

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, E.L.C.A.  
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Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 22, 2019 - 10:30 A.M. Service  
Welcome in the name of Christ!

*\*Congregation please stand as able*

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

### **Worship Participants**

**Worship Leader:** Deaconess Mindy Makant  
**Worship Assistant:** Cathy Baker   **Acolyte:** Ray Rushing  
**Organist:** Nathan Brickman   **Choir Director:** Brent Talley

### **Altar Flowers**

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God  
and  
in celebration of Alyssa Corpening's 12<sup>th</sup> birthday today.  
Given by Terry & Barbara Gilbert

And

We want to wish our parents, Tony & Kay Lafone,  
Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on December 24<sup>th</sup>.  
We love you, Tiffani, Andy, Brandi, Mike, Mary Kay and Paige

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*You are encouraged to read the text to the hymns in the service for your own meditation and worship.*

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the parent who rouses us from slumber, the shepherd who gathers us on the holy mountain, the deliverer who sets us free.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Let us come before God in confession.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation,

**C** **we open our hearts to you, O God.**

**Search us and know us.**

**Reveal all that we keep inside.**

**To you, O God, we confess our sins, known and unknown.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us in your ways of justice and peace.**

**Make us reflections of the radiant love**

**of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ.**

**P** God who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By Grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ (+) your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, the Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C** **Amen.**

<b>*GATHERING HYMN</b>	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	ELW #257
	Verses 1-4	

**\*GREETING**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** **And also with you.**

## \*KYRIE



Lord, have mer - cy\_\_ on your peo - ple. Christ have mer - cy\_\_ on\_\_ us.  
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.\_\_ Chri - ste e - le - i - son.



Shine your light in\_\_ to our dark - ness. Fill us\_\_ with your ho - ly love.  
Heal all\_\_ con - flicts be - tween na - tions. Teach us\_\_ how to\_\_ live as one.



Be our strength in times of\_\_ trou - ble. Set us free from chains that\_\_ bind.  
Show us how to love our\_\_ neigh - bor. Run to those who\_\_ cry for\_\_ help.



Breathe new life in - to our\_\_ spir - its. Pu - ri - fy our\_\_ hearts and minds.  
Word made flesh who lives a - mong us; Christ our\_\_ Lord, Em - man - u - el.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## First Lesson

## Isaiah 7:10-16

*An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!*

<sup>10</sup>The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David!

Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also?

<sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

L The word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

### CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

### LITURGY OF LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

On the fourth Sunday of Advent we light the Angels’ Candle, as we remember the message of Peace. We dream of a peaceful world where wolves and lions eat and sleep with calves and lambs- where war is a memory and we eat at one table.

\*HYMN

*Light One Candle To Watch For Messiah*  
Verses 1-4

ELW #240

### Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

*Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter’s opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God’s gospel. The gospel’s content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul’s mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.*

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

<sup>7</sup>To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



**\*HOLY GOSPEL**

**Matthew 1:18-25**

P The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew the 1st Chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."*

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us."<sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

<b>*HYMN OF THE DAY</b>	<i>The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came</i>	ELW #265
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**\*THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:*

L Lord in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

**\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

## OFFERING

### \*OFFERTORY HYMN

*Accept O Lord, The Gifts We Bring*

ELW #691

Accept, O Lord, the gifts we bring  
To place upon your table.  
We do not worship as we ought  
But only as we're able  
Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares  
We lift in prayer before you.  
Lord, by your grace now come to us  
As humbly we adore you.

### \*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Giver of every good thing, we set before you the gifts that you have already given to sustain our lives and to share with others. Help us to be good stewards of the earth and all that is in it, and let our lives be a testimony to the abundant feast you prepare for all who hunger.  
**Amen.**

### \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts

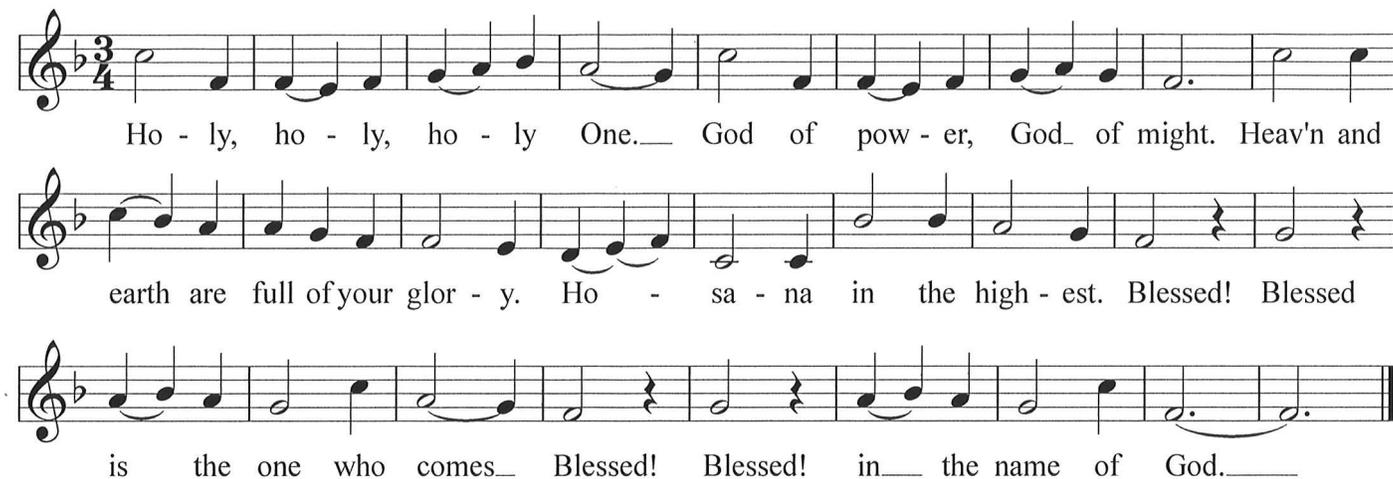
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### \*PROPER PREFACE

### \*SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One... God of pow - er, God of might. Heav'n and  
earth are full of your glor - y. Ho - sa - na in the high - est. Blessed! Blessed  
is the one who comes... Blessed! Blessed! in... the name of God.\_\_\_\_\_

(The bread and wine were consecrated earlier this week by Pastor Bolick)

**\*THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**AGNUS DEI**



O Lamb of God you take a-way our sin; have mer-cy on us, give us your  
peace. Pre -pare us to re - ceive your grace and teach us how to fol - low your ways. Re-  
joice! Re-joice! E - man - u - el has come to you, O Is - ra-el.

**\*DISTRIBUTION OF THE EUCHARIST**

*All are welcome to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Those wishing to come to the altar rail will receive bread from a single loaf and wine poured from a single cup as a sign of our unity in Christ. Be certain to obtain an empty cup (or, if you prefer, a cup containing nonalcoholic grape juice) before you climb the steps. You may also remain on the main floor level and receive the sacrament by intinction. Dip the wafer in the cup of wine or grape juice before placing it in your mouth. Whichever side you are sitting on, the line closer to you is for intinction; the line farther away from you will go to the altar.*

**COMMUNION HYMNS**

*Unexpected And Mysterious*

ELW #258

*What Feast Of Love*

ELW #487

**\*TABLE BLESSING**

**\*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE** *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness, Lord*  
*Verse 1*

ELW #251

My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord; I sing my savior's praise!  
You looked upon my lowliness, and I am full of grace.  
Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age this blessing shall proclaim—  
Great wonders you have done for me, and holy is your name.

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

L God of abundance, we give you thanks that in this holy meal you have invited us to feast with you and one another. May the taste of your love remain with us, and may our words and our work in your name invite others into your bountiful grace. Send us from your table to proclaim your presence, even as we await the glorious coming of Christ our Savior. **C Amen.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*SENDING HYMN**

*Joy To The World*

ELW #267

**\*DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord!

**C Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

## Remember in Prayer

### **Nursing Homes:**

**Brookdale-Falling Creek** – Ralph Baker #707

**Kingston** Pat & Frank Hedrick #208

**Trinity Village** (Lutheran Home, Springs Road) -

Earlene Newton - #902 (Dogwood), Juanita Deitz - #607, Edith Icard - #608,  
Jay Lee Eckard - #402, Walt Cornwell - # 217

**Trinity Ridge** (Mountain View) Tammy Falcone - #708

**At Home:** Catherine Morgan

**Family and Friends:** Janet Stinson, Leon Baker, Ruth Dietz, Nancy Jo Brooks, Elbert Pope, Susan Hoke Lee, Nancy & Dee Dee Pope, Viola Gross, Susan Shelor, Mary Ann Wrenn, Joyce Travis, Frances Landaas, Joyce Odell, Shari Dezern, Donald Bumgarner, Morgan Inez Smith, Barry Sullivan, Wendi Gonzalez, Betty Eckard, Mary Alice Punch

. Billy Sharpe, Randy Eckard, Bryon Patton, Joann Godfrey, Brittany Deitz Hall, Chris Hoke, Carol Jones Towery, Jim Lucket, Keith Shull, Melissa George, Trevor Collins, David Yount, Sherry Huffman, Jan Morelli, Linda Gentry, Dean Isenhour, Ralph Mouser, Jessie Cavander, Vickie Morgan, Anne Williams, Andrea Little, Beverly Edwards, Richard & Margie Powell

**Others:** All those affected by the violence in our country and abroad, All who are hungry, All who are homeless

**Bereavement:** The Family of Jo Houston, The Family of Nancy Dezern, The Family of Ronald Ramsey

### **Armed Forces:**

**U.S. Navy:** E4 Logan Miller, Little Creek, VA; IS2 Chris Powell, Jacksonville FL; CPO Matt Creech, Bahrain

**U.S. Marines:** Cpl. Andy Hance, Hawaii; Captain Nathan Carpenter; Cpt. John Teague, Kuwait; Staff Sgt. Justin Curl, Hawaii

**U.S. Air Force** Nathan Bridges, (Ret.- Hungary)

**Call Committee for Pastor:** Chair -Ben Huhn, Secretary - Elisabeth Mauck, Chaplain - Carol Talley, Richard Huffman, Deborah Sullivan, Linda Baker and Tony Lafone.

*Please contact the church office to make changes to this list*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**

Dec. 22 Fon Cornwell, Alyssa Corpening  
Dec. 23 Ray Rushing  
Dec. 24 Jean Patton  
Dec. 28 Vickie Morgan, Crystal Witherspoon

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!**

Dec. 24 Tony & Kay Lafone  
Dec. 28 John & Susan Shelor

All committees and groups need to turn in an annual report to the office by January 5th. This includes any financial information that doesn't go thru the treasurer's office. If you have questions please see Brenda Duncan.

Please pick up your 2020 offering envelopes on the table outside the chapel and in the narthex.

***Candlelight Worship Service***  
***Tuesday December 24th, Christmas Eve***  
***Music begins at 10:30, Service begins at 11.***  
**COME JOIN US!**

## Servants of the Lord

### 8:00 A.M.

#### **Greeter:**

12/22 Cathy Fox  
12/29 ONE SERVICE

#### **Nursery:**

12/22 Sharon Miller  
12/29 ONE SERVICE

#### **Lay Reader:**

12/22 Luther Hathcock  
12/29 ONE SERVICE

### 10:30 A.M.

#### **Worship Assistant:**

12/22 Cathy Baker  
12/24 Terry Gilbert  
12/29 Tiffani Bolick

#### **Nursery:**

12/22 Leesa Godfrey  
12/24 Barbara Gilbert  
12/29 Carolyn H./Kara R.

#### **Lay Reader:**

12/22 Cathy Baker  
12/24 Terry Gilbert  
12/29 Sandy Barton

#### **Sound Control:**

12/22 Bruce Godfrey  
12/24 Greg Deitz  
12/29 Wayne Long

#### **Acolyte:**

12/22 Ray Rushing  
12/24 Katie Ramsey & Mia Sexton  
12/29 Ray Rushing

#### **Altar Guild:**

Tiffani Bolick  
Crystal Witherspoon

#### **December Ushers:**

\*Donald Bumgarner, \*Corky Miller,  
Gene Kanupp, Paul Yount,  
Jeris Baker, Jim Edwards

*If you cannot serve your appointed time please contact another person and make arrangements to switch dates. \*Please notify the office of any changes.*

Attendance  
12/15  
 8 - 43  
 SS - 35  
 10:30 -80

	<u>Week of 12/15/19</u>	<u>Month to Date</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
<b>Regular Offerings</b>	\$ 6,633.00	\$ 17,432.05	\$272,051.40
PAID Operating Exp.	<u>(10,214.69)</u>	<u>(18,578.16)</u>	<u>(273,864.27)</u>
Over (Short)	\$ (3,581.69)	\$ (1,146.11)	\$ <u>(1,812.87)</u>

**Sunday, December 22**  
 8 Worship - Chapel  
 9:15 Children's Music  
 9:15 SS  
 9:30 Children's SS  
 10:30 Worship - Sanctuary  
 4:30 Property

**Monday, December 23**  
 10 Staff Meeting

**Tuesday, December 24**  
*Office Closed*

**Wednesday, December 25**  
*Office Closed*

*Merry Christmas!!*

**Thursday, December 26**  
*Office Closed*

**Friday, December 27**  
*Office Closed*  
 10-12 Gym Ollis

**Saturday, December 28**

**Sunday, December 29**  
 ONE SERVICE  
 9:15 SS  
 9:30 Children's SS  
 10:30 Worship - Sanctuary  
 12-3 Miller