

**Upcoming Special Worship Services -**

Monday, December 24 <sup>th</sup>	4:00 pm	Children's Christmas Eve Service
	6:30 pm	Candlelight Service
Tuesday, December 25 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Christmas Day Worship
Monday, December 31 <sup>st</sup>	6:30 pm	New Year's Eve Worship w/Communion

**Children's K-8 Christmas Eve Service** – will be Monday, December 24th, at 4:00 pm. This year's theme is "Christmas Around the World". The service will focus on spreading God's Word to people and nations around the world. The children will be singing familiar Christmas carols in several different languages. Everyone is invited to join us for this special service celebrating the birth of our Savior.

**Children's Bulletins and Books** - We have special bulletins for our children each Sunday. The ushers will have them when they are handing out the weekly bulletins. Please feel free to ask them for this bulletin. Crayons are also available from the ushers. Christian books are also available for ages 0 to 10 + to look at or read during the service! Please ask an usher to direct you to the books so you or your child may pick out an age appropriate book bag or book.

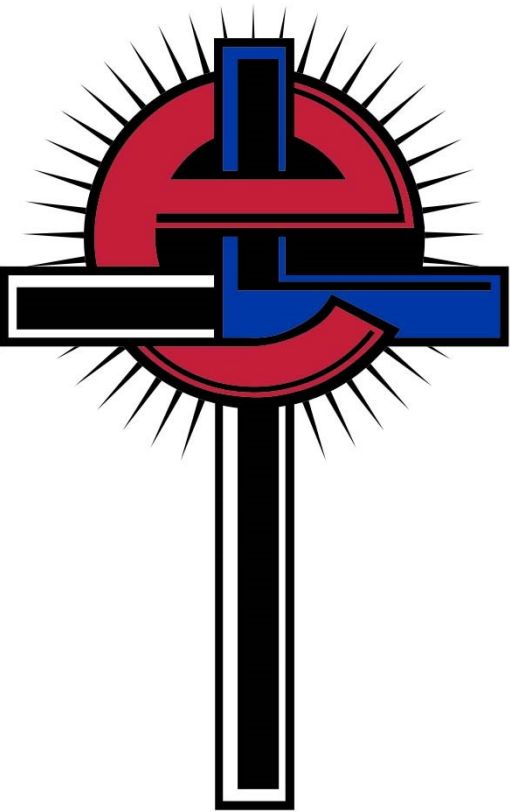
**Bathrooms/Baby Changing Tables** - are located in the Fellowship Hall, which is the large building in front of the church. (The building closest to the parking lot) There are changing tables in both bathrooms for your convenience. The bathrooms are located on the east end of the building.

**Worship Attendance**

Sunday, December 9 - 186 (9:00 am)  
Wednesday Advent - 70

<b><u>Income from week ending Dec. 9, 2018</u></b>	<b><u>Month Total</u></b>	<b><u>Monthly Budget</u></b>
First Fruits Offering	\$3605	\$10,032.12
School	\$2400	\$14,570.65
Preschool/Extended Care	\$1307.33	\$1307.33
Mortgage	\$160	\$345

**“Prepare the Way of the LORD”**



**Emmaus Evangelical Lutheran Church  
December 16, 2018  
Third Sunday in Advent**

## THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE BEFORE HIM

### OPENING HYMN “Prepare the Royal Highway” (CW #702)

*STAND*

- P:** The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
- C:** And also with you.

### CONFESSION OF SINS

- P:** God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.
- The congregation may kneel.*
- C:** Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.
- P:** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.
- C:** Amen.

### PRAYER AND PRAISE

#### LORD, HAVE MERCY

*Kyrie*

- P:** For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**Organist:** Mrs. Marci Brekken  
**Worship leader:** Pastor Ross Else

#### This Week at Emmaus

<b>TODAY</b>	Worship w/Lord's Supper	8:00 am
	Bible Study and Sunday School	9:15 am
	Worship	10:30 am
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Church Council Meeting	6:30 pm
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Soup Supper	5:45 pm
	Advent Worship	6:30 pm
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Noon dismissal for school	Start of Christmas Break
<b>SATURDAY</b>	Information Class	11:00 am
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	Worship	8:00 am
	Bible Study and Sunday School	9:15 am
	Worship w/Lord's Supper	10:30 am

#### Announcements

**Those who mourn** - The family and friends of retired Pastor, Arlyn Schmeling, who was called to his heavenly home this past week. Funeral services were held on Friday. May the risen and ascended Savior be their comfort with the truth of Christ's victory over sin and death, the victory that remains theirs by God's grace through His Word. Also, as they rejoice in the sure hope of the life Pastor Schmeling now enjoys with his Savior in heaven, and the sure hope of resurrection of all on the Last Day!

**Those with ongoing health and other struggles** - Nancy MacDonald; Mikka Suhonen; Lilly Ventura; David Conklin; Barb Widmann; Coover Shiffer; Barb Wendt; Barb Osborn; Barb Widmann; Rich Tollefson; Pastor Retberg; Jean Bagley; Roger Wilde; Kimberly Fritz (cancer); Shaun Eversole (cancer); Chuck Widmann; Brad Anderson; Roger Wilde's wife, Carol; Polly Mackenzie; Vince Wallenberg; Ellen King; Diane Scheel; Linda Thompson's friend Kathy Desch (cancer);

**Those who are** - sick, unemployed, traveling, celebrating birthdays and anniversaries, serving in the military, single, married, parents, children.

**Advent Worship** - Advent is a season of preparation and anticipation. Our last midweek Advent service will be held at 6:30 PM on December 19<sup>th</sup>. A light supper will precede each service at 5:45 pm.

**A Night in Bethlehem** - A big “THANK YOU” to everyone who helped out in any way to make our annual outreach event a success. We had about 275 people come to the event this year. To God be the glory!

**\*SECOND SERVICE closing prayer**

**P:** O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**P:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

**CLOSING HYMN****#16 – “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”**

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**P:** For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



**P:** For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



**P:** Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



**P:** The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

## O LORD, OUR LORD

C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in  
all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,  
you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;  
you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and  
ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,  
but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,  
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.  
O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,  
you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;

## THANKSGIVING

STAND

## 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-news 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!

## \*FIRST SERVICE closing prayer

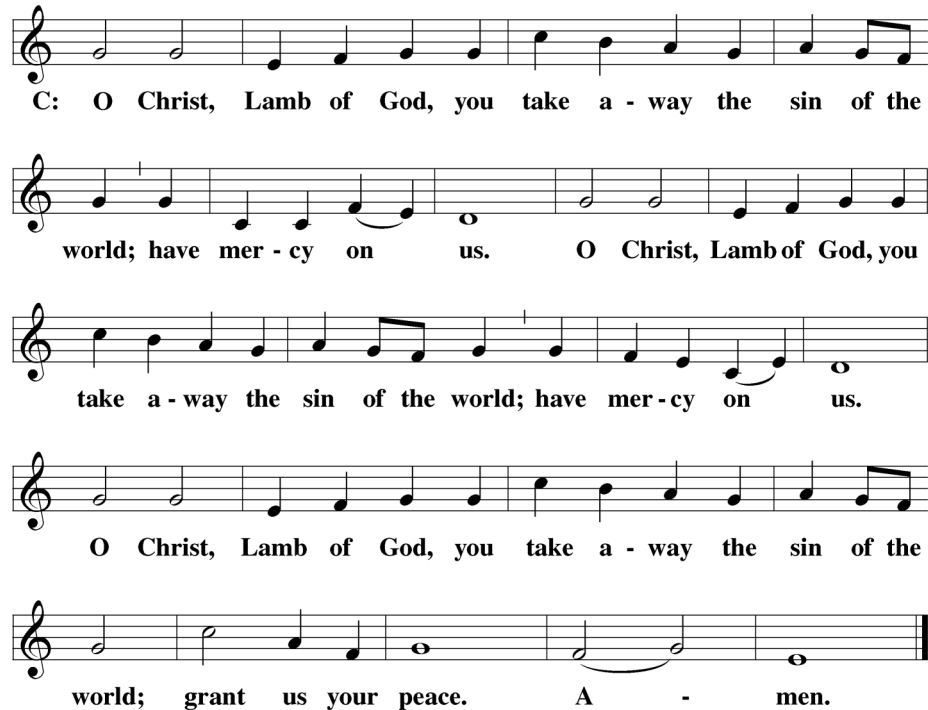
**P:** Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

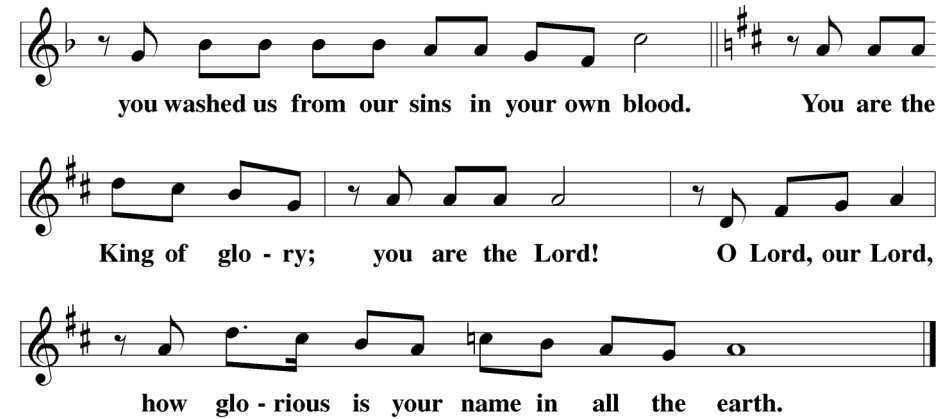


## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

*Agnus Dei*



**DISTRIBUTION** (*During distribution the congregation will sing Hymn 5*)



P: Let us pray. Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of Your deliverance. Drive the darkness fro our hearts and fill us with Your light; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



*Please be seated*

## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

### Isaiah 40:1-8

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call out to her. Her warfare really is over. Her guilt is fully paid for. Yes, she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice is calling out: "In the wilderness, prepare the way for the LORD. Make level in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Let every valley be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low. The crooked ground will become level, and the rough places will become a plain. 5 Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all flesh together shall see it." Truly, the LORD's mouth has spoken. 6 A voice is saying, "Call out!" And I said, "What shall I call out?" "All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like a flower in the field. 7 Grass withers, flowers fade, when the breath of the LORD blows upon them. Surely the people are grass. 8 Grass withers, flowers fade, but the Word of our God endures forever." 9 Get up on a high mountain, O Zion, you herald of good news. Lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, you herald of good news. Lift it up! Do not be afraid! Say to the

cities of Judah, “Behold your God!” 10 Look, God the LORD will come with strength, and his arm is ruling for him. Look, his reward is with him. His recompense is before him. 11 Like a shepherd he will tend his flock. With his arm he will gather the lambs. He will lift them up into his lap. He will lead the nursing mothers gently. (EHV)

**PSALM 111** (*p.106 in front section of hymnal*)

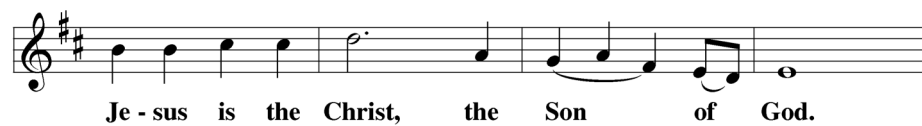
## SECOND LESSON

## 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

This is the way a person should think of us: as servants of Christ and stewards of God’s mysteries. 2 In this connection, moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. 3 But it is a trivial matter to me if I am evaluated by you or by a day in a human court. Why, I do not even evaluate myself. 4 I do not in fact know of anything against myself, but I am not justified by this; rather, the one who evaluates me is the Lord. 5 Therefore judge nothing ahead of time, until the Lord comes. He will bring to light whatever is hidden in darkness and also reveal the intentions of hearts. Then there will be praise for each person from God. (EHV)

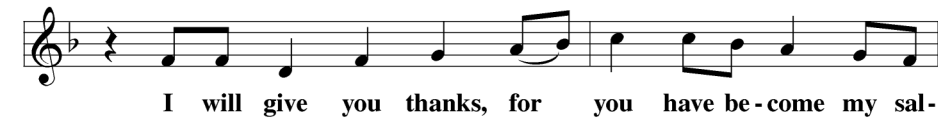
## VERSE OF THE DAY

**P:** Alleluia. I will send My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way before You. Alleluia. (Matthew 11:10)



## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

### Sanctus



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

*\*First service continues with the Sacrament; Second service continues on page 14*

THE SACRAMENT

P: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He preserves and protects His Church in every age and gives us confidence to lift up our heads and watch for Jesus with joy.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ. To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

*Please stand for the reading of the Gospel*

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 11:2-10

2 While John was in prison, he heard about the things Christ was doing. He sent two of his disciples 3 to ask him, “Are you the Coming One or should we wait for someone else?” 4 Jesus answered them, “Go, report to John what you hear and see: 5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the gospel is preached to the poor. 6 Blessed is the one who does not take offense at me.” 7 As these two were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the crowds about John. “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 What did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? No, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. 9 So what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you! And he is much more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written, ‘Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ (EHV)



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

*Please be seated*

HYMN

#207 “The Day is Surely Drawing Near”

SERMON

Matthew 11:2-10

“The Record clearly shows that Faith in Christ is Faith Rightly Placed”

- 1. Answering whatever doubts there are about Him
- 2. Faithfully pointing to Him—the Promised One

*STAND*

### THE NICENE CREED

**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, 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 is seated 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 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 APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

**OFFERING**

*STAND*

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P:** Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

**C: Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.**

**P:** Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

**C: Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

**P:** Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

**P:** Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.