25, 7pm

Parkway Jewish Center is hosting this year's MIM Thanksgiving program on November 25 at 7pm. The program will be held at the REC333 Building on Penn Center Blvd in Penn Center (side of bldg. says "Rec 333"). Directions: On Route 22 light by Sheetz, turn into Penn Center and go straight. Rec333 is a low building on the left after Rite Aid and medical offices. Parking is beside the building and across the street.

It's time to order **poinsettias for Christmas Eve!** They come in 6-inch pots with 7-9 blooms, cost \$11 each and are available in red, pink, white or marble. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the entry, or you can call the church office to place your order. **The deadline for orders is Sunday, December 1.**



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.

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.

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.

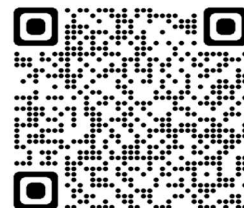
By computer or smartphone: Go to www.zoom.us. Enter Meeting ID 923 3815 0341.

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

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.



Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture - Sunday, November 17, after worship

United Lutheran Seminary (Gettysburg and Philadelphia) prepared a series about different issues in our society. This fall we have watched the presentations together after worship. This is the last of the six presentations based on Social Statements of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. **You can also watch the recorded presentation at home on YouTube.**

Here is the YouTube link where you can access the all six webinars

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2BxYdwpdmQgcsduuux43rECH2IATF3zY>

At this session, we welcome Dr. Richard Perry, emeritus faculty, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Dr. Perry will speak on the ELCA social statement *Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture*. As the ELCA continues to live into its commitment to authentic diversity, this document gives us food for thought and encouragement for the journey.

Fri., Nov. 22, 11 am – Parish Life Committee Meeting

Sun., Dec. 1 – Advent begins

Sun., Dec. 1 – A Taste of Venezuela

Tues., Dec. 3, 1 pm – Church Council Meeting

Wed., Dec. 4, 11, 18 – 12:30–1:15 pm – Advent Midweek Holy Communion

Tues., Dec. 24 – 3 pm – Christmas Eve Worship



Advent/Christmas gift bags for shut ins and seniors will be assembled on Friday, November 22, at 11 a.m. Contributions of hard candy, decorations, and small practical items are needed.

MEALS FOR FRIENDS CHRISTMAS CANDY SALE

Meals for Friends is selling delicious Betsy Ann Chocolates for Christmas. The brochure and order form are attached to the email version of this newsletter, or you can pick up a copy at the church. **Orders are due November 22** (checks payable to Glenn Seddon), and the candy will be ready for pickup at Emmanuel on December 9.



How did Covid affect your worship?

Our congregation has the unique opportunity to participate in a national study of worship attenders. The study is being conducted by Faith Communities Today (FACT), a research partner of the ELCA. Since 2000, FACT has conducted research that provides religious leaders of all traditions with critical information about the changing nature of congregational life and how to respond effectively.

For participating in this survey, our congregation will receive a \$200 Amazon gift card and, if at least 10 people respond, a report of our responses. Anyone 18 or older who is a regular participant can complete the survey. It should take between 12 to 15 minutes. To take the survey, please click this link:

https://covidreligionstudy.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9GYI89a3NMOwuFw?congregation=20224.

Please complete the survey by Friday, Nov. 22. If you are interested in learning more about this study, please visit: <https://www.covidreligionresearch.org/attender-survey/>

WELCOMING REFUGEES WORKSHOP

Monday, November 18, 2024, 7:00-8:30 pm via Zoom

How do we best welcome our refugee neighbors? News stories about the treatment of refugees in Springfield, OH and Charleroi, PA have raised concerns for our migrant neighbors' safety and well-being, along with desire for the church to respond with welcome, hospitality, and support. The workshop will discuss the fundamentals of refugee resettlement (and a larger look at forcibly displaced persons worldwide); the basics of trauma-informed care (which can apply to anyone, not just refugees); and how we can be good neighbors to new neighbors and friends. *Joy Givens, a member of St. Andrew (Shadyside) and Immigrant and Refugee Youth Specialist at JFCS, and Rev. Linda Theophilus of Emmanuel (Eastmont), who coordinates Emmanuel's Welcoming Immigrants Housing Project, will lead the conversation.*



Zoom Link Information: Meeting ID: 861 8409 7067; Passcode: 078815

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86184097067?pwd=of2QILjXz8MHS22CW0I5a4sivyflaA.1>



Stewardship Reflection by Pastor Dennis

Most stewardship programs include pledging. Usually this means prayerfully deciding your financial offering plan, as well as ways you can serve with time and action, such as preparing mailings, attending Bible studies, helping with Meals for Friends. Pledging is not demanded; it is to be done voluntarily.

A colleague of mine said, "One member said that he did not believe in pledging until I explained that pledging is declaring what you plan to give to the church next year." It is making a voluntary commitment. Sometimes our circumstances change, requiring adjustments in our voluntary commitments.

Just before Christmas you will receive a pledge card with an invitation to make a financial pledge to Emmanuel for 2025. Then you may seal it in a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Then place that envelope in a larger envelope and return it to Emmanuel, either by mail or in person. Near the end of 2025, the sealed self-addressed, stamped, and unopened envelope will be returned to you. Congregations' budgets are not developed on the amount pledged. Pledging is a means to challenge members to pause and reflect on the giving of themselves, their time, and their possessions, signs of God's gracious love.

Responding to Domestic Violence Competently, Compassionately, and Faithfully

Saturday, November 23: 10AM - 3PM

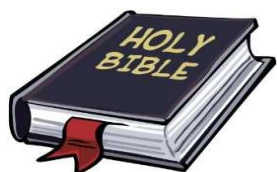
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (2500 Brandt School Road, Wexford, PA, 15090)

Domestic violence affects every community, yet most of us are not confident in our knowledge or resources to support victims. This workshop is for all who want to be equipped to help those experiencing domestic violence, and to be empowered to speak to the issue in public spaces, to learn from a local magistrate judge, a shelter worker, a therapist, and a pastor about how to provide practical help. RSVP by Saturday, November 16, \$10 includes lunch.

You are invited to join pastors and laypeople from around the Pittsburgh area on **Wednesday, November 20, at 6:30pm in the John Knox Room at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary** for the next program in the series: "Reckoning with Antisemitism: Listening to Jewish Voices."

You'll hear from a panel of Jewish leaders to share how antisemitism has affected their lives and community and what they hope their Christian neighbors will come to understand about the Jewish experience. For more information about the panelists and to register before the deadline of November 19, click here:

https://www.casp.org/reckoning?mc_cid=8ba5e4a5d9&mc_eid=cf57a417fd#listening



BIBLE BOOK OF THE MONTH: Leviticus

The Bible Book of the Month for November is Leviticus. The introduction to Leviticus was included in a prior 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.
