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Offering	
*Offertory: “Take My Life, that I May Be”	<b>vs. 1 &amp; 6 of #406</b>
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*Lord’s Prayer: <i>Traditional Version</i>	Page 91
<i>Invitation &amp; Distribution</i>	
<i>Holy Communion is the Lord’s Supper for the Lord’s People: “All are welcome to receive the Lord’s Body and Blood who are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.” We are practicing head of the aisle Communion tonight by means of Intinction.</i>	
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Postlude	

**Thanks** for worshiping with us this evening. Your presence is your gift to us. We pray that our Service of Word & Sacrament is a blessing to you. Sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever we are praising, proclaiming & practicing Emmanuel – God with us – in daily life! May the hope & promise of Advent equip the saints for Witness in the World!

**Visit us at:** [www.emmanuelofrochester.org](http://www.emmanuelofrochester.org).

## The Prayers

A: Heavenly Father, we ask that you cleanse us of our sins as we prepare for the birth of your Son. Let us receive him with joy and thanksgiving.

### *A Brief Silence*

A: Heavenly Father, You sent your Son to take away our sins. Help us live our lives in a good and Godly manner, showing that Jesus did not die in vain. The invasion has begun. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: As we prepare for the arrival of Christmas, let us all return to the studies of our faith, reading & hearing your Word so that we may better understand it and live it. Grant that we may remember the least of these, those whom you have exalted and blessed. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Father, we ask you to strengthen our families. May husbands and wives remain true to each other and work together for the good of their household. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: We pray Lord, for those who protect children: child protective services, social workers, police, lawyers and judges. We ask that you help them discern the truth, so that they may do what is right for the children. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: We pray for newborn babies throughout the world. May their lives be shown worthy, so that they may grow and achieve their full potential. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Thank you Father, for all that you have given us. Teach us to be more appreciative of the things we have and not dwell on the things we don't. Help us grow in your love. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Compassionate God, bring your healing presence into the lives of all who are suffering in mind, body, or spirit. Be present with individuals and communities who are suffering the effects of natural disasters or violent weather. **[We pray especially for ... .]** Lord in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands Lord, we commend all for which we pray, trusting in your mercy now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Psalm 80:1-7 —responsively*

L: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock.

**C: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.**

L: Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,

**C: Stir up your might and come to save us!**

L: Restore us, O God;

**C: Let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

L: O Lord God of hosts,

**C: How long will you be angry with your people's prayers?**

L: You have fed them with the bread of tears

**C: And given them tears to drink in full measure.**

L: You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,

**C: And our enemies laugh among themselves.**

L: Restore us, O God of hosts;

**C: Let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

**WORSHIP SERVANTS Tonight:**

*Pianist: MarJean Damerval*

*Scripture Reader & Prayers: Larry Vomhof*

*Communion Server: Deb Vomhof*

*Ushers: Darald & Leitha Bothun*

*Acolyte: Cabe Siebenaler*

*Coffee: Peg Holtan*

*Treats: Margaret Quam*

*Sound: Don Holtan*

*Set-Up: Julie Steffenson*

*Take-Down: Janet Sunde & Friends*

**Thank You...***to all Emmanuel Members for your second mile gift of financial support. Your generosity is helping us to address our budget shortfall for 2015, and replenishing our Reserves for 2016 and 2017. "Our God supplies all of our needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus".*



**Worship—Eve of  
Advent Four  
Dec. 19, 2015  
6:00 p.m.**

**Lutheran Book of Worship—Setting II**

*\* indicates stand as you are able*

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

Prayer: Blessed are you, God of our salvation; you promised that the One of peace would come from Bethlehem to feed your flock & make us live securely. As we light these candles, kindle in us the fire of your love, infuse in us the fruit of your Word, & empower us to lift up the lowly & to fill the hungry with good things; let your face shine on us and bless us that we may be saved. Amen.

*Lighting of Advent Candles*

*Sing: "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (2x) vs. 4—Insert*

*\*Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness* Page 77

*\*Gathering Hymn: "Prepare the Royal Highway" #26*

*\*Prayer of the Day:*

P: Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. With your great might, give us your help, that whatever is hindered by our sins may be speedily accomplished by your grace; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

**Psalm 80:1-7**

**Bulletin Page 4**

Second Lesson: Hebrews 10:5-10

*\*Gospel Acclamation: "Alleluia"* Page 83

*\*Holy Gospel: Luke 1:39-45*

Children's Message: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Sermon: "The Invasion Has Begun" Pastor Dave Steffenson

**Thanks & appreciation is offered to Arne Nelson for his faithful service as Church Treasurer for the past 4 years.**

**Nominating Committee Report: Opportunities to serve!** Is God calling you to offer your spiritual gifts in service to Christ as a member of the Emmanuel Church Council? Two positions are available, one being the Church Treasurer.

**Men's Bible Study Breakfast:** Weekly fellowship around God's Word at 8 am Tuesdays at Charlie's (1408 2nd. St. SW). Join us in being Evangelical. Invite a friend. Share the Good News! We will meet on Tuesday, December 22 to discuss the readings for Christmas Eve: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96:1-13; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20. Scripture Readings for Christmas I are: Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15; Psalm 111; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:22-40.

**Saturday School 2015:** Join us at 5:10 p.m. each Saturday in the Oasis Church Fellowship Hall as we learn Bible Stories and enjoy two special units this year on the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed. Games, skits, music and crafts will be a part of the learning experience. All kids are welcome to participate in Saturday School. There will be no Saturday School on December 26 and January 2.

**Women of the Word!** Two studies are available. One for women during the day and one in the evening. Both groups are studying "Famous Women in the Word of God". Session Three for the Evening Study option will be held at Katie Siebenaler's house (12827 Hwy 52 S.E., Chatfield, MN) on Tuesday, January 19 at 6:30pm. The Afternoon Group ended their eight session study on Women of the Old Testament and will reconvene for another eight week study on Women of the New Testament, beginning in April.

**PRAYING FOR OUR SCHOOLS:** During the month of December we are praying for Washington Elementary School. We delivered goodies as an expression of our love & gratitude on December 14. Thanks for keeping the staff, students & families of our area schools in your daily prayers.

**Mark Smeby: Experience the Hope of Christmas!** Mark Smeby is a Nashville Christian recording artist. He will be leading worship at Rochester Covenant Church on Sunday, December 20 at 10:00 a.m.

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Rochester, Minnesota**  
**Contact Information: 1815—38th Street NW, Rochester, MN**  
**Phone: 507-206-3048**      [www.emmanuelofrochester.org](http://www.emmanuelofrochester.org)

### **Micah 5:2-5a — O Little Town of Bethlehem**

2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. 3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. 4 And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. 5a And he shall be their peace.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Hebrews 10:5-10 — He Comes to do God's Will**

5 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; 6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. 7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'" 8 When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), 9 then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. 10 And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **The 2016 Discipleship Covenants are available for signing.**

Remember, Membership at Emmanuel is an annual renewal. 54 Covenants were signed in 2015. Thanks for making daily discipleship a priority in your walk with Jesus. 24 signed discipleship covenants have already been received for 2016. To be a member is to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, baptized and committed to the Marks of Discipleship. If you desire to "praise, proclaim, and practice Emmanuel—God With Us—in daily life," then complete the 2016 Emmanuel Discipleship Membership Covenant, place it in the offering basket, and walk with us to the glory of God.

## Gospel Reading—Luke 1:39-45

**P: The Holy Gospel According to St. Luke the 1st. Chapter.**

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

39 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, 40 and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, 42 & she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

**P: The Gospel of the Lord.**

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

**Salvation Army Bell Ringing!** Emmanuel Lutheran Church is partnering again this year with the Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringing campaign. There are locations throughout the Rochester area, including Byron and Stewartville, from November 14th through Christmas Eve. A manned kettle nets about \$30 more per shift than an unmanned kettle; a huge difference in donations & the ability to help those in need. Kettle donations provide services ranging from food, clothing, shelter, medical and dental assistance to counseling, adult day care programs & spiritual guidance. See Lee Pearce to sign-up now as part of the Emmanuel Bell Ringing Team to get your choice locations and times. Make it a family affair! Our Emmanuel Goal is 40 Servant Hours! 38 hours have already been committed.

# The Emmanuel Weekly

**Saturday, Dec. 19, 2015**  
**Eve of Advent Four—6 pm**

**“Praising, Proclaiming and Practicing  
Emmanuel—God with us—in daily life!”**

### ADVENT

Advent’s color is BLUE, the color of hope. In Christ we are homing in hope! During the Days of Advent, may God prepare a way into our hearts and give us the joy of Emmanuel. We await the coming of Jesus in daily life, in the needs of our neighbors. We await the END TIME coming of Jesus. We await the coming of Christ in Word and Sacrament. We await the Advent of God in the Nativity of our Lord. Blessed Advent to you and yours! Thanks to LeRoy Quam for making our Advent Wreath, and Julie Steffenson for sewing our new Advent Pulpit Parament.

### **Annual Meeting: Change of Date**

*This Year’s Emmanuel Lutheran Church Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 31, 2015, at 4pm, followed by a potluck supper. Child Care will be provided. Meat & beverages will also be provided. Please bring a dish (salad, side dish or dessert) to share.*

**The December Emmanuel Prayer Calendar & Epistle Newsletter are available in print! Also, pick up your copy of the Advent Devotional Calendar, and the Our Daily Bread Devotional for December 2015—February 2016.**



### CALENDAR ITEMS

- Sat, December 19  
Saturday School @ 5:10pm; Advent IV  
Worship at 6pm
- Sunday, Dec. 20  
Mark Smeby leading  
worship at Rochester  
Covenant (10am)
- Tues, Dec. 22 at 8 am  
Men’s Bible Study  
Breakfast at Charlie’s;  
Prayers: Samia Nelson
- Thurs, Dec. 24 (4pm)  
Christmas Eve  
Worship—Candlelight,  
Carols & Communion
- Sat, December 26  
NO Saturday School;  
Christmas I Worship at  
6pm - Pulpit supply,  
Rev. Tim Duesenberg
- Pastor on Vacation  
(Dec. 26-Jan. 1)