



Emmanuel Lutheran Church

December 31, 2017
Christmas 1

Service of the Word
Christian Worship p. 38

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: December 31-January 6

Today

5:30 pm New Year's Eve Communion Service

Wednesday

10:30 am Adult Bible Class

HYMN: *Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising* CW 42

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 45:20-25

"Gather together and come; assemble, you fugitives from the nations. Ignorant are those who carry about idols of wood, who pray to gods that cannot save. ²¹ Declare what is to be, present it— let them take counsel together. Who foretold this long ago, who declared it from the distant past? Was it not I, the Lord? And there is no God apart from me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none but me.

²² "Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. ²³ By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue

will swear. ²⁴ They will say of me, 'In the Lord alone are deliverance and strength.'" All who have raged against him will come to him and be put to shame. ²⁵ But all the descendants of Israel will find deliverance in the Lord and will make their boast in him.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 111, CW page 106

SECOND LESSON: Colossians 3:12-17



¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in

your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:25-40

Presentation



of our
Lord in the Temple

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents

brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. ³⁰ For my eyes have seen your

salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

³³ The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶ There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Let All Together Praise Our God* CW 41

SERMON

Sermon: Luke 2: 25-32

Theme: Our confidence now that Christ is born.

- I. We are confident of our salvation.
- II. We are confident we have peace with God.

HYMN: *Oh, Rejoice, All Christians, Loudly* CW 45

CLOSING HYMN: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come
CW 38 v. 1-4, 13-15

Today’s Bible readings are available as a separate sheet for those who would like to take a copy home. They are on the literature table across from the mailboxes.

Wednesday Bible Class



Pastor Vomhof plans to start the Wednesday morning Bible class this Wednesday, January 3, at 10:30 am. We will begin a study of 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.

Thank You from Joyful Noise Preschool

The staff of Joyful Noise Preschool would like to thank the congregation for the generous Christmas gifts. They were greatly appreciated.

Ann Winkler, Lona Ehlers and Rachel Sternisha

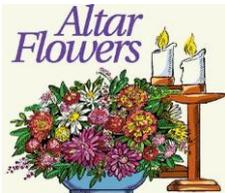
Thank You from Pastor Vomhof

I express my thanks to the members of Emmanuel Congregation for the beautiful and inspirational Christmas cards that you gave us and for the monetary gift. My wife and I appreciate your thoughtfulness very much. I consider it a privilege to serve you as your vacancy pastor at this time.

May God's blessings be with you as you make improvements for our place of worship and the calling process for a new pastor which we will undergo in 2018.

Pastor Vomhof

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.

Making the Call

In the coming weeks and months please start thinking of our future. Here is a tentative schedule and key thinking points.

January 14th Open Forum – A quick meeting to discuss what we are looking for in calling our new pastor.

What do we need for a pastor?

Think about years of experience, background, full-time, part time, or retired, and strengths that are desired.

What can we afford?

Total compensation will be roughly \$30,000 more than we had budgeted in past years. That could be a real stretch in increased giving.

What should we do?

Keep in mind that roughly 30 new pastors will graduate from the Seminary. There are over 120 current vacancies. About 50 pastors are at retirement age each year. There is a real shortage of pastors. Would combining with another local small congregation be smarter?

January 21st Voters Meeting – Further discussion and budget approval.

Early February (4th or 11th) – First Call Meeting.

What must we do now?

Pray and ask the Lord what His will is for the future of our congregation.

Attend the Open Forum meeting on **January 14th** to discuss this matter and to form a consensus as to how we should move forward in bringing the Word of God to our families and to the Hudson community.

Church and School Cleaning Team for January

Scott Denning, leader
John Beck
Chuck Doty family
Kevin Rust family

Other Items of Interest

Attendance last Sunday: 54
Christmas Day: 43

Fellowship refreshments next Sunday: open

Mark your calendar for the next Interactive Faith online Bible study

The next Interactive Faith series will begin January 10, 2018, and run each Wednesday night at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. (central) through February 7, 2018. Rev. Daniel Habben, St. John's, Saint John, Antigua, will lead the study titled "Isaiah: God confronts and comforts his people." Learn more at wels.net/interactivefaith.



Supporting new mission initiatives

WELS Home Missions is reaching our neighbors in North America.

Visit wels.net/missions to learn more or to support WELS Missions.

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