



Holy Emmanuel Lutheran Church December 2011

CHRIST
THE SAVIOR
IS BORN!

A "Message fro Pastor Dan"

DEAR FELLOW REDEEMED:

Have you ever wondered how the first Christmas might have been different if the world of that time would have had all of our modern technology and the means of instant communication available to us today? Would there have been television crews at the stable ready to flash the news of the birth of a Baby via satellite to the world? Would the newspapers and news magazines have sent correspondents to Bethlehem to report in detail what happened there?

Probably not. Our God, whose ways are so different from our ways, has His own way of doing things. He comes quietly. He comes in poverty. He comes in humility. He comes "not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord Almighty." (Zechariah 4: 6).

He comes in the form of our flesh and blood.

He comes to the lowly, to a humble virgin, to poor shepherds, to wise men who are not "wise in their own conceits."

He comes for all; for the lost, for the rich and the poor, for the young and the old, for all races, for you and for me.

He comes to save and He will come again to judge and to take His own to Himself.

And He asks that His coming be made known to the world by us and He has given us our modern technology to assist us.

May this Advent and Christmas season be a time when, once again, our "soul glorifies the Lord" and our "spirit rejoices in God our Savior." But may it also be a time when we, like the shepherds, with our "Merry Christmas" wishes, make known abroad the Good News of this Child Jesus born for us so that we might be born again to a new and everlasting life.

PROCLAIMING WITH YOU,

Rev. Dan L. Siedenbug, Pastor

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Simply Giving - If you would like, we can have your monthly donations made electronically for you. This is as easy as asking for the form in the church office, filling it out, return it to the office with a voided check and we take care of the rest. No more filling out envelopes.

500 Card Club - Saturday November 26th We will meet in the fellowship hall at 1:00 pm, all are welcome from beginners to experts.

Mid-Week Advent Services - Worship will be at 11:00 am and 6:30 pm each Wednesday through December 14th.

Advent Workshop - Wednesday December 7th from 5 to 7 pm all are invited to attend. This is a great way to start the Christmas Season. see in "Children's Ministries"

Loaves & Fishes - We will Serve Tuesday December 15th 5:30 Ice Cream Social & Friday December 23rd 5:15 Dinner.

Open Arms Christmas Pageant - Please join us as our children of Open Arms ECC will present their Christmas Pageant at 5 pm with snacks & fellowship to follow.

Sunday School Christmas Pageant - On Sunday December 18th The Sunday School Children will present the story of Christmas with song and praises in a way that only a child can share. There will be only one service that day at 9:30.

Let's Do Brunch - The men's club will sponsor a brunch following the service at 9:30 on December 18th (Children's Christmas Pageant. The Menu: Au Gratin Potatoes, Green Beans, Corn, Ham & Rolls. Please bring a sweet treat for dessert. All are welcome to this free event.

Coming in January!!

Jesus and Company (JAC), a Wednesday evening program for children and adults, begins on January 25th. The evenings will feature a light dinner at 5:30 followed by activities for children and special programs for adults. The evening will end at 7:00 pm except during Lent when there will be a Lenten service at 7:00 pm.

Wednesday evenings will be a great time for fellowship! Watch for more details in the bulletin.

Lap Quilt Raffle - The Holy Emmanuel Book Club is raffling a hand made lap quilt. Tickets are \$1.00. The funds will be used to purchase books that are being read by the club.

Book Club - Our next book is Expecting to see Jesus by Anne Graham Lotz. Our meeting will be Tuesday January 3rd at 11:30. Please join in our discussion.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!!

Let's celebrate His birth. There are many ways to do this during December

A Birthday Party For Jesus

Wed December 7th

5 PM Cost \$5 per family

There will be supper, crafts and we will be wrapping shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Donations are welcome. Please RSVP by calling Natalie at 952-888-5116

"Jingle for Jesus"

Children's Christmas Program

Our dress rehearsal/Christmas Party will be on Sat December 17th at 9 AM SHARP!! After practice we will be going to Chuck-E-Cheese in Burnsville.

Our program is on Sun December 18th at 9:30 AM. This will be followed by lunch.

EVERYONE is invited.

Come celebrate the real reason for the season with us. It is through a child's eyes that Christmas will come "alive".

My prayer for all of our families at Holy Emmanuel/Open Arms is that you take a quiet moment this month to pray and thank God for the gift of His only Son. This is the true reason why we celebrate Christmas.

In Our Newborn Saviors Name,
Natalie

YOUTH:

I need all of your help for the Christmas Program on December 18th. There is a job for all of you. Please be there on Sun Dec 18th at 8:45 AM.

If you are interested in going to Camp Omega the dates are December 29 and 30th. More details will come in your mail very soon.

I hope all of you will share the good news as the angels did that very first Christmas night, and tell all of your friends that Jesus was born for them.

May you all have a very blessed CHRISTmas,
Natalie

Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Mornings 9:30 - Bible Study with Pastor Dan in the Chapel.

We are using the "Growing In Christ" series which focuses on the appointed Bible readings for the Church Year.

Come and experience excitement in the Word of God as we examine these texts and re-discover the greatness of our God.

Sunday Bible Class (Accounting Room)

Please join us each Sunday morning at 9:30 AM for an Adult Bible Study class led by Randy Marko. The Bible Study is on "30 Life Principles" by Charles Stanley. God has provided the perfect pattern for us to enjoy life at its very best through the principles found in His Word. These principles help guide, comfort, instruct, and teach us how to live a triumphant Christian life. We gain hope for the future and fresh insight into His many promises and blessings. Life doesn't have to be difficult or a constant struggle. It can be an exciting adventure, but it all begins with the study of His Word. This is where you learn about Him, His ways, and His awesome plan for your life. Please join us in the accounting room on Sunday.

Youth Bible Study

In the Youth Room Sunday mornings at 9:30 Our young ladies are having a book discussion being led by Nancy Reich. The title of the book is "The Divine Dance." The young men are studying the book of Judges and Robert Melde will be the instructor.

Women's Group Bible Study

We meet in the room attached to the nursery Sunday mornings at 9:30

Parenting Class

In January, our Parenting Class begins a new DVD series called "Shepherding a Child's Heart" by Tedd Tripp. The main theme focuses on guiding your child's heart. How you act (your fruit) is based on what is in your heart (good and bad). Parents need to look at their own heart first before they can shepherd a child's heart. Topics in the series include: getting to the heart of behavior, shaping influences and Godward orientation, discovering the abundance of the heart, communication, appealing to the conscience, correction and setting goals for different ages. Class is the first Monday of each month (except January's class is on Monday, Jan 9 to avoid

New Years). A free supper starts at 5:30 pm in the church fellowship hall with class at 6 pm. Babysitting is also provided free of charge. We not only have great fun but also help one another with parenting ideas and tips we have learned through our own experiences. All parents of infants through young adults are welcome. Please join us!

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

We meet each Tuesday at 10:00 am. We will be studying Mormonism for the weeks of December 6th & 13th. We will then take a Christmas break and resume in January.

The Men's Thursday Morning Bible Study

Thursday's at 10AM. Again, as we try to solve the world's problems we will also focus on how our culture affects or even defines us. In today's culture do we: Love it, Leave it or Transform it? We'll explore scriptures and discover what the Bible provides in dealing with daily life issues. Please join us for an interesting morning and challenging discussions. Questions -- contact Chuck Squires at squir008@msn.com or 952-944-6187.

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

Veap

Steve & Lisa Leavens
Bob & Ella Chellew
Richie & Lucille Bernard
Anita Bakalar
Ed Bauman
John & Sandy Carlson
Ray & Dee Dolny
Vern & Sally Endresen
Carol Estocko
Ken & Sylvia Gamec
Larry & Eileen Hibben
Lester & Carole Frey
Joe & Lois Kovach
Del & Grladys Lossow
Randy & Cindy Marko
Mel & Marion Michalik
Lorraine McKay
Robert & Michelle Melde
Mary Mickelson
Dale Moreland
Al Scherf
Trudy Schramm
Christopher Schmidt
Dave & Dorothy Yurik
Dick & Grace Yurik
John & Jackie Bartko
Kim & Michelle Bartko

Pastor's Blinds

Mary Mickelson
Chuck & Pat Squires
Dan & Vera Marko
John & Lillian Prok
Silas Prok
Dick & Grace Yurik
Dave & Dorothy Yurik
Earl & Kathy Luikens

Tables

Lorraine McKay (In Memory of Tom MaKay)
Dale Moreland (in Memory of Irene Moreland)

Birthday Gift

Dorothy Hallett for Walt Hallett's Birthday

Lutheran Hour

Marge Velebir In honor of her birthday
Larry & Eileen Hibben

Sunday School

John & Lillian Prok

Memorial's

Vern & Sally Endresen In Memory of Phil Lind

For Della Grewe (Sandy St Martin's Mother)

Dick & Sandy St Martin (Tables & Lutheran Hour)
Dick & Grace Yurik (Tables)
Dan & Beth Macgowan (Tables)
Vida & Doug Rood (Lutheran Hour)
Ruby St Martin (Lutheran Hour)
Rev Bruce & Jennifer Bringle & Family (Lutheran Hour)
Helmer Grewe (Lutheran Hour)
Lena Burke (Lutheran Hour)
Larry & Amy Charboneau (Lutheran Hour)
Florene Hall (Lutheran Hour)

PRAYER MINISTRY

You may call the church office with your prayer request. Prayers will be said during the week. Please indicate if you would like the request published in the Sunday bulletin. Thank you!

Pledging For Ministry In 2012 And Beyond

Physical Difficulty/Preparing for Medical Procedure

Joe Hibben

Recovering From Surgery

Rev. Dennis Starr
Darlene Gerlack

Receiving Cancer Treatments

Gladys Lossow

Convalescing

Evelyn Michalik at home

Nursing Home & Homebound

Arabella Beno, Dorothy Hallett, Frank & Emily Hardt, Alyce Kubik, Mary Lenke, Ruth Rogers, Nora Schultz, Marge Velebir, Anne Zustiak

Our Foreign Mission Ministers

Kelsey Lindell: On furlough in the USA
Andrea Herman: Guinea, West Africa

The Mission and Ministry at Holy Emmanuel & Open Arms ECC

Global Concerns

Peace On Earth as we prepare to commemorate the birth of the Prince of Peace, Jesus

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

03-Dec	Silas Prok
04-Dec	Ross Phillips
05-Dec	Sylvia Gamec
07-Dec	Len Lipovsky
07-Dec	Jill Marko
07-Dec	Lynn Lehmann
13-Dec	Brian Jeannette
16-Dec	Braden Solvie
18-Dec	Carole Frey
20-Dec	Kana Anderson
21-Dec	Nora Schulz
21-Dec	Arabella Beno
23-Dec	Anita Bakalar
27-Dec	Lisa Walsh
30-Dec	Michelle Melde
31-Dec	Mary Mickelson
31-Dec	Marion Michalik

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

05-Dec Bruce & LuAnn Bartko (31)

SERVING IN NOVEMBER

Lay Readers

8:00	10:30
04 Dec. Craig Anderson	Alex Mentzos
11 Dec. Dan Marko	Randy Marko
18 Dec. Robert Melde	David Sedio
25 Dec. Mel Michalik	Natalie Mylander

Power Point

8:00	10:30
04 Dec. Robert Melde	Al Scherf
11 Dec. Anita Bakalar	Scott Ramsdale
18 Dec. Robert Melde	Al Scherf
25 Dec. Anita Bakalar	Scott Ramsdale

Acolyte

8:00	10:30
04 Dec. Kana Anderson	Bryanna Hanson
11 Dec. Kevin Anderson	Grace Colins
18 Dec. Robert Melde	Kaitlyn Giest
25 Dec. Joe Carriere	Nichole Hanson

Communion Assistants

8:00	10:30
04 Dec. Robert Melde	Scott Ramsdale
18 Dec. Rick Marko	Randy Marko

Ushers

8:00 Open	10:30 Open
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Altar Guild

8:00	Bob & Ella Chellew
10:30	Barb Morrison & Gayle Cedergren

Counters

04 Dec.	Ed Bauman/ Phyllis Schadewald
11 Dec.	Les & Carole Frey
18 Dec.	Dave & Dorothy Yurik
25 Dec.	John & Lillian Prok
Data Entry Dec.	Bob Chellew

A "Teaching Moment" From The Board of Christian Education

Is your life all about you? Do you find that you're always thinking about "number one" and how life affects you? What about God's will for your life? Do you ever let Him lead? Is a Christian's life a boring one? Read on to see what God has to say about this subject:

"My Will Not Thine" by Ken Klaus

"... Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."
Matthew 6:10b (KJV)

One of my good friends is an Irish-Catholic policeman who serves on the Chicago Police Department. According to my friend, a fellow officer recently saw a motorist rip through a red light.

The officer noted that even though the lady had been given considerable time to stop, she didn't even bother to slow down. Her brake lights didn't flash red -- not even for a second. When the officer pulled the lady over to discuss

the matter, he prepared himself for all kinds of normal excuses. As a long-term veteran of the department, he thought he had heard every explanation possible.

He was surprised to find out otherwise.

The lady's innovative excuse went this way: just that morning she had picked up her car from the mechanic shop. It had been an expensive visit as she had paid for a brake job along with a number of other lesser, but not less costly, repairs. At any rate, she decided she wasn't going to be doing any more braking than was absolutely necessary. She wasn't braking because she didn't want to wear her brakes down.

Over the years I've known a lot of other people who don't want to put any brakes on their lives. Their thinking, their decisions, their actions -- all revolve around one thing: themselves. Everything they undertake is decided on whether they think this is going to be a good thing or a bad thing for them and them alone. They are watching out for number one. All they ever do is watch out for number one.

Jesus told us there is another way, a better way for His people to live their lives. In the Lord's Prayer He tells us we should ask God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. Making that petition a little more personal, God's will should be done in our day-to-day living as it is in heaven.

For many people living in harmony with God's will seems to be boring, stifling and altogether unfulfilling. You have to give up so much, people think. "You never are in control," they say. It just wouldn't be any fun, they believe.

When I hear that, I'm not exactly sure how to respond. I can say this: the most enthusiastic, most in-control, most fun-filled people I have ever met in my wanderings have been Christians -- Christians who were doing their best to live in harmony with the Lord.

They found that knowing they were in God's hands as they went through their days was an immensely liberating feeling. No longer did they have to hold a tight rein on everything. God was in control, and they were glad of it.

Stewardship

It Was so Simple

What Christian ever tires of hearing the Christmas story? First we hear about the Angel Gabriel. He was a busy guy, delivering messages from God. He must have enjoyed this task, though, because he was bringing good news. To Mary he said, "You're going to have a son, and you shall call His name Jesus." To Joseph, who understandably was a little unsure of how to proceed with Mary, Gabriel said, "Don't worry Joseph. This is God's doing. Mary's going to have God's Son." Simple, right? Just follow God's plan.

Then there's a decree from Caesar Augustus. He had no idea he was just a pawn in God's hands. As the powerful ruler he was, he issued a decree: "Everybody has to go to his hometown to be registered for the census." And everybody went, including Joseph and Mary. Even though Mary's pregnancy was quite advanced, she went on that arduous trip. Why not? She was in God's hands, too, although far from a pawn. She was God's channel. Through her God would bring to earth the greatest gift ever received.

Just in time, the innkeeper said they could stay in his barn - just in time for the birth. No hospital, no neonatal unit, no Lamaze - God brought His Son into this world.

Some poor shepherds were out in the fields that night, just like most nights. But it wasn't like most nights, for the night sky filled with light as angels appeared and "the glory of the Lord shone around them." Those shepherds looked and listened, and then they acted. "Let's go see what God's been doing in Bethlehem," they said to each other, and they went. And they believed, and they told others what they had seen and heard and now believed.

Sounds simple, doesn't it? Not complicated like the world is today? Not exactly true. The world was complicated then, too. Political intrigue abounded; wars were being fought; the greedy still coveted more and more; some people then, as now, were too busy to see the angels or hear their message. But not everyone! Then as now, some will put aside the hustle and clamor. We'll slow down and listen for angel's wings, and we'll hear the message of "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

We'll take time to peek into the manger and worship God's Son and we'll eagerly "[make] known the saying that [has] been told [us] concerning this Child."

Holiday Worship Schedule At Holy Emmanuel

"This Night Alight"

Advent Worship Under God's Stars

is the theme of our Midweek Advent Devotional Services.

You are invited to attend each Wednesday during the Advent season at 11:00 AM or 6:30 PM for inspirational worship.

Week 2, December 7: "Abraham's Star Of Promise"

Week 3, December 14: "The Star Of David"

† **Open Arms Christmas Program & Social:**
Dec. 15, 5:00 PM

† **Holy Emmanuel Sunday School Program Service:** Sunday Dec. 18, 9:30 AM (one service only) brunch follows service

† **No Communion on the 18th...**Moved to Dec. 25th

† **Christmas Eve** Saturday Dec. 24, 4:00 PM.

† **Christmas Day Communion,** Sunday Dec. 25, 9:30 AM (one service only)

† **New Year's Day Communion,** Sunday Jan 1, 8:15 and 10:45 AM

Dear Friends,

Blessed. We are blessed to have friends like you. Your response to the sock drive is truly another blessing. Thanks to all of you this year we were again able to help Mary Jo Copeland with Sharing & Caring Hands prepare for their Thanksgiving service work. On Tuesday, November 22 Denise delivered 1,046 pairs of socks to enable Mary Jo to provide warm socks for those in need. We packed 11 large, plastic storage totes into her truck.

We thank you for your support of this work and blessing those in need. Remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

May the Lord bless you and your families as we remember Christ's birth and all throughout 2012!

Denise & Scott Ramsdale

SAVIOR ORNAMENT

This Christmas, celebrate Jesus' birthday by making this keepsake ornament.

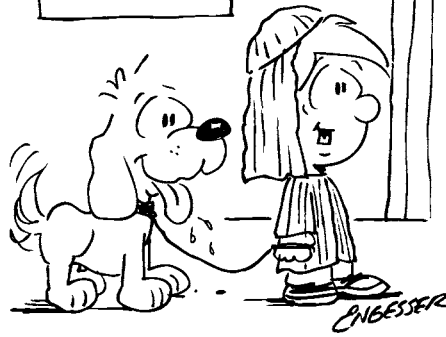
What you need:

- Wooden clothespin with round end
- Black permanent marker
- White cloth or felt
- Small wooden star (available at craft stores)
- Yellow paint
- Paintbrush
- Gold glitter (optional)
- Glue gun (and an adult)
- Straw-colored raffia
- Palm-size wicker wreath (available at craft stores)
- Ribbon

What you do:

1. On the clothespin's round knob, draw two dots for eyes.
2. Wrap the white cloth around the clothespin, like a swaddled baby.
3. Paint the star yellow; add glitter, if desired.
4. With the glue gun and adult supervision, glue the raffia to the bottom inside of the wreath. Then glue the swaddled clothespin atop the raffia and glue the gold star atop the wreath.
5. Tie a ribbon around the top, near the star.
6. Hang the ornament on your Christmas tree or tie it on a gift.

CHRISTMAS PLAY TRYOUTS



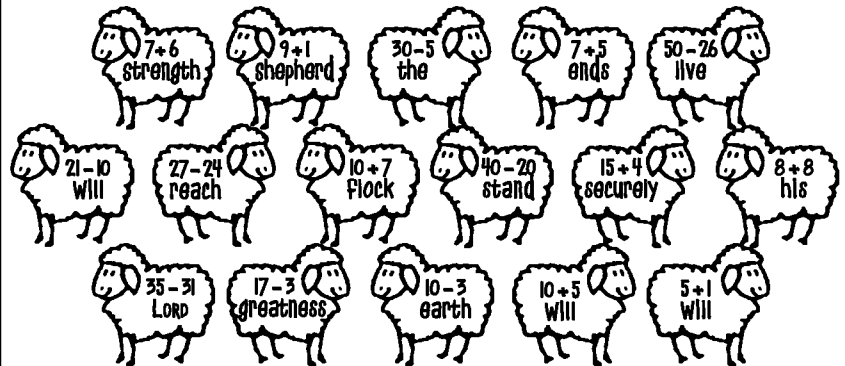
"We found our donkey!"



A PROMISED RULER

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

Directions: To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.



"He 15 and 20 his 10 17

in the 13 of the 4 And they 11 24

19, for then 16 14 6

3 to the 12 of 25 7."

MICAH 5:4, NIV

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV

December 2011




Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10:00 Men's Bible Study	2	3 3:00 The Alberts/Darst Baptisms
4 8:15 Classic Worship 9:30 Education Hour 10:45 Living Praise	5 5:30 Dinner 6:00 Parenting Class	6 10:00 Bible Study	7 6:15 ECE Board 11:00 am & 6:30 pm Advent Services 5-7 Advent Workshop/ Jesus Birthday Party	8 10:00 Men's Bible Study 7:00 Church Council	9 5:30 to 8:30 Empty Nesters	10
11 9:30 Worship Service ONE SERVICE ONLY 10:45 Sunday School & Bible Classes	12	13 10:00 Bible Study 5:30 Christian Ed Ice Cream Social 6:30 Lay Ministers	14 11:30 55 Plus Old Country Buffet 11:00 am & 6:30 pm Advent Services	15 10:00 Men's Bible Study 5:00 Open Arms ECC Christmas Program Followed by Social & Snacks 5:30 Loaves & Fishes	16 6-8 Mar thoma Practice	17 9:00 Sunday School Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 1:00 Lansing Baptism 2:00 - 9:00 Mar Thoma Christmas Pageant
18 9:30 Sunday School Christmas Pageant ONE SERVICE 10:45 Mar Thoma NO CLASSES Men's Club Brunch following the service	19	20 10:00 Bible Study	21 11:30 Work No More	22 10:00 Men's Bible Study	23 5:15 Loaves & Fishes Dinner	24 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
25 9:30 Christmas Day Service Worship with communion ONE SERVICE NO CLASSES	26	27 10:00 Bible Study	28	29 10:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Affeldt/Ramirez Wedding Rehearsal	30	31 2:30 Affeldt/Ramirez Wedding

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 201 East 104th Street Bloomington MN 55420
 952-888-2345 ✝ www.holyemmanuel.org