



A monthly publication to keep members and friends informed of the ministry at Emmanuel.

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Pastor Vomhof's Message

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

God the Holy Spirit inspired the Prophet Isaiah to speak these words to the people of Israel. They were about to experience the wrath and judgment of God for their unbelief, for their worship of false gods, and for their rebellion against God's Commandments. They would be captured by two enemy nations – the Assyrians and Babylonians. Dark days of captivity and living among ungodly and unbelieving people stared them in the face.

Isaiah now prophesies that a Light is dawning on them. That Light would not dawn on their generation, but would come in the future. That Light is the coming Savior, Who would be born many generations later in the town of Bethlehem.

When the time had come as God had predetermined, God sent forth His Son Jesus Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. After Jesus was born, God sent an angel to announce to the shepherds: *"I bring you Good News of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord"* (Luke 2:10-11). The shepherds went to Bethlehem to see and to worship the Christ-

Child. *“When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about the Child”* (Luke 2:17).

We have the opportunity in the next few weeks to invite people to come to our worship services during the Advent and Christmas Seasons to hear the Good News that Jesus is born to save them from their sins and to win salvation for them in heaven. Our Board of Outreach is preparing post cards with printed information on them about our worship service schedule for the month of December and an invitation to come and worship with us at our services, especially on Christmas Eve. They will give these post cards to our members to pass out to your unchurched friends, relatives, neighbors and co-workers who don't know Jesus as their only Savior from sin and only way to eternal life in heaven.

Our Board of Outreach also will give each family in our congregation two copies of the new WELS outreach film *“To the Ends of the Earth”* that tells the story of the Apostle Paul and his work in the city of Philippi. The film highlights four major events from the Book of Acts – 1) the conversion of Saul on the road to Damascus, 2) the conversion of Lydia, 3) the casting out of a demon from the slave girl, and 4) Paul and his co-worker Silas in prison followed by the baptisms of the jailer and his household.

The movie reminds us of the important work that we have as witnesses of Jesus to reach out with the Good News of our Savior to the people in our community who don't know Jesus as their Savior. They will hear and learn what Jesus means when He says: *“I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the Light of Life”* (John 8:12).

May God the Holy Spirit bless our witnessing and telling the Good News that Jesus is the Savior of all people. Yes, He is the Savior even for our friends, neighbors, relatives and co-workers.

Month at a Glance

3 Women of Emmanuel Christmas party at church @ 6:30 pm

- 4** Board of Elders @ 6:00 pm
- 5** Board of Education @ 5:15 pm
Advent supper @ 6:00 pm; service @ 7:00 pm
- 8** Children's Christmas Service Rehearsal at 9:30 am
- 11** Pastors Circuit at St. Croix Falls @ 9:30 am
Church Council @ 6:30 pm
- 12** Advent supper @ 6:00 pm; service @ 7:00 pm
- 15** IGNiTE Christmas party @ 9:00 am
Children's Christmas Service Rehearsal at 9:30 am
- 16** Children's Christmas Service @ 9:00 am
- 19** Advent supper @ 6:00 pm; service @ 7:00 pm
- 24** Christmas Eve service @ 6:00 pm
- 31** New Year's Eve service @ 6:00 pm



IGNiTE Youth Group News

IGNiTE, the youth group for high school teens, meets every Sunday after fellowship time for devotion/Bible Study or social time.



Here is a schedule for December activities:

- Sunday, 12/2 and 12/9, meet after fellowship for Bible study.

- Saturday, 12/15, 9:00-11:00 am. Christmas party! We will be making Rice Krispy bars to serve for Sunday. Then we'll have some more fun with a few Christmas games.
- Sunday, 12/16, serve treats for fellowship after the church service. Help set up before church and help pour beverages when we serve. Each teen brings 2-3 dozen cookies or bars.
- Sunday, 12/23, meet after fellowship for Christmas movie and popcorn.
- Sunday, 12/30, no youth group meeting.

Future activities being planned:

- College visit to Martin Luther College, New Ulm. Tentative date – February 2nd.
- Snow tubing, February 24th.

Joyful Noise Preschool



December is the time for preparation. We prepare for the coming Christmas season. The children continue to prepare songs and recitations for the children's Christmas service on Sunday, December 16 at 9:00 am. We will have a mass rehearsal (which includes the preschool) on Saturday, December 15 from 9:30 am –10:30 am.

We will complete the month of December with our Christmas party on Thursday, December 20. Christmas vacation begins on December 21 and classes will resume January 8.

There will be no Together Tuesday during the month of December.

Mrs. Ehlers, Mrs. Sternisha, and I wish you the most blessed Christmas season and a Happy New Year.

If you are wondering about the activities the children are doing during the preschool day, visit the preschool Facebook page at facebook.com/joyfulnoisehudson.

Midweek Advent Services

We will have three Midweek Advent Services during the Advent Season on Wednesdays, December 5, 12 and 19 at 7 pm. The theme of pastor's sermons will be Angelic Announcements Before the Savior's Birth. Dinner will be served at 6 pm. Come and enjoy an evening meal with your fellow-believers and attend our Midweek Advent Service to prepare your heart for Christmas.



Women of Emmanuel News

- The November meeting was held Tuesday, Nov. 20th at church with 5 women present. Upcoming activities and meetings were planned.
- The December meeting will be a special Christmas gathering on Monday, December 3rd at 6:30-8:30 pm at church. It will be an enjoyable evening with a catered supper and festive activities. All women are encouraged to come!
- Advent meals in December are at 6 pm before the 7 pm church service. Come enjoy a nice meal and fellowship time before the service.
 - 12/5 – Sarah Dahlke's group serves.
 - 12/12 – Ann Winkler's group serves.
 - 12/17 – Potluck
- In January, donations will be collected for Martin Luther College Food Bank which is used to assist students with families. Non-perishable food items and personal and household cleaning items are accepted. Watch for a box to be out in January for donations.

- Mark your calendar for Bingo Night, Friday, January 11th, 6:30-8:30 pm. There will be snacks, beverages, Bingo prizes and lots of fun for the whole family!
- The WE afternoon coffee break has been well attended. The next WE afternoon coffee break will be Thursday, January 24th at 3 pm at Hudson Bagel. Come if you can and enjoy some social time!

Mark your calendars with all these events and watch the weekly bulletins for more details!

Adopt a Family This Christmas



The tree is up! We have a family of five. Please select an ornament(s) and purchase the item. You can bring the unwrapped gift back to church and place it in the box by the tree. Unwrapped gifts are due back by Sunday, December 2nd. Don't want to shop? Please talk to Michelle Rust - you can make a monetary donation and she can make the purchase for you.

Other Items of Interest

Items for the January newsletter and calendar are due Saturday, December 22.

Altar Guild: Kathy Heth

Faith Congregation Calls New Pastor

Pastor Clayton Welch, who has been pastor at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in River Falls for almost nine years, has accepted the Call to be pastor at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in Manassas, VA. He plans to preach his last sermon at Faith on Christmas Day. He and his family plan to move to Virginia later that week.

The Lord guided the voters of Faith Congregation to call Pastor Ryan Wolfe of Mandan, ND to be their new pastor. We await to hear his decision whether he will accept or decline this Call.

New Circuit Pastor

Pastor Bill Brassow of Zion Ev. Lutheran Congregation of East Farmington has been appointed to be our new Circuit Pastor. He replaces Pastor Welch.

