

May 2025

EMANUELITE

**Emanuel Lutheran Church**

197 Manville Road Pleasantville, NY 10570

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Worship Schedule

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

A Note From The Pastor

Jesus is accosted by a father who is deeply worried about his son; the father tells Jesus of the disciples' inability to exorcise the demon that possesses the child. Worried that this is even too much for Jesus, the father gives a caveat—"If you are able"—still, Jesus heals the boy. The disciples wonder how they had failed, and Jesus provides the simple answer: this type of exorcism needs prayer.

Then after a short dialogue on Jesus' upcoming death and what true greatness is, we get this story in the Gospel of Mark (it's actually Luke's shorter retelling that we hear in church, not this longer version):

"John said to Jesus, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him, for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward...'" (Mark 9:38-41)

Jesus goes on to what usually gets all the attention: if your hand, foot, or eye causes you to sin, get rid of the offending members, and do not cause even the little ones to fall into sin.

I've been reflecting on this passage for a few weeks as I prepare to make some choices of my own. In this world, we have people who generally think in either/or (or binary) terms. This isn't anything new; notice the disciples accuse the exorciser of "not following us". Whatever they mean by that, they don't believe that the miracle-worker is sincere in the faith they hold, that's for sure.

Turn now to Jesus' response. It's almost like Jesus knows that we're not all on the same page (and, truthfully, the disciples' lack of reaction to Jesus foretelling his death moments before shows that the disciples aren't comprehending the fullness of the story yet). Jesus offers this line: "...Whoever is not against us is for us." This provides for the inclusivity of different shades of faith—like how our welcome statement is incorporating of different racial, economic, and gender identities. We might not all be on the same page, but when it comes to judging others for not being as devoted, Jesus warns us all from excluding any types of followers.

Our world quickly wants to sort people out: good people versus bad people; rich versus poor; abled versus differently abled; young versus old. Each of these categories do have particular views that we might have a hard time incorporating into our own lives. But that doesn't make them bad or to be exiled, despite whatever our initial feelings. Instead, with open hearts and open minds (and after a good prayer or two), I pray we all find ways to come together.

Define yourself; don't let the world define who you are. And together, we'll live into the wonderful colors of diversity and faith.

In peace,
Rev. Kevin O'Hara

Church Pics

First Time Communion



Palm Sunday Worship Service



Easter Egg Hunt





Music Notes



The Music Department and the Emanuel Choir was very busy during the Easter Holiday. We decided to rest up before we charge into the month of June.

A more complete write-up will be forthcoming in next month's Newsletter.

Thank you.

Deborah Norberto

CHURCH NEWS

MNYS 2025 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Please join us for our annual assembly on May 2-3. This year's theme, "Forward Together in Christ," reinforces our commitment to our "Mission Forward" purpose, priority, and principle of living like Christ in our communities.

Check out mnys.org or the Metropolitan New York Synod Facebook page for information and minute-by-minute coverage!

Upcoming Events!

Join Us:

Saturday, May 3
Friday, May 9
Saturday, May 17
Friday, May 22

6:30 – 8 PM



Open to Youth in grades 6 through 12. Contact Pastor Kevin for location and for more information.



In Memoriam

Eleanor M. Kammerer

Birthdate: March 29, 1927

Born to Eternal Life: March 3, 2025

May 3, 2025 11:00 AM

Funeral:

Saturday, May 3

11 am



T H E R I T E O F

Baptism

Join us on Sunday, May 4, as we
welcome

Nicholas Tucker Cussick

into the waters of baptism
and God's loving arms

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved –Mark 16:16, KJV



A huge thank you to all who welcomed our guests from the Wiedensahl Handbell Choir. Hosting, feeding and driving!

A note of thanks from Thomas Eickhoff

We arrived safely in Germany. Many unforgettable impressions of this trip are still in our minds. Thank you very much for the wonderful time we had with your community in Pleasantville. It was a pleasure to visit you. Thanks to all our hosts and all the preparations which you and your team had done for us. We will never forget and we hope somewhere in the future we may meet you again in Germany, Aberdeen or the US. Please send our greetings to all we met in Pleasantville.

Best wishes, Thomas

Gift Card orders will be taken on May 4th. See what cards you can order on www.raiseright.com. Pay and receive the full value of any card, ringers fund receives between 1to 17% of the purchase depending on the card.

Herb Sale Pick up – Thank you to all who purchased Herbs to support the ringers – pick up will be on Sunday May 11th at Emanuel.

Annual Emanuel Ringers Handbell Concert

Join the ringers on May 18th at 4 PM to for our annual Handbell Concert

BIBLE STUDIES

Bible
Studies



Spring's
Focus:

Galatians

To get a link to our Bible study, the slides in advance, and a weekly reminder, send an email to pastorkevinohara@gmail.com to be put on the Bible Study email list!

FAMILY CORNER



Follow along with our Wednesday Bible Study with this practical and kid-friendly telling of Galatians. “A young boy asks where God is in his city. His grandma shows him that where love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control are, there too is God.” Join us in reading *Maybe God is Like That Too* by Jennifer Grant and Benjamin Schipper.

Puzzle!

First, write the word that fits each definition. Then transfer those letters to the correct numbered lines below, completing John 20:17 (NIV). Finally, unscramble the circled letters to complete the sentence at the bottom.

1. Water that falls from the sky 1 2 3 4
2. Birds lay these in a nest 5 6 7 8
3. A newly hatched hen 9 10 11 12 13
4. These bloom in spring 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
5. A caterpillar transformed 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29
6. Dirt mixed with water 30 31 32

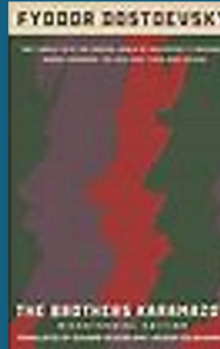
J 5 8 31 20 8 2 3 32 ... "I" 2 30
2 20 12 25 4 32 11 4 6 24 16 30 29
 F 2 23 10 18 26 2 4 32 29 16 22 1
 F 2 24 10 25 19 23 16 30 29 G 16 32
2 4 32 29 16 31 1 G 16 32."

John 20:17, NIV

Jesus has _____!

Father and your Father, to my God and your God." (John 20:17, NIV) Jesus has risen!

READER'S CHOICE



Fyodor Dostoevsky died months after his seminal book *the Brothers Karamazov*. Almost like a modern day retelling for its time (1879) of the

Prodigal Son story, familial relationships are put to the test as the fictional narrative unfolds—father and sons, romances, and faith in God and the church. One can't also read this story without seeing the complexity of living in Russia then or even now. While this is a sizeable novel, it's a quick read that will have you asking healthy questions of your own.

FAMILY CORNER



"Children will delight in searching the warm and inviting illustrations by Megan Higgins to discover a range

of people, places and things in each scene. From the Palm Sunday parade to the Garden of Gethsemane, from breakfast on the beach to the road to Emmaus, this look-and-find book introduces children to the richness of stories from the season." – *Living Lutheran Magazine*

TRY THIS!

Create a unique bead necklace or wristband that will remind you of God's presence. Share another one with a friend.

Blood Drive

Saving lives is sweet!

Join us to give and get a box of Girl Scout cookies.

One box per visiting donor May 1-31, while supplies last.
Flavor options vary by location.



Prepare to donate



Eat well
and hydrate



Bring a
photo ID



Feel good and
symptom free



Must be 17+ or
16 with parental
consent form



Meet minimum
weight requirements



Written consent from
your Doctor if aged 76
or older.

Thursday, May 29th
1:00pm – 7:00pm

Community Blood Drive

Emanuel Lutheran Church

197 Manville Rd. Pleasantville, NY

3 options to sign up:

- [Click here](#)
- Scan the QR code
- Go to nybc.org/sponsor and use code # 08737



Coming up at Emanuel

5/6/25 - Women's Breakfast - 9:00 am
5/8/25 - PH Nursery School Board Meeting - 6:00 pm
5/12/25 - Common Threads - 1:00 pm
5/13/25 - Worship, Music + Arts - 7:30 pm
5/14/25 - Boy's Breakfast - 9:00 am
5/14/25 - Christian, Faith and Life - 6:00 pm
5/15/25 - Church Council Meeting - 7:00 pm
5/18/25 - Emanuel Handbell Concert - 4:00 pm
5/20/25 - Staff Meeting - 11:30 am
5/26/25 - Memorial Day - Church Office is Closed
5/27/25 - Deacon's Meeting - 7:00 pm
5/28/25 - Boy's Breakfast - 9:00 am
5/29/25 - Blood Drive at Emanuel

Weekly Schedule

Sundays

Worship

8:00 & 9:30 am

Sunday School

9:30 am

Coftea Fellowship

10:30 am

Tuesdays

Emanuel Ringers I

6:45 pm

Wednesdays

Bible Study

1:00 pm

Choir Rehearsal

4:30 pm

Thursdays

Emanuel Ringers II

5:00 pm

Adult Emanuel Ringers

7:30 pm