

Greetings Saints of Emmanuel!

It was good to see you all gathered for worship this past Sunday.

This past Saturday, I held our first *Christianity on Print* discussion at our home, where we reflected on the point that Rod Dreher was making in the book *Live Not By Lies*. Regardless of political persuasion, we can absorb the main point -- the steady approach of soft totalitarianism.

One insight I had, and therefore thought worth sharing here, is that no one wants their pastor to be political unless it's Bonhoeffer. It's a tricky position to be in.

Nearly everyone (no matter the political aisle) looks to Bonhoeffer as an example of what *to do* in the face of totalitarianism, and yet, *at the time*, no one really wanted him to do any of the things he did, or for him to say any of the things he said.

That's precisely why we remember him -- it took courage for him to stand up to Nazism, and he suffered loss -- ultimately death.

Likewise, when such moments become clear for us, we will need courage to tell the truth. And so, let us be those who do.

Yet at the same time, let us not be those who are swayed to and fro by the viral moment of the day. It is becoming more and more difficult to trust what is being presented and to discern what is true. This seems likely, in the near term, to only increase in difficulty.

I suspect where we will have real traction and real success is in friendship. There, among friends, we can be those sorts of Christians who are quick to listen and slow to speak.

And so, that is my call to you for this month's Herald. Seek friendship, especially among those in this congregation and among Christians. Be living examples of Christ to one another.

For it is we who shall have friendship not only in this life, but also in the life to come.

In Christ our Lord,
+ Pastor Justin Baker

Today, Wednesday, February 4th

11:00AM, Prayer for Families, Sanctuary

Since it is the first Wednesday of the month, we will meet at 11AM to pray for our families and the families of our world. Please join us then!

12:00PM, Game Day, Luther Hall

Please stay after Prayer for Families for Game Day!

4:00PM, Council Retreat, the Bakers' Home

Council members and their spouses will meet at 4PM. Please be in prayer for the church leadership!

Newsworthy

Pastor Justin will be at St Stephen Pittsburgh for a mission district meeting tomorrow. You're welcome to still text, call, or email, as needed.

Altar Flowers

The altar flower sign-up is looking a little empty over the next few weeks-please sign up to provide flowers if you're able!

eNews Update

Beginning in March, we plan to discontinue the weekly eNews. Instead, there will be a longer and more detailed monthly Herald. This will make it easier to communicate essential information and keep your inboxes free of clutter! With this in mind, please communicate with the office early about any announcements or events you would like to be included in the monthly newsletter.

Pastoral Visit?

Now that I'm back from travels... If you'd like a pastoral visit, please reach out either to the Office or to Pastor Justin directly.

Worship Volunteer Schedules

Please note that there have been a few changes to the February and March schedules, and see the updated ones below! April schedule coming soon: **please let the office know by the end of this week if you have any conflicts or preferences for April.**

To see the updated February schedule, click [here](#).

To see the updated March schedule, click [here](#).

United Together, We Pray

Prayers for Mission Workers

For the Omars and their ministry among Muslims in the Atlanta region; for the Thorstads in their work in Laos & Thailand; and for Dure Negassa and the Rev. Gemachu in their ministry in Kenya among the Oromos.

Prayers for those in need of Intercession:

Danette Hunter, Linda Casper, May Hill, Jim Troxell, David Weihe, Vince Berardinelli, Gayle Wertz, June Ugen, Terry, Sandy, Cassandra, Nojia, John, Kevin, Jim, Julie and family, Trudy, Frances and family, Brylee, Sandra, Zachary, Kevin, David, Kathy, Asa, Jerry, Jack, Al & family, Beth, Colleen, Rachael, Leila, Darin, Les & Cathy, Tony, Sarah, and Harry

Prayers of Bereavement

Most Blessed and Holy God, we implore you to remember *the family of Frances* and *the family of Linda*. Fill all families who mourn with the strength to grieve, the comfort of your presence, and faith unto life everlasting.

Prayer for this Church

We pray that you will fill this congregation with the faith that endures unto life eternal. We pray that you make us one people united in prayer. We pray that you will send families, children, widows & widowers, the elderly, and any others into our midst, that they may also be filled with faith, encourage this congregation, and bring honor and glory and praise to your name.

Worship

From Sunday's Sermon

"And so, knowing these things — knowing that this parable is a warning, knowing that some have and some will fall away, yet that God is always graciously seeking laborers, and knowing that we have good, eternal work to be done, let us continue in this faith for life, taking what comes in stride and in faith.

For there is a reward which will be coming to us, and that reward is the delight and joy of *being* with Jesus forever."

Watch this past Sunday's sermon [here](#).

Discipleship

Sunday School, 9AM

We are working on a series titled "The Gospel Twisted: The Heresies of Our Day." Please plan to join us this Sunday for the second installment!

Bible Study on the Book of Daniel | Mondays at 1PM and 6:30PM

Our Bible Study on Daniel continues Mondays in February. Please join us!

Stewardship

Offering Envelopes

Please note that there was a slight error in printing offering envelopes for Lent, and some of them do not have the correct dates or labels. If possible, try to use each envelope for the date that is on it, even though it might be labelled differently than normal. As always, if you are giving to a special offering/designation, please mark that on the envelope. Please reach out to the office with any questions!

Fellowship and Evangelism

Shrove Tuesday Potluck | February 17th

We will be holding a Shrove Tuesday potluck on February 17th at 6pm! See more information [here](#). A sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex.

More This Week

February 4th

11AM: Prayer for Families

12PM: Game Day

4PM: Council Retreat (the Bakers')

6PM: Steps and Stories

February 5th

7PM: Boy Scouts

7:30PM: Al-Anon

February 6th

5:30PM: Girl Scouts

February 7th

February 8th

9AM Sunday School (The Gospel Twisted)

10:15AM Worship on the Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

February 9th

11AM: Fellowship/Evangelism Committee Meeting

1PM: Daniel Bible Study

2PM: Quilting

6:30PM: Daniel Bible Study

6:30PM: Start the Week

February 10th

9AM: Bell Choir

10AM: Bell Choir Subset

5:30PM: Champion Cheerleading

7PM: Worship Committee Meeting

February 11th

Secretary Out of Office

11AM: Prayer Group

2PM: Stewardship Committee Meeting

6PM: Steps and Stories

February 12th

Secretary Out of Office

7PM: Boy Scouts

7:30PM: Al-Anon

February 13th

5:30PM: Girl Scouts

February 14th

February 15th

9AM: Sunday School (The Gospel Twisted)

10:15AM: Worship on the Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 16th

1PM: Daniel Bible Study

2PM: Quilting

6:30PM: Daniel Bible Study

6:30PM: Start the Week

February 17th

9AM: Bell Choir

10AM: Bell Choir Subset

5:30PM: Champion Cheerleading

6:00PM: Shrove Tuesday Potluck

7:00PM: Boy Scout Leaders

February 18th

6PM: Steps and Stories

7PM: Ash Wednesday Service

February 19th

7PM: Boy Scouts

7:30PM: Al-Anon

February 20th

11:15AM: Worship Service at Brookdale

5:30PM: Girl Scouts

February 21st

10AM: Mission Region Council Meeting

February 22nd

9AM: Fellowship Hour

10:15AM: Worship on the First Sunday in Lent

February 23rd

1PM: Daniel Bible Study

2PM: Quilting

6:30PM: Daniel Bible Study

6:30PM: Start the Week

February 24th

9AM: Bell Choir

10AM: Bell Choir Subset

5:30PM: Champion Cheerleading

February 25th

11AM: Prayer Group

6PM: Steps and Stories

7PM: Lenten Midweek Meal and Service

February 26th

7PM: Boy Scouts

7:30PM: Al-Anon

February 27th

5:30PM: Girl Scouts

February 28th

1PM: Christianity on Topic: Dangers to Discipleship in the Age of AI

Upcoming Birthdays & Anniversaries

February Birthdays:

2/06 Lisa Pepka
2/09 Joe Ugen
2/10 Dana Visnic Ford
2/11 Jeff Pelusi
2/17 Jordan Pelusi
2/21 Peggy Lewis
2/25 Stephen Cehovin

February Anniversaries:

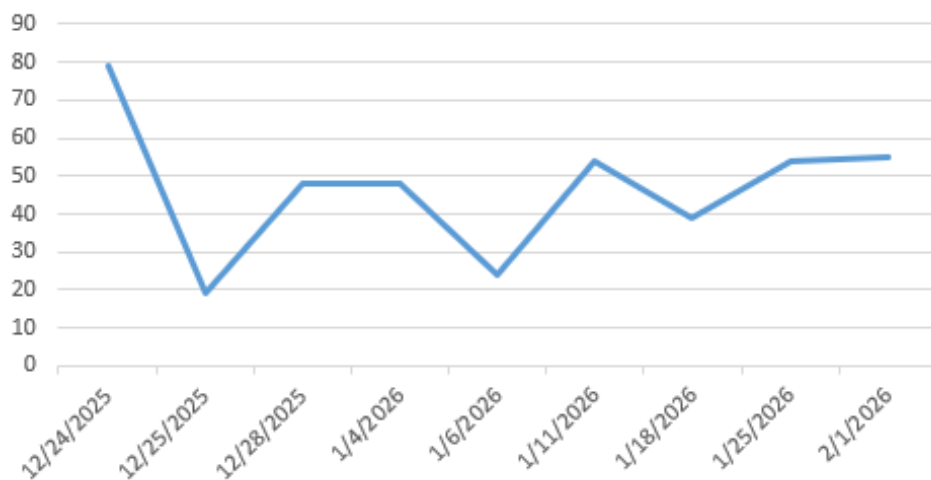
2/09 Mark & Alma Heyl (44 years)
2/28 Jim & Peggy Lewis (65 years)

Offering and Attendance

8 Weeks Offering



8 Weeks Attendance



[Photo Gallery on Our Website!](#)

We've added a photo gallery to our website to make pictures easier to access and view (and to make the newsletter clearer). Contact the office to add pictures of events to the gallery! (We will feature fewer photos in the newsletters so that we can include more on the website.) View the website photos [here](#).

Game Day

Wednesday, February 4, 2025
Starting at Noon



Bring a snack or appetizer to share.
Skip lunch at home and enjoy munching together.

We will be playing cards and favorite games.
Try your hand at Uno, Hand & Foot, Pinochle, Mexican Train and more.
Don't worry if you have never played before, we have directions.
Or you can bring your favorite game to add to the fun.

Shrove Tuesday

FEBRUARY 17TH, 2026

THE LAST DAY OF FEASTING BEFORE
THE BEGINNING OF LENT



POTLUCK IN LUTHER HALL AT
6PM: SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX

ASH
WEDNESDAY
SERVICE

FEBRUARY 18TH, 2026

7:00 P.M.

SANCTUARY

THE 40 DAYS OF LENT BEGINS WITH
CONFESSION, PRAYER, AND THE
IMPOSITION OF ASHES.



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