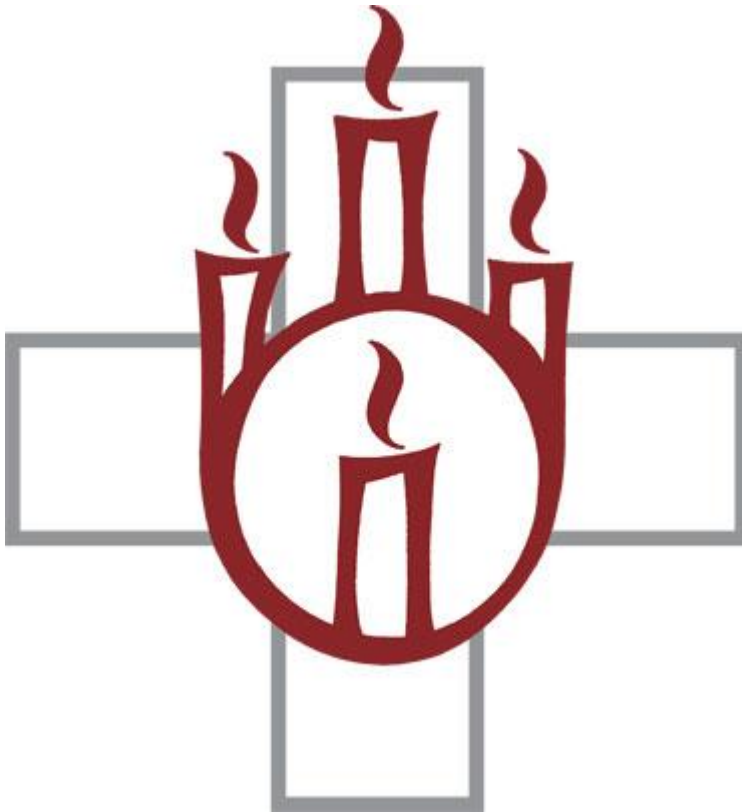


WELCOME TO EMMAUS LUTHERAN!



THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sunday, December 24, 2023

GOD'S DIVINE SERVICE TO US:



The Lord Builds a House for David: Jesus Christ Who Comes in the Flesh

When King David *“lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies,”* he piously supposed that he would build a house for God (2 Sam. 7:1–2). But the Lord would turn it around: He would establish a house for David and an everlasting throne. This He has done not only for David, but also for all His people, in the Son of David, Jesus Christ, “conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary” (Apostles’ Creed). That holy child, the incarnate *“Son of the Most High,”* receives *“the throne of his father David”* and begins to reign *“over the house of Jacob forever”* (Luke 1:32–33). Having given Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, His body is the true and eternal temple of God in which His people have their own place of peace and rest. That is *“the mystery that was kept secret for long ages”* but is now *“made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God”* in order that we may have faith and life in Christ (Rom. 16:25–26).



WELCOME! What a blessing to gather together to worship the One True God! The Lord will bless your worship as he brings His gifts to you through Word and Sacrament. May we all respond with prayer, praise and thanksgiving. **We invite you to prepare for worship in silence and prayer.** Remembering your Baptism, you are encouraged to make the sign of the cross when you see this symbol ✝ in the bulletin. **If you are a guest, Pastor Olsen would love to meet you and we ask that you sign the Guest book located in the front hallway.**



WORSHIP WITH CHILDREN: Worship is a time for the entire family to be together to hear the Word of God, for faith comes by hearing (Rom. 10:17). Therefore we encourage parents and children of all ages to sit together in the service. Understanding it is difficult for little ones to sit for long periods, ***Totes for Tots*** activity bags are available as you enter church (*by the information table*) for children to use during the worship service. Each bag contains books and quiet toys. Please return the bags and their contents after the worship service. Thank you! A

Cry Room is also available in the Preschool/Mrs. MacKenzie’s room (east hall), where you can listen to the worship service.

DON’T UNDERSTAND THE WORSHIP SERVICE? If it is your first time, some things may seem foreign. Worship does not come naturally we have to learn it. It does not come on the first try; the first hour in a foreign country the language and customs may be foreign. The liturgy is the special activity of the baptized people of God. It has its own special language like we do in our workplaces. It has its own customs like we do in our families. Every Sunday we learn more of worship and faith. The liturgy is where God reveals Himself to us and gives us His gifts. Here we learn who He is and how to respond to Him. The words of worship come from the Scriptures and its form has been used for 2,000 years. So don’t worry if it all seems strange. You learn by practicing - join us each week!

“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the House of the Lord...’” Psalm 122:1



PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

RESTROOMS are located on each side of the sanctuary. There is a baby changing table located in the girl’s locker room on the west side. We also have a **Family Restroom** (handicap accessible & baby changing station) located at the southwest corner of the building, just outside the Church Office.



DIVINE SERVICE

Setting One

Pg 151

Divine Service

Lutherans follow an order of worship based exclusively on Scripture and focused completely on Jesus. Through the Word and Sacraments, God speaks to His people.

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Hymn

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

All: vv. 1, 3, 5

Women/Girls: v.2

Men/Boys: v. 4

**** Refrain sung by all. ****



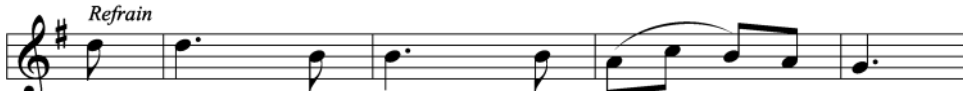
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



C Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Each stanza of this hymn concentrates on a different biblical name for Christ, making this hymn a rich source of Christian meditation.

(Isaiah 7:10-14; Isaiah 11:1-5, 10-11; Matthew 1:23)

Text and tune: Public domain

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

Invocation

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8-9

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

[John 20:19-23]

C Amen.

Invocation is from the Latin for "call upon"; the words spoken at the beginning of the service; serves as a reminder of Holy Baptism.

P = Pastor

L = Liturgist/Lector

C = Congregation

S = Soloist

Confession is the act by which one admits or confesses sin(s) and the guilt of sin.

*Absolution literally means "set free." This Latin term was used as a translation of the biblical word *aphiemi*, meaning "to set free, cancel, or forgive."*

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

Introit & Lighting of the Advent Candles

S Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

C O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh:
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

[LSB #357, v. 6]

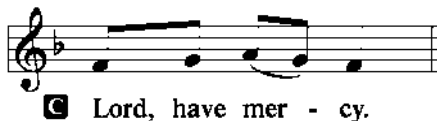
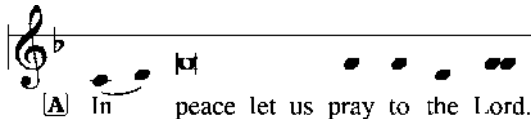
S The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. In them he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy. Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

C O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

[LSB #357, v. 7]
Text: Public domain.

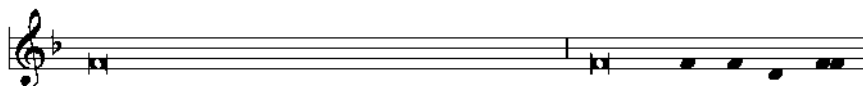
Kyrie

Mark 10:47



The Introit is a collection of passages from Scripture that set the tone for the services; verses are different each Sunday. Today's Introit sung by the soloist is from Psalm 19.

Kyrie is Greek for "Lord, have mercy." It is the first prayer of the congregation in the Divine Service; it is a cry for mercy that our Lord and King will hear us and help us in our needs and troubles.



A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



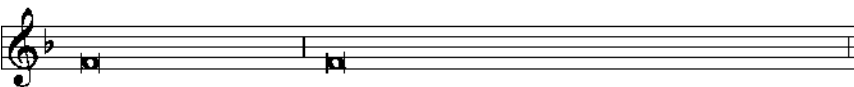
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



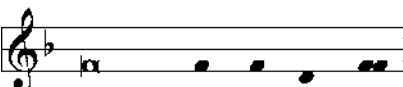
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



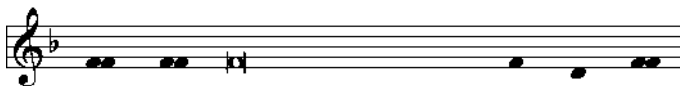
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



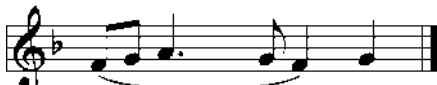
let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Hymn of Praise

The Hymn of Praise is omitted during Advent.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Salutation shows the special relationship between the congregation and the pastor, God's representative. It is a greeting found often in the Bible.

The Collect is the pastor's first prayer in the name of the people, as he speaks for the congregation. It "collects" the theme for the day in a concise way.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 7:10-17

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Summary:

A sign is provided for King Ahaz, and a prophecy of the coming one Immanuel "God with us."

¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Soloist

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem. Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you.

The Gradual is a response of praise between the Old Testament and Epistle readings.

Epistle: Romans 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Summary:

Paul begins his letter to the church in Rome with the message of the prophecy of the Christ, His birth and His resurrection.

Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Alleluia is Hebrew for “praise the Lord” and is a word of joy and gladness. The Verse is a response sung between the Epistle and Gospel readings in the Divine Service.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Summary:

The angel reveals the unique miracle that will take place in Mary of a special child, pointing us to the prophecy given to King Ahaz in Isaiah 7.



Hymn of the Day

356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
 In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!

Text and tune: Public domain

Mary was uniquely favored among women—chosen by God to give birth to His Son! She responded with firm faith in God's word of promise carried to her by the angel Gabriel. (Luke 1:26 -38; Isaiah 7:14)

The Sermon: The preacher proclaims God's Law and Gospel for the hearers.

Sermon

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
 the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth
 and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of His Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light,

The Creed is a solemn confession and response of faith to the Word. The Nicene Creed was composed in A.D. 325.

very God of very God,
 begotten, not made,
 being of one substance with the Father,
 by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from
 heaven
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
 He suffered and was buried.
 And the third day He rose again according to the
 Scriptures
 and ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the
 living and the dead,
 whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
 and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic
 Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

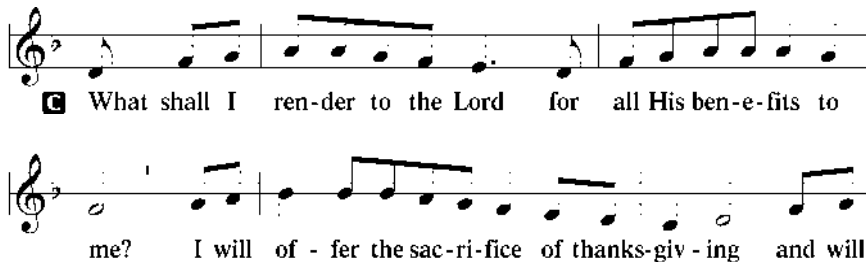
*The Prayer of the
 Church includes
 prayers that what
 has been heard
 may be taken to
 heart and that God
 would take care of
 our needs.*

Prayer of the Church

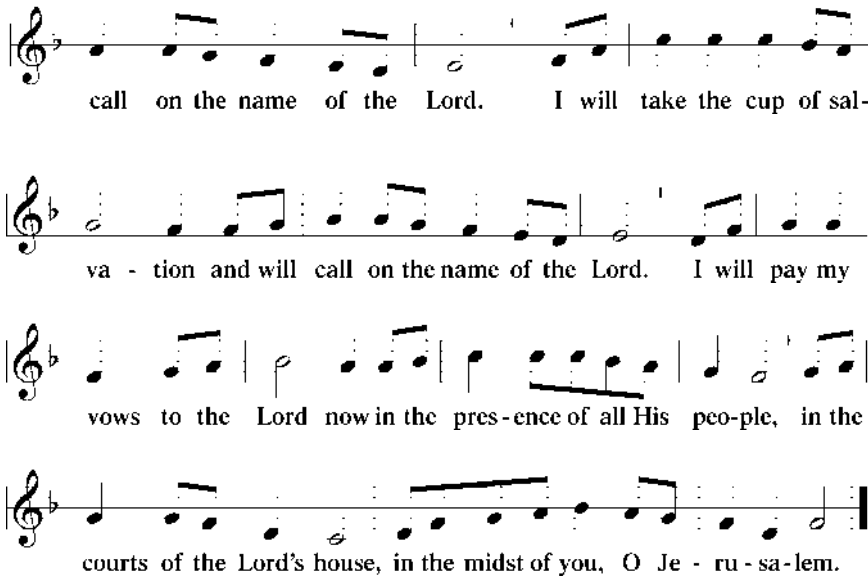
[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

Offertory

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
 me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will



Offering

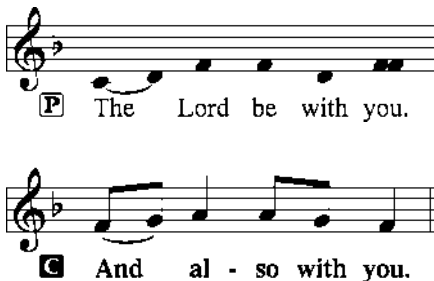
The offering will not be collected during the worship service this morning.

Please place your offering in one of the collection plates located at the back of the sanctuary. Extra offering envelopes are available on the hymnal cart. If you would like to contribute electronically, please sign up at www.emmausfortwane.org and click on "Give Online" or use Vanco Mobile, available from the App Store. Thank you for your support of the ministry at Emmaus!

The Offering symbolizes the "spiritual worship" of Christian lives offered in response to God and unites the faithful in an act of fellowship.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

Preface



2 Timothy 4:22

The Preface is a proclamation of praise and thanksgiving that begins the Service of the Sacrament. A dialogue between pastor and the people used since the Early Church.

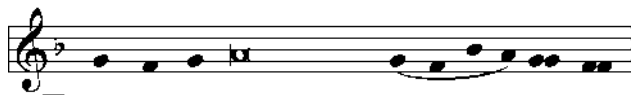


P Lift up your hearts.

[Colossians 3:1]



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

[Psalm 136]



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

The Proper Preface is a special prayer said before the Lord's Supper that emphasizes the key themes of the feast, occasion, or season of the Church Year.

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who

The Sanctus is Latin for "holy."



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.


The Prayer of thanksgiving is offered at the altar by the pastor on behalf of the congregation. It thanks God for instituting the Sacrament for our forgiveness.

Lord's Prayer

- C** Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is the model prayer Jesus taught to the disciples (Matthew 6:9-13). Sometimes it is called the Our Father, after the first words of the prayer.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

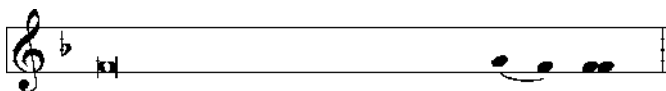
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

The words spoken by Christ when He instituted the Sacrament of the Altar; the pastor speaks these very words of Christ at the consecration of the bread and wine.

Pax Domini

John 20:19



[P] The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



С А - мед.

Pax Domini is Latin for “peace of the Lord.” In anticipation of the blessings to be received, the pastor and people announce the peace of God to one another.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Agnus Dei is Latin for "Lamb of God"; we adore the Savior who is present in the Holy Meal.

Distribution

Our Holy Communion Practice

In Holy Communion we are joined in a personal way with Christ and with one another as we receive the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins. Therefore, out of faithfulness toward God, and in sincere love that seeks to guard the spiritual well-being of all who would commune, Emmaus practices Closed Communion.

Holy Scripture clearly teaches that those communing together be unified in their confession of the faith, and also that those who commune unworthily do great harm to themselves. When a person partakes of the sacrament, he/she is also confessing his/her unreserved agreement with the doctrine and practice that is proclaimed from the altar and pulpit of which the Sacrament is administered. Therefore, we ask you to refrain from communing if you are not a member of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. All others are still welcome to come forward, crossing your arms to receive a blessing. Please speak with the pastor about receiving instruction to learn what Scripture teaches and our church confesses. We pray fervently for the day when Christ returns and all divisions will cease.

Thank you for respecting our practice.

In the Distribution we receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins.



Distribution Hymns

383 A Great and Mighty Wonder



1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:
2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,
3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,
4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,
5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,

*We sing with the
angels at the
glorious birth of the
Savior.*

*(John 1:14; Luke 2:1-20;
1 Timothy 2:5-6;
Hebrews 2:14-15)*



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!
And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.
Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.
The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.
And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

Refrain



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

Text and tune: Public domain

335 O Bride of Christ, Rejoice



1 O bride of Christ, re - joice; Ex - ul - tant raise thy voice
 2 Let shouts of glad-ness rise Tri - um - phant to the skies.
 3 A hum - ble beast He rides, Yet as a King pre - sides;
 4 The weak and tim - id find How meek He is and kind;
 5 Then go thy Lord to meet; Strew palm leaves at His feet;



To hail the day of glo - ry Fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Now comes the King most glo - rious To reign o'er all vic - to - rious.
 Though not ar - rayed in splen - dor, He makes the grave sur - ren - der.
 To them He gives a trea - sure Of bliss be - yond all mea - sure.
 Thy gar - ments spread be - fore Him And hon - or and a - dore Him.



Refrain
 Ho-san-na, praise, and glo - ry! Our King, we bow be - fore Thee.

Text and tune: Public domain

*Echoes of
 Zechariah 9:9 flow
 from this hymn.
 Take your bulletin
 home and look it up
 to see.
 (Matthew 21:1-16;
 Zechariah 9:9)*

342 What Hope! An Eden Prophesied



1 What hope! An E - den proph - e - sied Where tame live with the wild;
 2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da - vid's line,
 3 As ban - ner of God's love un - furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,
 4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!
 A Prince of Peace in Beth - le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.
 That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.
 Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword—Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

Text: © 1998 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001612
 Tune: Public domain

*This hymn is based
 on Isaiah 11, the
 prophecy now
 fulfilled in Christ
 Jesus.
 (Isaiah 11:1, 6-10, 12-16)*

Post-Communion Canticle Thank the Lord



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

The Post-Communion Canticle is a hymn of thanks.

Post-Communion Collect

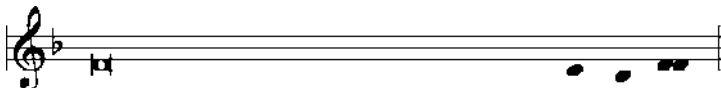
P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26



P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.



C A - men.

The Benediction is God's blessing for the congregation given through the pastor at the very end of the service.

Closing Hymn

353 Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring



1 Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing, Came with peace from
2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are
3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of
4 Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row, Shares a - like our



realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,
worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer
sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,
hopes and fears; Je - sus comes, what - e'er be - falls us,



Low - ly came on earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia!
To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia!
Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!
Cheers our hearts and dries our tears; Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.
Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.
Al - le - lu - ia! Com - forts us in fail - ing years.

Text and tune: Public domain

*One last hymn as
we prepare for His
coming on
Christmas,
reminding us of
what this coming
will bring.*

*(Zechariah 9:9; Luke
2:14; John 14:18;
Matthew 25:31-34)*

Announcements

Dismissal

P Go in peace to serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Sunday School & Bible Classes



Our Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes will not meet today.
Classes will resume on Sunday, January 7, 2024.



Participating in Today's Service

Officiant: Rev. Roy C. Olsen, III

Communion Assistant: Rev. Dr. Robert Bennett

Acolyte: John Stockinger

Elder: Mr. James Heeren

Organist: Mr. Timothy LaCroix

Soloist: Phil LaBrash

MISSION OF EMMAUS LUTHERAN:

*Empowered by God's gift of never-ending love in Word and Sacrament and
responding to the forgiveness won for us by Jesus Christ on the cross,
the mission of the family of Emmaus Lutheran is to
COURAGEOUSLY CONFESS CHRIST
through worship, life together, teaching and service.*

UNITY ✝ FAMILY ✝ FAITHFUL ✝ EDUCATION ✝ CONFSSIONAL

This Week at Emmaus

Sunday, December 24

4th Sunday in Advent

9:00 a.m. Divine Service - Holy
Communion

Christmas Eve

7:00 p.m. Divine Service - Holy
Communion Candlelight

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day

9:00 a.m. Divine Service - Holy
Communion

Monday - Friday

December 25 - 29

Christmas Break - NO School

Tuesday, December 26

Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 31

1st Sunday after Christmas

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship - Matins
Acolyte: Niko Spanos
Elder: Jesse Steinbacher
Our Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes
will not meet today. Classes will resume on
Sunday, January 7th.



COURAGEOUSLY CONFESSING CHRIST

8626 Covington Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Phone: 260-459-7722 FAX: 260-459-7766

Church: www.emmausfortwayne.org

School: www.emmauslutheranfw.org

Check out our YouTube Channel:  **YouTube**
Emmaus Lutheran Fort Wayne

The Ministry of Emmaus is eager to serve you!

Rev. Roy C. Olsen, III, *Pastor*
Home: 260-267-5180
revolsen@emmausfortwayne.org

Darlene Heeren, *Church Secretary*

Timothy LaCroix, *Music Director*

Karen Detwiler, *Family Care Coordinator*

A member of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.



Bible Readings for Next Sunday:

Psalm 111, Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-24.



**LUTHER'S
SMALL
Catechism**

Catechism Review

The Lord's Prayer

The Sixth Petition

And lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean?

God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.



A Reading from the Book of Concord, Formula of Concord, Epitome Article VIII: The Person of Christ

The divine and human natures in Christ are personally united. So there are not two Christs, one the Son of God and the other the Son of Man. But one and the same person is the Son of God and Son of Man (Luke 1:35; Romans 9:5).

The divine and human natures are not mingled into one substance, nor is one changed into the other. Each keeps its own essential properties, which can never become the properties of the other nature.

The properties of the divine nature are these: to be almighty, eternal, infinite, and to be everywhere present, to know everything, and so on. These never become properties of the human nature.

The properties of the human nature are to be a bodily creature, to be flesh and blood, to be finite and physically limited, to suffer, to die, to ascend and descend, to move from one place to another, to suffer hunger, thirst, cold, and the like. These never become properties of the divine nature.

The two natures are united in one person. This union is not the kind of joining together and connection that prevents either nature from having anything in common with the other personally. It is not like when two boards are glued together, where neither gives anything to the other or takes anything from the other. But here is described the highest communion that God truly has with the man.

(paragraphs 5-9)

[Condensed quotations from the Lutheran Confessions from Concordia: the Lutheran Confessions,
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“LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR”

Advent IV/Christmas Eve – Almighty God has profound interest and investment in childbearing and childrearing (2 Samuel 7:12; Luke 1:31). He has made this relationship and vocation central to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Every mother and father, every son or daughter embodies the love of the Lord for humankind. While

Weekly Word & Prayer
We encourage you to take this insert home with you and use it as part of your family or individual devotions.

abortion attempts to conceal the realities, our sanctity-of-life advocacy gets to reveal this delightful mystery (Romans 16:25).

Life Thoughts in the Church Year are designed to help pastors and congregations see the church year through the lens of the sanctity of human life. *Life Thoughts* are based on the appointed readings from *Lutheran Service Book*. www.lutheransforlife.org.

Remember in Prayer this Week

FCG Hospitalized/Sick/Recuperating

Luke St. Jude Children's Hospital, Memphis TN: **Layla Stockinger**

Ruth Life Care Center: **William G. Schmidt**

Mark LLV at Inverness: **Wini Fritz**

Deborah Ashton Creek: **Carol Rose**, for rehab

Ruth **Beverly Baals**, experiencing health related issues

Matthew **Sue Behny**, as she continues to recover

Ruth **Marti Evans**, as she continues to experience health issues

Moses **Eric Hoffman**, recovering from surgery

Mark **Bonnie Robbins**, continuing to experience health issues

Joseph **Karen Sollberger**, continuing to experience health problems

Ruth **Kathy Veit**, recovering from a cornea transplant

Faith Ells, (26 years old), friend of Barbara Cox, undergoing cancer treatment

Garret Griffey, nephew of Ron & Sandy Crismore, who was seriously injured in an accident on September 6th

David Knoll, cousin of Karen Detwiler, undergoing cancer treatment

Eliana Miller, friend of Karen Detwiler, doing better and taking a break from cancer treatment

David Munson, friend of Lisa Kanning, who is recovering at home.

Lisa Reece, friend of the Rosenkoetters, cancer has progressed, prognosis not long-term

Janet Shady, Ron Crismore's sister, hospitalized with COVID

New Baby

Elijah **Elaine Jo**, daughter of Cameron & Kristen Bohnke, who was born on Wednesday, December 20th

Wedding Anniversary

Paul & Beth Stockinger will celebrate their 20th anniversary on Wednesday, December 27th.

Elijah Bohnke Family, Detwiler Family, Diehm Family, Jackson Family, Miller Family, Olsen Family,
FCG David Reichwage, Ted Rockrohr, Matt Shimko, Kelly Smith Family, and Margie Toussaint.

Pray for

For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ's body and blood.

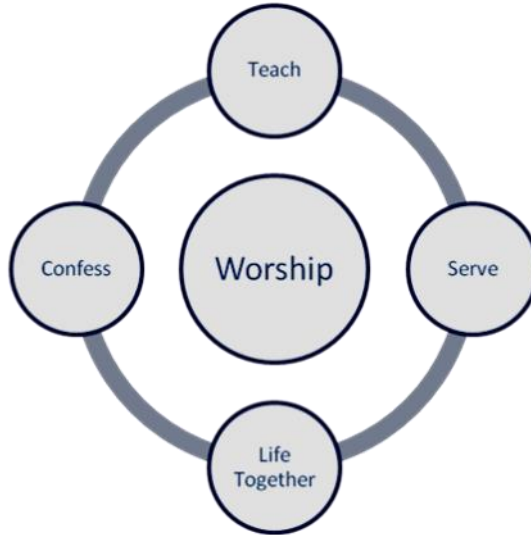
Serving in the Armed Forces: **James Rockrohr**, brother of Theodore Rockrohr, serving in the U.S. Marines; **Paul Rockrohr**, brother of Theodore Rockrohr, serving as Chaplain in the U.S. Navy; and **Travis McGehee**, who has returned from training.



EMMAUS NEWS & NOTES

For the week of December 24, 2023

DONE IN LOVE



SERVING THE LORD

THANK YOU - God has richly blessed us with many gifts in our congregation! Among the most blessed is one another. Thank you for working together, side by side as the Body of Christ, to serve the Lord and our neighbor.

THANK YOU to David Bruns for donating a cart and to Larry Lunz for making modifications so that it can be used to carry some of our sanctuary items, making it much easier to set up and take down our worship area. Thank you so much for the gift and sharing your time and talents!

NURTURING THE FAITH

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Our Sunday School and Bible Classes will not meet today or next Sunday, December 31st. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 7th.

DEVOTIONAL MATERIALS

Higher Things Reflections - The 1st Week in Advent—Ephiphany (12/3/2023-1/6/2024) booklets are available as you leave from the table in the front hallway. Please feel free to pick up a copy and take one for a friend.

Portals of Prayer - We have the devotion booklets for January—March 2024. Please feel free to pick one up from the table in the front hall.

LIFE TOGETHER

Worship Attendance

Sunday, December 17 Worship: **95** Adult Bible Class: **38**

December 20, Mid-Week Advent Worship: **30**

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers who helped with the Christmas decoration and allowed me to be able to do what I so love. Thank you from the bottom of my heart! You are so amazing and so appreciated!

Marti

preschool news



PRESCHOOL AIDE NEEDED - Emmaus Lutheran Preschool, 8626 Covington Road, is in need of an afternoon aide for the remainder of this school year. Hours are Monday thru Friday, 12:30-4:30 p.m. If you are interested, or know someone who might be interested, please contact Joann Olsen, Preschool Director, at jolsen@emmauslutheranfw.org or 260-459-7722, ext.

1012.

SUBSTITUTES FOR TEACHERS & AIDES NEEDED - If you or someone you know would be interested in substituting for a teacher or a classroom aide, please contact Mrs. Spanos for more information, 260-459-7722, ext. 1002.

VIDEO MESSAGES FOR LAYLA & PAUL - One of the suggestions that was made at the meeting for ways to help the Stockinger family was to make and send video messages to Layla and Paul while they are away. We are still scheduling times, so be sure to sign-up at the table in the front hall.. You can share a favorite Bible verse, say a prayer, tell a joke, sing a song, etc. See Margie Crabtree or Amanda Heeren, if you have any questions or would like to schedule a time to video your message.



EMMAUS FY 2023-2024 OFFERINGS & TITHES NEEDED	
Offerings Needed Weekly Beginning July 1, 2023	\$6,894.00
Offerings Rec'd Since Last Sunday	\$7,516.00
Electronic Offerings Rec'd Last Week	\$1,538.70
Budgeted Overage (Shortfall)	\$2,160.70
Budgeted Offerings Needed YTD	\$172,350.00
Envelope Offerings Received YTD (includes Electronic Offerings) **	\$164,538.54
Budgeted Overage (Shortfall) YTD	(\$7,811.46)
LONG-TERM COMMITMENTS/OBLIGATIONS & INITIATIVES	
Mortgage Balance	\$1,024,646.67
Concordia Lutheran High School Congregation Assessment Balance	\$36,633.34
Bell Tower Funds Raised (target \$107,650.00)	\$107,650.00
Sanctuary Fund/Foundation	\$304,082.95



PRAYER REQUESTS - Did you know...You can share your prayer requests or praises by clicking "Prayer" on the Emmaus homepage at emmausfortwayne.org.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Philippians 4:6

EMMAUS FACEBOOK PAGE! - Emmaus has a new Facebook page. Follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089549997428&mibextid=LQQJ4d> or scan the QR code to view the page!

If you have any event photos please send them to either Kirsten Bohnke at kirsten.bohnke@gmail.com or Paul Stockinger at paul_stockinger@yahoo.com



WAYS TO HELP EMMAUS:

Kroger Community Rewards This program makes fundraising easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day. Once you link your Card to an organization, all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Shopper's Card. It's easy! Here's how:

1. Go to Kroger.com and set up an account (if you don't have one) or log into your account.

2. Under your account options select “My Account.”
3. Scroll down the page and select Community Rewards” (left side of screen).
4. Under “organization Name” enter “Emmaus Lutheran School and Church” or use “organization Number” BF171.

Advantage Recycling


We are accepting empty printer ink cartridges, old cell phones, and laptops. This helps keep those items out of the landfill and helps us as we will receive payment from the recycling company. Items can be placed in the box located inside the west entrance to the gym/sanctuary from the front hall. Monies from this program will be used for school supplies.

PROJECT CONNECT BOOKLETS

Lutheran Hour Ministries 'Project Connect' booklets combine a subject matter expert's practical guidance on a variety of topics that pose real-life challenges to us, within a Christ-centered, Law and Gospel context ... What a powerful combination! You can find a variety of these booklets in the circular rack just inside the entrance to the sanctuary. This week's featured brochure: *"The Christmas Journey"* - This kid-friendly booklet is about God coming to us as the Christ Child of Bethlehem. This tiny volume will give parents and kids a memorable look at what God has done for each of us on Christmas morn.

GREETING CARDS - \$1.00 EACH - Our Women's Guild has just replenished our supply of new Dayspring cards on the carousel at the back table. Stop by before or after service and browse all the many categories and choices. Just refilled are beautiful "thinking of you" and "praying for you" cards which are perfect for our Care Groups, family and friends. ALSO, If you want unique, blank notecards, how about our Emmaus cards at \$6.00 for a 12 pack? They are designed by Bill Schmidt and are perfect for ANY occasion. We all love to receive cards and notes. Take the time to do it, and share your love and prayers.

ELECTRONIC GIVING - Please be sure to set up your electronic giving on the Vanco Mobile app. You can download the Vanco Mobile app for free from the App Store or Google Play. From there, you can make a one-time donation or set up recurring giving right through the app. Just select your fund and amount, enter a payment method and complete the donation. If you have questions or need assistance with our new mobile app, please stop by the church office or call us at 260-459-7722. We also have an info sheet that shows how to make gifts with the app available from the table in the front hall.



Emmaus Lutheran School's Annual
Dinner, Silent and Live Auction, Dancing

Our annual auction is in the planning stages and we need volunteers. There are going to be a lot of different areas to help out with. Those areas include ticket sales, fundraising, decorating, prep work with the auction items, setup, assisting at the event, and take down. Whether you are able to help for a day, a few hours, or to be a supporter of the event we can't do this without you!

Interested in joining the committee?

We would love to have you join us!
signupgenius.com/go/20F044EA9AE23A1FE3-annual#/

WEEKLY SHUT-IN VISITS - If you are physically unable to attend the Sunday morning worship service, including short-term recoveries, we would be happy to drop off a bulletin, the News & Notes, as well as a copy of the sermon. (We deliver on Mondays). Please contact the church office, 459-7722 and press “3”. *Dave & Joan Kendall.*

MEMBER CALLER - We have set up our account for the new service to call all our members. Please add the phone number of **855.248.7295** to your caller id or your phone address book and entitle that contact as the Church Call so that it will be identified properly on your caller id. If your phone number has changed or you need to add an additional number for your household, please see Darlene so that she can update the call list.

GENERAL

DEADLINE FOR EMMAUS NEWS & NOTES: Please submit information to the Church Office by Noon on Wednesday to be included in Sunday’s publication.

ROYAL MESSENGER NEWSLETTER - The December 2023/ January 2024 issue of The Royal Messenger is available to pick up in the front hallway for those who have requested a printed copy. **The deadline for submitting information for the February/March 2024**

issue is Monday, January 29th. Please send any info on upcoming events to the church office by e-mail to: dheeren@emmausfortwayne.org. Thank you!

OTHER

ISSUES, ETC. LUTHERAN RADIO IN EXILE...Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show produced by Lutheran Public Radio and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can tune into interviews on subjects like “Answering Tough Questions About the Christian Faith: Common Objections”, “Bad Uses of the Law of God”, “Signs and Symbols in the Church” and more. You can listen to what you want when you want at www.issuesetc.org.

WORSHIP ANEW is broadcast weekly on Sundays at 7:00 a.m. on NBC’s Channel 21.2, 8:00a.m. on MyTV - Frontier 9, Digital 21.3 and Comcast 2 52; 11:30 a.m. on WINM-TV 12/38 - TCT; and 4:00 p.m. Sunday and 10:00 a.m. Monday on Comcast 55 and Frontier 25 [PA]. Today’s program: ***In a Manger?*** - The manger in Bethlehem is the first step toward a hilltop called Calvary and Christ’s death for the sins of the world. Rather than shy away from that truth, we remember and marvel: the Son of God wills to become a swaddled baby in a Bethlehem barn because He wills to go to the cross for you. Sermon text: Luke 2:7. Speaker: Rev. Shayne Jonker.

CROSS CONNECTIONS - S.O.S. at Cross Connections: The Biblical counseling ministry at Cross Connections has a Serve our Servants fund (S.O.S) that provides free counseling for all active duty military, police, fire, and EMT personnel and their families. If you or somebody you know would benefit from these services please speak with pastor or call Cross Connections at 260-373-0213 to learn more.

NIPSCO ENERGY ASSISTANCE - Beginning December 1, income-eligible customers, seniors, active military and veterans experiencing financial difficulty paying their gas utility bill may apply for additional NIPSCO energy assistance programs. Available programs include NIPSCO Hardship, SERV (Supply Energy Resources to Veterans) and SILVER (Seniors in Indiana Low-Income and Vulnerable Energy Resource) that will allow customers to receive a one-time benefit of up to \$400 per year if they qualify. To see the full list of requirements for SERV and SILVER, customers should visit NIPSCO.com/IncomeEligible. There, customers may also apply for the appropriate program by completing and submitting an online self-attestation form and uploading documentation, if required. Applicants should allow 30

business days for the form to be received and processed. If program requirements are met, a one-time credit will be applied to the applicant's NIPSCO gas residential utility account.

WORSHIP ANEW - Job Posting for Donor Database Specialist:

Join an amazing ministry team at Worship Anew as the Donor Database Specialist. Worship Anew is a ministry, headquartered in Fort Wayne, IN, that reaches thousands of people each week across the nation and around the world with its weekly television program. The ministry is currently growing and produces a daily devotional, Hope-Full Living, a care package ministry, and is striving to be the foremost provider of resources for aging adults. The ministry is seeking a part-time Donor Database Specialist to be responsible for all database entry, reporting, and upkeep. This position also assists with viewer requests and performs other administrative duties as needed. This candidate needs to have database skills, and be proficient in Microsoft Office, especially Word and Excel. They must possess strong customer service skills. We are seeking someone with an Associate degree or 2 years equivalent experience in related field or area. This person must have a basic understanding of the church teachings and how Worship Anew fits into it. Knowledge of Lutheran Church Missouri Synod principles and values is a plus. They must be supportive of the ministry's values and have a passion for the ministry's work with a genuine commitment to the fulfillment of the organization's mission. To apply, please contact Worship Anew at (260) 471-5683.

FORT WAYNE LUTHERAN We have copies of the current issue of The Fort Wayne Lutheran available at the table in the front hallway as you leave today. The issue is also available online at www.myfwl.org for those who have computer/internet access.

CONCORDIA SEMINARY MAGAZINES - We have copies of the magazines from both Ft. Wayne Campus and St. Louis campus available from the Information Rack. These publications provide information on what's happening at our seminary campuses. Please feel free to pick up a copy.

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

Christmas Break: Classes will resume on Monday, January 8th.