



Emmanuel Lutheran Church

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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

September 4, 2024

In the midst of many distressing and many stressful realities in our world, I am happy to share some things that give me much pleasure:

- **Our son Daniel is getting married on Sunday, September 29. His fiancée is a gifted artist and compassionate woman, Courtney Sieh. The wedding is in St. Paul, Minnesota.**
- **I am taking a week to learn Spanish after the wedding.**
- **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 will be an anti-Semitism training led by Noah Schoen through the Holocaust Center in Pittsburgh. We have planned this for Sunday afternoon, October 20, at St. John's Lutheran Church in North Versailles.**

I will be away from September 27 through October 11 for a week of vacation and a week of continuing education. Pastor Dorothy Worth will lead worship on September 29. On October 6 – Spaghetti Dinner Sunday – there will be a hymn sing with Holy Communion.

May you find many things to give thanks for.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Linda Theophilus

God's work. Our hands.



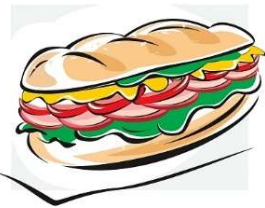
September 8, 2024

“God's work. Our hands.”

Emmanuel's project supports Meals for Friends. We will give the Emmanuel kitchen a thorough cleaning on Sunday, September 8. Pizza dinner included.

Ten years ago, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America began God's Work, Our Hands Day. This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. God's amazing grace comes to us without our deserving or earning God's favor. God loves us and likes us. God does not need our good works. Our neighbor does. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

This year we also celebrate [50 years of ELCA World Hunger](#). Emmanuel's project on September 8 fits with this emphasis. Many congregations are choosing projects to assist ministries focused on alleviating hunger and poverty in their plans for "God's work. Our hands."



Meals for Friends Hoagie Sale. Delicious Triangle Bar & Grill Italian hoagies with chips (with/without onions) for only \$7.00 each. **Order deadline is this Mon., Sept. 9;** pickup is from noon-2pm on Thurs., Sept. 12, at Emmanuel. Call 412-824-2400 to place your order.

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.



What does our church teach about complex moral and social issues in our world today?

United Lutheran Seminary offers a series which we are doing at Emmanuel.

You can choose the time and location.

1. At Emmanuel with other people on Sunday after worship.
2. At home on zoom on Tuesday evenings for the premier joining other Lutherans.
3. A replay at home on your computer or phone – you choose the time.

The topics are

- Introduction to Social Teachings -
- Corporate Social Responsibility -
- Abortion -
- Sexism and Justice -
- ELCA Earth's Climate Crisis Study Guide -
- Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture -

The dates at Emmanuel are

- September 15
- September 22
- October 13
- October 20
- October 27
- November 3

Please contact Pastor Linda for the link to see the webinar "live" when it premieres or to get the link to watch on your own time in your own space. The "live" zoom presentations are on Tuesday evenings beginning August 27 (every other week).

The social statements are also available to read. We have many available in the church building and all are available on the website www.elca.org.

Sun., Sept. 8 – God’s Work Our Hands
Mon., Sept 16, 10 am – WIHP meeting
Sat., Oct. 5 – Setup for Spaghetti Dinner
Sun., Oct. 6 – Spaghetti Dinner
Sun., Oct. 13 – Harvest Home
Fri., Oct. 18, 11 am – Parish Life Committee Meeting
Sun., Oct. 20 – Healing Service

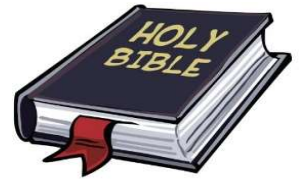


**Worship and pray
in person in the sanctuary
OR**

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.

BIBLE BOOK OF THE MONTH: Song of Solomon & Titus

The Bible Books of the Month for September are Song of Solomon and Titus. The introduction to these books 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.



Spaghetti Dinner – October 6, 2024, 3-6 pm

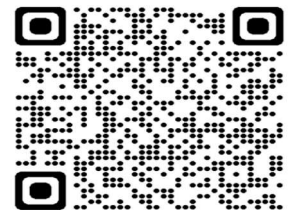
Plans for the annual spaghetti dinner on the first Sunday of October are underway. Your help and support are needed.

We will do this again with Meals for Friends as a takeout meal. All of the profits will be shared equally.

Can you help prepare sauce, desserts and more on Saturday, October 5?
Can you help welcome, take orders and package meals on Sunday, October 6?
There’s a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex.
Or contact Darlene Neill at 412-825-0790.

This will be take-out only with spaghetti, salad, bread and dessert.
\$12 for adult meals, \$3 for children ages 3-10.
Invite friends, neighbors and acquaintances for this delicious meal!!

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.





Stewardship Reflection by Pastor Dennis

How much of my/our wealth should I/we give away? To whom should I/we give it? In search for an answer to this question, the words of Jesus written in the Bible are not of much help. In fact, they leave us confused. Mark Allan Powell in *Giving to God* helps us see this confusion.

To a rich young ruler who thought he had done quite well in keeping God's Law, Jesus said, "You lack one thing. Go and sell everything you have and give it to the poor." (Luke 18:1-25). There were those who were critical that Jesus permitted a woman to pour costly ointment on his feet because it could have been sold and the proceeds given to the poor. He commended the woman because this was an act of love and devotion. (Mark 14:3-9). After Zacchaeus, who became rich as a tax collector, met Jesus, he voluntarily gave one-half of his wealth to the poor. Jesus praises him. (Luke 19:1-10). Jesus likewise praises the widow who put all of her wealth, two coins worth a penny, in the offering plate even though Jesus viewed the temple as a corrupt institution. (Mark 11:41-44).

In summary, Jesus sees our individual heart and speaks the word that the heart needs to hear each day. Jesus always speaks contextually. As we live in God's Word Jesus Christ, Jesus directs us in the stewardship of our wealth by His Spirit, the Holy Spirit. More to come on "Spirit Giving."

A little aside: The media reminded me that September is "Recovery Month." The purpose of this designation is to challenge us to seek recovery from drug addiction and alcoholism. Let us add to that our addiction to wealth. A quote from Martin Luther: "The pocketbook is the last part of a person to be converted." A quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "Our addiction to revenge is stronger than any other addiction."

WE BOUGHT A FISH FARM

The Vacation Bible School offering was designated for the Global Barnyard program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This program equips farmers in partner churches and also in the United States with animals: chicks, sheep, goats, cows, farming equipment, and more. Our offering this year was \$300. This was enough for fish farm, honeybees, and a pig.

Our synod has a Domestic Violence taskforce. They have compiled a list of all the emergency numbers and shelters for the counties in our synod. It is posted on the bulletin boards at Emmanuel and on our website: <https://www.emmanuelutheraneastmont.org/docs/resources-for-victims-and-survivors-of-domestic-violence/>



Monthly Grief Gatherings at Monroeville Public Library

Every fourth Wednesday from 7-8:30 pm, come to share and explore our experiences with grief. All are welcome. For more information, contact Cory Little at 412-373-0500 ext. 122 or littlec2@einetwork.net.
