

Emmanuel Lutheran Church



February 4, 2018
Epiphany 5

Service of the Word and Sacrament
Christian Worship p. 26

Roger Vomhof, Vacancy Pastor • Linda Noack, Organist

To Our Visitors

- The restrooms are in the fellowship hall. Turn to your left when exiting the church.
- We are happy to have children in our worship. Cloth bags with age appropriate books and activities are available. Please ask an usher.

Calendar for This Week: February 4-10

Today

10:30 am Bible Class, Sunday School, & Ignite Youth Group

Tuesday

9:00 am Pastors Conference at Zion - East Farmington

Wednesday

3:15 pm Confirmation Class A

4:45 pm Confirmation Class B

Thursday

10:30 am Bible Class

HYMN

If Your Beloved Son, O God CW 393

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 43:18-25

¹⁸ "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. ¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. ²⁰ The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, ²¹ the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.

²² "Yet you have not called on me, Jacob, you have not wearied yourselves for me, Israel. ²³ You have not brought me sheep for burnt offerings, nor honored me with your sacrifices. I have not burdened you with grain offerings nor wearied you with demands for incense. ²⁴ You have not bought any fragrant calamus for me, or lavished on me the fat of your sacrifices. But you have burdened me with your sins and wearied me with your offenses.

²⁵ "I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 130, CW page 14

SECOND LESSON: 2 Corinthians 1:18-24

¹⁸ But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not “Yes” and “No.” ¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me and Silas and Timothy—was not “Yes” and “No,” but in him it has always been “Yes.” ²⁰ For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God. ²¹ Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, ²² set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

²³ I call God as my witness—and I stake my life on it—that it was in order to spare you that I did not return to Corinth. ²⁴ Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, because it is by faith you stand firm.

GOSPEL: Mark 2:1-12

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ² They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³ Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴ Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. ⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

⁶ Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ⁷ “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

⁸ Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things? ⁹ Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? ¹⁰ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the man, ¹¹ “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” ¹² He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lamb of God, We Fall Before You CW 354

SERMON

Sermon Text: Mark 2:1-12

Theme: Jesus is our Great Physician of soul and body.

- I. He cures the soul of sin.
- II. He heals the body of its ailments.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face CW 315

HYMN

May the Grace of Christ Our Savior CW 326

Lenten Season Begins Next Week

Next week Wednesday, February 14, is Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of the Lenten Season. We will have dinner at 6 pm in our Fellowship Hall and our worship service will be at 7 pm. The theme of our Midweek Lenten sermon series is A Personal View of our Savior's Suffering and Death. All of our members are encouraged to come and attend our special Midweek Lenten services. Invite your relatives and friends to come with you.

Meditations Devotional Book Order

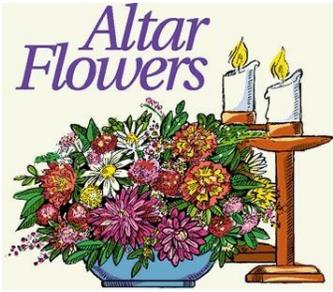
The Meditations devotional book group order will be placed at the end of February. Since the book is published quarterly, the first issue will be April-June. If you would like to order, write a check for \$16.99 and put in an envelope with a note on the outside. Place the envelope in the offering plate or give to Matthew Winkler.

Thursday Bible Class



Pastor Vomhof teaches the Thursday morning Bible class at 10:30 am. We are studying the book of Psalms, which is often referred to as the Christian's prayer book and hymn book. Come and join us to learn how the Psalms apply to us.

Altar Flower Donation Calendar



The 2018 Flower Donation Calendar is on fellowship hall bulletin board. Members may sign-up to donate a floral arrangement for the chancel area. This is a wonderful way to help beautify our church as well as commemorate wedding anniversaries, birthdays, memorials, and other personal milestones or to express gratitude for blessings received.

Church and School Cleaning Team for February

Matthew Winkler, leader
Martin Wegner family
Julie Michaels family
John Stelling family

Other Items of Interest

Attendance last Sunday: 72

Fellowship refreshments next Sunday: open

St. Croix Lutheran Upcoming Events

SCL Open House and Tours are Saturday, February 10 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or Wednesday, February 14 from 8:30-10:30 a.m. Meet the principal, talk to teachers, and take a campus tour. Call ahead or drop in!

SCL Freshman Registration is Monday, February 5 (6-7:30 p.m.); Saturday, February 10 (10 a.m.-3 p.m.); and Monday, February 12 (6-7:30 p.m.). Call 651-455-1521 for more information!

Gathering Grounds Variety Show is an afternoon of entertainment, hot drinks, and fanciful treats, Sunday, February 25, 2:30 p.m., in the SCL commons. Tickets are \$10 adults, \$8 students (10 & up), free for ages 9 & under. More info at StCroixLutheran.org/GG

St. Croix Lutheran Academy Gala. This 20s-themed sockdolager is on Saturday, April 14 at the InterContinental St. Paul Riverfront hotel. Find out more and register at www.StCroixLutheran.org/gala

SCL Spring Musical The Drowsy. Chaperone reserve seating tickets are available at StCroixLutheran.tix.com. April 6-8. \$10 adults; \$5 students/children/seniors (65+).


CREATION MOMENTS
Proclaiming Evidence for Truth

And a Little Child Shall Lead Him

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

—

Isaiah 11:6

In the early 1950s, people were stunned when former Soviet spy Whittaker Chambers testified that Alger Hiss, an American government official, was spying on the U.S. for Russia. In his book *Witness*, Chambers relates how a little child led him to change his beliefs and the course of his life.

"It was shortly before we moved to Alger Hiss's apartment in Washington. My daughter was in her high chair. I was watching her eat. She was the most miraculous thing that had ever happened in my life. I liked to watch her even when she smeared porridge on her face or dropped it meditatively on the floor. My eye came to rest on the delicate convolutions of her ear – those intricate, perfect ears."

Chambers continued: "The thought passed through my mind: 'No, those ears were not created by any chance coming together of atoms in nature (the Communist view). They could have been created only by immense design.' The thought was involuntary and unwanted. I crowded it out of my mind. But I never wholly forgot it or the occasion. I had to crowd it out of my mind. If I had completed it, I should have had to say: Design presupposes God. I did not then know that, at that moment, the finger of God was first laid upon my forehead."

Chambers was right. Not only does creation point to design, it points to the Designer – Jesus Christ.

Ref: From the Foreword to Whittaker Chambers' Witness, first published in 1952.

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Emmanuel Lutheran Church
712 Grandview Drive
Hudson, WI 54016

715-386-9851
emmanuelhudsonwi@gmail.com
emmanuelhudson.org
[facebook.com/emmanuellutheranhudson](https://www.facebook.com/emmanuellutheranhudson)

Vacancy Pastor Roger Vomhof
715-684-4753 (home), 507-459-1986 (cell).
revomhof@gmail.com.



715-386-8820

preschool@emmanuelhudson.org

joyfulnoisepreschoolhudson.com

[facebook.com/joyfulnoisehudson](https://www.facebook.com/joyfulnoisehudson)

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