

Intinction at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Receive a wafer (body of Christ) & dip it into the cup of wine (blood of Christ). Gluten free wafers are also available.

Communion Music: “A Silent and Holy Night” — MarJean Damerval

*Table Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, Word made flesh and born of Mary, keep you always in His light and love.

C: Amen.

***Post-Communion Canticle: “Silent Night”**

Lighting of individual candles and dimming of lights

*Benediction

P: May Jesus, the Ultimate GIFT, fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may celebrate the GIFT of Jesus, 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: “Go Tell It on the Mountain”**

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the GIFT!!

C: Thanks be to God. And the GIFT Goes On!

Postlude — “Go Tell It on the Mountain” MarJean Damerval

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 & marked with the cross of Christ forever we are praising, proclaiming & practicing Emmanuel – God with us – in daily life! May the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ keep faith and hope and love in our hearts always!

Visit us at: www.emmanuelofrochester.org.

Sympathies and Prayers are offered to Dick Stanley and his family as they grieve the death of Nancy Stanley. Nancy passed away on December 18. Her funeral was held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church on December 23. Burial took place at the Oronoco Cemetery. Blessed be the memories of Nancy Lee Stanley.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Rochester, Minnesota
Contact Information: 3819—18th Ave. NW, Rochester, MN
Phone: 507-206-3048 www.emmanuelofrochester.org



**Worship
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2019
9:00 p.m.**

Lutheran Book of Worship — “And the GIFT Goes On!”

* indicates stand as you are able

Prelude — “Manger Medley”

MarJean Damerval

Welcome/Announcements

*Invocation: Celebrating the Nativity of our Lord, we worship as we live, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Hymn: “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”**

LBW #60

*Greeting:

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

C: And also with you.

*P: Let us pray: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence & in the last day wake to the brightness of His glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96 (Responsive Reading)

L: Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!

C: Sing to the Lord, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day.

L: Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples.

C: For great is the Lord, & greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods.

L: For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens.
C: Splendor & majesty are before Him; strength & beauty are in His sanctuary.

L: Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory & strength!
C: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; bring an offering, & come into His courts!

L: Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before Him, all the earth!
C: Say among the nations, “The Lord reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity.”

L: Let the heavens be glad, & let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, & all that fills it;
C: Let the field exult, and everything in it!

L: Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord, for He comes, for He comes to judge the earth.

C: He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in His faithfulness.

Lesson: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel Hymn: “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”

*Christmas Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

Hymn: “I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve”

Children’s Message: “Keep Unwrapping It!”

Sermon: “The Ultimate Gift: JESUS”

***Hymn of the Day: “What Child Is This”**

*Confession of Faith: “Nicene Creed”

*The Prayers:

L: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

L: Lord God Almighty, we come before You on this most holy night in awe at the wonder and majesty of the Incarnation. The Savior of the nations has come, and with joy we greet our newborn King. Let the proclamation of His birth sound forth throughout the world. Give to Your Church faithful servants to proclaim the good tidings of His birth. Give to Your people willing ears to hear & believe in Jesus, who is the Ultimate GIFT. Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: In the birth of Your Son, You have signaled the beginning of a new creation; though we still live in a world ravaged by sin, we know that the final victory is Yours. Watch over & keep safe all who are absent from their families this night as they watch over the well-being of our families. Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: In the birth of Your Son, You have visited & redeemed Your people. Continue to visit those who are lonely, sick, or near death. Let Your presence be a comfort to them. Give them perseverance until that time when You grant healing, relief, & deliverance to them. We remember before you [NAMES]. Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: In the birth of Your Son, You have made a new family out of all humanity. Teach us how to love one another as you love us. Grant that we may share Jesus, the GIFT beyond all gifts, with all people everywhere. Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: In the birth of Your Son, You have called people of all times and places into the Body of Christ that is the Church. We give You thanks for all the believers who have gone before us, especially those who have been with us during Christmases past and are now with You. Give us a sure confidence in Your promise of resurrection and eternal life, and bring us at last together with them into Your presence at the full coming of Your Kingdom. Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Into Your hands O LORD, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

*The Christmas Peace—*Share the Peace of Christ with one another!*

Offering — Gift of Music: “What Child Is This” MarJean Damerval

*The Great Thanksgiving—Eucharistic Prayer for Christmas

*Lord’s Prayer: *Traditional Version*

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Invitation & Distribution: *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 & believe that Jesus Christ, crucified & risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life & salvation.” We practice*

Communication Cards/Offering Envelopes: The offering envelope, in your bulletin is also being used as a visitor and communication card. If you are visiting with us, please know that your presence is your gift to us. We have a very generous congregation & ask only that you share your contact information with us. Members and visitors may use the communication envelopes to indicate a desire for a pastoral visit, a prayer concern, or changes in contact information. Envelopes may be placed in the offering basket. Thanks.

Discipleship Covenants for 2020 are available! Membership at Emmanuel is an annual renewal. Thanks for walking the walk with Jesus & making Emmanuel your church home. We have received 45 signed covenants for 2020 so far.

Saturday School & G.I.F.T. — Attention Saturday School Families – We will not meet for Saturday School on Dec. 28th. There will also be No G.I.F.T. that evening. Classes resume on Saturday, January 4, 2020.

SEMAC MISSION TRIP: This year's SEMAC mission work will take place in Dayton, Ohio from February 9-21. Workers and Financial Support are welcomed! An Organization Meeting will be held on January 10 (7pm) at the home of Larry and Deb Vomhof. Contact Larry Vomhof for more information.

Men's Bible Study: Men of Emmanuel are meeting at the Oasis Church and looking at the Augsburg Confession (Augustana) on Tuesdays at 8am. Please join us! No class on December 24 & 31. Study resumes on Tuesday, January 7, 2020.

Women's Bible Study: A new study (6 sessions) on Luther's Small Catechism will be held on Thursdays at 1pm at Oasis Church. Dates: January 9, 16, 23, 30; and February 6 & 13.

WORSHIP SERVANTS Tonight: THANKS!

Pianist: MarJean Damerval

Scripture Reader, Prayers & Communion Server: Julie Steffenson

Ushers: Larry & Deb Vomhof

Sound: Don Holtan

Acolyte: Nora Serr

Set-up: Julie Steffenson

Take-down: Janet Sunde and friends

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The Emmanuel Weekly

Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2019
Christmas Eve — 9pm

"Praising, Proclaiming and Practicing Emmanuel—God with us—in daily life!"



CALENDAR ITEMS

- Tuesday, December 24
Christmas Eve Worship at 9pm
- Wednesday, December 25
Nativity of our Lord! **Merry Christmas!**
- Pastor Dave on Vacation
December 26-January 3.
- Sat, Dec. 28 — NO G.I.F.T. & Saturday School; Christmas I Worship (6pm) with Pulpit Supply: Rev. Waldemar Gies
- Wednesday, January 1
Happy New Year 2020!
- Saturday, January 4—Bell Ringing Worship Service at 6pm—Celebrating the 12 Days of Christmas! Bring a bell and make some noise for Jesus!

Christmas Eve Worship

Welcome to Worship tonight. Thanks for joining us in the celebration of our Lord's Incarnation. Jesus is the Ultimate GIFT. He is our righteousness and our salvation. Daily, He is re-gifted in us, so that we might re-gift Him to others. And the GIFT goes on!

Bell Ringing Service

Sat, Jan. 4, 2020 at 6pm. **Bring those bells!** We will be singing lots of Christmas Carols as we celebrate the *Twelve Days of Christmas*.

Year-End Gifts & Offerings

Anyone desiring to give a year-end contribution to the 2019 Emmanuel Budget, or a Designated Gift, should do so by this Saturday, December 28. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

The GIFT of LAND

Emmanuel opened an early Christmas Present this year. We're thanking God for this gift!

The January 2020 Emmanuel Epistle Newsletter and Prayer Calendar are available! Also, pick up your copy of Our Daily Bread Devotional for December—January; & a 2019 Christmas Ornament.

Nativity of Our Lord (Year A): On this holy night we hear the familiar story of Jesus' birth in a stable filled with animals. Into a dark & lonely world the Christ-child came; not into a sterile maternity ward, but into the messiness of human life, to look at each of us face to face so that we might know the power of his forgiveness and mercy in our lives. God revealed the nativity news to some shepherds who then came to worship him. Having received the Ultimate GIFT, they returned home glorifying and praising God!

Lesson: Isaiah 9:1-7

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. 3 You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. 4 For the yoke of his burden, & the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth & forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Lesson: Titus 2:11-14

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness & worldly passions, & to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness & to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Julie Steffenson

Christmas Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-20 Pastor Steffenson

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd. Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. 8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" 15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.