

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

1229 Jefferson Heights Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

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www.emmanuelutheraneastmont.org

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

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

October 9, 2024

Harvest Home – October 13 – We give thanks for the harvest. What have you harvested? The following people provided mums to beautify the sanctuary: Marsha Kennedy, Judy Mayhood, Rosa Snyder-Boyd, Pastor Linda Theophilus, and Helen Williams.

Healing Sunday – October 20 – Worship includes prayers for individual healing & litany for those affected by mental illnesses and other brain disorders.

Reformation Sunday – October 27 – Thomas Lalor is our guest organist.

Spaghetti Dinner – October 6, 2024

We had a great turnout for our annual spaghetti dinner with Meals for Friends. Final numbers are still being calculated; we'll let you know how much was raised once we total everything. Thank you to Thrivent Financial for the Action Grant of \$250 towards expenses for this event.

We still have a few containers of frozen sauce for sale for \$5.00 if anyone would like to purchase them.



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 in person in the sanctuary OR

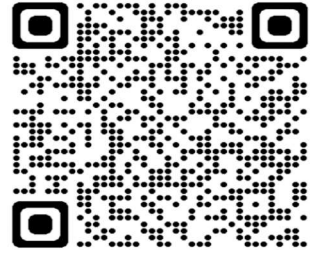
By phone: Call 312-626-6799. When prompted, enter the meeting ID 923 3815 0341.

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.



ANTI-SEMITISM TRAINING – Sunday, October 20, 2024

The pastors of the ELCA congregations in the eastern suburbs of Pittsburgh are planning ways for our congregations to get to know each other and support each other. The first event is an anti-Semitism training through the Holocaust Center in Pittsburgh. We have planned this for Sunday afternoon, October 20, at **St. John's Lutheran Church** in North Versailles. Lunch will be provided at 12:30 and the program will follow. Email dmaurizi@stjohnsnorthversailles.com or call 412-824-0277 to reserve your spot and so we can plan for lunch.



WELCA Cluster Meeting October 19 at Zion Greensburg

8:30 am – Registration, doughnuts and coffee

9:00 am – Program - Westmoreland Waste

Management about recycling - Concludes with lunch (\$10)

Sun., Oct. 13 – Harvest Home

Tues., Oct. 15, 1 pm – Church Council Meeting

Fri., Oct. 18, 11 am – Parish Life Committee Meeting

Sun., Oct. 20 – Healing Service

Sun., Oct. 20, 12:30 pm – Anti-Semitism Training at St. John's



What does the ELCA teach about????

This fall, we are studying six of the social statements using a series prepared by United Lutheran Seminary (Gettysburg and Philadelphia). **You can to participate on Sunday after worship on selected Sundays. You can also watch the recorded presentation at home on YouTube.**

The topics are

Abortion -

Sexism and Justice -

ELCA Earth's Climate Crisis Study Guide -

Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture -

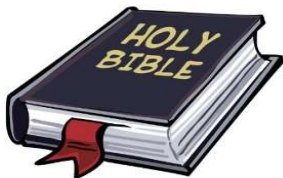
The dates at Emmanuel are

October 13

October 27

November 3

November 10



BIBLE BOOKS OF THE MONTH: Hosea and Micah

The Bible Books of the Month for October are Hosea and Micah. The introduction to Micha was included in the September 25 mailing; Hosea is included here. 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.

Living Soil

From Linda Neumann

God is the Great Designer - Creation is designed to heal itself! If carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere are elevating global warming, nature has a simple solution to cool our planet: more plants and living soil!!

Through the wonder of photosynthesis, atmospheric carbon dioxide is absorbed and life-giving oxygen is released! Every plant has a structure composed of carbon derived from atmospheric carbon dioxide. So is every molecule of glucose sugar that first feeds the plant and then eventually feeds animals - and us!

More importantly, plants provide an even greater benefit; plants sequester carbon dioxide! The plant you see above ground has seventy-five percent more carbon stored underneath it in the soil. But here is the catch! Plants grow best in LIVING SOIL, meaning soil that is filled with microorganisms and fungi rhizomes!

Current research shows that plant roots and fungi rhizomes provide an amazing pathway for carbon to be stored in the soil and for nutrients in the soil such as nitrogen and phosphorus to be returned to the plant!! However, the application of man-made chemicals to the soil, such as some fertilizers and herbicides, can harm these systems and pathways that make it possible to have "living soil". Traditional tilling and the use of man-made chemicals ultimately result in dead soil...like dust! Regenerative farming practices use cover crops and grazing animals on a plot of land to create a living soil that sustains those living underground communication pathways!

If 40% of the soil on earth is degraded due to human activities such as clear-cutting forests or letting farmland lie barren, let's use regenerative agriculture practices to produce "living" soil that nurtures life-giving plants everywhere. According to the Rodale Institute, converting farmland to regenerative agriculture practices would result in the drawdown of ALL human yearly carbon dioxide emissions to net zero! So, let's "return to our roots" and advocate for the power of creation through regenerative agriculture practices! You can even practice renewing the soil at home and in your community.

Interested in learning more about living soil practices for homes, farms, and communities? Or learning more about the miracles of earth taking place beneath our feet? Check out the great resources and ideas from the organizations listed here. *Kiss the Ground* and *Common Ground* are especially good documentaries to watch and share.

<https://commongroundfilm.org/>

<https://rodaleinstitute.org/>

<https://kissthegroundmovie.com/>



HOSEA

This IS a LOVE story.

The drama and the issues in Hosea are so personal and timeless that you can read this book without a lot of background information. You can understand the main message of God's love. Here are some questions, insights and additional information for more understanding.

Hosea's first prophetic act is to marry an unfaithful woman. Their relationship becomes the illustration of God's covenant of love for unfaithful people.

How long does love last?

When do you give up on someone?

Can you keep rejecting God until God rejects you?

Hosea and Gomer have three children. God tells Hosea to name them. The oldest boy is "Jezreel" (God sows) because he will bring punishment for Israel's past deeds. The girl is called "Not Pitied" (Lo-ruhamah). The youngest boy is Lo-ammi, "not my people."

Hosea's life was a testimony to God's determination to love and save. He had the hard task of showing others how they had been unfaithful to God. His family life became the drama paralleling God's relationship with unfaithful Israel. God seems to be threatening to abandon his people.

Gomer continues to have lovers and liaisons. Yet God tells Hosea: "*Go, love a woman who has a lover and is an adulteress, just as the Lord loves the people of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love raisin cakes.*" So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer of barley and a measure of wine. (Hosea 3:1,2)

Do Hosea and Gomer live happily ever after?

Does Hosea ever divorce her?

Part of Hosea's message is that God is angry, God will bring judgement. God seems to be threatening to abandon his people. And, yet, the love does not end. God's desire for God's people never ends.

Another expression of God's love in Hosea is that of a mother for her children: In Hosea 11: 3, we hear God, the sorrowing mother, say:

*It is I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in my arms, . . . how can I give you up, O Ephraim?
How can I hand you over, O Israel?*

From what dangers, foolishness and sin will God rescue you?

Does God still love me and want me back?

In 1 Peter, the words of Hosea, the names of his children, come back with the message of love and reconciliation:

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people,^[a] in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

*¹⁰ Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.*

Two names are helpful to know: Ephraim and Benjamin are two of the twelve tribes descended from Jacob who was renamed Israel. Ephraim is a northern tribe. Benjamin is in the South. When these names are used, it implies Northern Kingdom (Israel) and Southern Kingdom (Judah).

Hosea is a prophet to the Northern kingdom of Israel. Amos preached in Israel shortly before Hosea, but during the same time period. Isaiah's ministry in Jerusalem overlaps with Hosea.

The southern kingdom, Judah (where Jerusalem is located), maintained worship in the temple in Jerusalem. On that basis, Judah is "more faithful," although Idolatry, corruption and other sins are found in both Israel and Judah. Israel established other places of worship, included the gods of other peoples, made more alliances with other countries, and did not follow God's laws as carefully.

PS: Watch out for raisin cakes.