
3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT DECEMBER, 11, 2022



PRE-SERVICE MUSIC + WELCOME

HYMN: “Lift Up Your Heads...” (LSB #341)

**Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of Glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring;
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise, Your joyful songs of praise.**

**How blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is he
Who comes to set His people free
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.**

**Redeemer, come and open wide
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine;
Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on
Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.**

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INVOCATION

ADVENT PROPHECY: Isaiah 35:1-10

¹ The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, ² it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. ³ Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; ⁴ say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.” ⁵ Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. ⁶ Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. ⁷ The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling

springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. ⁸And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it. ⁹No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious beast get up on it; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, ¹⁰and the ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

RESPONSE:

Pastor: The desert will break forth with life.

People: The wilderness will shout for joy.

Pastor: We will surely see the glory shine,

People: The glory of the Lord!

Pastor: No need to fear, grow tired or faint.

People: The Lord will be our hope and strength, and crown our heads with joy!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH:

Pastor: As we light the shepherd's candle on our Advent wreath,

People: We recall the shepherds outside Bethlehem who heard the news of Jesus' birth and came to worship him.

Pastor: Remembering their joy and witness, we pray,

People: Merciful Father, as You did with shepherds of old, bring to us again the good news that the Savior has come. Then send us abroad to share the news with others; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

HYMN: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (LSB #357)

**O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

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CONFESSION OF SIN: (Adapted from Psalm 85)

Pastor: Lord, in the past You have shown favor to Your land, and restored the fortunes of Your people Israel.

People: You forgave the iniquity of Your people and covered all their sins.

Pastor: You set aside all Your wrath and turned from your fierce anger.

People: Restore us again, O God our Savior, and put away Your displeasure toward us because of our sin.

Pastor: Revive us again by Your promises of forgiveness and hope, that Your people may rejoice in You.

People: Show us Your unfailing love, O Lord, and grant us Your salvation.

HYMN: “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice” (LSB #386)

**Now sing we, now rejoice,
Now raise to heav’n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art!
Thou my Savior art!**

**Come from on high to me;
I cannot rise to Thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit,
O pure and holy Child;
Through Thy grace and merit,
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto Thee!
Draw me unto Thee!**

**Now through His Son doth shine
The Father’s grace divine.
Death was reigning o’er us
Through sin and vanity
Till He opened for us
A bright eternity.
May we praise Him there!
May we praise him there!**

**Oh, where shall joy be found?
Where but on heav’nly ground?
Where the angels singing
With all His saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing
In heav’nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there!
Oh, that we were there!**

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EPISTLE READING: James 5:7-11

⁷ Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸ You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near. ⁹ Don’t grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! ¹⁰ Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 11:2-15

²When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples ³to ask him, “Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?” ⁴Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. ⁶Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me.” ⁷As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. ⁹Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ ¹¹I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. ¹⁴And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. ¹⁵He who has ears, let him hear.

CONFESSION OF FAITH: *(Spoken together)*

Lord Jesus, may Your Light shine in our lives today and forever. May Your truth be our declaration of faith; For we believe that you are the only Son of the Almighty God, Creator of the heavens and the earth. You came to earth, born of the Virgin Mary, and became man, to live among us and save us from our sins. You died and rose again, and now You live and reign on high with the Father. We look with great anticipation to Your coming again because we know You will take us and all believers home to live with You forever in Your kingdom. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may this truth be our heartfelt declaration today and every day of our lives. May this truth be evident in our lives and in the life of the church in all we say and do. This we believe and declare. Amen - it is so!

SONG: “People of God” *(Wayne Watson)*

**With our lips let us sing one confession,
With our hearts hold to one truth alone;
For He has erased our transgression,
Claimed us and called us His own, His very own.**

**We’re the people of God, called by His name,
Called from the dark and delivered from shame;
One holy race saints ev’ryone,
Because of the blood of Christ Jesus, the Son.**

**Hear us, O spirits of darkness,
So you will know where we stand;
We are His servants purchased with scars,
Bought by the blood of the Lamb, the blood of the Lamb.**

**We're the people of God, called by His name,
Called from the dark and delivered from shame;
One holy race saints ev'ryone,
Because of the blood of Christ Jesus, the Son.**

**We're the people of God, called by His name,
Called from the dark and delivered from shame;
One holy race saints ev'ryone,
Because of the blood of Christ Jesus, the Son.**

End...because of the blood of Christ Jesus, the Son.

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SERMON: Matthew 11:2-6 "Coping with Unjust Suffering"

SONG: "Praise to the Holy One" (Steve Fry)

**Praise to the Holy One who leads us on in triumph,
Praise to the Rock of Freedom, Judah's Mighty Lion;
Jesus is our King! Jesus is our King!
Praise to the Rock of Life, He's Jesus Christ our King.**

**Praise to the King of Glory, coming Son of David,
Who is the First and Last, the Alpha and Omega;
Jesus is our King! Jesus is our King!
Praise to the Rock of Life, He's Jesus Christ our King.**

(C. 1986 Birdwing Music. Used by permission. CCLI #522460)

OFFERING

PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**People: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And
forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us
not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

HYMN: "All Glory Be to God on High" (LSB #947)

**All glory be to God on high And thanks for all His favor;
No harm can touch or terrify A child of God forever.
God shows His good and gracious will
And grants His peace, the world to fill
All strife at last has ended.**

**O Jesus Christ, the only Son Begotten of the Father,
Your saving death has made us one
With God and with each other.
O Lamb of God, to You on high,
In our distress we sinners cry,
Have mercy on us, amen!**

**O Holy Spirit, our delight And source of consolation,
Protect us from the devil's might
Through Jesus, our salvation,
Who by His death upon a tree
Has rescued us from misery:
To this we hold forever.**

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Special Advent Service 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday, December 14 Advent Service as at 5pm and will include the Open Arms Children's Christmas Program. Please join us to celebrate Christmas and share the love Christ with the Open Arms families at 5:00pm

VEAP DRIVE

During the month of December, Holy Emmanuel Lutheran Church and Open Arms Christian ECC will be hosting a collection of paper products and other specialty items to improve the lives of people in need in our communities.

Items needed:

Paper products: towels, tissues, toilet paper, Personal Care Products (deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, tooth brushes)

Diapers (size 3-adult)
Tampons, Sanitary Napkins
Dish Soap.

Any monetary donations will also be appreciated

Please place your items in the VEAP bin in the narthex.

Thank You for your support.

Gayle Cedergren, Holy Emmanuel, VEAP Representative

PRAYER MINISTRY

Please include the following friends and happenings in your personal prayers

For God's Blessing On Their Medical Treatment - Richard St Martin

Our Home bound & Those In Care Centers - Pat Hibben - John Arne - Vera Marko - Jerry & Sharon Bliven - Lorraine McKay - Marion Michalik - Stan Cherveney

Our Local & Global Mission Ministries

-Rev Dr. Dan & Dr. Joan Jastram, Northern Asia (Recipients of our "Together In Mission")

-Rev. Bliidi Minely, Liberia, Africa (Recipient of our "Care Barrels")

Local & Global Concerns

-For a spirit of unity and Godliness among the leadership of The United States of America and President Biden

Birthday's This Week

11-Dec Elise Wiersm

15-Dec David Edstrom

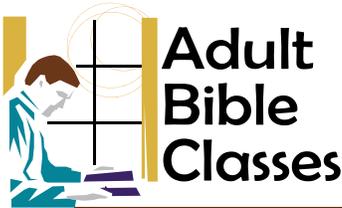
17-Dec Elizabeth Kratochwill

Anniversary's This Week



Family Faith Fellowship Sunday's at 10:45-11:30am in the fellowship hall. Our first study unit will be a look at "God's Tools", as we discuss Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and the work the Holy Spirit does through these tools to stir and preserve faith in Christ.

Just a reminder, Family Faith Fellowship is NOT just for parents and their children. All are welcome to join us as we grow spiritually stronger as God's redeemed family.



Adult Bible Classes which meet each Sunday at 8:30am, and each Tuesday at 11am, in the fellowship hall will be studying the Gospel of John. This Gospel was inspired by the Holy Spirit and written by the apostle John, specifically to help us grow in our knowledge and understanding of Jesus, and come closer to him as the Savior.

H.E.Y. - Holy Emmanuel Youth for 6th to 12th grade

Holy Emmanuel Youth and Redemption Lutheran church (1.5 miles from Holy Emmanuel) will be combining our two youth groups. We are excited to partner together. Our plan is to have a monthly fun activity, fundraising on occasion for our mission trips, and most importantly continue to study God's Word together. Our fun activities will always be the third Saturday of every month. For any questions please see Chris Krentz



Little Blessings

is for ages 3-5, pre kindergarten.
10:45-11:30am Sunday Mornings



If you have not picked up your
2023 offering envelopes,
They are available on the table in the narthex



Open Arms Mission Statement: Following Jesus Words, "Feed My Lambs" John 21:15
Open Arms Christian Early Childhood Center Nurtures Young Children in a Christian Environment

Statement of Purpose: Open Arms Christian Early Childhood Center, a ministry of Holy Emmanuel Lutheran Church, offers families a caring, nonjudgmental and supportive Christian environment. The loving and secure age-appropriate environment is culturally sensitive and encourages children to learn through play. Children's development is enhanced by opportunities which meet the individual needs of the whole child with in the following learning domains; Spiritual, The Exploration of Arts, Approaches to Learning, Language and Literacy Communications, Cognitive; Mathematics, Scientific Thinking, and Social Systems, Physical and Movement, Social and Emotional.

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday 7:00am-6:00pm Phone Number: 952-888-5116
Dawn Regan, Director of Open Arms, Email: eccdirector@openarmsecc.org
Randy Regan, Chief Business (Enrollment Info): Email: adminasst@openarmsecc.org

