



3rd Sunday in Advent

December 14, 2014

Emanuel Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

324 College Avenue, Modesto, California 95350

(209) 523-4531 www.emanuellutheran.org

Welcome to Emanuel

Communion Service 9:30 a.m..... Page 3
Announcements and Prayer Concerns Page 15

WELCOME GUESTS AND VISITORS!

Welcome in the name of Jesus Christ. We are glad that you have come to worship with us. Please help us to know you by filling out a worship attendance form (located in your bulletin) and placing it in the offering plate.

- **LARGE PRINT BULLETINS** are available. •

(Please ask an usher)

Children/Youth & Family:

Council member – Mary Murray

Spiritual Life:

Council member – Lois Owen

Worship:

Council member – Suzanne Wilke

Outreach:

Council members – David Holtz and Karl Williams

Resource:

Bob Reuter, Treasurer

Council members – Tom Hardin and Brian Skustad

Fellowship:

Council member – Rue Knoll

Technology/Communications:

Council member – Mike Epting

Volunteer Coordinator:

Council member – Debbie Van Diepen

Endowment Team

Bob Reuter, Chairman

Team members: Pat Norquist, Rob Shank, Bill Reinheimer

Staff

Presiding Minister

Dianne Finnecy

Communion Minister

Pastor Roger Lee

Organist & Choir Director

Barbara Vukich

Day Care Director

Laura Marquez

Bookkeeper

Robin Swearingen

Secretary

Paula Braxton

Council Officers

President

Suzanne Wilke

Vice President

David Holtz

Treasurer

Bob Reuter

Secretary

Debbie Van Diepen

3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 14, 2014

9:30 AM

PRELUDE

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Paul Manz

Two Settings

Michael Burkhardt

WELCOME

GATHERING SONGS

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Red Book #279

Go Tell it on the Mountain

Red Book #290

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Please rise.

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *(A brief silence for reflection.)* Gracious God,

C have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

THE LIGHT OF ADVENT

P Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom
and waters would break forth in the wilderness.
Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.
Strengthen our hearts
as we prepare for the coming of the Lord.
May he give water to all who thirst,
for he is our light and our salvation.
Blessed be God forever.

C Amen

Three candles are lit as the hymn is sung.

Verses 1, 2 & 3

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Red Book #247

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Stir up the will of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

P Please be seated.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Bible page 678

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of the Lord, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

L A reading from Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion —
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
⁸For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 126

My Soul Proclaims your Greatness

Red Book #251

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Bible page 1077

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

L A reading from First Thessalonians.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation.

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Bible page 966

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

P The Holy Gospel according to John, chapter 1.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

L The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL RESPONSE (*See previous page for Gospel Acclamation*)

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON

Dianne Finnecy

HYMN OF THE DAY

Prepare the Royal Highway

Red Book #264

NICENE CREED

A With the whole church, let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With longing and hopeful expectation, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. You are invited to kneel. *(A brief silence)*

That the people of God prepare the way of the Lord by bearing witness to the light and giving thanks in all circumstances. Let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

That governments, political leaders, and social service agencies will work together to free all those held captive by poverty, oppression, and disease. Let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

That from the garden of this earth praise and righteousness will spring forth, and fruitful harvests will provide bread to feed all who are hungry. Let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

That you teach us to pray without ceasing as we commend into your care all who are brokenhearted, lonely, grieving, or ill (*especially*). Let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

That you strengthen the hands of all who serve in this congregation as teachers, musicians, worship leaders, and volunteers. Let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

That you clothe us with the garments of salvation, until with (*John of the Cross and*) all your saints we behold the fullness of your glory. Let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Receive our prayers, faithful God, as we watch and wait for your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

SHARING THE PEACE

P Please rise.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

P Please be seated as we collect the offering.

TITHES & OFFERINGS

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Robert Powell

Barry Schroeder, flute

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

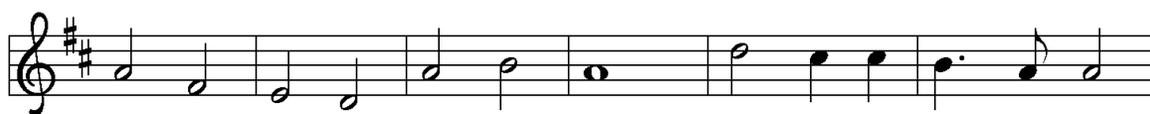
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed,
our lord Jesus **took bread**, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he **took the cup**, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

P With this bread and cup we remember your Word
dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us.
Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

C Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to Christ, who comes to us in this holy supper.

Please be seated.

We will practice continuous communion at the altar rail. All baptized Christians are welcome to commune.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

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DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Lost in the Night
He Came Down

Red Book #243
Red Book #253

COMMUNION BLESSING

P Please rise.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A Lord God, we give you thanks that you have fed us even now with the banquet that is yet to come. Keep us alert for signs of your presence in the world around us. Send us as healing oil and sheltering comfort to those in need, and make us bold in testifying to the light of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen**

BLESSING

P God most high, God with us, God poured out on us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen**

SENDING OF COMMUNION MINISTERS

L Let us Pray...

C **O God of tender compassion, as you healed the sick and welcomed the stranger, bless those who leave this assembly to share the gifts of this table with our sisters and brothers who are *homebound*. May they be sustained by the love and prayers of this community, and by the Bread of life that satisfies all hunger, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN

Joy to the World

Red Book #267

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C **Thanks be to God.**

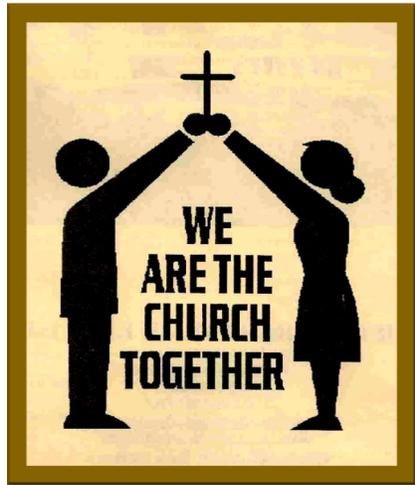
POSTLUDE

Prepare the Royal Highway

Paul Manz

THOSE WHO SERVED US TODAY

Presiding Minister..... Dianne Finnecy
Communion Minister..... Pastor Roger Lee
Assisting Minister.....Eric Obermeyer
Lectors Kathleen Reuter, Paula Kroeze
Song LeaderMarilyn Rowland
Communion Assistant..... Mary Lou Dieterich
Home Communion MinisterMary Dieterich
Usher/GreeterDieterich/Reuter
Altar TeamKathy Obermeyer



Announcements



Altar flowers are placed
in celebration of Ila Jean and Bill Reinheimer's
55th Wedding Anniversary
and
to the glory of God by Nirul Castleberry



COUNCIL MEMBER POTLUCK – TODAY, December 14 at 10:45 am.
See Karl Williams for details.

Adult Bible Study will be taking a break and will resume in the New Year.

Emanuel Lutheran Day Care

Our Annual Children's Christmas Program date has been changed. It will now be held on Friday, December 19th at 6:00 pm. We ask that all children who attend bring a \$5 wrapped gift for the exchange. Milk and cookies will be served and there will be a *special guest* at the end of the program.

Year-End Financial Plan – Don't forget Emanuel!

Another year is about ended. Have you fulfilled your pledge? Have you considered making an extra donation to Emanuel Lutheran Church or a special donation to the Endowment Fund? This is the season for giving! These donations are deductible on your taxes and may help you save paying extra taxes.

The Endowment Fund earnings help pay for the maintenance and upkeep on our facilities and campus. An example was helping pay for the extermination of our unwelcome guests, the "TERMITES". Only the earnings of the Endowment Fund can be used for capital expenses and ministries. This means the fund will be earning money in perpetuity for our church.

The Finance Committee appreciates your donations and we thank you for your Time, Talent, and Tithing support of Emanuel Lutheran Church. We wish you all a Christmas full of wonder and joy, a celebration of the birth of our Lord!

On behalf of the members of the Finance Committee,

Robert Reuter, Treasurer



Caroling Party

Grab your flashlight, mittens, and a few cookies to share, and join us on next Sunday, December 21st as we serenade our neighbors with Christmas carols. We'll meet at the church at 6:00 P.M. From there, we'll head out into the College Avenue neighborhood, joined in song by our accompanist, David Holtz. Afterward, we'll return to Emanuel and treat ourselves to hot chocolate and cookies. Call Lois Owen (577-8868) if you have any questions.

Christmas Giving Tree and Sock Tree

Beginning November 30, the first Sunday of Advent, two trees will stand in the Narthex which present you with opportunities for Christmas giving. A sock tree will be a bare tree to be adorned with new socks for our brothers and sisters at the Modesto Gospel Mission. The giving tree will have tags identifying ELC day care needs as well as specific children by age, gender and size. These are children in our community who would not have as much under their tree without the generous support of Emanuel members. Emanuel's Outreach Ministry encourages you to share the joy of Christmas by supporting these great projects.



WEEKLY CALENDAR

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		7:00 am Men's Bible Study @ Mimi's	Adult Bible Study will resume in the new year.	OFFICE CLOSED		9:30 am Communion Service BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS
		5 pm Day Care Board mtg.				10:45 Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm Leah Circle @ J. Hardin's	6:30 pm Confirmation class	7:00 pm Council mtg.				6:00 pm Caroling in the Neighborhood

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Date	Presiding Minister	Assistant Minister	Lectors	Communion Assist	Acolyte	Usher Greeter	Altar Care
Dec 21	Pastor Bill Ruth	David Holtz	D. Santana S. McCready	Dianne Santana	Alora Skustad	Shank/ Skustad	Kathy Obermeyer
Dec 24	Pastor Bill Ruth	Kathleen Reuter	W. Teaney P. Barton	Paula Barton	Allie Shank	Clarke Family	Kathy Obermeyer
Dec 28	Pastor Bill Ruth	Paula Barton	S. Wilke M. Epting	William Teaney		Fox Family	Lois Silva

WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS

December 21 Advent 4	December 24 Christmas Eve
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Luke 1:46b-55 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38	Isiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]



Prayer Requests

New Prayer Requests: Donna Thayer—health (Petersen)

Our Members: Drew Shank; Ben Knoll; Lori Knoll; Susan Hayes; Dianne Santana; Carolyn Crenwelge; Bob Dailey; Marilyn Rowland; Teri Scott.

Our Homebound Members: Harvey Hardel, Florence Broden, Kay Altmas, Shelda Fritts; Alma Johnson, Betty Mason; Esther Johnson

Our Family: Sharon & Harold (Owen); Meghan Ewald (Smith); Torrie & Nathan (Teaney); Marsha Schlipman (Nelson); Geraldine Walton (Hollmann); Ian McKenzie and Marian McKenzie (Schmidt); Steve Jeske (B. Norquist); Don Harlow (Virginia Dall's son-in-law); Trevor Jeske (Steve's son) (B. Norquist); Heide Brockmann (Petersen); Harry Belletto (Ixcot); Suzanne Stiver Lie (Reinheimer); Claudette Gaydon (Lori Skustad's aunt); Rusty Skustad (Skustad); Joyce Morgan (Scott); Reta, Edgar, Bianca (Wise); Riegan family (Scott)

Our Friends: Dawn, Keith and Ed (Dieterich); Doyle Williams, Gene Loftis (Teaney); Nancy (Owen); Donna (Waggoner); Roger Warner (Schmidt); Melissa Gates (D. Norquist); Alice Cumbie (D. Norquist); Kathy Laughton, Loy Rodriguez & Lorna Sloan (Hardins)

We Pray for Peace in the Middle East, and for all those serving in our armed forces.

Ryan Dangerfield, USAF in Lakenheath Air Base, England and **Joey Sabel, USMC** in Louisville, Kentucky (Marilyn & Chuck Rowland's grandson & grandson-in-law), **Timothy Kramer** in Afghanistan (Megan Armes' brother), **Ryan Powell** (grandson of Yvonne Troedson) USN, Connecticut.