

Saturday, December 20th and Sunday, December 21st

4th Weekend of Advent

Emmanuel

God with Us!



Worship Services: Saturdays at 5:00pm • Sundays at 9:45am

Parish Education: Sunday School - Grades Pre-K to 6th - 8:30am • Adult Forum - 8:30am
Confirmation - Grades 7 & 8 - Wednesdays 6:30pm

Church Office Hours: Tues-Thurs 9am-2pm • Fri 9am-12pm

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UPCOMING EVENTS

for the week of
December 21-28

Sunday	9:45am Worship
Wednesday	4:00pm Christmas Eve Worship
Saturday	5:00pm Worship
Sunday	9:45am Worship

Next date for
Reading Buddies
will be Tuesday,
January 27th



Poinsettias on the altar provided by:

Cindy Westbrook - in memory of Shorty Dannewitz
 Karol Grandgeorge - In honor of loved ones
 Connie Hamer - for thankfulness
 Tom & Jackie Harmon - In honor of loved ones
 Joanne Robinson - In honor of loved ones

Offering 12/6 and 12/7	Received	Received YTD
General Fund	\$2,778.00	\$215,166.02
Poinsettias	\$17.00	\$85.00
Safe Passage	\$100.00	\$530.93



Prayer Requests

Mary Bark
 Mary Carlson
 Lance Davenport
 Lee Gehrke
 The Family of Christy Gibson
 Marlyn Glover
 Sharon Goode

Mike Hamer
 Mary Ann Hulon
 Linda Johnson
 Rhea Lumsden
 Linda Martin
 Doris Miller
 James Moris

Lonnie Murray
 Kay Nelson
 Roger & Helen
 Larry Rogers
 Shelly
 Lynn Skryzpiec
 Lois Spizziri
 Rosemary Underwood
 Jackie Wendland
 Cindy Westbrook
 Susan White

Dates to Remember

Month	Date	Occasion
JANUARY	27	READING BUDDIES

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Please stand as you are able.

Assisting Minister 1: Blessed be the holy Trinity, [☩] one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

C: Amen.

Assisting Minister 1: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Assisting Minister 1: Long-expected God,

C: we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised.

Amen.

Assisting Minister 1: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. [☩] You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn ELW 275 Angels, from the Realm of Glory

Greeting

Assisting Minister 1: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Assisting Minister 1: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

C: With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

The Fourth candle of the Advent Wreath.

Assisting Minister 1: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. In your Son, Emmanuel, you have shown us your light and saved us from the power of sin

Assisting Minister 2: Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Increase our longing for your presence, that at the celebration of your Son's birth his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

C: Amen.

Advent song ELW 240 "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

4 Verses *(Assisting Minister lights 4 Advent candles)*

Assisting Minister 2: The First Reading comes from the Book of Isaiah Chapter 7 vs 10-16

Assisting Minister 2: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Assisting Minister 2: Our Psalm today is Psalm 80, verses 1-7 & 17-19

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

² **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³ Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴ **O Lord God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶ **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷ **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸ And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹ **Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

Assisting Minister 2: The Second Reading comes from James Chapter 5 verses 7-10

Assisting Minister 2: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

Assisting Minister 2: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 1st Chapter

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

Assisting Minister 2: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Hymn Sing

ELW 270 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing vs. 1&2

Assisting Minister 1: Charles Wesley wrote the original text as a "Hymn for Christmas-Day," inspired by church bells. The hymn initially started with "Hark, how all the welkin rings" (welkin meaning heaven's vault).

Wesley's friend and fellow Methodist leader, George Whitfield revised the first line to "Hark! The herald angels sing / Glory to the newborn King," a change Wesley disliked but became standard. The tune is set to a tune composed by Felix Mendelssohn as a part of a cantata celebrating Gutenberg's printing press. William H. Cummings was an organist who adapted Mendelssohn's secular tune to Wesley's (Whitefield's revised) lyrics, creating the joyous Christmas carol we know today. The lyrics are based on the Gospel of Luke 2:8-14, telling the story of the angel announcing Jesus' birth to the shepherds.

ELW 244 Rejoice, Rejoice Believers vs. 1&2

Assisting Minister 2: This hymn was written by German Lutheran cantor and music director Laurentius Laurenti and first published in 1700. Laurenti was a prominent writer of German hymns in the Pietist tradition. He was born on June 8, 1660, in Husum, in the Duchy of Schleswig (which was under Danish control at the time). He died on May 29, 1722, in Bremen, Germany. In 1684, he was appointed as the cantor and music director at the Lutheran cathedral church in Bremen, a position he held for 38 years until his death. The text of the hymn is based on the Gospel lesson for the twenty-seventh Sunday after Trinity, specifically the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Maidens, emphasizing the church's hope in Christ's second coming and the need for watchfulness. It is widely used during the Advent season, focusing on the anticipation of Christ's return.

ELW 288 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice vs. 1&2

Assisting Minister 1: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" (originally "Good Christian Men, Rejoice") is a beloved Christmas carol with roots in 14th-century Germany. The melody comes from a medieval manuscript (c. 1400) and is associated with a legend of angels singing it. John Mason Neale, a prolific hymn translator, published the familiar English version in *Carols for Christmastide*, adapting the title and words. "Good Christian friends, rejoice" is rather unusual compared to other translations rendered by Neale in that the original song was in two languages—Latin and German. The technical term for this is *macaronic*, meaning Latin plus the vernacular language, thus this song is classified as a macaronic carol.

Macaronic carols were most certainly not sung as a part of the medieval Roman Catholic liturgy for at least three reasons: only Latin would have been sung in the Mass at this

time; macaronic carols used dance-like rhythms in contrast to unmetered flow of plain-song chant; and folk instruments including percussion were often used to accompany these songs, instruments usually not permitted in the Mass. The original hymn mixed Latin with German to teach the common people. The hymn emphasizes that Christ's birth brings eternal joy and opens heaven's door, urging complete, heartfelt praise.

Apostle's Creed

Assisting Minister 2: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
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. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Assisting Minister 2: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

Assisting Minister 2:God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Assisting Minister 2: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C: Amen.

The Peace

Assisting Minister 2: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Assisting Minister 2: Let us offer to each other the sign of peace.

Offering

Please stand as you are able.

Offering Prayer

P: Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Assisting Minister 1: Let us pray together the words our Savior gave us:

C: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,**
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

Assisting Minister 1: May God who comes among us, Father, ⁺ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today

and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn ELW 267 Joy to the World

Dismissal

Assisting Minister 1: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

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