

Emmanuel Ev. Lutheran Church

Sunday Divine Service is at 9 a.m.

Sunday Bible Class begins at 10:15 a.m.

Sunday School begins at 10:15 a.m. (September-May)

Wednesday Evening Service is at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel.

Thursday Morning Worship is at 8:45 a.m. in the chapel.

Thursday Morning Bible Class is at 9 a.m. in Memorial Hall.

## News, Notes & Numbers—continued



Filmed in front of a live audience, NOAH is an original stage production from Sight & Sound Theatres that takes you on board one of the world’s best-known voyages as live animals fill the stage and aisles. Set sail inside the enormous ark in this extraordinary Bible story that has captivated audiences for generations!

Join us in Memorial Hall on January 13th at 6:00 pm  
to view Noah from Sight and Sound Theatres  
Bring your favorite movie snacks or something to share.

May God continue to reform our Church  
to His Word and bless our January!

*“And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, And establish the work  
of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands.”*

**Psalm 90:17** *(Bible reference inscribed on our church cornerstone, circa 1916)*

Return Service Requested

E-mail: [pastor@emmanueladell.org](mailto:pastor@emmanueladell.org)

Phone: 920-994-9005

Adell, WI 53001

326 Center Ave.

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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Emmanuel Ev. Lutheran Church LCMS

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January 2023

# Emmanuel News

*“Behold, children are a gift of the Lord,  
The fruit of the womb is a reward.” Psalm 127:3*

**Children: Always a Blessing**

*(reprinted from Pastor Marks’ February 3, 2022 article in the Sounder)*

While many churches celebrate Life Sundays at the end of January, tens of thousands gather on the National Mall for the annual March for Life. During this time, those of us who see life as a precious gift from God spend time contemplating the value of life from conception to natural death, especially the value of this life to the One who has given us life. But there are just as many, if not more, who don’t see life as the blessing from God that it truly is.

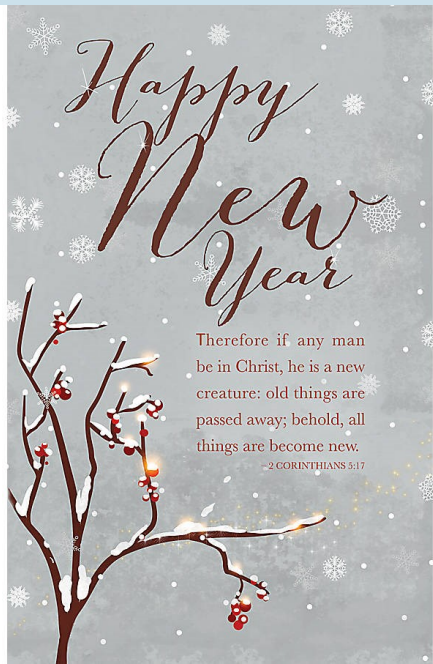
These are the ones who I’ve had say to me, “Say goodbye to date nights!” “Better catch up on that sleep now because you won’t be getting any.” “You’ll never have any free time, so you better use it now.” For those who have ever been expecting a child, these statements probably sound familiar. They’re the types of remarks my wife and I have received each time we were expecting the birth of a child. And it doesn’t end after the kids are born. My wife likes to laugh when someone will approach her in the grocery store and marvel at how she can possibly handle four children all at once. Her response is always a lighthearted, “This is nothing, the other three are at home with their dad.”

So often the message I hear is that children are a burden and an inconvenience. It’s so sad that one of the most exciting adventures we’re privileged to embark on is often clouded with pessimism. I think the main reason children are viewed so negatively is they keep us from being able to do what we want when we want to do it. Before being married and having children I could just pick up and go wherever I wanted at a moment’s notice. It didn’t matter how late it was or if was naptime, I just went. If I wanted to go out for a few hours just for fun, I could do that. And I didn’t have to lug a heavy car seat or diaper bag around. I could just go.

But as I look to God’s Word, I can’t help but view children in a very different way. They are a blessing. Psalm 127:3-5a says “Behold, children are a gift from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one’s youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!” I think the very reason many people consider children a burden is actually the reason they’re a blessing!

God is in the business of conforming us into the image of His son, Jesus, (Rom. 8:29) who came to earth to serve and save mankind through sacrificing His very life (Phil. 2:3-11). What better way to become made into the image of Jesus than to become a parent, or otherwise to take on the care of a child? The gift of a little child forces us to give up our right to what we want for their wellbeing. All those long nights my wife spends rocking babies to sleep certainly limits her freedom. The games and the activities that we’re constantly shuttling children to remind me that this life is not about me and what I want. All this allows us to daily practice the command to “do nothing from selfishness, but consider others as more important than myself.” (Phil. 2:3)

*continued on page 2*



Therefore if any man  
be in Christ, he is a new  
creature: old things are  
passed away; behold, all  
things are become new.  
— 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

## Inside This Issue

Pastor’s Article .....	1-2
Faith-Based New Year’s Resolutions .....	2
Calendar .....	Insert
Schedules & Celebrations.....	Insert
Mission of the Month.....	3
News, Notes & Numbers .....	3-4

## Highlights

- Annual Congregational Meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.
- Souper Dinner XXIV on February 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.

Thursday Morning Bible Class

Thursday Morning Bible Class will meet on January 5, 12, 19 & 26 at 9 a.m. in Memorial Hall. We will begin a study of Deuteronomy.

Sunday School

- 1/1—NO Sunday School
- 1/8—The Boy Jesus in the Temple
- 1/15—The First Disciples
- 1/22—The First Miracle
- 1/29—Pool of Bethesda

Snack Schedule

- 1/1—NO Sunday School
- 1/8—Marks
- 1/15—Schultz
- 1/22—Payne
- 1/29—Buchholz

Sunday Bible Class

Sunday Bible Class meets after the Divine Service in Memorial Hall. We continue studying the basics of Lutheran theology through a course called "Lutheranism 101."

Worship Attendance

- Week of 11/27 .....137
- Week of 12/5 .....123
- Week of 12/12 .....122
- Week of 12/19 .....92

Pastor's Article—continued

Being the one to care for a child also causes us to depend on the grace of God in a deeper and more constant way. Whether we're struggling to sleep at night or embarrassed by their behavior when we're out in public, we're forced to run to God in prayer for patience, guidance, and peace. More often than we'd like to admit, life is out of our control. This realization reminds us that it's better to be dependent on God than on our own resources. That's why 2 Corinthians 12:9-11 tells us that we are strongest in our weakness because it's God's grace we're depending on.

All of this is great, but the most exciting thing about caring for children is the ability we have to change the world. For better or worse, parents affect the lives of children in the deepest and most profound ways and impact the trajectory of their lives. What I invest in my children today will show forth in their lives when they reach adulthood and have the opportunity to influence the next generation of children. If I raise them to be confident men and women who know the truth of the Word of God and keep their eyes fixed on Jesus as the highest priority in their lives, this world will be a better place. And even more than changing the world, the strong foundation of faith they're given will be their strength in troubled times and the assurance of their salvation.

Raising children can often feel like a burden, and at times it will wear us down. But there is no doubt that children are always a blessing. Through them God tames our self-centeredness, draws us closer to Himself in dependence on His grace, and allows us to impact the world through the faithful men and women we raise. Life is a precious gift, given to us by God Himself. Value life at all stages, and always remember what a blessing it is to be a child of God.

Blessings,

✝ Pastor Marks

Faith-Based New Year's Resolutions

Every year many people evaluate their life's goals and make New Year's Resolutions. Many have New Year's Resolutions for losing weight, quitting bad habits like smoking and tons of other things. But we often forget our faith in our New Year's Resolutions. Maybe you don't know where to start or how to incorporate your faith into your New Year's Resolutions.

Pray and ponder on ways that can easily be incorporated into a busy schedule for you to grow with God. Challenge yourself! Growth does not happen from a place of complacency. Below is a list to help you get started!

- 1. Read your Bible more
- 2. Start prayer journaling
- 3. Play Bible games to make learning fun
- 4. Read daily devotionals
- 5. Evaluate your generosity of time and talent
- 6. Listen to edifying music
- 7. Watch clean movies
- 8. Represent your faith by the way you dress
- 9. Evaluate areas of sin in in your life
- 10. Attend church regularly
- 11. Listen to edifying music
- 12. Be the Change



Mission of the Month—January

Our two Missions this Month are *AbleLight Communities* and *Lutherans for Life*.

- (1) *AbleLight Communities* provides people with intellectual and developmental disabilities with home, career, education and faith resources to live full and empowered lives.
- (2) *Lutherans for Life*—equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated witnesses for Life strives to give a Gospel-motivated witness to the Church and society regarding legalized abortion-on-demand, assisted suicide and euthanasia, and other related issues such as chastity, post-abortion healing, and family living. They call God's people to compassionate action and foster life-affirming alternatives for those facing difficult situations. Visit [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org) for great information on these issues.

We support these two missions through our gifts on the mission line of our January envelopes.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
JANUARY 29, 2023 AT 11:30 A.M.

News, Notes & Numbers

◆ **Pastor Marks** can be reached at the church office or at (920) 400-0425 and is available for any pastoral needs that you might have. Feel free to reach out to him to schedule a visit or just stop by when the porch light is on. Monday-Wednesday mornings are generally good for visits, but he will always be happy to see you. Pastor also holds designated hours one Saturday morning per month for individual confession and absolution, counseling appointments, and general visitation. Also, let Pastor know if you are in the hospital, having surgery or a procedure, or simply desire prayer for any reason. He can also be reached by email at [pastor@emmanueladell.org](mailto:pastor@emmanueladell.org).

◆ **November Mission**, *Lutherans in Africa*, raised \$795. We thank you for your gifts that supported this mission.



◆ The **Adell Christmas Parade Porch Party** was held on December 10<sup>th</sup> and was hosted by the Marks family. "When the parade goes right past your house, you gotta serve hot chocolate and treats."

◆ **Emmanuel's Parade Float** was designed and created by Nancy Eberhardt and Chris Born and was an excellent testimony to our entire community of "The Reason for the Season."

◆ **Have you picked up your 2023 church envelopes?** They are available in the narthex.

◆ **Souper Dinner XXIV** will be on February 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. Preparation for the Souper Dinner will be on February 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.



◆ Watch for **Pastor's Monday Minute** in your email each Monday to receive the link to the Sunday service on YouTube. If you're not receiving this message, or the Thursday email with the bulletin and announcements, please send your email address to [secretary@emmanueladell.org](mailto:secretary@emmanueladell.org)

◆ **Thank you** to all who trimmed the Christmas tree and adorned our church and narthex so beautifully. The efforts of all the faithful volunteers who serve at Emmanuel are sincerely appreciated throughout the year. From acolytes to ushers, from greeters to altar guild/jr. altar guild, from elders/council/boards to Sunday School teachers, from counters to office volunteers and to those who cook or bake and shovel snow or cut grass, along with all the other things done that no one knows about except the person who did it. **Thank you to all for sharing your precious time and talents!**

continued on page 4