

Emmanuel Evangelical 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

- ◆ **Pastor is available** for private confession and absolution and counseling the first Saturday of each month, or by appointment at other times. Consider taking advantage of these opportunities.
- ◆ **Facebook** is another opportunity to get up-to-date information with what is happening at Emmanuel Lutheran. Like us at "Emmanuel Lutheran Church-Mo Synod."



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

Adell, WI 53001

326 Center Ave.



PLEASE PLACE STAMP HERE



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

December 2023

Emmanuel News

“Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” (Luke 2:15b)

It’s the Most Joyous Time of the Year

We’re led to believe that the Christmas season begins as soon as the Halloween candy has been passed out. The store displays begin to appear and front lawn decorating commences. Christmas music can even be heard on the radio. I’m no Scrooge, but it seems we’re missing something about the season that would be helpful in our preparations and celebration of the most joyous time of the year. When you jump right to the conclusion of the story, you tend to miss the important details along the way. Advent is the time of year when those details make their way into our readings, our liturgy, our traditions, and hopefully into our homes and our hearts. If we’re to be technical about it, the Christmas season doesn’t begin until Christmas day and runs until January 6th, a time when most decorations and celebrations have been long forgotten. That’s where the 12 Days of Christmas comes from. Anyway, whether we call it Advent or the beginning of the Christmas season, this time of year is one of true wonder and joy.

I love this season. It’s an exciting time of year! And it’s about much more than the gifts and tree, and cookies and food. Those are nice, but they’re certainly not the reason for the season! Consider, for a moment, the story of that first Christmas night over 2,000 years ago. A virgin mother wraps her first-born in swaddling cloths and lays Him in a manger. Then suddenly, an angel appeared to the shepherds telling them the news that the world had been waiting to hear: **“Behold, I bring you Good News of a great joy which shall be for all the people; for unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior which is Christ the Lord.”** And what do the shepherds do when they hear this message of the birth of the Messiah? Without wasting any time, they quickly decide to go see for themselves this great thing that happened in Bethlehem. And when they got to the manger, they fell on their knees and worshipped the King!

The Gospel story reminds us that after worshiping the Christ child, the shepherds immediately begin to share with others this Good News of great joy: the birth of a Savior! The example of the shepherds reminds us that the proclamation of the Good News came before all the rest. They recognized that something special was happening on that night in Bethlehem, and they just had to share this incredible news! And now, it’s our turn. At a time when the world has created its own meaning of Christmas, may each of us be moved to share this Good News! God is inviting every one of us to share this story with everyone we meet! Because when we do that, the whole world will know of this amazing gift that God has given.



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Highlights

- Parsonage Porch Party on December 9 at 5:00 p.m.
- Youth Group Christmas Party on December 10 at 4:30 p.m.
- Christmas Eve Worship: Lessons and Carols with Congregational Christmas Program at 4:30 p.m.
- Christmas Day Divine Service at 9:00 a.m.
- New Year’s Eve Divine Service at 4:30 p.m.

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Thursday Morning Bible Class

The class continues to meet at 9 a.m. and will not meet on December 21 and 28. We will continue our discussion of end times prophecy from Daniel and Revelation.

Sunday School

12/3—Christmas Program Practice

12/10—Christmas Program Practice

12/16—Christmas Program Practice from 10 a.m.-Noon Lunch at noon & Neighborhood Caroling

12/17—Christmas Program Practice; children sing in church

12/24—NO Sunday School. Congregational Christmas Program at 4:30 p.m.

12/31—NO Sunday School

Snack Schedule

12/3—Fischer

12/10—Michaels

12/16—Teachers

Sunday Bible Class

Sunday Bible Class meets after the Divine Service in Memorial Hall. Come and hear what the Lord has to say in His Word.

Worship Attendance

Week of 10/29.....124
Week of 11/5.....112
Week of 11/12.....115
Week of 11/19.....71+

Pastor's Article—continued

Our focus during this season of Advent and leading directly into the celebration of Christmas and its entire season will be on the "Good News of Great Joy" that God shares with us through His Son, Jesus Christ. It begins with the angel's announcements of babies to be born, continues as the shepherds are surprised in their fields, and continues even today as we share the message that Christ our Savior is born. Be sure to follow the story with us as we gather regularly during this most joyous time of the year.

Blessings,

✝ *Pastor Marks*

The South Wisconsin District is hosting a Rural and Small Towns Ministry Convocation January 14-15 in Manitowoc. This is a follow up to an event Pastor attended in September and is designed to bring pastors and church members together to discuss the joys and challenges of ministry in the small-town setting. Discussions are led by leaders from Doxology and include opportunities to hear from other congregations and support one another's work. We can bring up to four congregation members and the cost of the meeting, food, and lodging for the one night will be covered. Please consider this opportunity to be active in our work together for the sake of the Gospel and speak with Pastor Marks if you are interested in attending.



Advent/Christmas Schedule

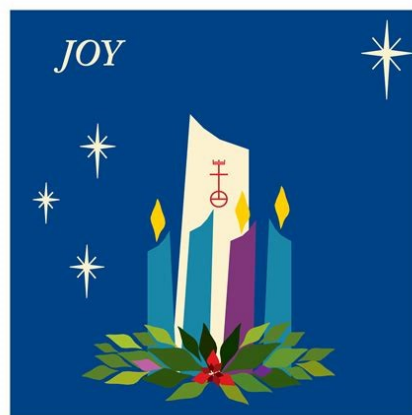
This **Advent** we will focus on the JOY we have in Christ's birth as well as our patient expectation for His return. There will be three Wednesday evening services, each preceded by a meal and activity beginning at 5:15 p.m. The services will begin at 6:30 p.m.

- Week 1** (12/6/2023) JOY: Too Good to Be True
Advent dinner: Sloppy Joes hosted by Ladies' Aid
- Week 2** (12/13/2023) JOY: Too Good to Be Exclusive
Advent dinner: Soups & Sandwiches hosted by the Board of Christian Education
- Week 3** (12/20/2023) JOY: Too Good to Be Hoarded
Advent dinner: Tacos hosted by Elders

Christmas

December 24 Christmas Eve Worship: Lessons and Carols

December 25 with Congregational Christmas Program at 4:30 p.m.
Divine Service at 9:00 a.m.



Mission of the Month—December

Our mission of the month for December is *Lutheran Hour Ministries*. Lutheran Hour Ministries is a trusted resource in global media that equips and engages a vibrant volunteer base to passionately proclaim the Gospel with people around the world more than 150 million times each week. Through its North American headquarters and ministry centers on six continents, LHM reaches into more than 60 countries, often bringing Christ to places where no other Christian evangelistic organizations are present. LHM's flagship ministry, **The Lutheran Hour**®, airs weekly on more than 1,800 radio stations and the American Forces Network.



Any gift on the mission line of your weekly envelope in December goes toward this important mission.

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM December 24, 2023 at 4:30 p.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.

◆ **Phillip S. Bloedel** died peacefully at home on Sunday, October 29, 2023. A Christian funeral was held at Emmanuel on November 3, 2023.

◆ **October Mission, Lutheran Heritage Foundation**, raised \$660. We thank you for your gifts that supported this mission.

◆ **A special presentation was given by Pastor Jean Rajaonasy of Madagascar** on Sunday November 5th during the Bible Study hour. \$390 was raised for support of this ministry and will be added to the \$252 raised by the Sunday School in September and October. These funds will assist with the church, school and upcoming orphanage projects.

◆ **Announcement.** Catherine Girolamo and Rev. Adam Scheblein announce their wedding on January 27, 2024. "Please include us in prayer as we prepare for this blessed day. God bless you all!" Pastor Scheblein's new address is 14300 Pine Valley Rd., Orlando, FL 32826.

◆ **Adult Choir Practices** have been scheduled for Sunday, December 3rd, at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, December 13th at 7:15 p.m., Wednesday, December 20th at 7:15 p.m. and Saturday, December 23rd, at 10:00 a.m., in preparation to sing on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

◆ **The Youth Group** had a great time at Rockin' Jump in November. Our next activity will be a Christmas Party on December 10th at 4:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Invite your friends.



◆ **Poinsettia Plants/Christmas Wreaths.** If you are interested in purchasing a plant and/or wreath, contact Emily Neumann at 920-994-4422 by December 8th.

◆ **Pastor & Naomi** are hosting the Parsonage Porch Party on December 9th during the Adell Christmas Parade starting at 5:00 p.m. Enjoy a great spot to watch the parade and great fellowship and snacks.

◆ **New Year Eve's Service** will be held on December 31 at 4:30 p.m. Please note the new time.

◆ **German Meal.** Thanks to all who brought food items, dishes to pass and helped set-up and clean-up and a big thanks to Steve Justinger for making the pork.



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