

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

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

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

Teleconference Prayer – Wednesday @ 8:30 PM

Fasting Prayer – Every Saturday @ 10:00 AM

Contact Information:

President: Rev. Sandeep Jacob: (215) 688-2289  
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  
Treasurer: Mr. Saju Issac Mathew - (215) 327-9875  
Web Master: Miss Reeba Ivan: (215) 353PM6592

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Newsletter of  
Emmanuel C.S.I. Church, Philadelphia  
February 2026



On February 18, 2026

**SPEAK OUT @  
EMMANUEL**

(A monthly Publication)

4937 Church Avenue  
Feasterville-Trevoze, 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

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We enter the month of February in the midst of winter, with biting cold, and snow falling around us. The frozen ground and quiet streets remind us of the stillness of the season. Yet even in this cold and silence, God is at work. Beneath the snow, life is being preserved, waiting for the right time to emerge. In the same way, God continues His hidden work within our hearts.

February is a month that reminds us of love, relationships, and commitment. While the world often speaks of love in fleeting or sentimental ways, the Church calls us to rediscover love as self-giving, patient, and faithful — the kind of love revealed to us in Christ.

This month also gently prepares us for the sacred season of Lent. The Church invites us to prayer, reflection, and spiritual discipline. Just as we protect ourselves from the cold, Lent is a call for us to protect and nurture our spiritual lives through prayer, fasting, and acts of compassion. Ash Wednesday is about honest self-examination and hopeful turning back to God.

*Continued on next page (2)*

The Church invites us on this day to three spiritual disciplines: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Prayer draws us closer to God, fasting teaches us self-control and dependence on Him, and almsgiving opens our hearts to the needs of others. Together, these practices shape us into people who love God more deeply and serve others more faithfully.

May we take courage from the words of Scripture:

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” (John 1:5)

May the Lord protect you in this winter season, fill your homes with warmth, and keep our parish rooted in faith, hope, and love.

Rev. Sandeep Jacob

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.

## Lectionary for March 2026

**March 08 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Easter**  
**Holy Communion Service (English)**  
**Theme: Women's Sunday: Women Who Trust God: Faithful & Fearless**  
**1 Lesson:** 2 Kings 22: 11 - 20  
**Psalm** 18: 1 - 19  
**Lesson:** Romans 16: 1 - 17  
**Gospel:** Matthew 15: 21 - 28  
**Lay Ministry:** Women's Fellowship Members

**March 15 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Easter (4<sup>th</sup> Sun in Lent)**  
**Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)**  
**Theme: Call to be Liberative**  
**1 Lesson:** Isaiah 1: 12 - 17  
**Psalm** 9  
**2 Lesson:** Ephesians 6: 5 - 9  
**Gospel:** Luke 13: 10 - 17  
**Lay Ministry:** Mr. Ipe Varghese & Family

**March 22 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Easter-5<sup>th</sup> Sun in Lent**  
**Holy Communion Service (English)**  
**Passion Sunday**  
**Theme: Cross: Manifestation of Grace**  
**1 Lesson:** Micah 7: 15 – 20  
**Psalm** 31  
**Lesson:** 1 Peter 2: 17 - 24  
**Gospel:** Mark 10: 46 - 52  
**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
Mr. Ipe Varghese	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
Mr. Renju Mathew	02/25
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 2026

### **February 01 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Easter Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)**

**Theme:** Sabbath Leads to the Fullness of Creation  
**1 Lesson:** Genesis 1: 31 – 2:3  
**Psalm** 24  
**2 Lesson:** Hebrews 4: 2 - 11  
**Gospel:** Mark 3: 1 - 6  
**Lay Ministry:** Mr. Prasad Philip & Family

### **February 08 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Easter Holy Communion Service (English)**

**Theme:** Healing Ministry: Compassion: Loving and Suffering Together  
**1 Lesson:** Isaiah 42: 1 - 9  
**Psalm** 103: 1 - 14  
**Lesson:** James 5: 13 - 18  
**Gospel:** Matthew 9: 35 - 38  
**Lay Ministry:** Youth Fellowship Members

### **February 15 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Easter Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)**

**Theme:** Christ Redeems All: divine Love Embraces Everyone  
**1 Lesson:** Jonah 4: 1 - 11  
**Psalm** 107: 1 - 20  
**2 Lesson:** 1 Timothy 2: 1 - 7  
**Gospel:** Mark 2: 13 - 17  
**Lay Ministry:** Mrs. Susie George & Family

## Lectionary for February & March 2026

**February 18**                    **Ash Wednesday**  
**Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)**  
**Theme:**            **Lent: A Call to Renewal**  
**1 Lesson:** Ezekiel 36: 24 - 36  
**Psalm**            51  
**2 Lesson:** Romans 11: 33 – 12:2  
**Gospel:**        Matthew 6: 5 - 18  
**Lay Ministry: Church Committee Members**

**February 22**            **6<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Easter**  
**Holy Communion Service (English)**  
**Theme:**            **Call to be Compassionate**  
**1 Lesson:** Ruth 2: 4 - 20  
**Psalm**            145  
**2 Lesson:** Ephesians 4: 25 - 32  
**Gospel:**        Mark 1: 40 - 45  
**Lay Ministry:** Mrs. Jiji Verghese & Family

**March 01**            **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Easter**  
**Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)**  
**Theme:**            **Call to Shoulder Each Other's Burdens**  
**1 Lesson:** 2 Samuel 9: 1 - 13  
**Psalm**            41  
**2 Lesson:** Galatians 6: 1 - 10  
**Gospel:**        Mark 2: 1 - 12  
**Lay Ministry:** Mr. Mathew Abraham & Family

## Importance days of the Church Calendar

Date	Event
01/18/2026	Annual General Body Meeting (Adjourned)
02/01/2026	Annual General Body Meeting
02/18/2026	Ash Wednesday
03/08/2026	Women's Sunday
03/22/2026	Passion Sunday
03/29/2026	Palm Sunday
04/02/2026	Maundy Thursday
04/03/2026	Good Friday
04/05/2026	Holy Sunday (Easter Sunday)
05/10/2026	Mother's Day
05/14/2026	Ascension of our Lord
05/24/2026	Pentecost Sunday
05/31/2026	Trinity Sunday
06/21/2026	Father's Day
07/05/2026	Stewardship Sunday
08/02/2026	Mission Sunday
<b>08/29/2026</b>	<b>Church Picnic @ Core Creek Park</b>
09/06/2026	Education Sunday
09/20/2026	Choir Sunday
09/27/2026	CSI Formation Day/Senior Citizen's Sunday
10/04/2026	Laity Sunday
10/11/2025	Youth Sunday
10/18/2026	Philadelphia CSI Church Day
10/25/2026	Reformation Sunday
11/01/2026	World Sunday School Sunday
11/08/2026	Unity Sunday
11/22/2026	Thanksgiving Sunday
	Door to Door Carols
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	Carol Service
12/25/2026	Christmas Day
12/27/2026	Family Sunday
12/31/2026	Watchnight Service & Covenant Day