

*Saturday, December 20th and Sunday, December 21st*  
4th Weekend of Advent

# Emmanuel

*God with Us!*



**St. John's**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**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

235 S Green Street | PO Box 245 | Somonauk, IL 60552 | 815-498-3667

office@elcastjohns.org | www.elcastjohns.org

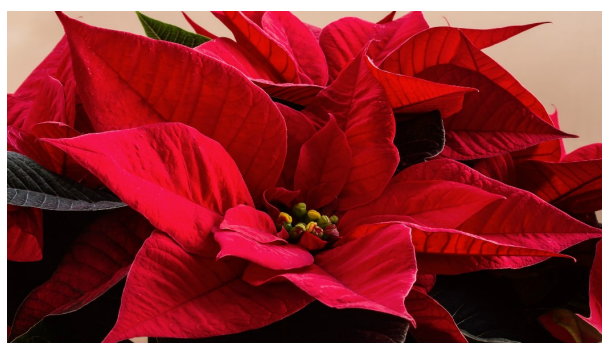
# UPCOMING EVENTS

for the week of  
December 21-28

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

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS



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

Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service

SILENT NIGHT!  
HOLY NIGHT!



SON OF GOD,  
LOVE'S PURE LIGHT...

**4:00 PM**  
**December 24th**

## 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

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

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

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

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

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

- <sup>6</sup> **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**  
<sup>7</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.  
<sup>17</sup> **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**  
<sup>18</sup> And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.  
<sup>19</sup> **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

**C: Glory to you O Lord. 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 (Whitfield'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.

**COPYRIGHT INFORMATION**

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #28510  
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.