

# *The Gathering*

The Third Sunday in Advent

December 15, 2024



## **Emanuel Lutheran Church**

[www.emanuelnh.org](http://www.emanuelnh.org)

749-2163

## **Central Lutheran School**

[www.cluth.org](http://www.cluth.org)

493-2502

## **Vision Statement**

Emanuel Lutheran Church is a united and growing family of Christians joyfully dedicated to furthering God's Kingdom.

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### **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Preacher: Rev. David O. Stecker

Praise Team: Annette Carbaugh, Praise Leader

Todd Phillips, Keyboard

Tobias Wise, KoKo Oo, Peter Czubakowski, Jason Miller, Instrumental

Vocals: Pau Thupha Thang

Acolyte: Anthony Keen

Elder: Steve Poling

## † The Third Sunday in Advent †

**WELCOME** to those visiting us this Lord's Day. It is our joy to have you worshipping with us. We invite you to come again and worship the Lord.

**FELLOWSHIP DIRECTORY** ~ Everyone, please sign in! We ask guests to include your address, zip code and phone number so that we may acknowledge your visit.

**AS WE GATHER** ~ Are you feeling the joy? At this point in the month of December, studies show that many people are not feeling joy. Many people are feeling overwhelmed as they approach Christmas, feeling stressors that include not having enough money, missing loved ones, and anticipating family conflict. No matter how we come to our time of worship today, even if stressed, distracted, and frazzled, what great timing to hear what God speaks to us in this season and each day. From all our Readings today, we hear of joy! It is a joy not based on our own momentary perspectives of how things should go, but rather a joy from God's eternal perspective for our sake and what has freely been done for us. As our Advent season continues, may our true joy be found in the one for whom we prepare—Christ, who was born for us and who is with us and for us and is today in our midst as He comes to us in the means of grace.

**PRE-SERVICE PRAISE**                      *Light of the World*  
**O Jesus, Son of God, so full of grace and truth,  
The Father's Saving Word, so wonderful are You.  
The angels longed to see, and prophets searched to find  
The glory we have seen revealed.  
You shone upon the earth, but who will understand?  
You came unto Your own, but who will recognize?  
Your birth was prophesied, for You were the Messiah  
Who came and walked upon the Earth.  
Your glory we have seen, the one and only King  
And now You're living in our hearts.**

*Chorus:* **Light of the world, light of the world, Light of the world, You shine upon us.**

**In You all things were made and nothing without You  
In heaven and on earth all things are held in You.  
And yet You became flesh, living as one of us under the shadow of the cross  
Where, through the blood you shed, You have made peace again.  
Peace for a world that God so loves**

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*Pre-Chorus:* **And yet You became flesh, living as one of us,  
Under the shadow of the cross.  
Where, through the blood you shed, You have made peace again,  
Peace for a world that God so loves.**

### WELCOME/SHARING OF THE PEACE

**OPENING SONG**                      *O Come, All Ye Faithful*  
**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him born the king of angels:**

*Refrain:* **O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

**Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! Refrain**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God in the highest: Refrain**

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing! Refrain**

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM                      *Shadrach Doh Oo*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Our Lord commanded Baptism, saying to His disciples in the last chapter of Matthew: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age." The holy apostles of the Lord have written: "The promise is for you and your children," and: "Baptism now saves you."

We also learn from the Word of God that we all are conceived and born sinful and are in need of forgiveness. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation. But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent his Son Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sin of the whole world that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your forehead and upon your heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

Hear how our Lord Jesus Christ has opened the kingdom of God to little children.

People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Pastor: It is your task as sponsors to confess with the whole Church the faith in our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in whose name this child is to be baptized.

After this child has been baptized you are at all times to remember him in your prayers, put him in mind of his Baptism, and, as much as in you lies, give your counsel and aid, especially if he should lose his parents, that he be brought up in the true knowledge and worship of God and be taught the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer; and that, as he grows in years, you place in his hands the Holy Scriptures, bring him to the services of God's house, and provide for his further instruction in the Christian faith, that he come to the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood and thus, abiding in his baptismal grace and in communion with the Church, he may grow up to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Jesus Christ.

Pastor: This, then, you intend gladly and willingly to do?

*Sponsors:* Yes.

Pastor: God enable you both to will and to do this faithful and loving work and with His grace fulfill what we are unable to do.

In order to implore the blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ upon the gathering of this child into the family of our Father, let us with all the family pray the prayer He gave us.

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Pastor: The Lord preserve your coming in and your going out from this time forth and even forevermore.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Because this child cannot answer for himself, we shall all, together with sponsors and parents, faithfully speak on his behalf in testimony of the forgiveness of sin and the birth of the life of faith which God our Father bestows in and through Baptism.

Pastor: Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

**People: I do renounce them.**

Pastor: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

**People: Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?

**People: Yes, 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People: Yes, 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.**

Pastor: Who brings this child to be baptized?

*Parents: We do.*

Pastor: How is this child to be named?

*Parents: Shadrach Doh Oo*

Pastor: Shadrach Doh Oo, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with his grace to life everlasting. Peace be with you.

**People: Amen.**

*Elder: Receive this burning light. Live always by the light of Christ, and be ever watchful for His coming that you may meet Him with joy and enter with Him to the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which shall have no end.*

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and most merciful God and Father, we thank and praise you that you graciously preserve and enlarge your family and have granted **Shadrach Doh Oo** the new birth in Holy Baptism and made him a member of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and an heir of your heavenly kingdom. We humbly implore you that, as he has now become your child, you would keep him in his baptismal grace that according to all your good pleasure he may faithfully grow to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of your holy name and finally with all your saints obtain the promised inheritance in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

*Elder: Through Baptism God has added Shadrach Doh Oo to His own people to declare the wonderful deeds of our Savior, who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.*

**People: We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, to work with us in his kingdom.**

Pastor: And you, Shadrach Doh Oo, the Lord bless you in all your ways from this time forth and even forevermore.

**People: Amen.**

### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

(Philippians 4:4-7)

Pastor: As we gather today to hear God's Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, we come before Him as people who are broken by an imperfect world, burdened by sin, and bearing guilt for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. In the midst of our condition, the Word of God speaks to

us. In today's Epistle, we hear, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice."

**People: We confess we do not rejoice in everything; instead, we let the weight of this world bring us down. Instead of seeing all good things from Your hand, at times we focus on that which does not give You glory nor bring lasting joy to our lives.**

Pastor: "Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand."

**People: We confess we have at times been unreasonable in our relationships with others and in our relationship with You. Our witness to Your grace has faltered.**

Pastor: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

**People: We confess we have been anxious about our sin and our circumstances of life. Create in us a clean heart and renew in us a right spirit that we may abide in Your love and that Your joy may be in us, and our joy may be full.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**People: Amen.**

### **SONG OF PRAISE**

*Be Thou My Vision*

**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.  
Thou my best thought by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.**

**Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.**

**High King of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heav'ns joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

**SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

(Ruth 2:4)

**People: And also with you.**

(Luke 1:28)

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**Zephaniah 3:14-20 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter of Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup>The Lord has taken away the judgments against you;  
he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;  
you shall never again fear evil.

<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
“Fear not, O Zion;  
let not your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The Lord your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will quiet you by his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing.

<sup>18</sup>I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,  
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

<sup>19</sup>Behold, at that time I will deal  
with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you in,  
at the time when I gather you together;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes,” says the Lord.

**EPISTLE READING**

**Philippians 4:4-7 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

***THY WORD***

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Repeat**

**GOSPEL READING**

**Luke 7:18-28 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup>The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, <sup>19</sup>calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” <sup>20</sup>And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” <sup>21</sup>In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. <sup>22</sup>And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>23</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

<sup>24</sup>When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>25</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. <sup>26</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>27</sup>This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>28</sup>I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

**THY WORD**

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Repeat**  
**You're the Light unto my path.**

**SONG OF THE DAY      *Savior of the Nations, Come***

**Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's Son, make here Your home!**  
**Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.**

**Not by human flesh and blood, by the Spirit of our God,**  
**Was the Word of God made flesh – woman's offspring, pure and fresh.**

**Here a maid was found with child, yet remained a virgin mild.**  
**In her womb this truth was shown: God was there upon His throne.**

**Then stepped forth the Lord of all from His pure and kingly hall;**  
**God of God, yet fully man, His heroic course began.**

**God the Father was His source, back to God He ran His course.**  
**Into hell His road went down, back then to His throne and crown.**

**For You are the Father's Son who in flesh the vict'ry won.**  
**By Your mighty pow'r make whole all our ills of flesh and soul.**

**From the manger newborn light shines in glory through the night.**  
**Darkness there no more resides; in this light faith now abides.**

**Glory to the Father sing, glory to the Son, our king,**  
**Glory to the Spirit be now and through eternity.**

**MESSAGE***It's Not Going As I Thought***Luke 7:18-28****PRAYER OF THE DAY****SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins, and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm, and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor. For further study, see Matthew 5:23f; 10:32f; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34.

**COMMUNION**

*As we prepare for the presence of Christ in this sacrament, we rise.*

**PREFACE**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: So we come to You to commune with You in this sacrament, and join the angels and all those in heaven singing...

**HOSANNA**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might;**  
**Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Repeat**  
**Hosanna, hosanna, in the highest. Repeat**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread; and, when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, "Take, eat; this is my † body, which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.

In the same way He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new Testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: Amen.**

**LAMB OF GOD**

O, Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God.  
 O, wash me in His precious blood, my Jesus Christ the Lamb of God.  
 O, Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God.  
 O, wash me in Your precious blood, 'til I am just a lamb of God.

**COMMUNION SONGS***Mary Did You Know*

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day walk on water?  
 Mary, did you know that your baby boy will save our sons and daughters?  
 Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?  
 This child that you've delivered will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?  
 Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with His hand?  
 Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?  
 And when you kiss your little baby you've kissed the face of God.

Mary, did you know? The blind will see, the deaf will hear,  
 And the dead will live again.  
 The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?  
 Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?  
 Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?  
 This sleeping child you're holding Is the Great I Am.

*God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman*

God rest ye merry, gentlemen let nothing you dismay,  
 Remember, Christ, our Savior was born on Christmas day,  
 To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.  
 O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our Heavenly Father a blessed angel came,  
 And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,  
 How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by Name.  
 O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

And when they came to Bethlehem where our dear Savior lay,  
 They found Him in a manger, where oxen feed on hay,  
 His Mother Mary kneeling down, unto the Lord did pray.  
 O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,  
 And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace,  
 This holy tide of Christmas all other doth deface.  
 O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

**BLESSING**

Pastor: And now may this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus  
 Christ strengthen and preserve you in the one true faith to life  
 everlasting. Peace be with you.

People: Amen.

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
 The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

**CLOSING SONG***Jesus Is My Rock*

*Refrain: Jesus is my Rock, Rock of ages, Jesus is my rock. Repeat*

He was with me in the beginning, when I was all lost in sin,  
 He came down and gave His life for me. He called me and I believe in Him. *Refrain*

On those days when nothing seems right, I trust in Him, and know He is there.  
 He will guide and guard and protect me, there's no reason for me to fear. *Refrain*

Now that I know Him and His truth, my life is different and I've been changed,  
 I need to spread His good news, so we can all always live with Him. *Refrain*



*Please remember to place your offering for the work of the Lord at Emanuel in the offering plate as you leave.*