

# EMANUELLITE



## Weekly Schedule

### Worship Sundays

8:00 & 9:30am

Sunday School 9:30am

Coftea Fellowship 10:30am

### Tuesdays

Emanuel Ringers II

5:00 - 6:00pm

Emanuel Ringers I

6:45-8:45pm

### Wednesdays

Bible Study

1:00 - 2:00 pm

Choir Rehearsal

4:30 - 5:30 pm

### Thursdays

Adult Emanuel Ringers

7:30 - 9:00pm



## From the Pastor

The season of Lent is a time for serious reflection around the ways we break God's laws to the detriment of ourselves and, more importantly, our neighbors. In the Catholic Church, this time is so sacred that it is expected you would privately confess your sins to a priest before receiving Holy Communion on Easter Sunday. This act is more than just goodwill or a check off; theologically, anyone that has not examined one's soul in front of a priest is not in good standing in the church.

Lutherans still carry this practice of private confession, but it often gets overshadowed by our corporate confession every Sunday. These confessions change per season and range from mild to wild; last fall, some commented that the "trample on the needy" seemed a little too off-the-mark with our personal view.

This is the importance of Lent; self-reflection, yes, but also personal responsibility. One of the biggest failures of our humanity is that we minimize our own

sin. Self-reflection is good to a point, but without the aid of another to hold us accountable, it can quickly become an idol to itself.

One immediate example comes to mind: the U.S.'s current immigration policy. While there are still some minority denominations and churches who have aggressively aligned with the current practice of pursuing both criminal and non-criminal immigrants (one survey alone suggested about 70% of deportees had no criminal backgrounds at all), the vast majority of the Christian world is denouncing current procedures. While progressive publications like *Christian Century* and *Sojourners* were first to publish critical

articles and viewpoints, the Catholic Church and evangelical publication *Christianity Today* have spent a lot of resources to also address their concerns. In fact, *Christianity Today* has run several stories (one of them the cover story) over the past few months. The aggression, separation of parental oversight, the masked officers, the incarceration in deployable centers/prisons, the deportation to other countries without care for humanity or due-process—all of this is anti-Christian. When the vast majority of Christians who generally can't agree on any contemporary issue speaks out in one voice, it should suggest to policy deciders that they need to realign their "moral compass", as the Catholic bishops have plead.

**God is  
LOVE.**

1 JOHN 4:16



I remember sitting down with a Council member in a previous church I served. The Council was deeply upset that the Council had made some decisions that this Council member didn't agree with, and over the course of the next few weeks, had done all that could be done to undermine the rulings. At some point, the Council had talked to the pastoral leadership to address this issue, and sitting with the person in the pastoral office, it was pronounced that sin had been committed. At the end of the conversation, it was asked if the person would like to confess to the pastor and ask for forgiveness. While it was clear that the person didn't fully grasp the severity of the situation, absolution was still given.

We need Lent if for no other reason than to readjust our own views of what we believe to reflect. We are not as good as we want to believe, but neither are we as bad as we sometimes delude ourselves into thinking. We are broken, it's true. But Lent offers that holy reset so that we can witness the fullness of God's love for us to allow the death of Jesus on the cross.

I wonder if the politicians of Jesus' day would want that holy reset after seeing the sky darkening, the earth shaking, and the graves opening at Jesus' last breath. This was God's way of pronouncing the sin of the world. If given the chance, would those leaders do something different? Would we?

It's Lent. It's time for a reset.

*-Pastor Kevin O'Hara*



***Snowflakes that stay on my nose and eye lashes***  
—taken from “My Favorite Things” (*The Sound of Music*)

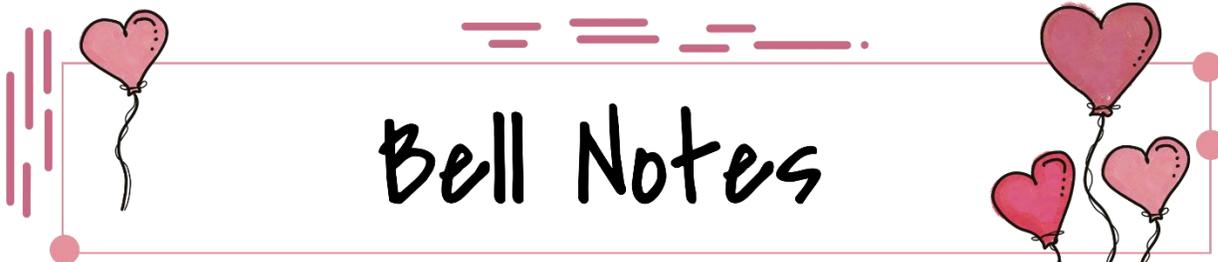
What a snowy winter we’ve been having! As I write this, I’m looking out my front window at the narrow pathways we dug in the nearly 14-15 inches of snow that fell last night and wondering, when will I see flowers blooming again? I know I will, but the waiting is what is so hard at this time of year. Thinking ahead of the Spring though, I am also planning music to bless the congregation from the period of Ash Wednesday through Lent and onto Holy Week & then triumphant Easter! So many different directions musically—much like my narrow pathways through the snow.

After taking a January break, the choir will resume rehearsing this week. I’ve got several new anthems for them to learn in differing styles from a syncopated version of “Be Thou My Vision” with piano & oboe to an introspective one based on a poem by Langston Hughes called “I Dream a World”. We’ve got some jazz to learn & will work on a piece from John Rutter’s Requiem. A little bit of everything this season. If anyone is interested in joining the choir this year, please see me after service or shoot me an email. We’re always looking to add more voices. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays, 4:30-5:45pm. It’s a great time of fellowship & music so come join us!

**Upcoming music to look forward to:** Dr. Jason Priset will give a Noontime concert of Lute & Classical Guitar on February 11<sup>th</sup> and on March 18<sup>th</sup>, Sharon Chang will perform (classical piano). March 8<sup>th</sup> will be the Annual Women Composer Sunday & The Westchester Recorder Guild will play for our service on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. We’ll also have a guest oboe sometime in February or early March. Lots to look forward to including our wonderful bell choirs as well!

**Finally, a small appeal here**—Emanuel has a wonderful history of bringing music to not only our congregation but also the community at large and one of the ways we fund it is through our **Angel’s for Music** Fund. This fund is supported by donations from folks like you and also those who attend our Noontime at Emanuel Concerts. For the 2025-2026 concert season, we held six concerts with nearly a dozen performers. Our fund is being used to bring these wonderful musicians to us but is needing a boost to continue our series and also welcome other guest musicians to our services periodically. If you feel moved to make a donation to further this important ministry, it would be greatly appreciated. Keep the music coming!

Musically in Him,  
*Debbie Jones-Norberto*  
Director of Music



# Bell Notes

FEBRUARY 2026

## Emanuel Ringers

### Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Emanuel Lutheran Church  
Pearson Hall

Tuesday, February 17, 6:00 PM

Suggested Donation:

Adults: \$10-15  
Families: \$25-30 (Kids under 5 free)

RSVP: Sign up via google form [Click here to attend the Pancake Supper](#), call the Church office 769-1559, or sign up in the Narthex

Proceeds will support the Emanuel Ringers for their upcoming trip to Scotland!



### SOUP SALE!

Soup Sale will be held on Sunday, Feb 8th during fellowship.

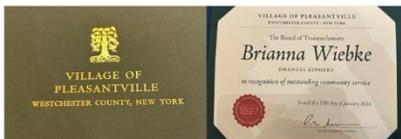
### Advent, Pageant and Christmas Ringers!



We had ringers ringing during the last hymn during advent and during the Christmas Pageant Ringing along with Away in the Manger and Silent Night.

### GIFT CARD ORDERS FUNDRAISER

Our next gift card order will be taken on Feb 1. Purchase cards to use and support the ringers at the same time. Have your orders into Eiko by 6 PM.



### YOUTH IN ACTION RECOGNITION



Josh, Crawford, Keira, Konstantine, Danna, Dante, Aria and Brianna (not shown) received youth in action certificate from the Village of Pleasantville for their volunteer work. Their dedication and commitment to Emanuel's Handbell Ministry was recognized by the Village.

### Christmas Eve 5PM Ringers and Alumni



Ringers for the 5 PM service

### Christmas Eve 11PM Ringers and Alumni



We welcomed back alumni to ring during the Christmas Eve 11 PM service.

### THANK YOU FOR WATCHING OUR ANNUAL HANDBELL BENEFIT CONCERT IN PERSON OR ONLINE!

Your generous donations raised \$2357 to support the work of Feeding Westchester. Thanks to Paul Esposito for creating the flyer for the concert!

### SAVE THE DATE

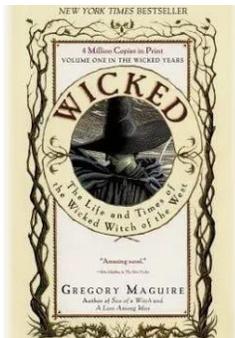
Riverside Handbell Festival at Riverside Church will be on March 14th 4 PM. Emanuel Ringers I and alumni will be participating!

### SCOTLAND 2026 NEWS

We are sending in our payments for our ringing tour to Scotland from July 27 to Aug 9, 2026

# Christian Faith & Life

## BOOK CLUB

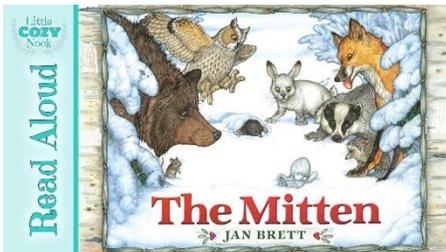


February's book club submission is *Wicked: the Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West* by Gregory Maguire. If you look closely, you might see hints of redemption and salvation! While reading, explore these questions:

- 1) Who might you consider to be the Christ figure in this story?
- 2) What parallels are there to the story of Holy Week found in the Bible (from Jesus' entry to Jerusalem to the resurrection story)?
- 3) How do you relate this story to today's world?

We'll be announcing the April book soon! Stay tuned!

## FAMILY BOOK PICK



Not all that is lost is gone forever. Find out what happens to a mitten that has been left behind in the story *the Mitten* by Jan Brett. This story teaches us that even when its hard, we have to let go of some things. Lent is a time to let go of bad decisions and to make better choices.

## Family Table Talk

As we gather around the table for our meals and family meetings, let's continue exploring *the Small Catechism* by Martin Luther, a short book Martin Luther wrote to encourage families 500 years ago to have conversations about faith. This month, we'll conclude our look at the third article of our Apostles' Creed.

### **The Third Article: *On Being Made Holy***

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

*What is this? OR What does this mean?*

I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith. Daily in this Christian church the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins—mine and those of all believers. On the last day the Holy Spirit will raise me and all the dead and will give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.



# Youth Group

## Youth group weekly MEETINGS



02/01

Winter Fun Day @ Camp Johnsonburg

02/08

NO MEETING- Superbowl! GO SEAHAWKS!

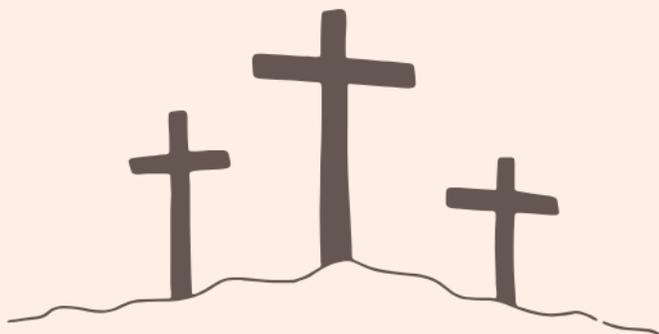
02/15

6-7:30pm @ Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

02/22

NO MEETING- CANCELLED

For more info, contact:  
[tawe@pvillepresby.org](mailto:tawe@pvillepresby.org)



# Youth Group Events for This Month



**FEBRUARY**



**2026**

**SUN  
01**

## WINTER FUN DAY

↘ Johnsonburg Camp and Retreat Center  
2pm



**SAT  
07**

## PALENTINE'S MOVIE NIGHT

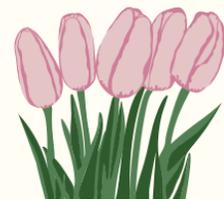
↘ Emanuel Lutheran Church  
6pm



**SAT  
28**

## GAME NIGHT

↘ Pleasantville Presbyterian Church  
7pm



Weekly meetings every Sunday 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

For more information contact:



[tawe@pvillepresby.org](mailto:tawe@pvillepresby.org)

pville ecumenical youth group

# Game Night

Join us for a night full of fun,  
laughter, and friendly competition!

**JAN 30TH  
6-7:30PM**

Pleasantville  
Presbyterian  
Church

**FRIENDS WELCOME  
AND ENCOURAGED!**

TAW@PVILLEPRESBY.ORG

# Worship, Music & Arts

## RECAPPING CHRISTMAS 2025



## Lent 2026

*Ash Wednesday (Feb. 18)*

12 Noon: Emanuel Service

7 PM: Protestant Service at Emanuel

*Wednesdays in Lent*

Stay tuned for times and places!

*Palm Sunday (March 29)*

8 & 9:30 AM: Worship

*Holy Monday-Wednesday (March 30-April 1)*

7 PM: Evening Prayer

*Maundy Thursday (April 2)*

12 Noon: Service @ Emanuel

TBD: Agape Meal and Worship at St. John's

*Good Friday (April 3)*

12 – 3 PM: Stations of the Cross @ Emanuel

TBD: Worship Service @ Presbyterian Church

*Easter Sunday (April 5)*

6 AM: Sunrise Service (Outside)

9:30 AM: Festive Worship Service



# From Our Community

Hello Team,

Thank you for your time, dedication, and continued support of another life-saving campaign.

Congratulations on hosting such a successful Blood Drive! We had 95 presenting donors, 83 successful donations, and collected a total of **86** units of blood.

Please extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who donated, attempted to donate, or assisted in any way to help make this campaign a success.

Once the whole blood donations are separated into their three components—red cells, platelets, and plasma—they will help save the lives of up to 246 patients in our local hospitals.

Blood Drive	Results		Goal
Thursday, January 8, 2026			<b>60</b>
Appointments Set	<b>67</b>		
Registered Donors	<b>95</b>	<b>Final Donations</b>	<b>Potential Recipients</b>
Deferrals	<b>12</b>		
Whole Blood / Plasma	<b>80</b>	<b>80</b>	240
Double Red Cells	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	6
<b>Total Units</b>		<b>86</b>	246



Regards,  
**Camilo Rubio**  
 Account Manager, Donor Recruitment

*Deacon Bill Bello*  
 Education and Community Awareness



See a recent publication about our church. This month’s highlight comes from an email blast that you can sign up for. For more information, go to <https://community.elca.org/elca-email-signup> for emails straight to your inbox or go to <https://www.elca.org/news> for previous news alerts.

### **Bishop Curry Issues Statement on ICE Shooting in Minneapolis**

January 9, 2026

*Learn to do good; seek justice; rescue the oppressed; defend the orphan; plead for the widow. (Isaiah 1:17).*

Alongside our siblings in Christ in Minneapolis and throughout Minnesota and all who have been impacted by aggressive immigration enforcement and violence by federal law enforcement agents, I mourn the shocking shooting death of Renee Nicole Good by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent on Jan. 7, 2026. I join calls for a thorough investigation into this case, accountability for the shooting and a de-escalation of ICE enforcement across the United States. Alongside the Lutherans who have held vigils in Minneapolis and around the country, our church prays for God’s peace in this community and justice in this case.

The ELCA is committed to upholding and guaranteeing basic human rights for the safety of migrants and their families. Our church works toward just and humane policies affecting migrants in and outside the United States. We decry language that dehumanizes immigrants who are beloved children of God and escalates tensions between federal agents and communities. Surges of immigration enforcement and violent encounters like we are seeing in Minneapolis — as well as in Chicago; Atlanta; Los Angeles; Portland, Ore.; and Washington, D.C.— have indiscriminately targeted our neighbors, creating fear and uncertainty. This has created conditions where immigrants, those accompanying them and federal agents are all at risk.

ELCA social teaching provides guidance in complex situations: “Public safety depends upon trust in law enforcement to respect and protect the rights of all” (“[Gun-related Violence and Trauma](#)”). As a church, we are concerned by the trend of law enforcement and federal agents involved in immigration enforcement relying on the use of force in our communities without sufficient accountability or oversight.

God calls us to be witnesses to God’s presence, healing and hope. I invite ongoing prayers, vigils and advocacy for peace and justice, and I affirm the ELCA’s “pledge to continue our church’s historic leadership in caring for refugees and immigrants” ([For Peace in God’s World](#)).

In Christ,

The Rev. Yehiel Curry  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



**WE WANT TO HEAR  
FROM YOU!**

Send us your address changes, thank you notes, words of encouragement for the congregation, and thoughts and you might just see them in future publications. As a community, we want to stay connected and stay encouraged! **In particular, as students come to the end of the school year, we want to hear what life has in store! We'll publish these stories in our May and June editions!**

*Address Change:*

The Egensteiner's have moved:

Paul Egensteiner and Dr. Marianne Dietrich have a new address:

50 Charlotte Street  
#418  
Rochester, NY 14607



## ANNUAL MEETING

Join us on February 8<sup>th</sup> for our Annual Congregational Meeting after the 9:30 am worship service.

This will be both in person and online.  
Come hear about the successful 2025 year!

\*Snow date: February 15th

# Upcoming Events

## Schedule for the month

- 2/1 – Youth Group Meeting – Presby. Church - 5:30 pm
- 2/3 – Ladies Breakfast – 9:00 am
- 2/3 – Staff Meeting – 11:30 am
- 2/4 – Boys Breakfast – 9:00 am
- 2/4 – Bible Study – 1:00 pm
- 2/8 – Youth Group Meeting – Emanuel – 6:00 pm
- 2/8 – Congregational Meeting – 10:30 am
- 2/10 – Worship, Music + Arts – 7:30 pm
- 2/11 – Noontime Concert -12:00 pm
- 2/11 – Bible Study – 1:00 pm
- 2/10 – Christian, Faith + Life – 6:00 pm
- 2/15 – Bible Voyagers – 10:30 am
- 2/15 – Snow makeup – Congregational Meeting
- 2/17 – Staff Meeting – 11:30 am
- 2/17 – Shrove Pancake Supper – 6:00 pm
- 2/18 - Boys Breakfast – 9:00 am
- 2/19 – Church Council Meeting – 7:00 pm
- 2/22 – Confirmation Class – 5:30 pm
- 2/22 – Youth Group Meeting – Emanuel – 6:00 pm
- 2/23 – Kidz Club – 11:30 am
- 2/24 – Deacon’s Meeting – 7:00 pm



**Love one another.**  
1 JOHN 4:7

### Inspirational quote:

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” (Heb. 13:16)