EMANUELITE



Emanuel Lutheran Church

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Worship Schedule

8:00 & 9:30am Coftea Fellowship 10:30am

A Note From The Pastor

As the summer lifestyle starts to creep in, I have found myself with a little extra time to catch up on some reading. Recently, I've been tackling the backlog of people's biographies who have a bone to pick with religion. These aren't just any books found on the shelf; these are people who have degrees in multiple fields (from acting to public speaking with a secondary focus on theology). Some grew up in lovingly compassionate religious families; others recount growing up under the disciplinarian model of a natural hierarchical model. Some have embraced their childhood faith journeys even more; others have tried to re-find their spiritual beliefs.

One thing that holds these stories together is that faith is one of the central building blocks of life. Each person, whether embracing or distancing themselves from the faith they were raised in, suggests that faith is crucial to our lifestyles. I think of Sarah McCammon who grew up in an evangelical household but through her experiences with diverse communities, learned to let go of some of her learned limitations to remake faith that welcomes theological debates; her story, told in the Exvangelicals, looks with regret that her parents now have a strained relationship with her and one of her brothers because both have strayed past what a parent can tolerate.

I think of Raine Wilson, or better known as Dwight on the sitcom the Office. He grew up in the Baha'i faith and learned to embrace it even more as he wrestled with addictions and serious depression. Even though he would become even more of an acolyte of his faith, he would absorb the teachings of the world's religions to find commonality and strength. His book Soul Boom is his realization that our world is in need of more partnership of the faith to discover the strength that a divine power has given to all of us.

I think of Brian McLaren, famed evangelical writer, whose book Do I Stay Christian? asks the hard questions about Christian imperialism and acceptance of unchristian behavior.

And I think of the many more whose words continue to resonate in my head: Rachel Held Evans, Rozella Haydee White, Lenny Duncan, Jeff Chu, Tony Campolo, and many others. One thing all these writers have in common is that faith is central to their very identity. A second commonality: they put their beliefs in practice to live their best selves. And a third intersection: they are open to the vastness of others' beliefs that can help them grow in their own faith.

One last common refrain from many of these authors: Christians have to acknowledge when they are being hypocritical. Some of the loudest voices out there right now are from people who claim to be Christian but in every way defy the very heart of a movement based on diversity of opinion and love of others. When the contradictory words and actions play out, people leave the church. They all have something to say about the times we're living in, and they have vastly different ways to say it. Churches will continue to decline when the loudest and least Christ-like people are allowed to lead the conversation.

May this summer be a time to take a page from these wonderful (and sometimes challenging) authors. How can we gracefully but also fully explore the ways we ourselves still need to grow and integrate our faith into our actions?

Emanuel Ringers

Ringing for Worship

The Emanuel Ringers I participated in service for Father's Day. The ERI's have continued rehearsals to prepare for the Local Area festival.

June Ringing

The Emanuel Ringers I ringers, chaperones and parents attended the Area 2 Handbell Festival Conference with ringers from the NY, NJ and PA areas. Will tell you more about it in the Sept Newsletter!

Fundraising for our upcoming trips

Raiseright.com Gift Card Orders

Thank you to everyone who has purchased gift cards through us. For our ringing year of 2024-2025, we have raised \$1,500.

If you are interested in how this works -check out

https://www.raiseright.com/how-it-works/, they explain it better than I can!. Physical cards will be ordered again in September - but if you need an e-card - you can still order those! Need to know how? Ask Eiko.

New Ringers

Always looking for new ringers, youth entering 3rd grade in the fall, MS, HS and adults! Handbells are for everyone. Interested in finding more about it or trying it out over the summer, let Eiko know. Bring friends along to try it out as well.

Scotland 2026

The next **International Symposium** will be in Aberdeen, Scotland in the summer of 2026. We have begun our planning and fundraising efforts!

Thank you for your continued support for the music ministry! Eiko





SUMMER UPDATES

Oh, how I love "Summertime" from Porgy & Bess with it's rich singing and emotion! Summer is definitely upon us with the most recent heat wave and the full blooms of flowers and plants drinking it all in.

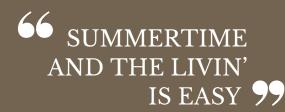
Although the choir is taking a break during the summer months, our music program is definitely not. Our Outdoor Service on July 20th will be full of wonderful contemporary music and hopefully a small Praise Band. (Let me know if you'd like to join us!) We have some solos &/or duets coming up, and we have a Men's Group Chorus that will sing towards the end of July (see poster for details). I'd love to have any interested men join us. The music is easy and can be learned in just a few, short, rehearsals which I'll be holding after the services. Please see me to let me know if you might be interested!

Later in August I'll be taking a brief vacation and Norine Castine will cover for me. She's a NYC based jazz musician who's played for us prior and she brings a rich background in sacred & secular music to share.

FAVORITE HYMN?

Finally, if anyone has a favorite hymn they'd like to hear this summer, please let me know! I plan to focus one Sunday on the hymns **YOU** love.

Please share that with me!



PORGY AND BESS





YOUTH GROUP NEWS



Welcome Eka Tawe!
Eka joins our staff as the newest hire that begins on August 1st! We are excited to welcome Eka to lead our youth in faith and discipleship. Eka comes to us from Hillsborough, New Jersey and is studying for an MPH in Global Public Health. Eka is currently working as the assistant program director for Johnsonburg Camp and Retreat Center (also in New Jersey and coincidentally the place where Pinecrest has been held over the past few years). Eka has a passion for social justice, helping those recover from physical injury, and a love of rugby!

Please join us as we thank God for Eka and look forward to our ministry together! You can meet Eka in church every other week starting in September (because Eka's also working with the Presbyterian Church in our wonderful partnership) and also during EVBS week.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

A note from Social Ministry highlighting:



For 80 years Lutheran World Relief (LWR) has been committed to affirming God's love for all people by helping people adapt to the challenges that threaten their well-being. LWR's major foci are addressing global poverty by helping people build self-sufficient communities where they can thrive, and by providing aid in emergencies. LWR works with people based on need, regardless of race, religion, or nationality, and it does not evangelize.

LWR was founded by Lutherans in the U.S. in 1945, when in the aftermath of WW II, nearly 20% of the world's Lutherans were left homeless. At that time its work was focused in Europe. In the years since, LWR has helped people around the globe who have been displaced from their homes or whose lives have been otherwise disrupted because of conflict and natural disasters. Today, LWR operates in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Middle East helping communities build resilience in the face of challenges.

LWR works with communities, governments, and partners to protect natural resources and develop equitable access to them. It also helps communities plan and prepare for natural disasters, or an eruption of conflict, providing humanitarian assistance and relief when disasters occur. LWR also invests in businesses that help grow rural economies, and those that strengthen a community's technical capacity.

Emanuel has supported Lutheran World Relief through our annual in-gathering of items for personal care kits and school kits, and then assembling these kits on God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday. These kits offer comfort, love, and hope to our global neighbors coping with natural disasters, or those whose lives have been up ended by war. In addition, Social Ministry makes an annual contribution to LWR on Emanuel's behalf from its Discretionary account. to be used where it is needed most. You can learn more about LWR at www.lwr.org



God's Work. Our Hands Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

This year for our service project, we will again gather items for **Lutheran World Relief's** Personal Care and School kits in August, and we will assemble the kits during CofTea on September 7th. Check the up-coming bulletins and weekly email announcements for more information. Please plan to join us in this activity!



2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly

The 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will be held July 28–Aug. 2, 2025, at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Ariz.

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the primary decision-making body of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, is a process of communal spiritual discernment. When the ELCA Churchwide Assembly convenes, its voting members meet with confidence in God's grace around word and water, wine and bread, to carry on their work on behalf of the entire church. Over the course of the assembly, voting members:

- Hear reports and review the work of churchwide officers, leaders and units.
- Receive and consider proposals from synod assemblies.
- * Elect officers, board members and other leaders as specified by the constitution or bylaws.
- Establish ELCA churchwide policy.
- Worship together.
- Adopt a budget.
 - Conduct other business related to the ELCA churchwide organization.

Family Time



Have a discussion on these two commandments and their meaning, written by Martin Luther.

The Ninth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What is this? OR What does this mean?

We are to fear and love God, so that we do not try to trick our neighbors out of their inheritance or property or try to get it for ourselves by claiming to have a legal right to it and the like, but instead be of help and service to them in keeping what is theirs.

The Tenth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What is this? OR What does this mean?

We are to fear and love God, so that we do not entice, force, or steal away from our neighbors their spouses, household workers, or livestock, but instead urge them to stay and fulfill their responsibilities to our neighbors.

CHURCH NEWS



Come Worship With Us

<u>Sundays</u>

8 – 8:30 am: Spoken

9:30 – 10:30 am: With Sunday School 10:30 – 11:30 am: Fellowship/Adult Ed.

Our Mission:

To Worship, Live, Love, Learn and Teach... the Word of God in Christ

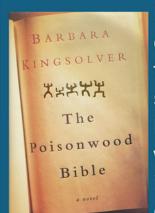






READER'S CHOICE

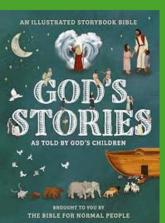
READER'S CHOICE



Religion and commonsense are two concepts that should go together; but what happens when religious zeal impedes good decision making?

Follow a family of missionaries as the world they were expecting suddenly falls out of place and they have to navigate each other and the village they live in to cope. Barbara Kingsolver's the Poisonwood Bible is a great summer read!

FAMILY CORNER

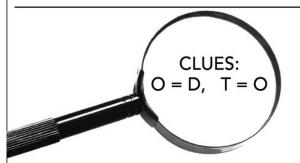


Thank you,
Pastor Koran, for
picking up this
wonderful
version of the
Bible. How
would you retell
the stories of the

Bible—you know, the ones that are central to our faith, like Noah's Ark, Adam and Eve, Jesus and John the Baptist, and so many others? Well, these stories are retold in loving ways with detailed pictures to go along with the words. Enjoy retelling and rehearing your favorite stories in God's Stories as Told by God's Children.

Fun and Games

For this cryptogram, use the clues to decode Proverbs 27:1, NIV.



Proverbs 27:1, NIV

TRY THIS!

Plant a Prayer Garden! Add plants you find appealing. Then, add a chair or bench to pray at next to the garden itself.

Coming up at Emanuel

7//1- Women's Breakfast 9:00am

7/1 - Staff Meeting 11:30 am

7/4 - Independence Day - Office is Closed

% - Worship, Music + Arts - 7:30 pm

7/9 - Christian, Faith + Life - 6:00 pm

7/15 - Staff Meeting - 11:30 am

7/20 - Outdoor Service - 9:30 am

7/22 - Deacons Meeting - 7:00 pm

Weekly Schedule

Worship Sundays

8:00 & 9:30am

Coftea Fellowship

10:30am

Tuesdays Emanuel Ringers I

6:45-8:45pm

Wednesdays Bible Study

Choir Rehearsal

"Our God is not a God who discards what he has made, who is defeated by sin and evil. Our God is a redeeming God, a God who is determined to reclaim his fallen world, setting it free from its enslavement to corruption and bringing it to a final state of glory."

-Douglas J. Moo, Creation Care