

Welcome to Emmanuel !

Second Sunday in Lent

February 28,
2021

*“It is wonderful to
worship with
you today!”*

Emmanuel Worship is Online

This worship service will be broadcast and live streamed through our Facebook page, and on our website. Even if you are not able to watch live, the services will be recorded. You can find us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/EmmanuelSouderton/>

and on our website at:

<http://www.elcsouderton.org>

You can also check the Facebook page or website for ongoing updates, for daily devotion videos with Pastor John, and for information regarding Emmanuel's E-Meal program, including what to donate, how to volunteer and the number of meals being served during the crisis.

If you need to contact Pastor John, please call or text his mobile phone at 914-275-3106 or email him at jheidgerd@gmail.com.

God is On The Move - Pointing the Way to the Cross

The foundation of our faith is found in the covenants that God has made with Noah, with Abraham, with David, and the New Covenant made through Jesus. We rest assured that God's covenants are true and will never be broken.

It is that very foundation that sustains us along the journey to the cross – a journey that begins at baptism and continually calls us to renounce ourselves and look to the interests of others. That is the essence of Jesus call to take up our crosses and follow him.

*Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
(Joel 2: 13)*

All are welcome here at Emmanuel regardless of your faith affiliation.

All parts of today's worship service are printed in this bulletin, including words for the songs.

Today's worship is a limited in-person, indoor service. To keep everyone safe, please be mindful of the following protocols:

- 1. Masking is mandatory during all times you are in the church building.**
- 2. Restroom use is limited to one person at a time per restroom. Please follow posted instructions.**
- 3. Seating is configured for social distancing. Please do not change your assigned seat for any reason.**
- 4. We are not permitting congregational singing at this time. To engage with the music, please hum underneath your mask, and pray the lyrics.**
- 5. There will be no pastoral greeting or coffee hour following the service. Please proceed outdoors immediately following the service.**
- 6. Windows and doors must remain open to ensure appropriate ventilation.**

This is a service of Holy Communion. Procedures for the safe distribution of the Lord's Supper may be found on page 8.

THE SERVICE

Fountain of living water,

**pour out your mercy over us.
Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.
Rebuild what we have ruined
and mend what we have torn.
Wash us in your cleansing flood.
Make us alive in the Spirit
to follow in the way of Jesus,
as healers and restorers
of the world you so love.**

Amen.

PRELUDE

TBD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

RESPONSIVE KYRIE (*Spoken*)

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the keeper of the covenant,
the source of steadfast love,
our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

God hears us when we cry and draws us close in
Jesus Christ.

Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

(continued in next column)

Beloved, God's word never fails.
The promise rests on grace:
by the saving love of Jesus Christ,
the wisdom and power of God,
your sins are + forgiven,
and God remembers them no more.

Journey in the way of Jesus.

Amen.

RESPONSIVE KYRIE (SPOKEN)

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

GATHERING SONG

The God of Abraham Praise (831 – v. 1-4,7-8)

1 The God of Abr'ham praise,
who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days,
and God of love--
"I Am the One I Am"--
by earth and heav'n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name
forever blest.

2 The God of Abr'ham praise!
At your supreme command
from earth I rise and seek the joys
at your right hand.
I all on earth forsake--
its wisdom, fame, and pow'r--
and you my only portion make,
my shield and tow'r.

3 The God of Abr'ham praise!
Your all-sufficient grace
shall guide me all my pilgrim days
in all my ways.
You deign to call me friend;
you call yourself my God!
And you will save me to the end
through Jesus' blood.

4 Your promise you have sworn;
I on your oath depend.
I shall, on eagle wings upborne,
to heav'n ascend.
I shall behold your face;
I shall your pow'r adore,
and sing the wonders of your grace
forevermore.

5 Though nature's strength decay,
and earth and hell withstand,
to Canaan's bounds I urge my way
at your command.
The wat'ry deep I pass,
with Jesus in my view,
and through the howling wilderness
my way pursue.

(continued in next column)

6 The goodly land I see,
with peace and plenty blest;
a land of sacred liberty
and endless rest.
There milk and honey flow,
and oil and wine abound,
and trees of life forever grow
with mercy crowned.

7 Before the great Three-One
the saints exulting stand
and tell the wonders God has done
through all their land.
The list'ning spheres attend
and swell the growing fame
and sing the songs which never end,
the wondrous name.

8 The whole triumphant host
give thanks to God on high.
"Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!"
they ever cry.
Hail, Abr'ham's God and mine!
I join the heav'nly lays:
to you be glory, might divine,
and endless praise!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you
all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made
an instrument of shameful death to be for us the
means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of
Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for
the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and
Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

A reading from Genesis.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations.

I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout the generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



PSALM: Psalm 22:23-31

You who fear the LORD, give praise!
All you of Jacob's line, give glory.
Stand in awe of the LORD,
all you offspring of Israel.

**For the LORD does not despise
nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither is the LORD's face
hidden from them;
but when they cry out,
the LORD hears them.**

From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows
in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise!
May your hearts live forever!**

All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations
shall bow before God.

**For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**

Indeed, all who sleep in the earth
shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust,
though they be dead,
shall kneel before the LORD.

**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim
to generations to come.**

They shall proclaim God's deliverance
to a people | yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

**The Lord has acted.
Amen. Amen.**

SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25

A reading from Romans.

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.

No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also.

It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Change My Heart, O God (801)

Refrain

**Change my heart, O God;
make it ever true.**

**Change my heart, O God;
may I be like you.**

You are the potter;

I am the clay.

Mold me and make me;

this is what I pray.

Refrain

GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-38

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.

For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL RESPONSE

Change My Heart, O God (801)

Refrain

**Change my heart, O God;
make it ever true.**

**Change my heart, O God;
may I be like you.**

**You are the potter;
I am the clay.
Mold me and make me;
this is what I pray.**

Refrain

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. John T. Heidgerd

*At conclusion of the sermon, please stand as you are
able for the Hymn of the Day*

HYMN OF THE DAY

In the Cross of Christ I Glory (324)

**1 In the cross of Christ I glory,
tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.**

**2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me;
lo, it glows with peace and joy.**

**3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming
adds more luster to the day.**

**4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

At the end of each petition, the minister will say

"Here us, O God."

The congregation responds:

"Your mercy is great."

SHARING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us now share a sign of God's peace with each other.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

Offerings will not be collected. Please place your offering in the plate on the table at the entrance to the gathering space. Offerings may be submitted electronically using the link on Emmanuel's website, by US Mail, or by delivery to the office during E-Meal distribution hours

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray...

Faithful God,

**you walk beside us in desert places,
and you meet us in our hunger with bread
from heaven.**

**Accompany us in this meal,
that we may pass over from death to life
with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you,
almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (*Spoken*)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he
who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest,
hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

*“Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”*

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

*“This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”*

LORD’S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus draws the whole world to himself.
Come to this meal and be fed.

Thanks be to God.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All God's people are invited by our Lord Jesus Christ to receive Holy Communion.

We receive these gifts of Christ's body and blood in faith, trusting that in this meal our Lord comes to us, forgives our sins, renews us in faith and leads us into new life.

Today, the Lord's Supper will be offered "in one kind", that is with bread alone.

Lutherans have always held that a communion "in one kind" is the same as if both bread and wine are offered.

You will not be asked to come to the altar to receive communion. Instead, the Pastor and Assisting Minister will walk around to each person and offer the sacrament. The Pastor and Assisting Minister will be masked for our protection and will remove a wafer from the chalice using tongs.

If you wish to receive communion, please form a cup with your hands and the wafer will be dropped inside your hands, after which you may consume the wafer.

If you wish to receive gluten-free bread, please signal to the Pastor as he approaches.

If you do not wish to receive Holy Communion, you may receive a brief blessing. As the Pastor approaches, please place your hands across your chest in the form of the St. Andrew's cross. (X)

*(when all have been communed,
please rise as you are able)*



SONGS DURING COMMUNION

*Jesus, Remember Me (Taizé) (616)
(Repeated several times)*

**Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.**

My Faith Looks Up to Thee (759)

**1 My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
take all my guilt away,
oh, let me from this day
be wholly thine!**

**2 May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire;
as thou hast died for me,
oh, may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire!**

**3 While life's dark maze I tread
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.**

**4 When ends life's transient dream,
when death's cold, sullen stream
shall o'er me roll;
blest Savior, then, in love
fear and distrust remove;
oh, bear me safe above,
a ransomed soul!**

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray,

God of steadfast love,

**at this table you gather your people
into one body for the sake of the world.
Send us in the power of your Spirit,
that our lives bear witness
to the love that has made us new
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

BENEDICTION

You are what God made you to be:
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
chosen as holy and beloved,
freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you + that you may be a blessing,
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

Amen.

SENDING SONG (*Verses 1-3*)

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (803)

**1 When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.**

**3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

SENDING SONG (*Verse 4*)

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (803)

**4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

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Emmanuel Worships



An Update from Pastor John

*“Signs of Spring –
Signs of Hope”*

It has really been a return to winter this past month – some of the coldest and snowiest weeks we can remember. I know I’m not alone in saying, “I’m done with winter”. But there have been some hopeful signs this week that warmer, brighter days are ahead.

We’ve had a few sunny, 50 degrees this week and the snow is starting to melt. I’ve seen more people outside walking, and the weekday volume at E-Meal has been on the rise.

Perhaps the most important sign of hope – at least for me – came last Sunday when 32 of us gathered inside for worship for the first time since November. I didn’t know that I’d be so moved when I greeted everyone with my hearty *“Good Morning, Church”*, and then heard an even more robust *“Good Morning”* in response. It really was wonderful to hear that and to gather together – even if it was just with a fraction of the community.

Based on the sign-ups so far this week, we should have at least 40 in attendance on Sunday, and we will also return to in-person gathering for Sunday’s KIDS.

I am hoping and praying that this trend continues with Covid-19 cases on the decline and vaccine rates on the way up. What a wonderful gift it will be for us to be able to gather for Easter with spring flowers abloom, shouting together: *“The Lord has risen, indeed!”*

While that remains our fervent hope, we know that we are not quite out of the woods yet, and we still need to be smart, safe and vigilant over the coming weeks. Even though you’ve read and heard all of this before, I’d still like to remind you of the Covid-19 prevention protocols that are in place to make indoor, in-person worship safe for everyone.

- **Masks** are required while in the building.
- **Socially distanced seating** will be implemented with a sign-up system used as we did in the Fall. Information about how to sign up will be posted each week on Mondays. At this point, we ask that you sign up each and every week you plan to attend worship.
- **Windows will be open** in the sanctuary, and ceiling fans will run for enhanced ventilation. Please dress accordingly. It will be cold.
- Please, **no gathering** before or after the service. Please take your assigned seat in the sanctuary upon arrival and exit directly to the parking lot when the service has ended.
- Restrooms will be for **single person use only**. Please lock the door behind you upon entering the restroom.
- **No congregational singing**. Please feel free to hum and pray the lyrics.
- The Lord’s Supper will be distributed in “one kind”, that is bread alone. Pastor John and the Assisting Minister will bring the bread to those gathered and use tongs to place in cupped hands.
- Much of the service will be spoken, rather than sung, supporting a fitting worship mood in Lent.
- If you are required by PA state law to quarantine, such as if you travelled out of state in the past 14 days, please enjoy the worship service online.
- If you feel sick or are worried about your vulnerability to the virus at this time, please stay home and enjoy the worship service online.

I’m happy to report that thanks to the determination of Fred Crouthamel, the sound feed for our live stream worship service is significantly improved. We are now able to feed and clean the audio through our mixing board and increase the volume from the source. Thanks so much, Fred, for all you do!

It’s so good that we can worship together again, in person, in our beautiful worship space. Let us be thankful that we have such a spacious sanctuary and an understanding community, willing to do what is necessary to make it work for everyone.

May God bless us as we continue walking our Lenten journey together.

+ Pastor John +



Emmanuel Nurtures



Hi Friends!

What is your hometown? Some of us come from Souderton. Some of us from Telford or Harleysville, Hatfield or Lansdale. Pastor John and Ann Marie live in Souderton, but they would say New York is their hometown.

A hometown isn't the place where you were born, but it could be. It isn't the place where you live now, but it could be. A hometown is a special place that helped make you who you are today.

Did you know that Jesus had a hometown too? That's right – Jesus traveled to a lot of places. He was born in Bethlehem. He lived in Egypt for a while. He spent time in Jerusalem, the big city in Israel. But if you asked Jesus what his hometown was, he would have said, Nazareth. Nazareth was where his parents were from - where his brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, and cousins lived. It's where Jesus grew up and learned to be a Carpenter and where he learned to love his family and friends.

It's also where Jesus began his work as a great teacher and prophet and where he told us to love each other, to help each other and care of each other.

Let's get together on Sunday – online at 9:30 AM and in-person at 10 AM - and learn more about Jesus' hometown.

Ms. Ann Marie, Ms. Debbie, Ms. Taylor



Sermon and Study Series for Epiphany and Lent

Where is “God on the Move”
in the world today?

**Here is the tentative schedule of dates and
topics we have planned for our series:**

Sunday Sermon	“God is on the Move” Topic	Wed. Study
2/28/21	Pointing us to the Cross	3/3/21
3/7/21	Making Foolish the Wise	3/10/21
3/14/21	Promising Eternal Life	3/17/21
3/21/21	Drawing All to God	3/24/21
3/28/21	Through His Passion	3/31/21

Get a head start on our discussion.

Take some time today to read:

Mark 8: 31-38

and I Corinthians 1: 10-25

I will send out reminders each week with the information on accessing the online bible studies via Zoom.

Here's the link for next week.

<https://zoom.us/j/3679496334>

Meeting ID: 367 949 6334



**On Facebook
Mon-Sat 8AM**

**“Stay
Connected
to God's
Word”**



Emmanuel Nurtures !

The soul-parched journey of Lent

By: Rev. Stephanie Lape (from Living Lutheran 2/21/21)

I opened the door of the Catholic church where I had worshiped for the past several months, and when I habitually put my fingers in the small vessel that held holy water, I felt sand. I stared at my fingers, wondering what on earth was this. Every time I had attended mass, I enjoyed touching that water, remembering my baptismal identity and feeling refreshed. Now I felt dry, empty, thirsty—even a bit resentful.



I soon found out it was the congregation's Lenten practice to exchange the water for sand in every small vessel at the doors, and even from the larger baptismal font. Each week during **Lent**, I touched the sand; each week the sand bothered me; each week I missed the water and I realized how soul-parched I really was.

The ancient Israelites went down to Egypt during a famine and were graciously offered food, water and life. But soon enough, Israelites outnumbered Egyptians and were enslaved in a land that had once been so welcoming. Through sweat, toil and tears, they were beaten and broken under Pharaoh's lash. They were mistreated, shamed and casually murdered.

This all happened in the desert. Imagine how parched the people of God were there. Sand took the place of water; despair took the place of hope. They prayed that God would remember them, send them a reason to hope again and deliver them out of captivity into the promised land, a place of milk and honey.

Many generations later, Jesus was baptized in the cool water of the Jordan River, then thrust into a wilderness of his own. There he stayed for 40 days—a number signifying great tests and tribulations in

scripture. The sand replaced the water; an empty stomach replaced the abundance; the taunts of the devil himself replaced the dove alighting on Jesus' head and God speaking words of love. Jesus must have remembered the prayer of his forbears in Egypt: "Deliver me from captivity."

The "**wilderness**," the "desert," the "barren place" and the "pit" show up all over Scripture. They are the lost and lonely places, the dry and lifeless places, the places where all seems despairing and lost.

One might think that God either doesn't see or doesn't care. The Israelites were supposed to have been the "chosen people," Jesus was supposed to have been the "beloved Son," we are supposed to be God's children—and yet, sometimes, we find ourselves feeling alone and empty in the desert, don't we?

I can't remember a time our nation has felt so much as if we are walking in a desert. In less than a year, we have lost more than 475,000 human lives to the insidious, invisible COVID-19. We will see the magnitude of the resulting grief only as more years pass. Never have I heard a people, a nation and a world so strongly pray, "Deliver us!" Never have I felt so much as if we are walking through miles of sand, living in a wilderness and feeling the soul-parched journey of Lent.

Every Lent in the congregation where I serve, I empty the baptismal font of water and fill it with sand. I like watching people's reactions when they come forward to receive communion, reach out to touch the water and, as I once did, feel surprise and even thirst when they touch dry sand where water used to be. On our projection screens during Lent, I like to display images of sand and dry brush. The barren landscapes reflect the need in our souls for God, for life, for freedom from any kind of captivity. Desert imagery helps remind us to not take our Savior, Jesus Christ, for granted.

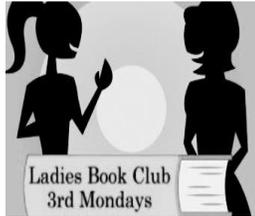
On Easter, we rejoice in the living water we have in Christ. But during Lent, we must remember why we need him in the first place. Encountering the sand is not just an intellectual exercise but a visceral reminder of our need for water, life and salvation. We think we are so powerful, yet we realize we cannot last long without water or the living God.

During Lent, we thirst, we long, we remember, we wait and we cry out, "Oh Lord, how long? Deliver us!"



Emmanuel Nurtures !

Suggestions of Things to "Do" for Lent



Next Meeting
March 15 @ 7PM
Book: *"TBD"*

Join the ladies of Emmanuel for fun conversation and fellowship – and always a good read!

Meet in the 2nd floor choir room.
Please wear your masks and use socially-distanced seating.

For information, e-mail Mary Anne Morral
morral@verizon.net

JESUS' LIST OF CORE VALUES

Do the right things for the right reasons.
Matthew 6:1-4, 5-8

Pray God's agenda, not yours.
Matthew 6:9-13

Forgive others.
Matthew 6:14-15

Prioritize eternal things, not temporal ones.
Matthew 6:19-24

Do not worry.
Matthew 6:25-31

Seek the kingdom first
Matthew 6:33-34

Do not judge others.
Matthew 7:1-5

If you want something, keep asking.
Matthew 7:7-11

Stay true to your convictions.
Matthew 7:13-20

Obey God.
Matthew 7:21-27



Knitters and Crocheters !

"Come and gather to make shawls for those in need of comfort."

Next Meeting: March 7th – 1PM
And every first Sunday of the month.
In Emmanuel's Parlor – safe social distancing

Please wear your mask !

Instruction available for all who are interested.



Emmanuel Nurtures!

The Jewish Festival of Purim It brings with it a tasty treat.

Last Thursday and Friday, our Jewish sisters and brothers celebrated the feast of Purim, a day of remembrance – to mark the deliverance of the Jewish people from the hands of an anti-semitic prime minister of Persia named Haman.

Haman devised a devilish plan to commit genocide against the Jewish people of his time. It was Esther who intervened and stopped the genocide from happening and turned the tables on the evil Haman.

Even though the story of Esther is in our bible, many Christians are not familiar with it, and if they are, they may know a “romanticized version.

The complete and real story of Esther is much darker. It reveals how harshly women were treated at the time. It chronicles the corruption and manipulation of government and power - and even a vengeful and disproportionately violent response once the genocidal plot was uncovered.

It is a story of great courage and Esther is a woman of remarkable intelligence and savvy, using her influence with the King to destroy the plot and deliver her people.

If you have time this week – I invite you to read the book of Esther and take time to think about how the story of Esther has parallels throughout history, even up to the present day.

Here is a nutshell version of the book of Esther.

The Persian Empire of the 4th century BCE extended over 127 lands, and all the Jews were its subjects. When King Ahasuerus (Xerxes) had his wife, Queen Vashti, executed for failing to follow his orders, he arranged a beauty pageant – more of a parade of concubines to the king’s bedroom - to find a new queen. A Jewish girl, Esther, found favor in his eyes and became the new queen, though she refused to divulge her nationality.

Meanwhile, the Jew-hating Haman was appointed prime minister of the empire. Mordechai, the leader of the Jews (and Esther’s cousin), defied the king’s orders and refused to bow to Haman.

Haman was incensed, and he convinced the king to issue a decree ordering the extermination of all the Jews on the 13th of Adar, a date chosen by a lottery Haman made.

Mordechai galvanized all the Jews, convincing them to repent, fast and pray to God. Meanwhile, Esther asked the king and Haman to join her for a feast. At a subsequent feast, Esther revealed to the king her Jewish identity and the king offered to do anything Esther asked him to do. Esther exposed the plot of Haman and asked that her people be delivered.

Outraged, the king had Haman impaled on a pole, Mordechai was appointed prime minister in his stead, and a new decree was issued, granting the Jews the right to defend themselves against their enemies.

On the 13th of Adar (on the Jewish lunar calendar), the Jews mobilized and killed many of their enemies. On the 14th of Adar, they rested and celebrated. In the capital city of Shushan, they took one more day to finish the job.

The name “Purim” comes from a Persian word for lottery, the method by which Haman decided what day he would exterminate all the Jews.

The name then pokes fun at the plot, claiming that God’s will and providence is far greater than any game of chance, and greater than any evil plot to commit genocide.



Purim also brings with it tasty treats known as hamantaschen. You may have seen hamantaschen. They are a triangular shortbread pastry or cookie. Filled with prune, poppy, apricot or other fruit preserves. – delicious!

The shape of the pastry is intended to look like a hat; The 3-cornered hat that Haman was supposed to have worn.

So – on Purim – it is tradition to eat Haman’s hat. And remember his defeat at the hands of the wise and brave Queen Esther.



Emmanuel Nurtures!



We grieve with the family of Patricia Conard who died in Christ on February 15, 2021. Please pray for her family during this time.

Special Prayer Concerns

- + For our Bishop, Rev. Patricia Davenport and her staff.
- + For our nation to overcome its divisions and work together so all may have life and life in abundance.
- + For hurricane victims in Honduras and other Central American countries.
- + For President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris and the new administration.
- + For victims of the Covid-19 pandemic, and for all front-line workers who are caring for those suffering from the Covid-19 virus.
- + For our neighbors experiencing homelessness that they may be warmed during these cold months.
- + For our ministry partners, especially the Garden of Health Food Bank, working to deal with the growing problem of hunger in our area.
- + For victims of extreme winter weather in Texas and parts of the American South.
- + For Covid-19 vaccines to be produced and deployed rapidly across the globe.

For our Homebound Members

Doris Alderfer	Betty Frese
Jacqui Bond	Rita Fritz
Dominick De Salvo	Louella Gehringer
William De Turk	Kathryn Stover
Helen De Turk	Faye Wetzel
Norma Detweiler	Dorothy Wohlgemuth

For Health and Healing Members of Emmanuel

Roy Becker	Faye Landis
Anthony Campolei	Rhys Shelmire
Elaine Cash	Harry Thompson
Marilyn Detwiler	Shirley Treichler
Pat Harpel	Floyd and Ruth Yothers

For Friends of Emmanuel

- Karen Bauer (friend of Deb & Pat McElwee)
- Cathy Busser (friend of Pastor John)
- Donna Clemens (friend of Janel and Barry Gibson)
- Dennis Beer (friend of the Kulps)
- Jim Clark (friend of Caren and Doug Landis)
- Luca Condo (friend of Ruth Miller)
- Alicia and Mike Daniels (friends of Julie Freed)
- Helen Freed (Evan Freed's Grandmother)
- Sharon and John Garner (Jen Casta's Parents)
- Sabrina Haap (Ruth Miller's Niece)
- Hildegard Lamparter (Wife of former Pastor Robert Lamparter)
- Dixie Kephart (Darlene's Mother)
- Marvin Krupp (Friend of Roy Becker)
- Ed Natali (David's Brother)
- Neal Maiers (Friend of Deb & Patrick McElwee)
- Richard Plinke (friend of Gerry and Dave Blaich)
- Alicia Ranberg (Friend of the Crouthamels)
- Ari Richter (Friend of Caren and Doug Landis)
- Stewart Schrauger (Julie Freed's Brother)
- Michael Smith (friend of Cheryl Starke)
- Eric Sykes (Anita & Joe's Son)
- Larry Stout (Friend of Debbie Mc Elwee)
- Pam Valenti (Lou Gehringer's Sister)
- The Vita Family (friends of Jen and Lou Casta)
- Alexander & Sylvia Wagwicz (Friends of DeSalvos)
- Suzanne Willauer (Ed Cash's Sister)
- Chase Ziegler (Christman's Great-Grandson)

For Those Away at School Samantha Plinke

In order to keep our Prayer List up to date, names will remain for four weeks unless otherwise notified



Emmanuel Serves !



Over 80,000 Meals Handed Up Thanks Be To God!

With the weather getting warmer and brighter, it has been a busy week at Emmanuel's E-Meal ministry. It snuck up on us a bit on Friday when we realized that we were closing in on our latest milestone – 80,000 Meals. It seemed like just a few days ago when we hit the last milestone of 75,000.

80,000 meals in our 50th week of ministry since we started last March. That is an average of over 1600 meals per week. Thank God that Emmanuel has stepped up and lead a community forward in saying NO – Nobody should ever go hungry in the Indian Valley.

I know it sounds a bit awkward to celebrate a number which marks how many people are hungry in our region. But we are not celebrating the poverty we observe, we are giving thanks to a generous and gracious God who works God's will through us to meet the needs and share the love of Christ with all who come to us in need.

And we will go on celebrating and giving thanks to God in all things. As we approach our 1 year anniversary – March 16, 2021 – I invite you to join us during E-Meal week, which will run from Sunday, March 15th to Sunday, March 22nd. During that week, we will conduct food drives, special distributions, and thanksgivings for partners, volunteers, donors, and the love of God.

Stay tuned as plans are developing for a week in celebration of ministry – and a week of prayer that there will come a point where our ministry will no longer be needed, and we know everyone is being fed in our community.

This week our refrigerators and freezers are once again filled with good food, as we get ready for the weekend and Saturday's family box distribution. Here's a snapshot of what we are offering with each box, containing enough food for at least 20 meals – and all donated through our relationships with the Garden of Health Food Bank, The Shepherd's Shelf, the USDA and Alderfer Poultry farms.

- Marinated chicken – 5# bags
- Package of hot dogs
- 64 oz of plain or vanilla yogurt
- Gallon of milk
- Package of shredded or sliced cheese.
- Fresh potatoes – 5# bag
- Fresh apples – 4# bag
- Fresh onions – 3# bag
- One dozen fresh eggs.

Other than Pastor John's and Mike Shoemaker's involvement with the E-Meal program we are 100% volunteer led and staffed. We rely on great people from this great community to sustain the E-Meal ministry for the long-haul.

If you'd like to experience this great ministry first-hand, we are always in need of more people to serve. We have a special need on Wednesday's at this time since that is when we receive a large portion of our food for the weekend distribution.

Please take time today and sign up to volunteer. Signing up is easy, and volunteering is safe, with many COVID prevention protocols in place. Click the following link to sign up.

<https://rb.gy/47vkgh>

And, if you are able to support the E-Meal ministry financially, please click here for a link to do so easily and securely:

[Online Giving to Emmanuel](#)
(bit.ly/3iRyXn2)

Thanks be to God!
+ Pastor John +



Emmanuel Reaches Out !

Emmanuel's Lent 2020 Campaign Support Hurricane Relief - Honduras

The relief effort is underway at Emmanuel. We are providing space for the local relief efforts to store and package supplies while they accumulate enough to send via a shipping container. We are offering our stage as a place where the relief operations can be coordinated. The first large delivery of supplies arrived on Sunday, Feb 14 – a large truckload unloaded by Jimmy Trochez and his team of hard working friends.



Jimmy and his wife Jessmy, who spoke to us back in December, are leading the local collection efforts. They are so passionate and committed to helping people

in their former homeland of Honduras

The damage from last summer's hurricanes was so widespread that it is estimated that \$1.9 billion was lost in Honduras alone. We are helping stage what would be the fourth shipping container to be sent to Honduras from our area.



There will be a time in the coming weeks where we will ask for volunteers to help pack up those supplies and maybe donate some as well.

Emmanuel will also be taking an inventory of excess supplies and furnishings which can be shipped to Honduras and given to people who need them and can use them.

Between now and Easter, please consider a financial gift to support the hurricane relief efforts. The form to memorialize those gifts is in the next column.

It's my hope and prayer that our generosity will flourish in the face of such dire need and we might be able to raise \$5,000 to help the people of Honduras recover from their losses.

Hurricane Relief Donation Form

Please return to church office no later than April 15, 2021

Donation - \$ _____
(Enclose check or cash donation)

Please check 1 or more, and write neatly for bulletin acknowledgement

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

In Thankfulness to God for _____

Given By: _____



Emmanuel Reaches Out !

Emmanuel Hosts Monthly Community Blood Drive



On Tuesday, February 23, Emmanuel hosted its monthly blood drive event with its partners, the Miller-Keystone Blood Group and the Indian Valley Chamber of Commerce.

It was a successful even with 17 units of blood donated, including 2-units of red blood cells coming from Pastor John, and another 2 coming from the Chamber's Executive Director, Steve Hunsburger.

That's Pastor John in the photo, hooked up to a machine that allows him to give 2 units of red blood cells. His blood travels through a tube, into a centrifuge where the red cells are separated into two separate bags. The machine then returns the plasma and other elements back to the blood stream.

The process is a bit longer than a normal whole blood donation, but it is every bit as safe and PJ had no ill effects from having done it. He really just did it for the cookies!

Aside from the obvious benefit of double volume, the process helps the person who is receiving the

blood as it is always safer if someone needs two units, to get them from the same donor.

In addition to whole blood donations and double red blood cell donations, Miller Keystone is also accepting donations of Covid-Convallescent Plasma (CCP). CCP is used to help in the recovery of Covid-19 patients. To donate, you must have had Covid-19, it must be remitted, and you must have a certification from your doctor.

We will be doing these blood drive events every month until further notice. They will be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 2PM-7PM in the upstairs classroom at Emmanuel. Sign up is easy on the Miller Keystone website. We'll post the link when it becomes available.

The next blood drive will be on Tuesday, March 23rd from 2PM to 7PM. Meanwhile, here some

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

WHOLE BLOOD DONORS

When you give a pint of blood it can be transfused in its original form or separated into its specific components of red cells, plasma and platelets to help multiple patients. Whole blood is frequently given to trauma patients and people undergoing surgery.

DOUBLE RED CELL DONORS

If you are type O+, O-, A-, B-, please consider making double red cell donation. When you donate "doubles" you give two units of red blood cells in one appointment. Your fluids, plasma, and platelets are returned to your body. Note: Additional minimum weight eligibility requirements apply for double red cells donors. For more information call 800-B-A-DONOR.

CONVALESCENT PLASMA DONORS

If you've recovered from COVID-19, your antibody-rich plasma, called Convalescent Plasma, could help someone fighting the disease. If you've been symptom-free for 14 days or more, please go to GIVEaPINT.org/covid-plasma and fill out an application so we can verify your eligibility. If you are a returning Convalescent Plasma donor, please call 1-800-B-A-DONOR to schedule your appointment.

BLOOD DONORS SAVE LIVES

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

2nd Floor Classroom
69 W Broad Street, Souderton

To schedule an appointment visit
GIVEaPINT.org and use Sponsor Code 8675
Or Call 1-800-B-A-DONOR

IF YOU RECEIVED THE COVID-19 VACCINE

Individuals who received or will be receiving the COVID-19 vaccine must wait **two (2) weeks** after each dose before donating whole blood, platelets or plasma. Individuals receiving the COVID-19 vaccine are not eligible to donate Convalescent Plasma (CCP).



**additional information about the blood drive and
how to get in contact with Miller-Keystone.**

QUEEN ESTHER

The king said again to Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, "What is your petition, queen Esther? It shall be granted you. What is your request? Even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed." Then Esther the queen answered, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request. – Esther 7:2-3





Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday Schedule effective 2/28/21

Online Sunday's KIDS – 9:30 AM
Online and In-Person Worship – 10:00 AM
Sunday's KIDS In Person – 10:00 AM

Contact Us:

69 W. Broad Street • Souderton, PA 18964
Church Telephone: 215-723-7514

Email: Emmanuel@emmanuellutheranchurch.net

Website: www.emmanuellutheranchurch.net

Facebook.com/EmmanuelSouderton

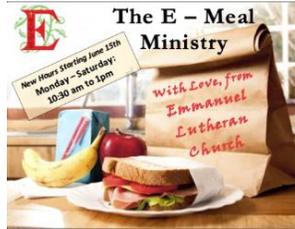
Church Staff

Reverend John T. Heidgerd, Pastor
Mobile Phone: 1-914-275-3106

Email Address: jheidgerd@gmail.com

Rev. Richard G. Miller, Jr., Pastor Emeritus
Marlene H. Natali, Parish Deacon
Michael Shoemaker, Facilities Manager

*Bulletin Sponsorships Available
For 2021*



E-Meal Volunteers – Please sign up online

<https://rb.gy/47vkgh>



What's Happening @ Emmanuel

2/28/2021 - 3/7/2021

Sun 02/28	9:30 AM 10:00 AM	Second Sunday of Lent "In-Person" "Worship" Sunday's KIDS (Online) Worship service (In-Person and Online)
Mon 3/1	8:00 AM 10:30 AM – 1PM 5:30 PM 8:00 PM	Morning GodCast E-Meal Distribution Bushi Karate AA Meeting
Tue 3/2	8:00 AM 10:30 AM – 1PM 5:30 PM	Morning GodCast E-Meal Distribution Bushi Karate
Wed 3/3	8:00 AM 10:30 AM – 1PM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM	Morning GodCast E-Meal Distribution Bushi Karate God is on the Move Bible Study (via Zoom)
Thu 3/4	8:00 AM 10:30 AM – 1PM 5:30 PM	Morning GodCast E-Meal Distribution Bushi Karate
Fri 3/5	8:00 AM 10:30 AM – 1PM	Morning GodCast E-Meal Distribution
Sat 3/6	8:00 AM 10:30 AM – 1PM	Morning GodCast E-Meal Distribution
Sun 3/7	9:30 AM 10:00 AM	Third Sunday of Lent Sunday's KIDS (Online) Sunday's KIDS (in-Person) Worship service (In-Person and Online)

Bible Quiz

What seemingly small act did Jesus specifically say would be rewarded?

- A. Giving a child a toy
- B. Giving a lost traveler directions
- C. Giving someone a cup of cold water
- D. Giving a sad person a hug



Answer: C (See Matthew 10:42.)