

Emmanuel C.S.I. Church, Philadelphia
4937 Church Avenue,
Feasterville-Trevoose, PA 19053

Sunday school at 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.

1st & 3rd – Malayalam Holy Communion
2nd & 4th – English Holy Communion
5th – Malayalam Matins

Teleconference Prayer – Wednesday @ 8:00 PM

Fasting Prayer – Every Saturday @ 10:00 AM

Contact Information:

President: Rev. P. J. Jose: (215) 825-3305
Vice-president: Mr. Koshy K. Varghese - (267) 312-5373
Secretary: Mr. Cherian M. Abraham - (215) 620-7324
Jt. Secretary: Mr. Ivan Pattermthanam - (215) 720-5058
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Newsletter of
Emmanuel C.S.I. Church, Philadelphia
February 2025



On March 05, 2025

**SPEAK OUT @
EMMANUEL**

(A monthly Publication)

4937 Church Avenue
Feasterville-Trevoose, PA 19053

Ash Wednesday: Few Facts

While Ash Wednesday is perhaps most closely associated with Catholicism, there are many Christian sects that recognize it, including Lutherans, Methodists, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and some Baptists. There are also Christians that refrain from Ash Wednesday celebrations. Mormons, Evangelicals, and Pentecostal Christians are some of the denominations that don't take part in the holy day.

The Ashes used on Ash Wednesday are meant to represent dust. When receiving ashes on their foreheads, parishioners hear the words: "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." This is a reference what God says to Adam when exiling him from the Garden of Eden (in the Christian Bible, Adam is literally formed from dust). On Ash Wednesday, the saying is a reminder to be humble in the face of mortality.

The first Ash Wednesday ceremonies were likely held sometime in 11th century. It's never mentioned in the Bible, but there is a verse in the Book of Daniel that links fasting to ashes, and some scholars believe this is the origin of the Lenten practice.

The ashes used on Ash Wednesday are surprisingly eco-friendly. On Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter, many churches pass out palm fronds like those used to welcome Jesus Christ to Jerusalem days before his crucifixion. Some churches save those palms to burn them and make the ashes that are applied to peoples' foreheads roughly 11 months later.



From Achen's Desk

Praise the Lord, God bless the Emmanuel family. Once again it is my pleasure to address the Emmanuel family through this month's newsletter.

Stephen the First Martyr

In the early history of the church, from the 1st century of the Christian era to the present time persecution and martyrdom are central to the experience of Christianity. The people of faith have suffered persecution in different form as a result of their faith. The word 'Martyr' is a transliteration of the Greek word for 'witness'. The Martyrs have borne witness to 'Jesus Christ', by their lives and by their deaths. Stephen has the distinction of being the first to ever sacrifice his life for the cause of Christ. So he is known as the first Christian Martyr of early church. As Jesus said that you will be my witnesses.... to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8), we are called to be a true witness in this world for Christ.

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Stephen was one of the seven chosen by the early Christian church to deal with a dispute over the distribution of food to the needy and poor widows, while the Apostles devoted themselves for their spiritual tasks of prayer and securing the word.

Stephen the braver defender of faith.

Stephen was known for his great and unshakable faith. James 2:17 says that faith by itself, if it has no work, is dead. So, faith with work is the fundamental characteristic to a true witness.

Stephen the powerful proclaimer of the word of God.

Stephen came to know Christ through Peter the Apostle. Though he had not seen Jesus Christ, he knew the one in whom he had put his trust. So boldly he spoke to the world around him through his dynamic proclamation of the God's word. Stephen lived a short life and made a great impact on Christianity through his life and witness for Christ. Amen.

Yours loving

Joseachen

Our regularly scheduled Prayer meetings will be held on Wednesday nights at 8:30 PM and Saturday Mornings at 10:0 AM. Everyone's prayerful participation requested.

March 09 6th Sunday before Easter-1st Sun in Lent Holy Communion Service (English)

Theme: Being with the Outcasts & Marginalized

1 Lesson: Esther 4: 1 - 17

Psalm 43

Lesson: Acts 15: 12 - 21

Gospel: Mark 1: 40 - 45

Lay Ministry: Sunday School Children

March 16 5th Sunday before Easter (2nd Sun in Lent) Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)

Theme: Releasing from the Burden of Sin

1 Lesson: 2 Samuel 12: 1 - 14

Psalm 32

2 Lesson: Acts 8: 9 - 25

Gospel: Mark 2: 1 - 12

Songs:

Lay Ministry: Mr. Chase Koshy & Family

March 23 4th Sunday before Easter-3rd Sun in Lent Holy Communion Service (English)

Theme: Acknowledging Faith Beyond Boundaries

1 Lesson: Isaiah 44: 28 – 45: 08

Psalm 125

Lesson: Acts 10: 24 - 33

Gospel: Matthew 15: 21 - 28

Songs:

Lay Ministry: Youth Fellowship

Birthday Greetings:

The following members will be celebrating their birthdays in the month of February. They are requested to attend the Thanksgiving prayer during the Service.

Mr. Jacob Russal	02/10
Dr. Benjamin George	02/17
Mrs. Elizabeth Anish Mathew	02/17
Dr. Mrs. Prameela George	02/22
Mr. Ivan Patterthanam	02/23
Mr. Tony Mathew	02/24
Ms. Lena Cherian	02/24
Mrs. Annamma Mathew	02/25
Mrs. Teena Annie John	02/27



God's richest blessings be upon you as you celebrate yet another year on this journey with Christ and as you commit each day into the hands of the Lord.



Lectionary for February 2025

February 02 **4th Sunday after Epiphany**
Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)
Theme: Praise the Lord (Worship)

1 Lesson: Exodus 9: 1 - 7

Psalm 81

2 Lesson: Revelations 5: 1 - 14

Gospel: John 2: 13 - 22

Lay Ministry: Mr. Abraham Kunnel. & Family

February 9 **10th Sunday before Easter**
Holy Communion Service (English)

Theme: Healing in Sickness (Healing Ministry)

1 Lesson: Exodus 4: 10 - 17

Psalm 103: 1 - 10

Lesson: 2 Corinthians 12: 1 - 10

Gospel: John 9: 1 - 7

Lay Ministry: Youth Fellowship Members

February 16 **9th Sunday before Easter**
Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)

Theme: The Inter-Dependence in Creation

1 Lesson: Genesis 2: 1 - 15

Psalm 104: 25-35

2 Lesson: Colossians 2: 16 - 23

Gospel: Matthew 13: 1 - 9

Lay Ministry: Mr. Anish Mathew & Family

(Bake Sale by Youth Fellowship)

Lectionary for February 2025

February 23 **8th Sunday before Easter**
Holy Communion Service (English)
Theme: The Corruption of Creation
1 Lesson: Isaiah 5: 1 - 13
Psalm 8
2 Lesson: Galatians 1: 5 - 10
Gospel: Luke 10: 13 - 16
Lay Ministry: Mr. Ivan Pattermthanam & Family

March 02 **7th Sunday before Easter**
Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)
(Women's Fellowship Sunday)
Theme: Remember and Celebrate the Ministry of Women
1 Lesson: Judges 4: 4 - 16
Psalm 132
2 Lesson: Philippians 4: 1 - 7
Gospel: Luke 8: 1 - 3
Lay Ministry: **Women's Fellowship Members**

March 05 **Ash Wednesday**
Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)
Theme: **Cross: A Call to Vicarious Suffering**
1 Lesson: 1 Kings 17: 12 - 24
Psalm **102**
2 Lesson: Philippians 2: 1 - 11
Gospel: **Mark 8: 31 - 38**
Lay Ministry: **Church Committee Members**

Importance days of the Church Calendar

Date	Event
01/06/2025	Epiphany
01/19/2025	Annual General Body Meeting
02/16/2025	Bake Sale by Youth Fellowship
01/26/2025	Republic Day of India
03/02/2025	Women's Fellowship Sunday
03/05/2025	Ash Wednesday
04/06/2025	Passion Sunday
04/13/2025	Palm Sunday
04/17/2025	Maundy Thursday
04/18/2025	Good Friday
04/20/2025	Easter Sunday
05/11/2025	Mother's Day
05/29/2025	Ascension of our Lord
06/08/2025	Pentecost Sunday
06/15/2025	Trinity Sunday & Father's Day
08/03/2025	Mission Sunday Laity Sunday
09/07/2025	/Education Sunday
09/21/2025	Choir Sunday
09/27/2025	CSI Formation Day
09/28/2025	Senior Citizen's Sunday
10/05/2025	Laity Sunday
10/19/2025	Church Day
10/26/2025	Reformation Sunday
11/02/2025	Sunday school Sunday
11/09/2025	Unity Sunday
11/30/2025	Thanksgiving Sunday
12/10/2025	Bible Sunday
12/25/2025	Christmas Day
12/28/2025	Family Sunday
12/31/2025	Watchnight Service