

Offering: (No passing of baskets; offerings may be placed in the basket located by the church entrance as one leaves; offerings of support may also be given electronically or sent via U.S. mail. Thanks for supporting the ministry of Emmanuel.)

\*Lord's Prayer: *Traditional Version*

### Benediction

P: May Jesus, the Miracle of Christmas, fill you with all joy & peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may celebrate the birth of Christ, and share His saving love with all the world. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

\***Sending Hymn: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" — LBW #55**

### \*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord! Celebrate the miracle of Christmas!

**C: Jesus is my Miracle! Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

### **WORSHIP HELPERS TODAY**

Pianist: Jane Cabaya

Flautist: Julie Peterson

Soloist: Anna Blakesley — "O Holy Night"

Assisting Minister, Scripture Reader/Prayers: Julie Steffenson

Sound/Video Recording: Don Holtan

Set-up and Take-down: Julie Steffenson & Peg Holtan

**Thanks** for worshiping with us today. *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 Word made flesh, born of Mary, keep the Miracle of Christmas in our hearts and homes always! Merry Christmas!*

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



**Worship  
Christmas Day  
Dec. 25, 2021  
6:00 p.m.**

### **LBW: "The Miracle of Christmas"**

*\* indicates stand as you are able*

Prelude — "Silent Night" (Piano Arrangement by Jane Cabaya)

Welcome/Announcements

**The people walking in darkness have seen a great Light. On those living in the land of the shadow of death, the Light has dawned. (Isaiah 9:2)**

**Prayer:** We praise you, O Lord our God, for giving us every spiritual blessing through your beloved Son. Enlighten our hearts and minds that we may shine as lights in this dark world, to the praise of your glorious grace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Lighting of Christmas Candles**

**Sing: Tune of "I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve" — LBW #69**

- 1. The Incarnation, mystery, The WORD made flesh for me;  
The miracle of Christmas is, The gift of Calvary.*
- 2. Before the altar of our Lord, we shall confess and see;  
Forgiveness is the grace of God, that sets the sinner free.*

**\*Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness:**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Hymn: “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” — LBW #50**

\*Greeting:

P: The grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the WORD made flesh, be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

\*Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray. God of majesty, open our eyes to see the light of your presence in the world around us revealed through the birth of your Son, Jesus, who took on our human existence. Sustain us through the Word made flesh so that in these last days we might be your body in the world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord; who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Gift of Music: “O Holy Night” — Anna and Julie

Lesson: Isaiah 52:7-10

Lesson: Hebrews 1:1-6

**\*Gospel Acclamation: “Advent is Here” tune of “Earth & All Stars” — LBW #558**

*Advent is here, waiting continues! Jesus our Savior is always Good News! Open our ears, help us to listen! Jesus a lamp and a light to our feet! Christmas is coming and we shall rejoice! Give God the glory, Alleluia!*

Gospel Lesson: John 1:1-18

Children’s Message: “The Legend of the Poinsettia” — Facebook

**Children’s Song: “Away in a Manger” — LBW #67**

Sermon: “The Miracle Isn’t Over!” Pastor Dave Steffenson

**\*Hymn of the Day: “Joy to the World” — LBW #39**

**\*Confession of Faith: “Nicene Creed”**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

\*The Prayers: (Each petition ends with “Lord in your mercy”) to which the congregation responds, “**Hear our prayer**”).

## **Annual Meeting—Saturday, January 29, 2022**

This Year's Emmanuel Lutheran Church Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 29 immediately following our evening worship. The Annual Report will be distributed one week prior to the Annual Meeting. Deadline for Annual Report submissions is Saturday, January 15.

**Enrollment for membership** at Emmanuel Lutheran in 2022 is now open. Complete a Discipleship Membership Covenant and give it to Pastor Dave or place it in the offering basket before Jan. 6, 2021. We have received 40 signed covenants already. **MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP: Signposts guide our way—Disciples seek to pray daily, worship weekly, grow spiritually, read and study Scripture on a regular basis, serve others, share the good news, and live & give generously.**

### **Christmas & Epiphany: “The Christmas Miracle”**

- Pastor Steffenson on Vacation from December 26, 2020—January 3, 2021.
- Saturday, January 1: Twelve Days of Christmas Liturgy with Bell Ringing and Lighting of Candles.
- A Special Liturgy will be used during the Season of Epiphany.
- Wednesday, January 5: Epiphany Celebration and Burning of the Greens on the Church Land (Weather permitting).
  - Saturday, January 15, 2021: Sanctity of Human Life.
- Saturday, January 22, 2021: Annual Covenant Renewal Service celebrating the gift of Membership at Emmanuel Lutheran, and Discipleship in the name of Jesus. Annual Reports distributed!
- Saturday, January 29 — Annual Meeting following worship!

**Men's Bible Study:** Men of Emmanuel Lutheran meet on Tuesday mornings at 8:30am via email & study the Bible Readings for the upcoming weekend. Let Pastor Dave know if you would like the study notes emailed to you. In-person study will be offered on **Wednesdays, January 5, 12 & 19 at 11am**. Location: Oasis Church. Bring a Bible, & a friend.

**Women's Bible Study!** A Bible Study on “Women of the Bible” continues on Wednesdays at 1pm at the home of Judy Pearce with Leitha Bothun as the study leader. Women will meet on **January 12 & 26, 2022**. Contact Judy or Leitha with questions.

# The Emmanuel Weekly

## **Saturday, Dec. 25, 2020 Christmas Day—6pm**

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

### **Merry Christmas to You & Yours!**

Remember that Christmas is a Season, Twelve Days long! Share the Miracle of Christmas with others, this day and always!

### **Year-End Gifts & Offerings**

Members wishing to give a year-end contribution to the 2021 Emmanuel Budget, or an Emmanuel Designated Gift, will need to do so no later than Monday, Dec. 27. **All gifts must be received by Emmanuel NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 27!** Thanks for your attention to this matter! — Judy Caudill, Emmanuel Church Treasurer.

### **Snow Removal**

Emmanuel is responsible for removal of snow on the Oasis sidewalks, on Mondays. Larry Vomhof and his sons will spearhead this work. Contact Larry if you would like to assist with this ministry! Thanks.

**The January Emmanuel Prayer Calendar & Epistle Newsletter are available in print! Also available, the current issue of the Our Daily Bread Devotional. Pick yours up today.**



## **CALENDAR ITEMS**

- Saturday, December 25 Christmas Day  
Worship at 6pm

**Christmas Keepsake Ornament! Get yours today! One per household.**

- Saturday, January 1 — Bell Ringing Liturgy: 12 Days of Christmas at 6pm with Holy Communion. Bring a Bell.
- Pastor Dave is on Vacation from Dec. 26 –Jan. 3, 2021
- Looking ahead: Annual Meeting: Saturday, January 29 following worship!

• **Acts 4:31**  
**The Church Prayed!**

**\*Hymn: “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”—LBW #50**

1. Angels, from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Once you sang creation's story;  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

**Refrain:: Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the new-born King.**

2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
Yonder shines the infant Light. **[Refrain]**
3. Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great desire of nations,  
You have seen his natal star. **[Refrain]**
4. All creation, join in praising  
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising  
To the eternal Three in One. **[Refrain]**

**Children’s Song: “Away in a Manger”—LBW #67**

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky--looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the poor baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And fit us to heaven to live with you there.

**\*Hymn: “Joy to the World ”—LBW #39**

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room, And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n & nature sing, And heav'n, & heav'n & nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
While fields & floods, rocks, hills, & plains, Repeat the sounding  
joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sin & sorrow grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow, Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth & grace, And makes the nations  
prove. The glories of his righteousness, And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love, And wonders, wonders of his love.

**Hymn: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”—LBW #55**

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart & soul & voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ was born today.  
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
2. Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart & soul & voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
3. Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart & soul & voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all, to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!
- \*4. Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart & soul & voice;  
Celebrate with joy divine, branches of the One True Vine!  
Jesus is the Only Way, Miracle of Christmas Day.  
Christ is born in you. Christ is born in you!

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Rochester, Minnesota**  
**Contact Information: 3819—18th Ave. NW, Rochester, MN**  
**Phone: 507-206-3048**      [www.emmanuelofrochester.org](http://www.emmanuelofrochester.org)

## Prayers for Christmas Day

A: Let us pray for the faithfulness of the Church, the life of the world, and all those in need.

*Silence*

A: Lord God, heavenly Father, eternal life is a miracle. We give you thanks that in your great mercy you sent your only Son to become incarnate and to redeem us from sin and everlasting death. We pray that you would so reign in our hearts by your Holy Spirit, that we may give thanks always for your grace and may find comfort and strength through your promise in every time of trial and temptation. How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news! Bare your arm O Lord that all may see your salvation. Lord in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Gracious Father, saving faith is a miracle. You have called us into your household of faith, and made us brothers & sisters in Christ. We thank you for ordering our lives and providing for our needs. Guide us by your Word, that our homes and places of work may reflect the diligence, respect, and faithfulness to which you have called us. Help us by your Spirit to see the everyday opportunities we have to serve you by loving our neighbors and sharing the miracle of Christmas with others. Lord in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Heavenly Father, you are the creator and giver of life. We thank you for the birth of children and entrusting them to our care. Give your boundless hope and joy to expectant parents. Bind young children and new parents in love, and reveal your life-giving promises through the witness of families. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Light of the Nations, your Word becomes flesh and dwells among us full of grace and truth. Grant those who are sick the miracle of healing. May the light of your love shine on those living with illness, addiction, loneliness, or anxiety [**NAMES**]. Bless them with your tender care and turn their mourning into laughter, dancing & endless joy. Lord in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, almighty God, we commend all for whom we pray; trusting in your abundant mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

## Scripture Readings—Christmas Day

### **Isaiah 52:7-10**

7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” 8 The voice of your watchmen — they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. 9 Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. 10 The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

### **Hebrews 1:1-6**

1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. 5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”? 6 And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.”

### **John 1:1-18**

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) 16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.