

Welcome to Emmanuel !

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

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>

By attending this worship service, you agree to be photographed or included on video recordings and Emmanuel Lutheran Church reserves the right to include your image or likeness in promotional material, in print or online, related to its mission and ministry.

Please check the Facebook Page or Website for ongoing updates of all the great things happening at Emmanuel, including Pastor John's daily GodCasts.

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.

Introduction to the Day

Stories in the bible that tell of the miraculous return of sight are not just tales of healing blindness, but of enlightenment – of seeing life anew because of some event or revelation that has taken place.

The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind who was healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declared the man whose eyes were opened to new life. Enlightenment, however, was not limited only to the man who was healed. Others who witnessed it had their eyes opened too – to the truth about sin, and to the truth that faith in Jesus brings healing and new insight that was not there before.

"Return to the Lord, your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

(Joel 2: 12)

"It is wonderful to worship with you today!"

Today is a Praise Emmanuel Sunday!

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. If you would like to sing with music, books are provided in the racks on the back of the seat in front of you. The song or page number is provided for easy look up.

If you are a visitor worshipping with us today, we are blessed by your presence. Please sign the guest book in the Gathering Space, so we can keep in touch.

This is a service of Holy Communion. All God's people are invited to the table by our Lord Jesus Christ. You will find instructions for Holy Communion later in the bulletin.

Restrooms are located in the hall off the Gathering Space immediately to the left. Please see a member of our host families for assistance.

Parents with children are welcome to use the children's activity bags, located by the entrance to the Worship Space. If needed, our nursery room is at the end of the hall off the Gathering Space, and may be used with appropriate supervision.

Please silence your phones, but feel free to post pictures, videos, tweets or texts to social media. We love using technology to share the Word of God!

THE SERVICE

PRELUDES – Led by “Praise Emmanuel”

Open The Eyes of My Heart – P. Baloche

Open the eyes of my heart Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

Open the eyes of my heart Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy holy holy

Repeat

Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
I want to see You

Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
I want to see You

The Heart Of Worship – M. Redman

1 When the music fades all is stripped away
And I simply come
Longing just to bring something that's of worth
That will bless Your heart

I'll bring You more than a song
For a song in itself
is not what You have required
You search much deeper within
Through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart

I'm coming back to the heart of worship
And it's all about You all about You Jesus
I'm sorry Lord for the thing I've made it
When it's all about You all about You Jesus

2 King of endless worth no one could express
How much You deserve
Though I'm weak and poor all I have is Yours
Ev'ry single breath

I'll bring You more than a song
For a song in itself
is not what You have required
You search much deeper within
Through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart

I'm coming back to the heart of worship
And it's all about You all about You Jesus
I'm sorry Lord for the thing I've made it
When it's all about You all about You Jesus

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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Holy God,

**we confess to you our faults and failings.
Too often we neglect
and do not trust your holy word;
we take for ourselves
instead of giving to others;
we spoil rather than steward your creation;
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;
we choose fear over compassion.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
as we seek to follow in your way of life.**

Amen.

Hear the good news:
God so loved the world that God gave his only Son,
so that all may receive life.
This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,
+ forgives you in Christ's name,
and revives you in the Spirit's power.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

He Has Made Me Glad (WP 54)

**I will enter His gates
with thanksgiving in my heart
I will enter His courts with praise
I will say this is the day
that the Lord has made
I will rejoice for He has made me glad**

**He has made me glad,
He has made me glad
I will rejoice for he has made me glad
He has made me glad,
He has made me glad
I will rejoice for he has made me glad**

**He has made me glad,
He has made me glad
I will rejoice for he has made me glad
He has made me glad,
He has made me glad
I will rejoice for he has made me glad**

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.
Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come
among us. By your gracious life and death for us,
bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint
us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the
Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: I Samuel 16: 1-13

A reading from I Samuel

The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.”

Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 42

“As the Deer” – M. Nystrom

**1 As the deer panteth for the water
So my soul longeth after Thee
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee**

Chorus

**You alone are my strength my shield
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee**

**2 You're my friend and You are my brother
Even though You are a King
I love You more than any other
So much more than anything**

Chorus

**3 I want You more than gold or silver
Only You can satisfy
You alone are the real joygiver
And the apple of my eye**

Chorus

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SECOND READING: Ephesians 5: 8-14

A reading from Ephesians.

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Open Our Eyes, Lord (WP 113)

**Open our eyes, Lord
We want to see Jesus
To reach out and touch him
And say that we love him.**

**Open our ears, Lord
And help us to listen
Open our eyes, Lord
We want to see Jesus.**

GOSPEL: John 9: 1-41

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam". Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?"

And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL RESPONSE

Open Our Eyes, Lord (WP 113)

Open our eyes, Lord
We want to see Jesus
To reach out and touch him
And say that we love him.

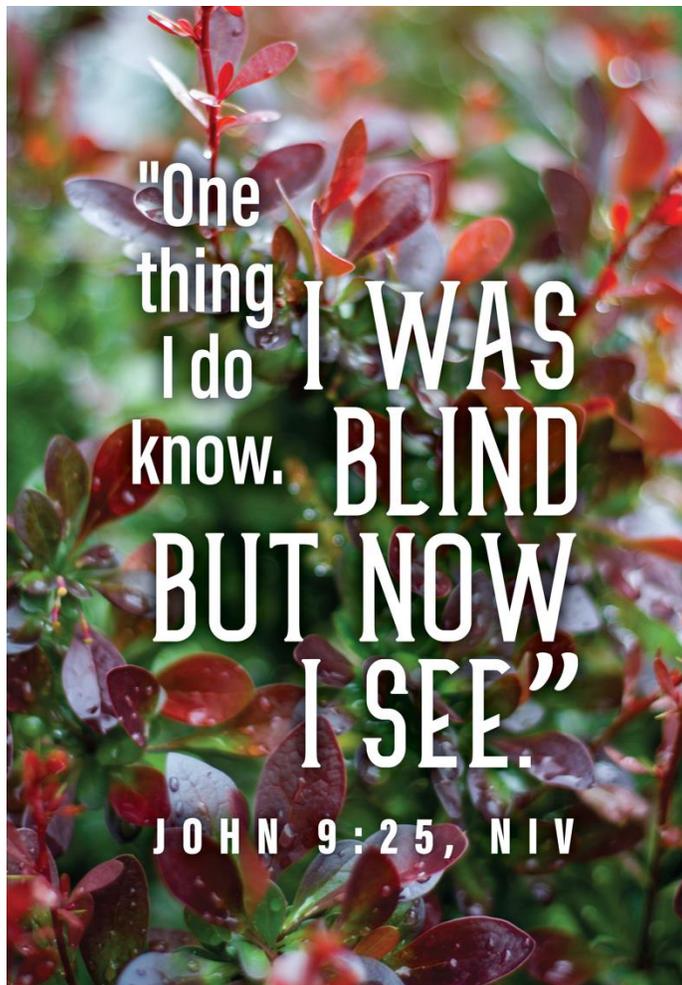
Open our ears, Lord
And help us to listen
Open our eyes, Lord
We want to see Jesus.

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. John T. Heidgerd

Please stand as you are able.



HYMN OF THE DAY

Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)

- C. Tomlin, J. Newton, L. Giglio

1 Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Chorus

My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace

3 The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

Chorus

Repeat Chorus

4 The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

At the end of each petition, the minister will say

"God have mercy"

The congregation responds:

"Lord, have mercy."

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.

MISSION MOMENT

Dylan Drissel – Eagle Scout Project

OFFERING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING SONG

We are an Offering (WP 146)

**We lift our voices, we lift our hands
We lift our lives up to you
We are an offering.**

**Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands.
Lord, use our lives, they are yours
We are an offering**

**All that we have. All that we are.
All that we hope to be
We give to you. We give to you.**

**We lift our voices, we lift our hands
We lift our lives up to you
We are an offering.
We are an offering.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Together, Let us pray.

**God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.
through Christ Jesus,
the wellspring of eternal life.**

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 during Lent)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven 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.**

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

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

Thanks be to God.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

**Thank you Pat McElwee
for baking and donating
the communion bread
we are using for
Lent and Easter**

*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 with both
bread and wine. Lutherans hold to the
understanding that Christ's Real Presence in body
and blood is there with the bread and wine and the
gathered community of saints.*

*Please approach the chancel area, starting with the
first row and using the middle aisle. All wine or
grape juice is in individual cups.
On your way to the chancel area, please pick up a
cup of wine or grape juice.*

*Then proceed to the Pastor or Assisting Minister
where you will receive a communion wafer.*

*The Pastor or Assisting Minister will place the wafer
in your cupped hand, after which you may consume
the wafer, and the wine or juice
in your individual cup.*

*As you return to your seat via the side aisles, please
deposit the used communion cup
in the designated container.*

*If you wish to receive gluten-free bread, please
signal to the Pastor or Asst. Minister.*

*If you do not wish to receive Holy Communion, you
may receive a brief blessing. As you approach,
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)

SONG DURING COMMUNION

Jesus, Remember Me (WP 78)

(Repeat Several Times)

**Jesus, remember me
When you come into your Kingdom
Jesus, remember me
When you come into your Kingdom**

SONG DURING COMMUNION

One Bread, One Body (WP 111)

Refrain

**One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
one cup of blessing which we bless,
and we, though many
throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.**

**1 Gentile or Jew,
servant or free,
woman or man, no more.**

Refrain

**2 Many the gifts,
many the works,
one in the Lord of all.**

Refrain

**3. Grain for the fields,
scattered and grown,
gathered to one for all.**

Refrain

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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.

Embodied God,

at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

Amen.

BLESSING

God, the giver of love,
+ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.

Amen.



Assisting in Worship

Host Families – Kathy Becker, Marlene & Dave Natali

Leading and Preaching – Pastor John

Assisting Minister – Dave Blaich

Music Leader – Doug Landis

Singers – Merrill Christman, Julie Freed, Caren Landis

Sound – Fred Crouthamel

Video – Dominic Higgins

Sunday's KIDS Staff – Carole Darragh,
Ann Marie Heidgerd

SENDING SONG

Shout to the North – M. Smith

**1 Men of faith rise up and sing
Of the great and glorious King
You are strong when you feel weak
In your brokenness complete**

Chorus

**Shout to the north and the south
Sing to the east and the west
Jesus is Savior to all
Lord of heaven and earth**

**2 Rise up women of the truth
Stand and sing to broken hearts
Who can know the healing pow'r
Of our awesome King of love**

Chorus

**We've been through fire
We've been through rain
We've been refined
By the pow'r of His name
We've fallen deeper in love with You
You've burned the truth on our lips**

Chorus

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

SENDING SONG (cont'd)

Shout to the North – M. Smith

**3 Rise up church with broken wings
Fill this place with songs again
Of our God who reigns on high
By His grace again we'll fly**

Chorus

**Lord of heaven and earth
Lord of heaven and earth
Lord of heaven and earth**

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Easter Flowers

**Order your
Memorial
Easter Flowers
Today**

*Please return to church office no later than
Sunday, April 2.*

Number of plants _____ @ \$15 each = \$_____

Additional Memorial Gift - \$_____

E-Meal

Turkey/Syria Relief

Worship Fund

Total Gift \$_____

(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:

Following the Sunday, April 9 Service:

I would like to take the flowers home.

Please donate to a homebound member.



Emmanuel Worships

HOLY WEEK 2023 THE WAY TO THE CROSS

April 2 – 9, 2023
All events at Emmanuel



**Palm and
Passion Sunday**
April 2 – 10 AM
Dramatic Reading of
St. Matthew's Passion

Good Friday - April 7

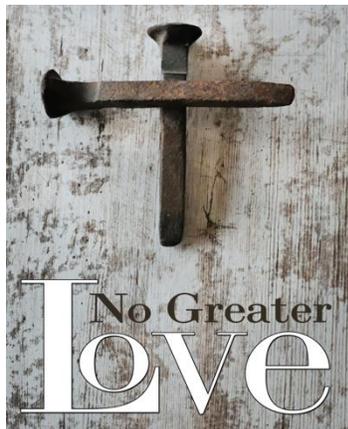
Stations of the Cross

*"Follow the Way
of Sorrows"*

6AM – 7PM

*Self-guided devotions
and meditations.*

Online Devotions
6AM – 7PM
(On the hour)



Joint Worship with
Zwingli - 7PM

*Remembrance of
Foot Washing

*Holy Communion

*Last Words of Christ
from the Cross

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Information
on Choirs and Special Music
for Holy Week and Easter



Choir Rehearsals

Yes – we will have special service music
for Holy Week and Easter this year!

We are grateful to Janet Aldinger who
has agreed to organize voice choir, bell
choir and special music for the season.

Choir Rehearsals are scheduled
for the following dates:

March 16

March 23

March 30

April 6

Bell Choir 6:30

Voice Choir 7:30

To help Janet select and plan
appropriate music,
please sign up at our
SignUp Genius Page

[CLICK HERE](#)

Or go to:

<http://bit.ly/3J18ZxK>



Emmanuel Worships



Praying The Psalms of Lent Psalm 42

Today in worship, we will sing a beautiful version of this wonderful Psalm 42. It may be my favorite of all the Psalms – more so even than the better-known Psalm 23 – “The Lord is my Shepherd”.

It is the perfect Psalm for Lent because it expresses a deep thirst and longing for God. I’ve mentioned before that the length, cold and darkness of winter depresses me at times, and as we enter Lent, I’m looking for a way to break through the sadness that enters my heart during winter.

Through the gray and listless skies and the drabness of the landscape, by Lent, I find myself longing for life, longing for color, longing to feel happy again. It does my heart a world of good when signs of life emerge – early daffodil and crocus blooms, an unusually warm day, even daylight savings time uplifts my countenance as I know winter is ending.

Psalm 42 was not written as an expression of winter blues - but it does remind me that I’m not alone in feeling this way. I’m not the only one who questions why my soul gets downcast. I’m not the only one who looks for God’s presence in the midst of sadness. I’m not the only one who thirsts for the living God in the midst of the signs of death. And it doesn’t have to only be the dead of winter for that to happen.

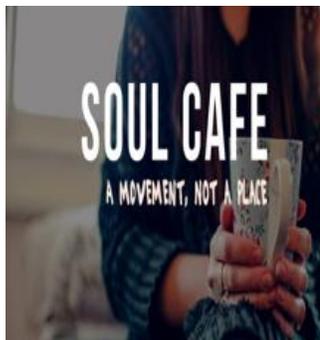
Psalm 42 also reminds me that there is hope – that the sadness that wells in me is only temporary and will eventually lift. Praying Psalm 42 calls me to remember that the Lord’s creation is alive and renewing itself, even when the signs of death are all around us. We can remember times when the world was teeming with life and joy, and we can be assured that those times will come again.

I know winter isn’t done with us yet. As I write this column, snow flurries are being tossed about in the gusty March wind. But I also know that my downcast soul won’t stay there forever because I hold to my hope in the God that is busy getting ready for life to burst forth anew.

+ Pastor John +

¹ As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, my God.
² My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.
When can I go and meet with God?
³ My tears have been my food day and night,
while people say to me all day long,
“Where is your God?”
⁴ These things I remember as I pour out my soul:
how I used to go to the house of God
under the protection of the Mighty One
with shouts of joy and praise
among the festive throng.
⁵ Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will praise him,
my Savior and my God.
⁶ My soul is downcast within me; therefore
I will remember you from the land of the Jordan,

the heights of Hermon—
from Mount Mizar.
⁷ Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls;
all your waves and breakers
have swept over me.
⁸ By day the Lord directs his love, at night his song is with me—
a prayer to the God of my life.
⁹ I say to God my Rock,
“Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I go about mourning,
oppressed by the enemy?”
¹⁰ My bones suffer mortal agony
as my foes taunt me,
saying to me all day long,
“Where is your God?”
¹¹ Why, my soul, are you downcast?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God.



**On Facebook
Mon-Sat 8AM**
*“Stay
Connected
to God’s
Word”*



Emmanuel Worships

Church Council Update

from Jen Casta,
Council President



Greetings to all of Emmanuel's members and friends, and the peace of the Lord be with you in your Lenten journey.

In January, we welcomed Ginger Hoyt, Alison Laird, Liesl Stroup, and Hayden Snyder to our 2023 Council team. We began this year with some reflections about our roles as members and leaders at Emmanuel and will discuss together how to continue to move forward in faith and mission at Emmanuel, in the Souderton community and connected to the ELCA, and our global ministries. At our February meeting, we had a deep and productive discussion about the scope and scale of our building restoration projects. As you can see, scaffolding is up on the West side of the building so that repairs can be made to ensure proper structural support for the sanctuary, and to correct additional safety related issues such as the sidewalk between the building and Meleny's House and the stairwell that provides access to "Room A"

Recall from our October 2022 congregational meeting that the current work is just the first part of potential additional phases of exterior repair work that we need to consider for the sanctuary. As we consider this, we are thinking about the long-term (10, 30, even 50 years) needs for the building in total, and in doing so, we are looking ahead to ministry growth and changes to evaluate the nature

and type of building that will be needed to "house" Emmanuel's ministries. We have indeed become Souderton's Community Church, with E-meal being the core ministry and with people serving the Lord in many ways within our current building.

I encourage our Council, and our congregation, always to keep mission first. As we are called to grow and develop our mission, we need to grow and develop our building to fit the mission. However, we can also imagine mission growth outside of our existing walls at 69 W. Broad Street.

Should we consider a new location with a modern, energy efficient design, and with different maintenance needs? If so, how do we honor the traditions and meanings of our current sanctuary and building? Should we begin a capital campaign for both repair and redesign of parts of our building, something that would require long-term funding and management? How can we determine the best plan for mission and building to complement each other, and how can we sustain this decision to ensure Emmanuel continues to meet the needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ and in community?

While these questions can be daunting, they also present an exciting opportunity for us to shape our future. Time is needed to prayerfully consider our next steps and our long-term plan for engagement and support of mission and assets. I am thankful for all our Council and congregation members who are prepared to tackle these discussions and commit to a course of action that follows our call from God to love and serve our neighbors.

Please pray for all our leaders at Emmanuel as we strive to continue to Make Christ Known.

Jen



**Emmanuel
Nurtures !**

**Children and Youth
Ministries at Emmanuel**

**+ Sunday's
KIDS**

**“A Different Kind of
Sunday School”**



Last week SUNDAY'S KIDS learned about Jesus “the vine” and how we can grow in God’s love by staying connected to the Vine that provides us with all the nourishment we need to live and love others.

Just one of the many ways in which SUNDAY'S KIDS are learning about how God blesses us as they grow into mighty people of faith.

Sundays at 10 AM

You don't want to miss
SUNDAY'S KIDS !

**Next Event,
Friday, April 14
6PM – 8PM**

(2nd Friday in April due to Good Friday falling on 4/7)

Spring Activity

**We'll update you with plans
once they are finalized.**

For middle and high school youth.
Fun – Faith – Friends

Every First Friday of the month!

Contact Amanda Higgins
for details.

Mark your Calendars
for upcoming “First Friday” events:

April 14* (2nd Friday)

May 5

June 2

July 6



Emmanuel
Nurtures !

Returning to Emmanuel
Another great community event
And it's all FREE



Saturday, April 1
Time: 2PM - 4PM

FREE

Community Event
All are Welcome!
Rain or Shine

So Many Fun Activities

Balloon Artist

Face Painting

Easter Scavenger Hunt

Make Easter Crafts

Easter Piñata

Photos with the
Easter Bunny

And More!



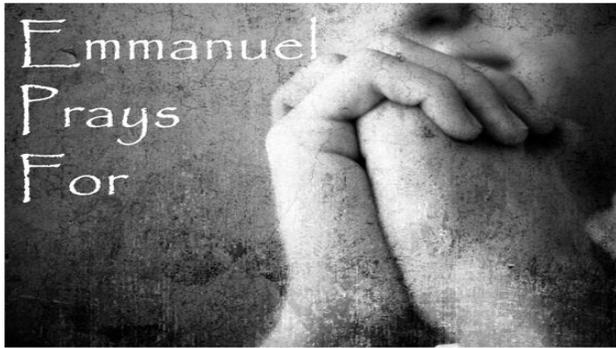
DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

For Craft Stations, Face Painting
Refreshment Stand, Snacks, Water

[CLICK HERE](http://bit.ly/3SIjglC) to Sign Up or go to: <http://bit.ly/3SIjglC>



Emmanuel Nurtures !



- + For our Bishop, Rev. Patricia Davenport and her staff. For Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and the ELCA Churchwide staff.
- + For all of us who don't see the world the way Jesus sees the world to be healed of our blindness and the ways in which we exclude, hurt and judge others.
- + For those who are suffering after the historic earthquake in Turkey, Syria and other parts of Eastern Asia. For humanitarian aid to break through any barriers preventing help to those in need.
- + For an end to the war in the Ukraine, now over one year long, and for both sides to resolve to live peacefully in the future. For help to those who have lost so much during the war.
- + In thanksgiving for the desks being built to support students in Santa Barbara, Honduras.
- + In thanksgiving for God's guiding spirit and providence as we celebrate three years of E-Meal Ministry in gratitude for donors, volunteers and community partners.
- + For the Holy Spirit to continue to lead Emmanuel in mission and ministry and open up new ways to share God's love to all through service to others.

For Members Serving in the Military

Philip Coll – if you want to send a message, letter, or a care package to Phil, please use this address:

**P.O. Box 8454
Cheyenne, WY 82003**

For our Homebound Members

Helen De Turk Louella Gehringer	Faye Landis Dorothy Rodemer	Faye Wetzel
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For Health and Healing Members of Emmanuel

Anthony Campolei Elaine Cash Bill Darragh	Marilyn Detwiler Lester Hallman Nate Wherry	Floyd Yothers Ruth Yothers
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For Friends of Emmanuel

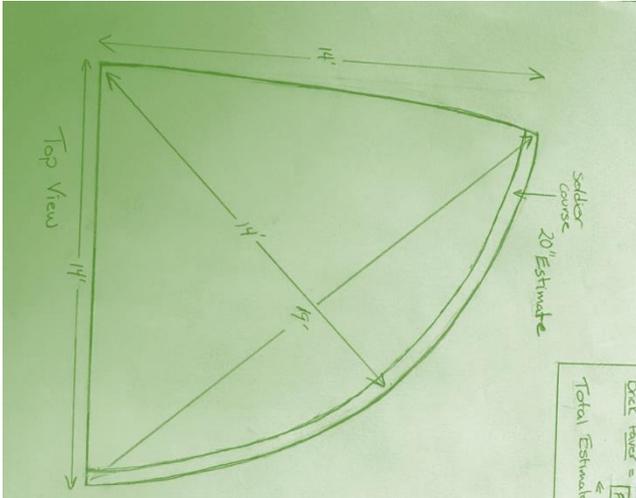
- Erin Bauer (friend of Alison Laird)
- John Becker Sr. (Kathy Becker's father-in-law)
- Dennis Beer (friend of the Kulpes)
- Craig Benner (Vanessa Benner's father-in-law)
- Frank Birchill (E-Meal client)
- Lee Bruder (friend of the Koinonia Group)
- Josh Butler (friend of the Mc Elwees)
- Luca Condo (friend of Ruth Miller)
- Alicia and Mike Daniels (friends of Julie Freed)
- Lou Farrell (Director of Bread Drop Ministries)
- Sharon and John Garner (Jen Casta's Parents)
- Collins Gibson (Grandniece of Rev. Serena Sellers)
- Sabrina Haap (Ruth Miller's Niece)
- Eric Heckler (Grandson of Gloria & Gerry Heckler)
- Mary Rose Himes (friend of Pastor John)
- Everitt Hicks (Donna House's grandson)
- Juliet Himes (Mary Rose's daughter)
- Charlotte Hunsberger (Friend of Pastor John)
- Tammy Houston (sister of MCIU teacher, Miss Sharon)
- Ed Ianarelli (friend of the Harubins)
- Alan Keel (friend of Caren and Doug Landis)
- Tom Krupp (Friend of the Beckers)
- Hildegard Lamparter (Mother of Priscilla Lamparter)
- Ella Grace Lankford (Friend of the Blaichs)
- Valerie Landis (daughter-in-law of Caren and Doug Landis)
- Bill Marley (Juanita Marley's husband)
- Christopher Marley (Son of Juanita Marley)
- Marley Mason (Christman's newest great-grandson)
- Ed Natali (David's Brother)
- Katie Parsons (Friend of the McElwees)
- Connie Petrie (Friend of the Harubins)
- Patrick Family (Friends of Julie Freed)
- Christine and Jack Quigg (Friends of the Crouthamels)
- 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)
- Eleanor Steinhilber (friend of Ruth Miller)
- Rev. Erika Wesch (pastor at Little Zion)
- Shelby Winters (Friend of Cheryl Starke)

Please help us manage the prayer list by letting us know when God has granted healing and wholeness so we can rejoice and remove a name that no longer needs to be especially recognized.



Emmanuel Nurtures!

Eagle Scout Project To Improve Emmanuel's Courtyard



The first thing most of us want to ask is *"How did he grow up so fast"*? Our own **Dylan Drissel** turns 18 on April 11 and is intent on becoming an Eagle Scout – the capstone on a young life devoted to learning the skills and values of the Boy Scouts of America.

We are blessed that Dylan has chosen to work with Emmanuel on his Eagle Scout project - an improvement to the courtyard between the parking lot and the entrance to the gathering space. Over the next several weeks, the northwest corner section of the courtyard will be transformed into a brick patio with two benches to provide outdoor seating in the area. The project will help transform the courtyard into more of a gathering area for outdoor fellowship and worship when the weather warms up.

Dylan joins us today in worship to talk about the project and about what it means for him to become an Eagle Scout. He is planning to have the project wrapped up in time to be used for Easter Sunday!



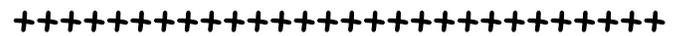
**First and Third
Sundays**
Starting at 9AM
In Emmanuel's
Parlor

"The Hymns of Comfort"

Join with friends as we discuss the history of some of these great hymns, and think of them in new and exciting ways:

Spring Schedule:

- March 19 – "Comfort, Comfort, Now My People"
- April 2 – *Palm/Passion Sunday Break*
- April 16 – "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"
- May 7 – "I Know That My Redeemer Lives"
- May 21 – "Come Gracious Spirit,
Heav'nly Dove"



Knitters and Crocheters

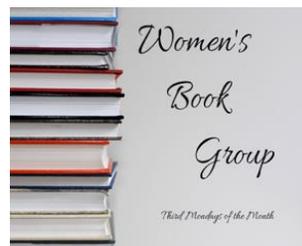
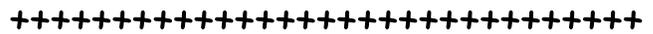


*"Come and gather
to make shawls
for those in need
of comfort."*

Next Meeting: April 2 – 1PM
And every first Sunday of the month

In Emmanuel's Parlor

Instruction available for all who are interested.



Next Meeting

TOMORROW,
March 20, - 7PM

"Apples Never Fall"
Liane Moriarty

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

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



Emmanuel Serves !



Emmanuel E-Meal Update 355,000 Meals “Handed Up” Three Years of Service! Thanks be to GOD!

SUNDAY’s KIDS are all smiles in celebration of the third anniversary of Emmanuel’s E-Meal Ministry. E-Meal was “born” on March 16, 2020 the earliest and most uncertain days of the Covid-19 pandemic.

When we were faced with “shelter-in-place” restrictions in early March 2020, Emmanuel didn’t just decide to shut everything down. Instead of all the worries about what we weren’t going to be able to do, a group of committed members asked a better question - “What CAN we do?”

Out of that spirit, E-Meal was started with the idea that we could still help people in need, and do so safely, by offering a bagged meal with a contactless distribution process. We handed out 34 meals on the first day, 30 more on the second day, and then as word travelled about what we were doing, we never looked back. Three years later, we have “handed up” over 355,000 meals, raised over \$140,000, logged about 20,000 volunteer hours – and most importantly – we helped a community see that there was more poverty – more people in need – than anyone realized. We showed the Indian Valley Community that there was a need for a daily food ministry, and the Community has responded – acting decisively and generously to say “NO” to hunger in the Indian Valley.

As we enter our fourth year of serving, we don’t see the need slowing down any time soon. While the immediate danger of the pandemic seems to be behind us, we are living in a time of aftermath – and specifically the inflation that has resulted from the artificial economic supports that helped us in the short-run, but have now left families – already facing food insecurity – with constantly rising prices for the most staple food items. We have seen the impact of this since the beginning of 2023 especially and expect the higher volumes to continue now that some SNAP (food stamp) benefits have been reduced.

That’s why we must continue to ask for more donations from our community and find more ways to source free, or inexpensive food to keep our shelves full as we move forward. In recognition of our third anniversary, E-Meal has launched a Community Food and Funds drive, seeking to keep the momentum going as we do whatever we can to model the generosity of a gracious God, but offering food to our neighbors in need – “No Questions Asked”. Information about the Food and Funds drive is on the next page. Please pass the word to anyone you know who might want to help!

In addition to food and monetary donations, we also have a need for more volunteers to work on putting together food bags, greeting and serving our clients, helping with family box assembly and distribution, and doing some pickups from various food sources. If you can spare a few hours a week, you’ll be part of an incredible movement – and I guarantee you’ll love the people you’ll be working with!

E-Meal Volunteers Are Needed!

Please take time today and sign up to volunteer. Dates are available through **June 30, 2023** Signing up is easy.

Click the following link to sign up.

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

E-Meal Donations Are Needed!

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

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



Emmanuel Serves !

E-Meal Celebrates
Third Anniversary Week
March 12-19



at Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Volunteers Always Needed

Provided With Love.
For Those In Need.

Celebrating Three Years of Ministry

Over 350,000 Meals "Handed Up" And Counting



Will You Help?

Third Anniversary Community Food & Fund Drive

Monday – Saturday 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
"Souderton's Community Church"

www.elcsouderton.org

69 West Broad St. Souderton, PA 18964 215-723-7514
emmanuel@emmanuelchurch.net
[facebook.com/EmmanuelSouderton/](https://www.facebook.com/EmmanuelSouderton/)



THREE YEARS – 350,000 MEALS "HANDLED UP"

Emmanuel Lutheran Church's E-Meal Ministry has become one of the largest feeding programs in our area.

**E-Meal is a great ministry,
because it is supported by a generous community.
one that steps up and says NO to hunger in the Indian Valley**

The Need Has Never Been Greater

Local families have been hit hard by rising food prices
And the recent reduction of SNAP Benefits.

Will You Help Local Families in Need?

Please participate in our 3rd Anniversary Food and Fund Drive.

Current Food Drive Needs

Canned Meals	Canned Tuna
Canned Soup	Breakfast Cereal
Oatmeal	Canned Veggies
Pasta/Noodles	Peanut Butter/Jelly
Bags of Rice	Coffee/Tea
Pasta Sauce	Gluten Free Items

To Donate Online

[CLICK HERE](#)

To access our secure website

Or go to:

<https://bit.ly/3ShpEPS>

Food Donations may be dropped off
Monday-Saturday
from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM.
Or Call 215-723-7514
to arrange an alternate time.

For more information, contact us:

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
215 – 723 – 7514

emmanuel@emmanuelchurch.net

69 West Broad St., Souderton, PA 18964

www.elcsouderton.org



**Emmanuel
Serves !**

Emmanuel Announces Community
Fundraiser to support Turkey and Syria
Earthquake Relief

ELC CRAFT FAIR/FLEA MARKET

WHEN

**May 20, 2023
1PM – 5PM**

WHERE

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church
69 West Broad St, Souderton, PA**

FEATURING · Jewelry · Pottery · Soaps · Woodwork ·
Knit Items · Unique Flea Market Finds and much more

**VISIT OUR WEB-SITE TO REGISTER:
WWW.ELCSOUDERTON.ORG**



**ALL AGES
EVENT**

VENDORS

\$30 Registration Fee

Register at:

www.elcsouderton.org

Cash/Check (payable to:
Emmanuel Lutheran Church "memo-
craft fair")

Venmo: @Lutheran69

GENERAL PUBLIC

Free Admission

50/50 Raffle

Baked Sale (cash only)

BENEFITING

Turkey/Syria

Earthquake Relief

www.lwr.org/quake

www.shelterboxusa.org

***Questions contact
Alison at (215)206-2394**



Emmanuel Reaches Out !



Emmanuel Lutheran Church March Blood Drive

Tuesday, March 28
2PM – 7PM

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall
Enter at Rear of Church (off Lumber St)
69 W Broad St. Souderton PA. 18964

For an appointment, please visit
redcrossblood.org

Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

©2019 The American National Red Cross

453 Desks already rebuilt in Honduras-
more each week!



[CLICK HERE](#) -
to watch a video of children cheering their
new desks. You are guaranteed to smile.
(You can see it on our Facebook Page)





Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind



Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

Current Sunday Schedule

Adult Discussion Forum – 9:00 AM
First and Third Sundays

Online and In-Person Worship – 10:00 AM

Sunday's KIDS – 10:00 AM

Coffee Hour – 11:00 AM

Contact Us:

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

Email: Emmanuel@emmanuelchurch.net

Website: www.elcsouderton.org

Facebook.com/EmmanuelSouderton

Church Staff

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

Email Address: jheidgerd@gmail.com

Ann Marie Heidgerd – E-Meal Coordinator

Rev. Richard G. Miller, Jr., Pastor Emeritus

Marlene H. Natali, Parish Deacon

Michael Shoemaker, Facilities Manager

Patricia Shoemaker, Parish Administrator



*This week's bulletins are sponsored in
memory of Craig Freed
by Julie and Evan Freed*



Monday – Saturday 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM



Emmanuel Lutheran Church
"Souderton's Community Church"

www.elcsouderton.org
69 West Broad St. Souderton, PA 18964 215-723-7514
emmanuel@emmanuelchurch.net
[facebook.com/EmmanuelSouderton/](https://www.facebook.com/EmmanuelSouderton/)

E-Meal Volunteers

Please sign up online

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

+++++

What's Happening @ Emmanuel 3/19/23 – 3/26/23

Sun 3/19	9:00 AM 10:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM	Fourth Sunday in Lent Conclusion of E-Meal Anniversary Week Adult Discussion Forum Worship Service Sunday's KIDS Coffee Hour
Mon 3/20	8:00 AM 10:30 AM – 1PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Morning GodCast E-Meal Distribution Salvation Army Children's Services HALO Training AA Group Women's Book Group
Tue 3/21	8:00 AM 10:00 AM 10:30 AM – 1PM	Morning GodCast Upper Bucks Pastor's Meeting E-Meal Distribution
Wed 3/22	8:00 AM 10:30 AM – 1PM 1:00 PM 5:30 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Morning GodCast E-Meal Distribution Lent Book Study at Broad St Grind Bushi Karate Lent Soup Supper at Zwingli UCC Lent Book Study at Zwingli UCC
Thu 3/23	8:00 AM 10:30 AM – 1PM 5:30 PM	Morning GodCast E-Meal Distribution Bushi Karate
Fri 3/24	8:00 AM 10:30 AM – 1PM	Morning GodCast E-Meal Distribution
Sat 3/25	8:00 AM 10:30 AM – 1 PM	Morning GodCast E-Meal Distribution
Sun 3/26	10:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM	Fifth Sunday in Lent Worship Service Sunday's KIDS Coffee Hour

You Are Invited

Serve With Us



Worship With Us



Grow With Us



Come!

Be part of Souderton's
Community Church

**The
-MEAL
Ministry**



Home
of

Provided With Love. For Those In Need.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

69 W. Broad St, Souderton PA 18964

www.ELCSouderton.org • 215-723-7514

