

FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2016

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 13

Staff

Presiding Minister

Rev. Dr. Lyn Crase

Organist & Choir Director

Barbara Vukich

Secretary

Paula Braxton

Day Care Director

Laura Marquez

Bookkeeper

Maria Ojeda

Council Officers

President

Jim Barton

Vice President

Bob Dailey

Treasurer

Bob Reuter

Secretary

Susan Hall

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 – Pat Smith and Hailey Rios

Spiritual Life:

Council member – Lois Owen

Worship:

Council member – Dianne Santana

Outreach:

Council members — Karl Williams and Bob Dailey

Resource:

Bob Reuter, Treasurer

Stewardship — Jim Barton and Janice Watkins

Property — Dick Norquist and Tom Hardin

Fellowship:

Council member – Susan Hall

Social Media:

Council member – Mike Epting and Rick Unruh

Endowment Team

Bob Reuter, Chairman

Team members: Dick Norquist, Rob Shank, Bill Reinheimer

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 27, 2016

9:30 AM

PRELUDE *Chorale Partita on "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"* Paul Manz
Please use your "soft" voice during and following the Prelude, as others may be in prayer and meditation. Thank you.

WELCOME Pastor Lyn Crase

OPENING HYMN *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying* ELW #436

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (Congregation sings after the reading)

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who comes to wake us from sleep,
who leads us into the light of grace.

C Amen

P Let us prepare the way of the Lord
by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of all time,

**C we confess that we have not prepared
for your merciful reign among us.
We ignore our neighbors in need
and fail in the labor of justice and peace.
In your mercy forgive us.
Grant us wisdom to welcome your light
and to seek the things that will endure
until Christ comes again in glory.**

C Amen

P Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

In ✝ Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven
and all things are made new.
Rejoice in this good news!

C Amen

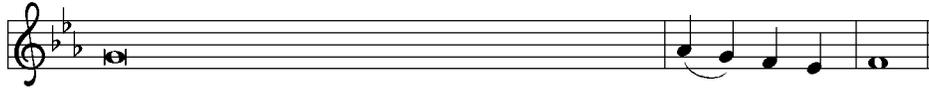
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



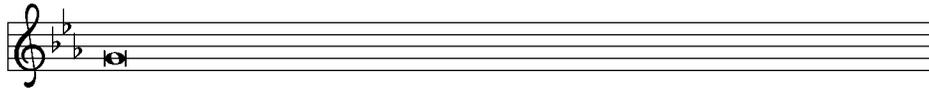
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



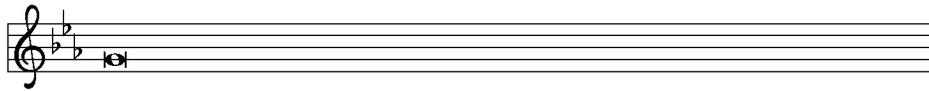
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray together....

C Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshipping community responds: "Let us walk in that light of that Lord now!"

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

P The Gospel according to Luke Chapter 24

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 24:36-44

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, unexpected event that will bring salvation or judgment upon people caught up in the usual affairs of daily life. He urges people to be alert and expectant.

Jesus said to the disciples, ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (REPEATED)

CHILDREN’S TIME // INTERFAITH OFFERING

SERMON

Pastor Lyn Crase

SERMON HYMN

From Heaven Above
v. 1, 2, 3

ELW #268

APOSTLE’S CREED

A With the whole church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostle’s Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A As we anticipate the fullness of the presence of Christ, we join with the church throughout the world, praying for all who are in need.

Response: ... Let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

TITHES & OFFERINGS

The offering is an act of worship; a response of gratitude and thankfulness.

OFFERTORY

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

J. S. Bach

OFFERING PRAYER

A Savior of the nations, come.
Make your home here in us.
Feed us with your love,
that our faith shine ever new
and our lives reveal your light.

SHARING THE PEACE

The sharing of peace is an individual and communal act of forgiveness.

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

Please return to your seats at the signal from the organ and remain standing after the Peace.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

A In recognition of God's forgiveness, mercy and grace let us continue with 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.

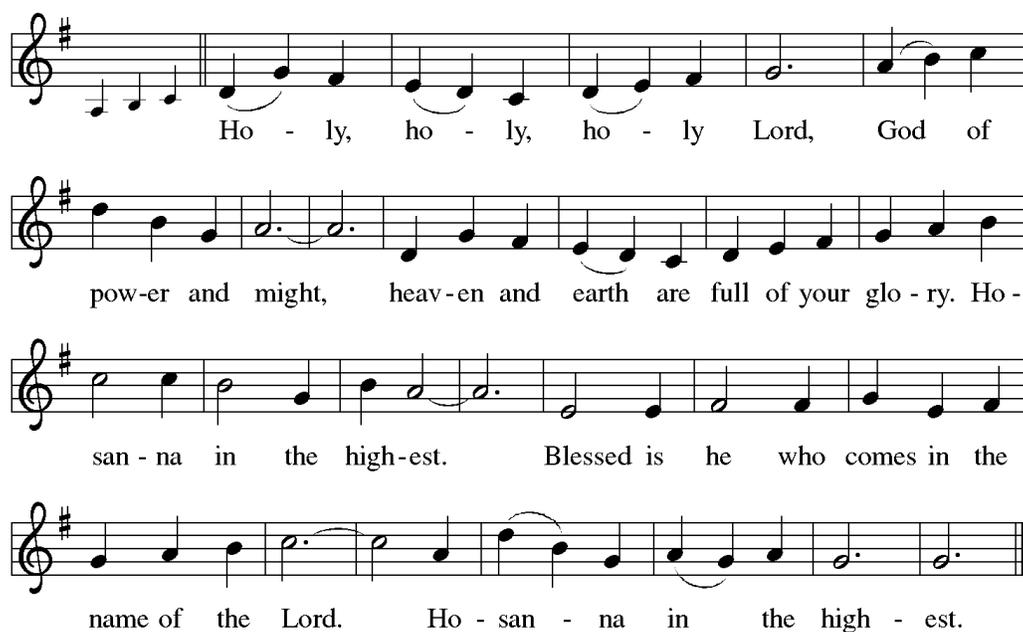
C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

P To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

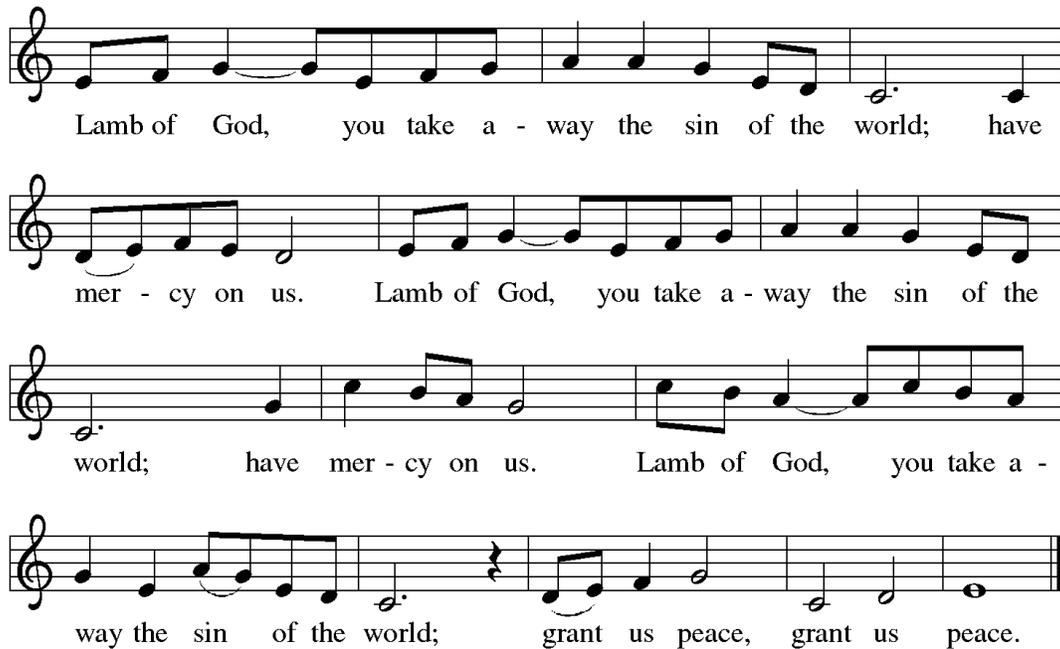
**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.
Share in the feast of salvation.

We offer continuous communion at the altar rail. All are welcome.

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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Come Now, O Price of Peace

ELW #247

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

ELW #241

My Lord, What a Morning

ELW #438

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A God for whom we wait,
you come to us
in the broken bread and the cup we share.
Make us ready always
to welcome Christ into our hearts,
and send us forth to be your people in the world,
announcing your coming among us
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

SENDING OF COMMUNION MINISTERS

Home Communion Minister(s) come(s) forward.

P 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.

BLESSING

P May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you
and scatter the darkness from before your path.

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN

The King Shall Come

ELW #260

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

Paul Manz

THOSE WHO SERVED US TODAY

Presiding Minister Pastor Lyn Crase
Assisting Minister David Holtz
Acolyte..... Alora Skustad
Ministers of the Word Barbara Crawford, Suzanne Wilke
Communion Assistant(s)..... Suzanne Wilke
Usher/Greeter Shank/Skustad
Altar Care..... Lois Silva

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Announcements

Please use your “soft” voice during and following the Prelude, as others may be in prayer and meditation. Thank you.



The flowers on the altar today are given, to the glory of God, by the Castleberry family.

The rose on the altar is given by Chuck and Marilyn Rowland to celebrate the birth of their great-granddaughter, Klara Jo Sabel born November 22 in Honolulu, Hawaii to parents Kristin and Joey.



Advent Soup Suppers begin on Wednesday, November 30. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you'd like to bring a soup! Everyone is welcome.

On-Going Adult Education Sunday evenings twice a month from 5:30—7:00 pm (meet in Katie's room). "The Abrahamic Traditions, Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith." Next meeting will be tonight. Rabbi Shalom Bochner will be the speaker.

Choir Rehearsal after the service at about 11:00.

Text Study meets Tuesdays at noon in Katie's Room. All are welcome. Bring along your lunch.

Thursday Morning Bible Study on Martin Luther. Regularly meets in Katie's Room from 9:30-11:00 am. *First Thursdays only*, meets at Casa de Modesto with our members who are residents there. Everyone is welcome! **There will be no meetings on December 22 & 29.**

2nd Sunday of each month Healing Prayer during communion.

Lifeline Screening will again be offered at Emanuel on this Thursday, December 1. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex. Emanuel members receive a 10% discount on all screening tests with advance registration.

If you are bringing treats on Sunday, Please check the treat calendar for upcoming openings.

Call for young Christmas singers:

Emanuel would like to have children sing two songs during the 5:30 Christmas eve service. Those songs will be familiar Christmas songs. To be comfortable with singing them we will practice for 10-15 minutes each Sunday of advent immediately following the regular worship service. To do this well, it would be most desirable to have a very

large group of young singers. Please let David Holtz know that you will have your children, or grandchildren, or neighbor children or ... participate on Christmas eve (regardless of their ability to attend the short rehearsals).

Emanuel's "Story Corps"

In 2003 **Story Corps** (storycorps.org) was launched in NYC and quickly spread across the country in an effort to build an oral portrait of America and Americans. Audio recordings are stored in the Library of Congress for anyone to use. Their stated objective is, "... to remind one another of our shared humanity, to strengthen and build the connections between people, to teach the value of listening, and to weave into the fabric of our culture the understanding that everyone's story matters. At the same time, we are creating an invaluable archive for future generations."

With the support of our own Social Media Ministry Team, Emanuel is developing a compilation of members' 10-minute oral reflection on their faith journey through life, including what it means to you to be Lutheran. Recordings will be stored and accessible on the ELC website (emanuellutheran.org). We would like every member to be a part of this valuable collection. These conversations could take place at Emanuel, or in your or my home, or in a coffee shop – your choice. You may be asked in the near future to participate or you may sign up in the Narthex.

Advent is coming ...

Our crane mobile has migrated from the sanctuary and into storage along with the red and orange Pentecost fabric runners. The space is soon to be filled with the advent and excitement of Christmas. Plans are being created to suspend a large number of Christmas ornaments high, just below the beams, to build on the anticipation and joy of this wonderful season.

Would you like to be part of this display? If so, you may contribute an ornament for inclusion by placing it in the collection box in the Narthex. There will be a general color theme of red and gold but really, any color ornament is okay – but it must be a round "ball type" ornament (no novelty ornaments please). You might want to write on the ornament or insert a prayer into it. Contact David Holtz with questions (578-0926).

WELCA's Cookie Exchange Party will be held Saturday December 3 at 1:00 pm in Luther Hall. Please bring 3 dozen of your favorite cookies and at the end of the party, you can pick out 3 dozen cookies of many favorites to take home and enjoy. There will be beverages served as you enjoy eating cookies and singing your favorite Christmas songs with Barbara on the piano and David on guitar!

If you aren't too busy that day, please join Debbie in the church at 10:00 am to help decorate the Christmas tree and make our church festive prior to the cookie party!

Also, WELCA will have a bake sale the next day in the Narthex....please join us for a fun weekend as we prepare for Christmas 2016!

Save the Dates! Wired Word Potlucks—Friday, December 9 at the home of Marsha Waggoner or Saturday, December 10 at Jim and Paula Barton’s beginning at 6:15 pm. Choose either date and join in the discussion of current topics from the news and reflect on Bible passages that relate to those topics. Please be sure to add you name to one of the sign up sheets in the Narthex. *See you there!*

Yuletide Feast choral concert at Modesto Junior College The MJC Department of Music presents “A Yuletide Feast: Dickens to Rock” choral concert on Friday, December 9 at 7 pm in the Auditorium of the Performing and Media Arts Center on the East Campus, 435 College Avenue. Tickets are \$6 general admission and \$3 for students, seniors and children. Campus parking is FREE. For more information call (209) 575-6776, Tuesday-Friday, 12-5 pm.



99 CORRIDOR YOUTH

**You are invited to a special
fun-filled time for all youth
and their friends!**

**WHERE: SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH
1455 E. YOSEMITE AVE., MERCED**

**WHEN: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2016
11:00-100 PM**



Games, Food, Music and Devotions

- Candy Cane Game**
- Tower Game**
- Surprise Game**



**RSVP TO YOUR PASTOR OR YOUTH LEADER
BY NOVEMBER 27TH**

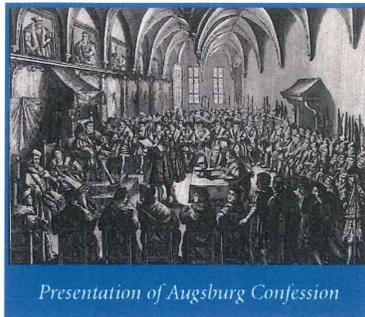
ABOUT THE LUTHERANS

The Augsburg Confession

The Augsburg Confession, written in the midst of the Reformation tumult, is the core statement of what Lutherans believe. It was produced in 1530, thirteen years after young professor Martin Luther posted the Ninety-Five Theses in Wittenberg. A lot had happened in those thirteen years. Thanks to Luther's creative exploration of the gospel and its implications, his colorful personality (opponents had other adjectives), and the availability of the printing press, his views on religious matters as well as the politics of the day had been widely distributed. In many parts of central Europe, people were responding favorably, to the consternation of the Church of Rome, which had been accustomed to being the single expression of the Christian church in that region.

In the sixteenth century there was no nation called Germany. Rather, the various duchies and electorates made up a key part of the Holy Roman Empire, a remnant of the European territory once governed by ancient Rome. For much of Reformation times, Charles V governed as Holy

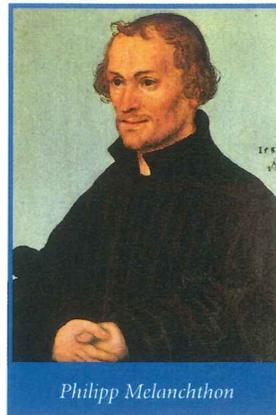
Roman Emperor. He had watched his empire become increasingly fractured by divisions among princes favorable to Luther and other reformers, and those who kept their loyalty to Rome and the pope. The emperor needed the princes to be unified, not least because a Turkish invasion of Europe had reached the gates of Vienna. And so, in January 1530, the emperor called for a diet, or general assembly, in the German city of Augsburg. He asked the German princes and imperial cities to explain their religious convictions.



Presentation of Augsburg Confession

REFORMATION 500

And so, reforming theologians and the rulers who supported them headed for Augsburg—among them, Luther’s colleague Philipp Melanchthon and his pastor, Johannes Bugenhagen. Luther himself could not accompany them because he had been named an outlaw at a previous diet. He had also been excommunicated by the pope. He was, however, consulted on the final text via mail.



Upon their arrival in Augsburg, Melanchthon, consulting with previous preliminary documents, composed the final text of the confession. The German princes who favored the Reformation viewpoint agreed to it and signed it. On June 25, 1530, the Augsburg Confession was read aloud in German before the emperor and presented in written form in both German and Latin.

The Augsburg Confession (sometimes called Augustana from its Latin title) is now found in a larger collection of Lutheran confessional writings called *The Book of Concord*. It contains twenty-eight parts, or articles. The first twenty-one of these stress points of agreement with the Roman Church of the time, though sometimes with crucial differences. In the last seven, the writers lay out what they see as abuses committed by the church.

The Augsburg Confession continues to guide the teachings of Lutheran churches to this day. Though a product of troubled times, it is filled with witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

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Do you know how to recognize the warning signs of a stroke? If you or someone you know is experiencing any of the symptoms below, call 911 right away. It is important to seek medical treatment immediately.

- Sudden Numbness
- Difficulty Speaking
- Severe Dizziness
- Loss of Coordination
- Sudden Loss of Vision
- Sudden Intense Headache
- Brief Loss of Consciousness

Protect your health by participating in the Lifeline health screenings that will be held at Emanuel Lutheran Church on Thursday, December 1, 2016

Through ultrasound we evaluate the carotid arteries for the buildup of fatty plaque, which is the leading cause of stroke. Register for the Stroke, Vascular & Heart Rhythm package which includes four screenings: carotid artery, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease and atrial fibrillation. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners.**

WEEKLY CALENDAR

| MON 28 | TUE 29 | WED 30 | THUR 1 | FRI 2 | SAT 3 | SUN 4 |
|--|--|---|---|---------------|---|--|
| ECHOES DEADLINE | | 7:00 am Men's Bible Study @ Mimi's Holiday Tree set-up | 9:30 am Adult Bible Study @Casa De Modesto | OFFICE CLOSED | 10:00 am Decorate Church 12:00 pm Pizza Lunch (free) | 9:30 am Worship Service WELCA Bake Sale |
| | 12:00 pm Lectionary Study | 10:00 am Weekly Staff Mtg. | | | 1:00 pm WELCA Christmas Cookie Exchange | |
| 7:00 pm Bible Study @ M. Waggoner's | 7:30 pm Gospel Mission Ministry | 6:00 pm Advent Soup Supper ----- 7:00 pm Advent Worship | | | | |

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

| Date | Assisting Minister | Ministers of the Word | Cantor | Communion Assist | Acolyte | Usher Greeter | Altar Care |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Dec 4 Advent 2 | Suzanne Wilke | D Holtz L Owen | David Holtz | Dave Henke | Emma Hoover | Owen Family | Van Diepen/ Kroeze |
| Dec 11 Advent 3 | Paula Barton | B Reinheimer B Rokaitis | | Rokaitis/ Schmidt | Kailyn Knoll | Smith/Knoll | Van Diepen/ Kroeze |
| Dec 18 Advent 4 | Garry Hayes | M Dieterich M Rowland | | Marilyn Rowland | Chris Schmidt | Reuter/ Dieterich | Van Diepen/ Kroeze |

WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS

| December 4 Advent 2 | December 11 Advent 3 | December 18 Advent 4 |
|---|---|--|
| Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12 | Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11 | Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25 |



New Prayer Requests: Prayers of comfort for Alice Hine; Dan Porter (Elaine Ixcot's son)—recovery, healing and well-being ; Adeline Otterness (Alice Hoaglund's sister-in-law)—peace and strength

Our Members: Drew Shank; Ben Knoll; Lori Knoll; Carolyn Crenwelge; Bob Dailey; Kelly Dailey; Gary Knoll; Bill Fox; Virginia Dall; Keith Thurston; Anthony Pino & Aaron Daubenspeck; Lena Shirley; Marj Sample; Teri Scott; Pat Smith; Jill Klenz

Our Homebound Members: Florence Broden, Kay Altmas; Shelda Fritts

Our Family: Ian McKenzie (Schmidt); Sheila Barton (Barton); Joy Morgan (Scott); Suzanne Stiver Lie (Reinheimer); Evelyn Thurston (Thurston); Cindy Johnson (Salonen); Helen Opitz (Smith); Robert Schlipman; Sherry Orsetti; Laurie Spinuzzi (Silva); Linda Luis-Thompson (Strand); Bobby Horton (Crawford); Joyce & Manuel (Scott); Gay McCready (McCready); Richard Epting (Epting); Sue and George Reinheimer; Ali Moraitis (Watkins); Gregory & Alley (Scott); Donald Murray (Murray); Christine Williams (Dieterich); Alexander Smith (Pino)

Our Friends: Mark, Matthew & Amanda (Scott); Roger Warner (Schmidt); Adrienne (Nelson); Pastor Stan Niemi; Tom Aja (Crawford); Jennifer Turner (Dieterich); John Pienado (Knoll); Dawn Wagner; Mark Davis (Ixcot); Leila Afshin (Skustad); Donna Thayer (Petersen); Mary Martin (Martin); Cheryle Pickel (Crawford); Sydney (Silva); Jerry Larson (Clarke); David and Jeffrey Hudson (Reinheimer); Stephen Washer (Norquist); Larry Decker (Dieterich)

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

T/Sgt. Ryan Dangerfield, USAF in Ramstein AB, Germany and **SSgt. Joey Sabel, USMC** in Kaneohe Marine Corps Base, Hawaii (Marilyn & Chuck Rowland's grandson & grandson-in-law); **Capt. Tim Kramer** (Megan Armes' brother) will be in Kuwait through June of 2016; **Ryan Powell** (grandson of Yvonne Troedson) USN, Connecticut; **Chad Vander Veen** (friend of Susan Hall), US Army in Iraq.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we anticipate the fullness of the presence of Christ, we join with the church throughout the world, praying for all who are in need.

For the church and its leaders, and for all who work for the unity of the gospel; that the compassion of Christ break down all divisions, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the well-being of creation, for mountains and hills, lakes and rivers, snow and sunshine, plants and animals, and for all who care for the earth; that God raise up stewards to protect this good creation, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For peace among nations, for those who lead all levels of government, for judges and magistrates, and for those who speak for the voiceless; that all are treated with equity and fairness, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who are anxious and worried, for the sick and bereaved, for the homeless and imprisoned, for those in any need; that the compassion shown by Christ be embodied in caregivers and advocates, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who gather for word and sacrament, for those who travel, and for our holiday preparations; that in all our activities we give thanks to the Lord, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

We pray for your healing touch on those we name before you now, aloud or in silence (*pause for silence*). Let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

God of hope, today we pray for the pastors & churches of our newly named conference, Sierra Central Valley. This morning we lift up Pastor Sylvia Mueller and Light of Christ Lutheran Church in Turlock. Sustain Pastor Mueller and enliven the leadership of Light of Christ Lutheran Church; energize them for ministry in their community, and enable bold witness for the sake of the Gospel. Let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

In thanksgiving for those who have died and are at rest; that their witness to the gospel serve as examples of living the life of faith, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, those spoken aloud and those known only to you, and grant us peace through Jesus Christ, our coming Savior.

Amen

ENTRANCE
HYMN
#436

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.
grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun-d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. composite
Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai
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SERMON HYMN #268

From Heaven Above



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come to bear good
2 "To you this night is born a child of Mar - y,
3 "This is the Christ, God's Son most high, who hears your

Insert additional stanzas as desired.

12 Ah, dear - est Je - sus, ho - ly child, pre - pare a
13 My heart for ve - ry joy now leaps; my voice no
14 "Glo - ry to God in high - est heav'n, who un - to



news to ev - 'ry home! Glad tid - ings of great joy I
cho - sen vir - gin mild; this new - born child of low - ly
sad and bit - ter cry, who will him - self your Sav - ior

bed, soft, un - de - filed, a qui - et cham - ber in my
long - er si - lence keeps; I too must sing with joy - ful
us the Son has giv'n." With an - gels sing in pi - ous



bring to all the world, and glad - ly sing:
birth shall be the joy of all the earth.
be and from all sin will set you free."

heart, that you and I may nev - er part.
tongue the sweet - est an - cient cra - dle - song:
mirth a glad new year to all the earth!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Music: VOM HIMMEL HOCH, attr. Martin Luther; V. Schumann, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1539

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SENDING HYMN #260

The King Shall Come



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816