

Emmanuel Lutheran Church



December 23, 2018
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Service of the Word and Sacrament
Christian Worship p. 26

Roger Vomhof, Vacancy Pastor • Rebecca Huth, Organist

To Our Guests

- If you are member of a church body other than the WELS or ELS, please speak to the Pastor before attending Holy Communion.
- 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

Monday

Christmas Eve Service at 6:00 pm

HYMN

A Great and Mighty Wonder CW 36

FIRST LESSON: Micah 5:2-5a

² "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times."

³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.

⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he will be our peace.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 85, CW page 97

SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵ Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

"Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,

but a body you prepared for me;
⁶ with burnt offerings and sin offerings
you were not pleased.

⁷ Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the
scroll—

I have come to do your will, my God.'"

⁸ First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings
and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased
with them"—though they were offered in accordance with
the law. ⁹ Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do
your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰
And by that will, we have been made holy through the
sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-55

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the
hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's
home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard
Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and
Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice
she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and
blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so
favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴
As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears,
the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who
has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to
her!"

⁴⁶ And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name. ⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. ⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful ⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.”

HYMN OF THE DAY

Let All Together Praise Our God CW 41

SERMON

Sermon text: Isaiah 9: 6

Theme: God's Special Christmas Gift for Us.

- I. God gave us us His one and only Son.
- II. The names of God's Son describe His work.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come CW 38

HYMN

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice CW 34

Special Voters Meeting

A special voters meeting will be held on Sunday, January 6 at 12 noon. Our Minnesota District 2nd Vice President will be here to present a list of candidates for the voters to consider for the purpose of calling a full-time pastor.

Pastor Declines Call to Faith - River Falls

Pastor Ryan Wolfe of Mandan, ND declined the Call to serve as the new pastor of Faith Ev. Lutheran Congregation of River Falls. The voters of the congregation will need to call another pastor.

Adopt-A-Family

Thank you to all who bought gifts and/or donated money for our Adopt a Family. We received a nice thank you note and picture which has been posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Thank you again!

Upcoming Events for December

24 Christmas Eve service @ 6:00 pm

31 New Year's Eve service @ 6:00 pm

Church and School Cleaning Team for December

Leader: Chris Hinz
Ehlers and Heth families

Other Items of Interest

Attendance last Sunday: 143

Attendance at Wednesday, December 19 Advent service:
27

Fellowship refreshments next Sunday: Doty

News from WELS

Grace – Hmong Outreach in Vietnam

The Vietnamese government has invited WELS to build a theological training facility in the capital city of Hanoi. This is an incredible, unprecedented opportunity for our synod. WELS is currently the only Protestant church with official government permission to work with the Hmong in Vietnam. The Lord is opening a door to reach the more than two million Hmong people who live in Vietnam and the surrounding countries. To learn more about this incredible story and opportunity, visit wels.net/vietnamhmongoutreach.

For the Generations to Come

WELS Congregational Services exists to help congregations engage in faithful and fruitful ministry. Programs are being developed to help congregations in evangelism, worship, compassion ministries, discipleship, and outreach through WELS schools. By strengthening our members and congregations, WELS will be able to continue proclaiming the gospel message around the world. To learn more about how Congregational Services is helping our synod for future generations, visit wels.net/forthegenerationstocome.

Plan your Mission Journey

WELS Mission Journeys, the official WELS program for short-term mission trips, provides an opportunity for all WELS members to walk together in the Great Commission. Through church- or school-based volunteer trips to WELS mission fields at home and abroad, members have the opportunity to engage in Christian service. With the Lord's blessing, these trips will inspire a lifelong journey of service and outreach for all who volunteer. Want to learn more about how you can get involved? Visit wels.net/missionjourneys.

Follow Missions on Facebook

Like the new WELS Missions Facebook page to stay up to date on news from Home and World Mission fields, read inspiring stories of the gospel at work, and take advantage of the many resources WELS Missions has to offer - fb.com/WELSMissions.

Know your synod

Your Sunday offerings help support the work of WELS, but do you know how? Go to wels.net to discover stories about the many WELS world and home mission fields; explore which ministries can support you and your congregation; enjoy daily devotions and Bible readings; and subscribe to stay up to date on the latest news from your synod. All of this and more is available on wels.net. Visit us online today and save us as a Favorite or a Bookmark!

What's happening in WELS?

Subscribe to the WELS Together e-newsletter to stay connected with the people of your synod and the ministry

they serve. Also, don't miss the twice-monthly videos, expanding on important and compelling synod news. Go to wels.net/together to read more and subscribe today.

Information. Inspiration. *Forward in Christ*.

Read *Forward in Christ*, the official magazine of WELS, and you will receive the latest news from the synod, gain a Lutheran perspective on current events, hear uplifting stories of faith from across the world, and more every month. Both print and digital subscriptions are available. Learn more at wels.net/fic.

WELS App available

Nearly 20,000 people have downloaded the WELS app to their phone or tablet to access daily devotions, WELS Missions Blogs, synod news, and more wherever they go, every day. Get the app for free by going to wels.app in your devices web browser and "add to home screen" using your devices method.

Connecting WELS members

The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod offers many ways to connect members through social media. Join the WELS online community at facebook.com/welslutherans, twitter.com/welstweets, Instagram.com/welslutherans, and vimeo.com/wels.

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