

APRIL 2025

EMANUELITE



Emanuel Lutheran Church

197 Manville Road Pleasantville, NY 10570

914-769-1559 emanuelelc197@gmail.com www.emanuelelc.org

Worship Schedule

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

A Note From The Pastor

With the acknowledgement that all four Gospel writers told slightly different stories about Jesus' life (or more than slightly, in the case of John), scholars have used this as evidence towards picking apart each writer's voice to bring out a little of the unique character. Think of it like a painter's signature as she paints her own face in the background of every one of her works. When we compare the four gospels together over the course of Holy Week, we sometimes get conflicting information (did the cleansing of the Temple happen on Sunday or Monday or much earlier in Jesus' ministry? Did the last supper happen on the day of Passover or the day after Passover? Did Jesus really institute this last meal to be remembered through the ages? How many angels were in or around the tomb on that first Easter morning?). Each Gospel has a unique voice. It's what gives us the beauty of wondering why the Gospel writer Mark felt it important to include a story about a naked man running through the garden (oh yes! Check out Mark 14:51)

It want to expound a little bit on the Gospel of Matthew. While Mark, Luke, and John jump from Jesus being placed into the tomb to the day of resurrection, Matthew includes a paragraph (27:62-66) about some troubling news. Some of the religious leaders were so concerned with this Jesus who had clinically died on the cross and was placed securely in a tomb (so that no one would be able to easily roll away the stone that was enclosing it), they wind up asking Pilate on that Saturday for an additional guard to stand outside the tomb on a vigil. And, not only did the temple guards put eyes on the ground but the stone was "sealed" (like with superglue, only not superglue because that wasn't invented yet) so that it couldn't be moved. The only way the rock would roll (according to Matthew) is by God's divine intervention through an earthquake which signaled to an angel to actually push the stone away. If this story doesn't sound familiar, maybe its because Mark, Luke, and John's comparable voices ignore Saturday altogether.

I raise this up in a time when it's easier to believe in false narratives and conspiracy theories, and part of me wonders if Matthew is writing to a people just like us, even separated by 2000 years of history (history does repeat itself). Problems abound with every conspiracy theory. In the case of Matthew's retelling, we notice that there's a long enough gap from one point of time to the next where the tomb is unmonitored. Even with the expediency of the religious leaders requesting a guard, Jesus' tomb would have been unwatched during the overnight hours of the first day of his burial; it seems putting a guard patrol in the day hours of the second day had missed the objective it sought to ensure—that no one would come to steal the body. The action of the guards and the sealing should have been done quickly after the stone was rolled against the entrance to prove that Jesus' body wasn't stolen.

But second, and like today, truth doesn't matter as much as emotion. After two of the women meet one angel and the bodily presence of a risen Jesus (again, Matthew's retelling), the guards who are on patrol decide to promote plausible deniability so that they don't become victims of the religious leadership. The false narrative is that Jesus' body was stolen in the night while they slept. After all, it's better for the guards to acknowledge that they aren't really good at their jobs than to affirm the God who works in mysterious ways.

Conspiracy theories aren't factual, but as Pontius Pilate asks Jesus in the Gospel of John, "What is truth?" Truth seems to depend on whims and hunches. Faith, though, is "the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1). Faith is much more than subjective; it is what we believe and see in the everyday small moments of life despite other evidence or musings. Early myths of Jesus' body included that someone stole it, dogs ate it, or that Jesus' body was never put into the tomb; faith tells us that these are false narratives and we worship at an empty tomb because the savior is indeed arisen! Faith is believing that God can move mountains, dry up rivers, create out of nothing, and yes, even raise the dead to new life. This is the importance of Easter. Sure, family time and feasting is great, but we gather with Christians over the centuries who worship at an empty tomb - because with God, all things are possible!

We'll close with another line from Hebrews, this time from chapter 10, verse 23: "Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful." Easter is nothing without the conviction of faith..


Blessed Easter to you all.

Reverend Kevin O'Hara

Worship With Us


Holy Week With Emanuel

Palm Sunday – April 13




8 am- Spoken Service
9:30 am- Worship/Sunday School
10:30 am- Coftea

Maundy Thursday – April 17



12 Noon- Worship
6:30 pm- Agape Meal and Worship at
St. John's Episcopal

Good Friday – April 18




12-3 pm- Stations of the Cross
7:00 pm- Worship at Pleasantville
Presbyterian

Holy Monday through Wednesday April 14-16

7:00 pm- Online Evening Prayer

Easter – April 20



6 am- Sunrise Service
9:30 am- Worship
10:30 am- Easter Egg Hunt



As April approaches, we are excited that we get to be together as a youth group, supporting, praying, and caring for each other. See below for our future meetings in April and early May. Also, we have a special guest coming at the beginning of April, so be on the look out for more information. If you don't get our emails, please let Pastor Kevin know at pastorkevinohara@gmail.com. Easter blessings to all of you!

Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 5

Friday, April 11

Saturday, May 3

Friday, May 9

Music Notes

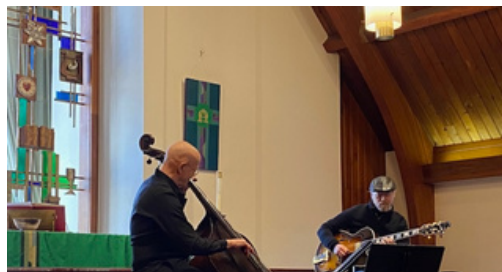
"Do not abandon yourselves to despair.

We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song!"—Pope John Paul II

Easter is right around the corner and soon we can lift our voices again in joyous "Alleluias"! I think the quote above fits our Lenten walk this year reminding us to not give in to despair.

The Choir is busy preparing anthems and songs for both Palm Sunday & Easter. On Palm Sunday, some of Emanuel's kids will be joining us for "Sing Hosanna". The Choir will also close out the service with "O Sacred Head Now Wounded" along with the congregation. Our Easter anthem "Christ the Lord is Risen Again" will give the congregation plenty of times to ring out their bells. Anyone interested in singing along during these services, please let me know.

Noontime at Emanuel wrapped up their 2024-25 season on March 19th with some relaxing jazz piano. Previously, in February we heard some smooth jazz guitar & bass. Please see some pictures from both concerts below. The 2025-26 season starts up again in September!



Deborah Norberto



Emanuel Ringers



Join us in welcoming the Handbell Choir from Germany. They will provide a concert on Saturday April 12, 4 PM at Emanuel Lutheran Church (see flyer below). Hope to see you there!

Emanuel and Katonah Presbyterian Church are hosting a potluck supper for our guests after the concert. If you can bring an item to share please fill out here - Potluck Sign up
We hope you can stay and talk with the ringers afterwards!

Thanks to the families who are opening their homes to host the visiting ringers during their stay in NY.

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The Adult Emanuel Ringers will attend the Hudson Valley Handbell Festival in Bronxville, New York on April 26th! (See flyer below). Come and hear the ringers at the Sommer Center of Iona University, Bronxville Campus.

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Thank you to all who ordered irish soda bread for helping us raise \$220 towards our upcoming trips.

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Emanuel Ringers 2025 SPRING HERB Sale
featuring fresh culinary herbs for your garden. We will be taking orders through April 20th for May 11th delivery.

We work directly with local growers to bring you top quality annual and perennial herbs to be planted in the Spring and enjoyed all season. Herbs like Basil, Rosemary, Parsley and Cilantro will enjoy lots of sun and produce all season. Herbs like Thyme Oregano, Mint and Sage will come back every year! These herbs are best planted outside mid to late May when there's plenty of sun but the nighttime temperatures are still cool. **ORDER NOW** for early MAY 11th delivery!

Place your order here: <https://near.tl/sm/pUsgrecR0>

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Gift Card orders to support the Emanuel Ringers will take place on April 6th. Cards that can be ordered can be found at www.raiseright.com
Place your order with Eiko by 6 pm Sunday April 6th. Thank you!

Eiko Cornelieus

Handbell Concert



12 April 2025

4:00 pm

Emanuel Lutheran Church

197 Manville Rd

Pleasantville, NY 10570

Please join us for a free afternoon concert featuring the
Wiedensahl Handbell Choir from Germany.

Questions? Email: emanuelringers@gmail.com

Sponsored by:



BIBLE STUDIES

Bible
Studies



Winter's
Focus:

The
Gospel
of
John

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 TIME



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

The Third Commandment

Remember the sabbath day,
and keep it holy.

What is this?

OR

What does this mean?

We are to fear and love God, so that we do not despise preaching or God's word, but instead keep that word holy and gladly hear and learn it.

The Fourth Commandment

Honor your father and your mother.

What is this?

OR

What does this mean?

We are to fear and love God, so that we neither despise nor anger our parents and others in authority, but instead honor, serve, obey, love, and respect them.

Come and join in the fun at Emanuel Lutheran Church's
Annual
Easter Egg Hunt
April 20, 2025



- Bring a basket or bag, and hunt for Easter eggs after the service (around 11:00 am) on Easter morning.

Open to all children from Toddlers to Grade 5

IF there is inclement weather conditions, we will have our hunt inside.

We encourage our families from Pleasant Hill Nursery School to join us. All are invited to come and worship at 9:30am, then participate in the hunt on our front lawn.

Please call Dee in the church office, if there are any questions. (914)-769-1559



OUR EASTER GIFT

Thanks to Easter, what wonderful gift does God give us?

Directions: Start at the given letter, move one space in the direction each arrow points. Write the last letter in each sequence in the spaces provided. Then write those answers in order on the blanks below to complete 1 Peter 1:3, NIV.

A	B	C	D	E
F	G	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	O
P	Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X	Y

1. C → ↓ ↓ —
2. H → ↑ → —
3. V ↑ → ↓ —
4. I ← ← ↑ —
5. T ↑ ← ↑ —
6. P ↑ → → ↓ —
7. D ↓ → ↓ ↓ —
8. T ↑ ← ↑ ← —



Praise be to the God and Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ!
In his great mercy he has given us

_____ into a living hope through the
resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3, NIV

TRY THIS!

Collect flowers from your yard for a special bouquet to give to someone you love.

READER'S CHOICE



We all can use a good laugh. In fact, the Sunday after Easter is known as “Humor Sunday”.

The satirical book that is grounded in the legends of

Christianity, *Good Omens* is about the end times in the present age. As angels and demons size up the upcoming war, two celestial bodies find how to work together while the anti-Christ might learn a powerful lesson of power. Pay special attention to the continuing references to a “garden”—that is on purpose. And check out the sitcom on Amazon Prime.

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*



Help Support Global Refuge!

Global Refuge, the new name of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) adopted in January 2024, has welcomed more than 750,000 immigrants and refugees since 1939. In the 1940s they help settle Displaced Persons from Germany and Eastern Europe. In the 1950s they welcomed refugees from Hungary and Cuba. Since that time, they have welcomed refugees from Uganda, Vietnam, the Balkans, Sudan, Afghanistan, and other places.

Late in January 2025, an Executive Order called for Global Refuge, along with other refugee resettlement agencies, to immediately stop serving newly arrived refugees in their care. This stop-work order means that government-funding that provides food, housing, education, job placement, healthcare, and basic needs for refugees until they can become self-sufficient in the U.S. has come to a halt. These refugees fled war, violence, or persecution. They came to the United States lawfully through the official U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, arriving with little more than the clothes on their backs. Now the support they had been promised has stopped, leaving them vulnerable to eviction, and food insecurity, as well as a lack of healthcare and schooling. because government funding has ceased, Global Refuge must now solely rely on the generosity of donors to fill the gap. If you would like to help them welcome our new residents, you can give on-line at www.globalrefuge.org, or make a gift through Emanuel and designate it for Refugees.

The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the LORD your God. –Lev. 19:34 (NIV)



Pleasantville EVBS

St. John's Episcopal Church

August 11-15, 2025

8:30am to 12:00pm

Concert Thursday Evening

Grades K-8 Welcome

Registration closes July 18, 2025

\$85 for 1 child
\$100 for 2 children
\$120 for 3+ children

Nursery & Pre-K is exclusively for the children of volunteers.

Questions about registration contact:

Deborah Hurdis at
munozhurdis@gmail.com







Easter Flower Order Form

In Celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Sanctuary will be decorated with Easter Plants.

Please use this form to order your flowers and/or to contribute to World Hunger.
The deadline to place your order is Sunday, March 24th.

Name _____ Envelope # _____

Your choice:  _____ Lilies (\$ 12.00) _____ Daffodils (\$ 10.00) 
 _____ Tulips (\$10) _____ Hydrangeas (\$22) 

Donation to Lutheran World Hunger Amount Given: \$ _____

I would like the gift designated as follows:

- Given to the Glory of God
- Given in memory or in honor of: _____

(Please print clearly)

Coming up at Emanuel

4/1/25 - Women's Breakfast - 9:00 am
4/1/25 - Staff Meeting - 11:30 am
4/2/25 - Boys Breakfast - 9:00 am
4/6/25 - Lent 6
4/7/25 - Stewardship Meeting - 5:00 pm
4/7/25 - Scholarship Committee Meeting - 6:00 pm
4/8/25 - Worship, Music + Arts - 7:30 pm
4/9/25 - Christian, Faith + Life - 6:00 pm
4/10/25 - Church Council Meeting - 7:00 pm
4/13/25 - Palm Sunday
4/16/25 - Boys Breakfast - 9:00 am
4/17/25 - Maundy-Thursday Service - 12:00 pm
4/18/25 - Good Friday/Stations of the Cross -
12:00 - 3:00 pm
4/20/25 - Easter Sunday/Easter Egg Hunt
4/22/25 - Deacon's Meeting - 7:00 pm
4/28/25 - Westchester Recorder's Guild
4/29/25 - Staff Meeting - 11:30 am
4/30/25 - Boys Breakfast - 9:00 am

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