

Sunday, November 28, 2021
First Sunday of Advent



Welcome to Emanuel's Lutheran Church!

We eagerly await the coming of Christmas and are glad you are with us today.

PRELUDE

"The King Shall Come"

arr. Charles Callahan

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDELS

BLESSING OF THE GREENS

P: In the 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 hill; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say:

C: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that God may teach us God's ways and that we may walk in God's paths." — Isaiah 2:2-3 alt.

P: Bring branches of cedar and holly, bring evergreens and a pine tree, hang wreaths and garlands, adorn them with Chrismons and bows, illuminate them with lights and candles.

C: Make the church fragrant with the smell of living things and our holy play. In acts of hanging greens and listening to the words of prophets and seers. let us make our hearts and this space a place of inward and outward preparation for the One who comes to give us second birth.

AM: Let us pray. Good Lord, by your mercy guide our outward actions in such ways that our inward being is formed in faith, hope, and love. May the decorations we offer engage our senses during the days of Advent and enliven our praise and worship, in the name of the child of Bethlehem, our risen and coming savior, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

C: God for whom we wait, in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.

P: God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ☩ your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

ELW 254

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

ELW p. 158



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's
3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we



giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -
au - thor, O Lamb of God, your death a - lone takes
name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one
will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,
sin a - way for - ev - er. Stretch out your arms to
liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord
heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we
ev - 'ry land, and, as you reign at God's right hand, re -
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in
praise you for your glo - ry.
ceive our prayer; have mer - cy.
God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

ELW p. 159

AM: Let us pray together.

C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

L: A reading from Jeremiah.

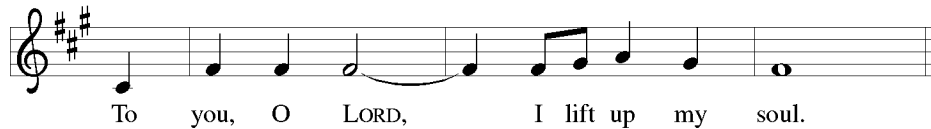
¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10

The congregation is invited to sing the bold verses and the refrain.



¹To [|] you, O LORD,
I lift [|] up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be [|] put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph [|] over me.**

³Let none who look to you be [|] put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame [|] who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your [|] ways, O LORD,
and teach [|] me your paths. R**

⁵Lead me in your [|] truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all [|] the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- [|] sion and love,
for they are from [|] everlasting. R**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and [|] my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- [|] ness,

O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and up- [|] right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners [|] in your way.**

⁹You lead the low- [|] ly in justice
and teach the low- [|] ly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast [|] love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your [|] testimonies. R**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

L: A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. ¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will

faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." ²⁹Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

"There Will Be Signs!"

Pastor John Van Deusen

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Wait for the Lord"

ELW 262

Sung three times

NICENE CREED

ELW p. 160

AM: Let us confess the faith of the church, using the words of the Nicene Creed.

C: 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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

AM: In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence. God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation.

Response to each petition: AM: Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

AM: God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen.

PEACE

ELW p.161

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

OFFERING SOLO

"When a Star is Shining"

Karen Vogel, soloist

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING INFORMATION

For online giving: <https://tinyurl.com/emanuelsgiving>

Mailing Address: Emanuel's Lutheran Church, 206 N. Travis Street Seguin, TX 78155

OFFERING PRAYER

ELW p.161

AM: Let us pray.

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. **C: Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW p.161

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

ELW p.162

SANCTUS

"Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy"

ELW 162

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



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

ELW p.162

LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p.163

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

ELW p.164

P: Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

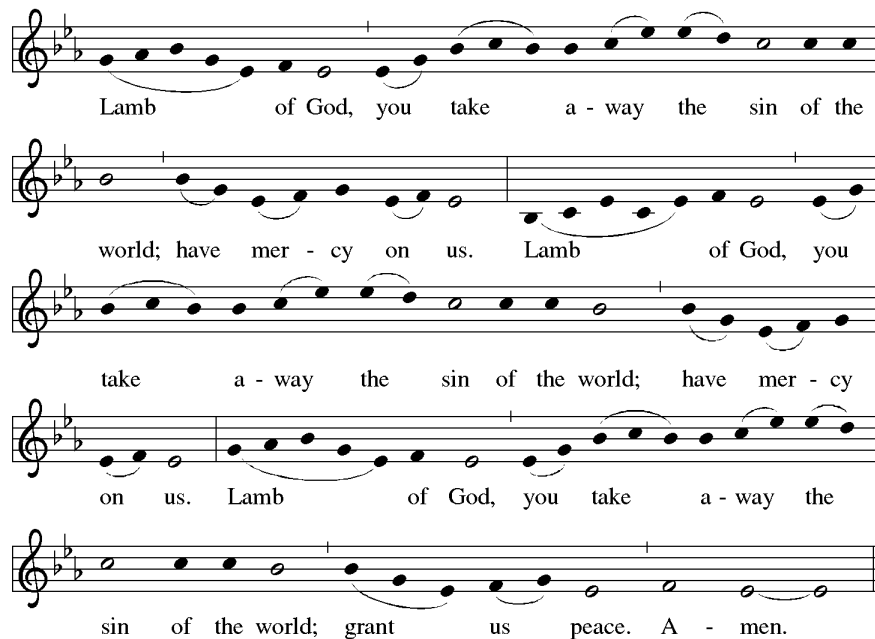
COMMUNION

ELW p.164

Communion will take place via continuous line. We welcome all baptized persons to the Lord's Table who believe Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. Children are also welcomed to be brought forward to receive a blessing. Participants will be offered a wafer and invited to eat with these words, "the body of Christ given for you." If you would like a gluten free wafer, please ask the pastor or communion assistant for one. They will present you with a plate where you may retrieve the wafer. Each will then step to the silver tray that contains glasses of white grape juice at the center and outer empty glasses. Please take an empty cup if you prefer wine. Lastly, participants will step the last assistant who will pour the wine and share these words, "the blood of Christ shed for you." Place your glass in the small silver bowl at the end of the first pew as you return to your seat. If you wish to come forward and not receive either element, cross your arms for a blessing.

COMMUNION SONG

ELW p.164



COMMUNION HYMN

"My Lord, What a Morning"

ELW 438

TABLE BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ELW p.164

AM: Let us pray.

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. **C: Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

ELW p.164

P: The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **C: Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

ELW 244

DISMISSAL

ELW p.164

P: Go in peace, Christ is near. **C: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

"As the Dark Awaits the Dawn"

Carl F. Schalk

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Setting 5 with Holy Communion. From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB139662 and [OneLicense.net](https://www.onelicense.net) License #A-727673. Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright ©1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS are placed today in memory of Jo Emily Prochnow in remembrance of her birthday on November 28, 1929 by Emily Prochnow and family.

MUSICIANS TODAY: Jubilation Singers; Karen Vogel, cantor and soloist; Chris Teague, guitar

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR TODAY, November 28, 2021: Preaching: Pastor John Van Deusen; **Presiding:** Pastor Marcus; **Assisting Minister:** Evelyn Dittmar; **Communion Assistants:** Emily Prochnow, Elizabeth Jandt, Barbara McCall, Keith Vinyard; **Acolyte:** TBD; **Reader:** Deb Haug; **Ushers:** Tim Troell, Joe Kane, Deborah Almquist, Bev Seidenschwarz; **Altar Guild:** Cathy Anderson, Elizabeth Jandt; **AV/Tech:** TBD; **Council Greeter:** Allan Bode **Hospitality:** Deborah Almquist, Darby Clardy, Carolyn Blumberg

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR SUNDAY, December 5, 2021: Preaching: Pastor Kelsie; **Presiding:** Pastor Marcus; **Assisting Minister:** Wayne Stalsworth; **Communion Assistants:** Carrie Moseley, Jeannie Hall, Earlene Jarzombek, Jeanne Palmer; **Acolyte:** TBD; **Reader:** Bill Salt; **Ushers:** Allan Bode, Bill Meier, Ron Schneider; **Altar Guild:** Elizabeth Jandt, Jeanne Palmer, Marsha Schroeder; **AV/Tech:** TBD; **Council Greeter:** Lindsay May; **Hospitality:** Nancy Meier, Bill Meier, Fran Vinyard, Keith Vinyard.

COVID-19 SAFETY UPDATE: The Congregation Council approved the following at their November meeting. These guidelines apply to all ministry groups, rentals, tenants, staff, congregants, and visitors until further notice. **Fully vaccinate people** are not required to wear a face mask or social distance on the church campus starting Sunday, November 21, 2021. **Unvaccinated people** are to wear masks inside the building and maintain social distancing. Please refer to the entire *Updated 2021 Covid-19 Return to Church Plan* on our website.

EMANUEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY WORSHIP is in-person, online via YouTube, and aired on KWED AM 1580 radio at 10:30 a.m.

2021 ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING is IN PERSON **Sunday, December 12, 2021**, immediately following the celebration of Holy Communion. This meeting will take into consideration with potential action the 2022 proposed budget and church council nominees.

COUNCIL LISTENING SESSIONS: In preparation for our Sunday, December 12th Annual Meeting three learning and discussion session are scheduled for **Sunday, November 21st, November 28th, and December 5th, at 9:00am in the Family Life Center.** Zoom links are available in the Weekly E-Newsletter. The sessions will be recorded for additional listening for those not able to be present. Discussion topics include the proposed 2022 budget, nominations for church council, and ministry programs for 2022. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

CHILDREN & YOUTH EDUCATION at 10:30 a.m.

Ignite! KIDS (First Floor): Gather in the IGNITE! KIDS room in the 1st Floor Green Classroom at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday Mornings for song and Bible stories. Age groups will transition to different rooms following the gathering time then return to families in worship for Communion. **TEACHERS NEEDED.** Sign up on our Weekly E-News!

SUNDAY ADULT CLASSES at 9:15 a.m.

The Heritage Class (307): Augsburg Fortress Quarterly Adult Bible Study led by various class members during the fall quarter. Fall study is *Celebrating God*.

Pastor Marcus' Class: (Family Life Center): resumes in December looking at the "Life and Legacy of Martin Luther: A Video Discussion."

WEEKDAY STUDIES

- **Faith Circle** (Women's Ministry Room): Third Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.
- **Joy Circle** (Women's Ministry Room): Second Thursday at 9:30 a.m.
- **Ladies Aid** (Women's Ministry Room): First Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m.

ADVENT CALENDARS AND STUDY GUIDES are available in the Narthex and office. Deepen your engagement throughout this season of Advent with these spiritual guides where you can find impactful, motivational stories and information about your the ELCA World Hunger program at work in the world.

MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP and BROWN BAG LUNCH: *The Days are Surely Coming* on Wednesdays, **December 1, 8, 15 & 22** at 12:05 p.m. in the sanctuary. Join us for a time of prayers, song, and food as we prepare for the coming of Christ. Discussion of the lesson and lunch to follow in the Women's Ministry Room.

HOLY YOGA: Join Pastor Kelsie on Wednesday evenings during Advent to center our minds and bodies in the Spirit and prepare for the birth of the Christ Child. No experience necessary. Please bring water and a mat.

December 1, 8, 15 & 22 at 6pm in the Women's Ministry Room.

BLUE SANTA GIFT WRAPPING: The Emanuel's Outreach & Service Team invites you to help spread good cheer in our community! On **November 29 from 6-7pm** we are teaming up with the Seguin Police Department to wrap gifts for Blue Santa. Meet the team at Blue Santa Headquarters, the old Bealls at 1500 E. Court St. #200. For more information contact Sarah Kennedy (281)734-3845 or sarah13kennedy@gmail.com

IT'S TAMALES TIME! Emanuel's Youth are selling frozen Delicious Tamales from San Antonio. We've got traditional pork, spicy pork, chicken, and bean & jalapeno. Each is \$12/dozen. Place your order with any youth or in the church office. **Orders due by Nov 30.** Pick up on Dec. 7 from 4-6 in the Women's Ministry Room or Dec. 12 after church.

SALVATION ARMY KETTLE CAMPAIGN: Bell Ringers are needed **Monday, Dec. 6** from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Market Entrance at Walmart. All you have to do is SMILE, RING A SMALL BELL and SAY THANK YOU. If standing is a problem for you, a chair will be provided. Call Frances Vinyard at 830-481-7726 if you can give an hour or two of your time.

CALLING ALL ELVES! The Emanuel's Pastoral Care Team could use a little extra help between now and Christmas. A few small projects are in the works for our homebound members, but we'd also like to have a team of volunteers ready to pitch in when the unexpected phone call comes requesting unforeseen needs during the holidays. Please call the office by December 1st if you can do any of the following. **BAKING ELVES:** We could use home baked cookies packaged in baggies of 6 and freezable. These are great for our home visits during the season. **ELVES WITH SLEIGHS:** Teams of traveling elves who could make a few deliveries in early December are needed. Schedules are flexible! **ASSEMBLY LINE ELVES:** Are you good at packing boxes? Hired! **CRAFTY ELVES:** If you are cranking out dozens of festive craft projects this year, let us know. **SPUR OF THE MOMENT ELVES:** We might need someone to run to the store or some such errand. Let us know if we can call you on short notice. **WONDER ELVES:** Have a skill set we haven't thought of yet? Please share! **DONOR ELVES:** Funds to make this all possible are always appreciated.

SHARE THE GOOD MOOS!!! With your donations, poinsettias will grace the sanctuary of Emanuel's this Christmas and ELCA Good Gifts will make a difference throughout the world. You may honor or remember a loved one by supporting the ELCA Good Gifts Project (any dollar amount or as indicated on the specific ornament) and/or with a poinsettia (\$12 each). Check out the adorable trees in the narthex and by the chapel. Forms and payments may be put in an envelope and placed in the offering basket, given to our advent tree attendants, or delivered to the church office. Deadline to ensure poinsettias for Christmas is **Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2021.**

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS NEEDED: Is your youth an eager servant leader? Sign them up to serve as a crucifer or acolyte for worship. Let PK know or use [SignUp Genius](#) in the Weekly E-Newsletter.

TLU CHRISTMAS VESPERS will be held in TLU's Jackson Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. on **Friday, Dec. 3; 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4; and 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 5.** Tickets will be available for reservation online and in the TLU Bookstore beginning Nov. 1. All Vespers services at TLU are free and open to the public, but tickets are required due to limited seating.

CHOIR SINGING AT THE BIG RED BARN COUNTRY CHRISTMAS on **Friday, December 10** in the Little White Church around 6:15pm. Country Christmas is a family affair with food, music, lights, and Santa. Admission is \$5/adult and \$3/child. Join us at 390 Cordova Road to support our amazing choir and have a merry time!

COUPLE'S NIGHT OUT AT THE PUTT PUB: Join us on **Friday, December 17th** at 7pm in San Marcus for a merry evening of putt-putt with friends. Cost is \$10 plus your food. Pay at the Putt Pub. Sign up in the Narthex to grab a spot. We will meet at the course and folks can leave whenever they wish. www.puttpub.com

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS from the pen of the Mission Interpreter. The season of Advent is a beautiful and mysterious time of expectation woven into our church year. It is a season of waiting. Mary waited for the birth of her child, just as her ancestors awaited the fulfillment of God's promises. We, too, wait, as we contemplate what God has done for us—and for what He is yet to do. Read Volume 29 of *Sharing the Good News* in the Weekly E-news or grab a copy in the narthex.



Join us as we celebrate Christ's birth -
good news of great joy for ALL PEOPLE!

4:00 p.m. Family Service with Holy Communion

7:00 p.m. Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

EMANUEL'S MISSION STATEMENT: "To be the church God is calling us to be by declaring God's love, serving others, and embracing all."

Emanuel's Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

206 North Travis Street | Seguin, Texas 78155

(830) 379-5046 | FAX (830) 379-7518

Church office is open Monday-Thursday from 8-5.

www.EmanuelLutheranChurch.com | info@elcseguin.org