

 <p>NALC North American Lutheran Church</p>	EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH		WOV - With One Voice CH - Celebration Hymnal LBW - Lutheran Book of Worship
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Interim Pastor: Pastor Paul Weeg
 Organist: Charlotte Cole
 Acolyte: Raiden Kuntz

Third Sunday in Advent
 December 17th, 2023

Prelude: “Little Gray Donkey” sung by Sheila Lundon

*O carry her safe to Bethlehem, Little Gray Donkey tonight.
 A miracle rests on your small feet, Little Gray Donkey tonight.
 All heaven is watching your mission divine, And over a stable a star waits to shine,
 While shepherds and wisemen all look for the sign, Little Gray Donkey tonight. (repeat)
 (2nd ending): Little Gray Donkey, Bless’d little donkey God’s little donkey tonight.*

GreetingLBW p. 78

Entrance Hymn: ***Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus***
*Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free.
 From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
 Israel’s Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
 Dear Desire every nation, Joy of every longing heart.*

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candles

P: We have lit the first two candles, one for Hope and one for Peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of Joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us—in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations—or our memories—push joy to the side? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share.

(The candles are lit. We join in singing verse four of *Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*):

*Oh, come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer Our spirits by your advent here;
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death’s dark shadows put to flight.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel.*

All: Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you so that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

Children’s Program: Manger Tales

**CAST: Leader: Madison Edwards, Reader: Aundraya Paulson,
 Larry Prince: Brody Trenhaile, Doug the Donkey: Griffin Steinberg,
 Clara the Cow: Penny Bartz, Sam the Sheep: Maddie Landherr,
 Cady the Camel: Nova Steinberg**



Part One: The Donkey

Song: *Good News*
What Child is This? (Congregation)
*What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?
 This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
 Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!*

Part Two: Clara the Cow

Song: *Behold That Star*
Silent Night (Congregation)
*Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright!
 Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
 Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.*

Part Three: Sam the Sheep

Song: *Children, Go Where I Send Thee*
 Song: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

Part Four: Cody the Camel

Joy to the World (Congregation)
*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King:
 Let ev’ry heart prepare him room And heav’n and nature sing,
 And heav’n and nature sing, And heav’n and heav’n and nature sing.*
 Song: *Away in a Manger*

Apostles’ Creed.....LBW p. 85

Collection of the Offering/*Noisy Offering: “Your Little Ones, Dear Lord, are we/
The Friendly Beasts”*

The Offering Response: *Create in Me*.....LBW p. 96

Prayer and Lord’s Prayer.....LBW p. 97

Benediction and Amen.....LBW p. 97

Announcements

Chimes and Postlude: “*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*” medley

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Members, friends, and visitors: welcome to our worship today! God’s blessings to you and yours as we prepare for and celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. There will not be Sunday School class today, so please join us in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments and a time of conversation. Check out the goodies being sold by our Logos Legos Youth at the cookie walk after worship- all proceeds will be split between the Campership Fund and the sponsorship of our child, Lawrence, through Compassion International.

Thank You... to Sheila Lunden for singing the prelude song this morning, which was chosen by Charlotte and fitting for our Children’s program.

Thank you, also...Will & Brittany Bartz and Marena Henkle for the work with our Christmas program, to Madison and Aundraya for narrating, to all our Sunday School teachers for their dedication, and to the children for their part to make the program special for us all.

Please pray for... *Jon Navratil* and family. Jon had a heart attack on Saturday and was taken by ambulance to a Minneapolis hospital, where he is currently sedated.

Poinsettia order forms... are located on the table outside the office.

Advent devotionals...from the NALC are free and available on the small table inside the wooden doors. Each day’s devotion is posted on the church’s Facebook page, where you can watch a video of the author reading the devotion.

Dates to remember:

This week: Wednesday, December 20th Confirmation 4:30 p.m./ AWANA Club 5:30-7 p.m.

Sunday, December 24th: Worship at 9:30 a.m. No fellowship or SS

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:00 p.m. (note earlier time)

Monday, December 25th: No Christmas Day Worship- enjoy time with family and friends!

The church building will be closed... December 25th and January 1st

Christmas offering...the first \$1500 will go to Benevolence, the remainder in General Fund.

New offering envelopes for 2024...are available for pick up today and located on a table in the front entrance.


Reminder...if using VANCO for electronic giving, please do not use past December 27th as we are discontinuing it at the end of December.

The last day to make a financial contribution... to Emmanuel and have it recorded on your 2023 financial statement will be Sunday, December 31st during worship. Any funds received after that will be recorded on your 2024 statement. Thank you!

The Annual Meeting... for Emmanuel Lutheran Church will most likely be on Sunday, January 21st with a snow date of January 28th. (*Council will have set the date after the printing of the bulletin*) All chair and financial reports will be due to the office by Jan.8th.

Offering for Sunday, December 10 th		Attendance: 91	
General: \$4,091		Building Fund: \$120	Campership Fund: \$100
Benevolence Fund: \$115	Mission:\$100	SS fund: \$9	AWANA Club: \$30

For Pastoral Care... please contact Pastor Weeg at 641-381-0675, call the church office or Sharon Hulshizer at 641-425-7775.



I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

*I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.*

*I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th'unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.*

*And in despair I bowed my head:
'There is no peace on earth,' I said,
'For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'*

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men.'*

*Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men.*

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow 1807—1882

