

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



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

“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

Phone: 920-994-9005

326 Center Ave.
Adell, WI 53001

Emmanuel Ev. Lutheran Church

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



Emmanuel Ev. Lutheran Church LCMS December 2021
326 Center Ave. — Adell, WI 53001
Phone: 920-994-9005 • website: emmanueladell.org

Emmanuel News

“Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.”

Matthew 24:42

Distracted Living

He’s coming, he’s coming! It’s the cry of the fans as the superstar musician prepares to come on stage. He’s coming! It’s the shout of the masses as Jesus enters Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. He’s coming! It’s the subject of so many hymns we’ll be singing this month. He’s coming! It’s the cry of every child as the final float appears in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade.

This season of Advent seems as though it should be so simple. Slow down a little bit and ponder the birth of the baby Jesus. Reflect on the fact that his life, death and resurrection were only possible because God decided to humble Himself and be born of a virgin. And yet, instead of being the simplest and slowest time of the year, this season brings with it the greatest number of distractions and creates the greatest amount of stress.

We’ve all heard of distracted driving. Focusing our attention on anything other than the road while we’re behind the wheel is clearly a bad thing. But what about distracted living. You’ve likely seen the videos, or perhaps you’ve witnessed it in person, where the man or woman falls into the fountain because they were walking with their head down checking the messages on their phone. This is what I think so many people look like during these weeks leading up until Christmas. When our focus should be so squarely placed on the miracle of the incarnation, Christ coming into this world, we instead find ourselves distracted by everything else the world says this season should be. Don’t get me wrong, I love this season. The music, the lights, the anticipation and the gift-giving. It all can help to focus us on the reality of that day over 2,000 years ago, when God entered this world as a baby. But when it draws us away from that reality and into a world of our own making, then we need to step back and remember what we are celebrating.

Throughout this month there is so much that can and will distract us from Christmas. So much of it will even be in the name of celebrating Christmas, but ultimately serve to draw our attention away from what we celebrate on December 25th. My hope and my prayer for myself, my family and our entire church family is that we would each walk with our heads up, squarely focused on Christ, whose coming into this world we celebrate and whose second coming we anticipate. Let this be for us not a season of distracted living, but one of focused living, taking advantage of the additional opportunities to gather and prepare, to worship and to celebrate the joy we have in Christ. Because He’s coming! He’s coming!

Blessings in Christ,

✝ Pastor Marks



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Highlights

- The Sunday School Christmas Program will be held during our Christmas Eve Worship Service on December 24th at 4:30 p.m.

Thursday Morning Bible Class

Thursday Morning Bible Class will meet on December 2, 9 and 16 at 9 a.m. in Memorial Hall. We will continue our study of the Gospel of Matthew.

Sunday School

12/5—Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, His Betrayal and Arrest

12/11—9-11 a.m.: Christmas Program Practice

12/12—Jesus Before the High Priest and Peter’s Betrayal

12/18—10 a.m.-Noon: Christmas Practice; Noon: lunch and neighborhood caroling

12/19—Jesus Before Pilate
12/24—4:30 p.m.: Christmas Program

12/26—No Sunday School

Snack Schedule

12/5—Neumann

12/12—no snack

12/19—no snack

12/26—No Sunday School

Sunday Bible Class

Sunday Bible Class meets on Sundays after the Divine Service in Memorial Hall.

Worship Attendance

Week of 10/31 93
Week of 11/7 97
Week of 11/14 86
Week of 11/21 79+

Advent, Christmas & New Year’s Eve Schedule

- *Wednesday, December 1* at 6:30 p.m. **Advent Midweek Service** preceded by a potluck dinner hosted by the Ladies’ Aid at 5:15 p.m.
- *Wednesday, December 8* at 6:30 p.m. **Advent Midweek Service** preceded by a potluck dinner hosted by the Board of Education at 5:15 p.m.
- *Wednesday, December 15* at 6:30 p.m. **Advent Midweek Service** preceded by a potluck dinner hosted by Ann Graf at 5:15 p.m.
- *Wednesday, December 22* at 6:30 p.m. **Advent Midweek Service** preceded by a potluck dinner hosted by the Elders at 5:15 p.m.
- *Friday, December 24* at 4:30 p.m. **Christmas Eve Service — SS Christmas Program.**
- *Saturday, December 25* at 9 a.m. **Christmas Day Service.**
- *Sunday, December 26* at 9 a.m. **First Sunday after Christmas.**
- *Friday, December 31* at 6:30 p.m. **New Year’s Eve Service.**

Advent Traditions

One of the traditions within the season of Advent is the observance of special commemoration days, namely St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra on December 6th and St. Lucia, Martyr on December 13th. As numerous stories surrounding St. Nicholas spread and became legend, Martin Luther was concerned that the observance of St. Nicholas day was becoming separated from Christ—the true giver of gifts. As a response and an effort to replace St. Nicholas Day, Luther began the tradition of celebrating the *Christkindt* or Christ Child who would bring gifts to children on Christmas Eve. Though Luther hoped to eliminate the secular traditions surrounding St. Nicholas, Lutherans today still observe his commemoration and give thanks to God for the gifts He gave him to bless others and confess Christ in a time of darkness and persecution. St. Lucia was a Christian martyr in the 4th century who is traditionally known for wearing a candle-lit crown to light her way through the catacombs as she brought food to Christians who were being persecuted. Her commemoration is meant to signal that Christmas is coming soon when Christ, the light of the world will arrive. Today many Christians throughout the world celebrate by lighting candles and attending major festivals not only to commemorate her confession of faith and care for persecuted Christians, but in anticipation of the coming of the Christ child.



There is so much beauty and rich tradition during the season of Advent to prepare Christians for the coming of Jesus, the babe of Bethlehem. If you don’t have one already, consider getting an Advent wreath for your home as you prepare for the coming of Christ, the light of the world. Give thanks to God for the confession of faith He gave to His people to shine His light in dark places. Learn about the tradition of reciting the *O Antiphons* (found in *Lutheran Service Book* along with hymn #357 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel) and incorporate it into your Advent devotions. Finally, anticipate with joy the coming of our Lord!

What are your Advent traditions? Share them with one another and consider adding something new and meaningful this year.

Mission of the Month—December

For more than 12 years our congregation has supported *The Siberian Lutheran Missionary Society* in the month of December. The Siberian Lutheran Mission Society is working to help support our Siberian Lutheran brethren. We raise funds to support the Pastoral Office in the Siberian Lutheran congregations. We also gather funds to purchase Communion kits, Altarware, Bibles, VBS materials, etc. We are also engaged in mercy work in Siberia. People need the Word of God but they also have physical needs and cares. Your offerings help the pastors care for their flocks in body and soul. It is the efforts of congregations like ours that are helping to support the mission of our fellow Lutherans in Russia. Please consider helping your fellow Russian Lutherans. Any gift on the mission line of your weekly envelope in December goes toward this important mission.

The Siberian Lutheran Mission Society



“He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor. His righteousness endures forever.”

Neighborhood Christmas Caroling

On December 18th, following the Children’s Christmas Program practice, the whole congregation is invited to lunch in Memorial Hall at Noon. Following lunch, we will brighten the streets of our neighborhood with a time of Christmas Caroling.

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 office light is on.

◆ **October Mission**, Lutheran Heritage Foundation, raised \$725.00. We thank you for your gifts that supported this mission.

◆ **Jayden Michael Womaski**, son of Kristen and Michael Womaski, was baptized on November 7, 2021. Serving as sponsors were Jacob Meyer, Nicole Anhalt and Jeremy Korb.



◆ 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 Friday email with the bulletin and announcements, please send your email address to secretary@emmanueladell.org.

◆ **Facebook & Website.** Facebook and our website are great resources to get more information about Emmanuel Lutheran and its congregation. Like us at “Emmanuel Lutheran Church-Mo Synod.” Our website is being updated to provide even more information, but you will always find the weekly bulletin and its inserts along with the monthly Newsletter. Check it out at: emmanueladell.org

◆ **Every Member Visitation.** Pastor Marks will continue his visitation of all members. If you have a preferred time or place for your visit, please reach out to pastor to schedule your time together. If you are homebound or just desire a visit from Pastor, contact the Church Office to make arrangements.

◆ **The congregation continues to be blessed** by our daily Bible reading schedule. Join us for the 31 days of December reading the second half of Jeremiah (chapters 27 thru 52) for our chapter-a-day challenge (use the inserted Bible Challenge bookmark to help you keep track).

Advent 2021 Midweek Services Exploring Luke 1

December 1
Luke 1:1-25
“Promises Made, Promises Kept”

December 8
Luke 1:26-38
“How Can This Be?”

December 15
Luke 1:39-56
“Blessed Beyond Belief”

December 22
Luke 1:57-80
“I Love It When a Plan Comes Together”