



**Emmanuel
Lutheran**
CHURCH & SCHOOL
ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

churchoffice@elcsmail.org • (828) 252-1795
www.emmanuellutheran.info

Board of Directors: Peter Renner (Chair), David Meyer (V-Chair), Marilynne Stinson (Sec), Dirk Wilmoth, Brooke Jud, Stephen Taylor, Neil Pursley, Eugene Edwards, & Ed Lopez



**Emmanuel
Lutheran**
CHURCH & SCHOOL
ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

December 24, 2023
10:00am Service
4th Sunday in Advent

www.emmanuellutheran.info

Our Vision:

Fully Engaged, Biblically Passionate,
Driven to Serve

CALENDAR

Monday, December 25
CHRISTMAS DAY!
> 10:00am Traditional Service (sanctuary)

Tuesday, December 26
2pm Hardesty Bible Study

Wednesday, December 27
No Midweek Noon Service

Thursday, December 28
N/A

Friday, December 29
No Pickleball in December; Resumes January

Saturday, December 30
N/A

Sunday, December 31—New Year's Eve!
> 10:00am Traditional Service (sanctuary)
Food Pantry **OPEN**

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Skopak
Director of Christian Education: Alexi Lundquist
Principal: Mark Edmiston
Early Childhood Director: Christine Smith
Church Choir & Handbell Director: A.L. Brown
Praise/Worship Music/Band Director: Heather Meulenberg
Organist: Lula Meulenberg

12/24/23 Server Schedule:

<u>SERVERS</u>	<u>10 AM</u>	<u>7 PM</u>	<u>10 PM</u>
Acolytes:	Elia Y.	Mason F.	TBD
Lectors:	Wendy H.	Susan R.	David M.
Ushers:	Mike R. & Rich B.	Joel H. & Doug P.	Jim & Brooke Reaves
Communion:	Bill H. & Bradley H.	Susan R. & Jim M.	David M.
Elders:	Vaughn S.	Susan R.	Kevin L.

December Altar Guild

8:30am Dana Novak
1:00am Kelly Kanelos

December Offering Counters

The Meyer's

Tech /Sound Crew

7:00pm - Justin Pruitt and Peter Linton

Upcoming Member Celebrations!

BIRTHDAYS: 2/24 Fligel, Zachary; 12/24 Jennejahn, Marni; 12/24 Lichtenberger, Carol; 12/26 Buckner, Dylan; 12/27 Brock, Susan; 12/28 Skopak, Amy; 12/29 Clough, Richard; 12/30 Allen, Eli; 12/30 Meulenberg, Hans

This Month's Non-Agenarian (90+)! 12/21 Kostenbauder, Marqueen

ANNIVERSARIES: 12/27 Roseman, James & Barbara
12/27 Waldkoetter, Frederick & Beth

Last Service Attendance & Stats

Last Week's On-Campus Attendance
Last Sunday: 8:30am— 58 persons; 11:00am—70 persons
Last Wednesday: 12pm & 7pm— 25 persons

Last Sunday's Website & FaceBook Hits*

Website 8:30am— 22 11am— 20
Facebook: 8:30am— 63 11am— 77

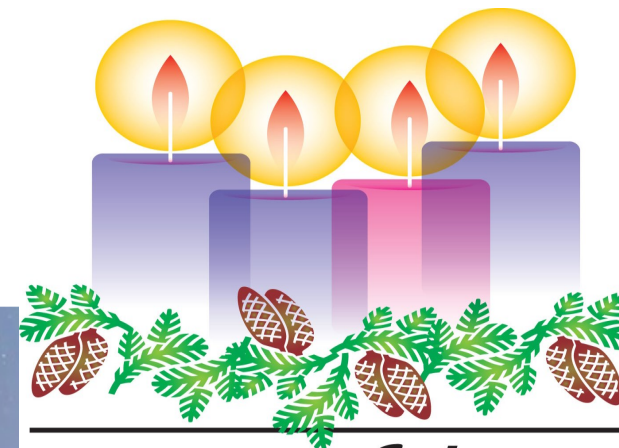
Food Pantry Grad N Go, VRQ, & Costello, Served:

Mon. 12/11 – Sun. 12/17: 408 homes; 656 individuals

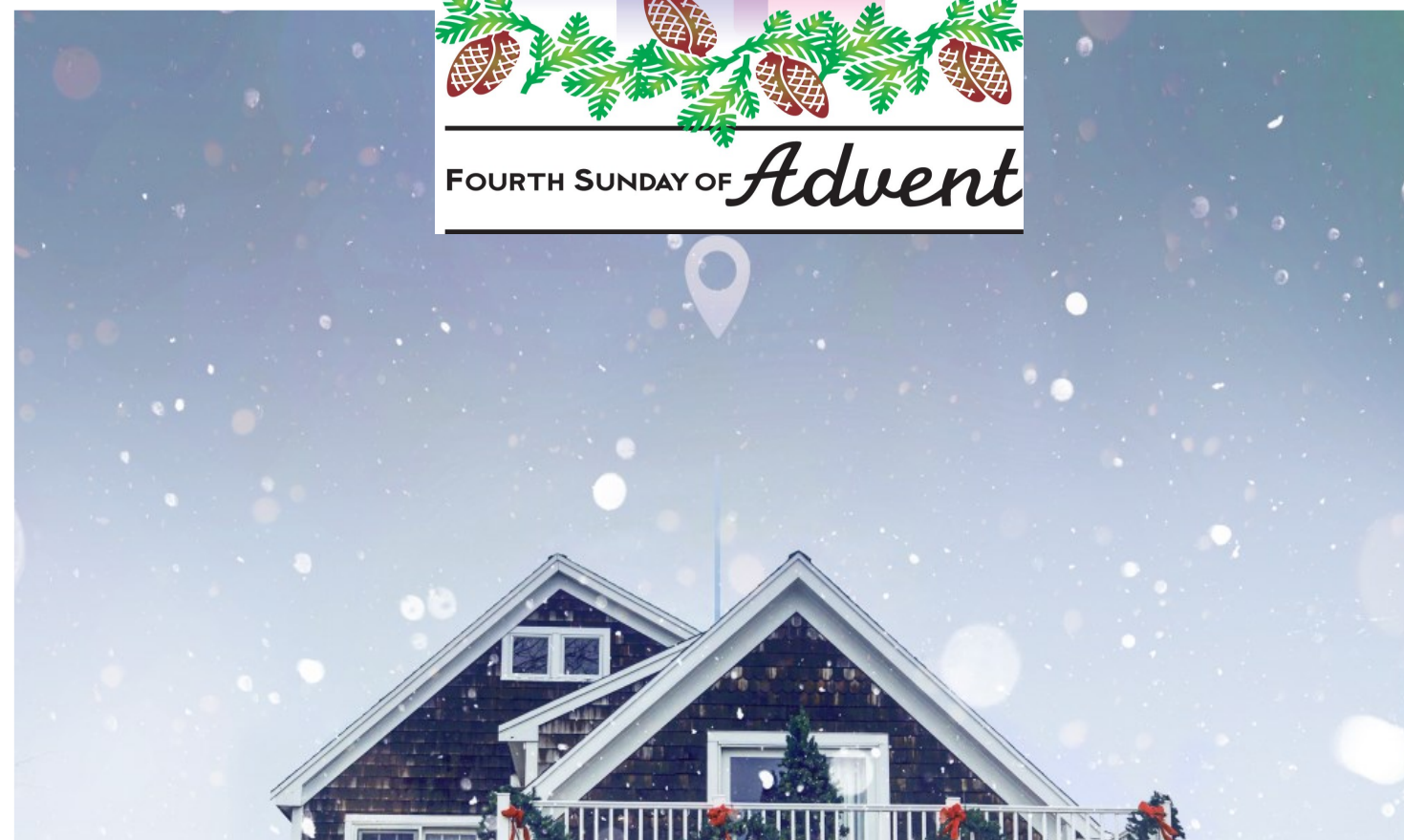
Total DEC 2023 served: 1,053 homes: 2,502 people

Last Week's Offerings

General Weekly Offering needed: \$ 12,817.31
Last week General Offering received: \$ 9,000.25
Building Funds Received: \$ —



FOURTH SUNDAY OF *Advent*



“A House is Not a Home”

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

DECEMBER 24, 2023

10 AM Traditional Service (4th Sunday in Advent)

3 PM Children & Families "STICKERBOOK" Christmas-Eve Service

7 PM Blended CANDLELIGHT Christmas-Eve Service

10 PM Traditional CANDLELIGHT Christmas-Eve Service



CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICES
7pm and 10pm JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

The poster features a dark background with several lit yellow candles at the bottom. The text is in white and yellow, with 'CANDLELIGHT' in large, outlined letters.



Christmas Eve Stickerbook Service

Dec 24th @ 3 p.m.

This service is designed for families with children up to 2nd grade.



Scan for info

THANK YOU CHURCH BODY, for your good and faithful (and caring!) servitude towards our Angel Tree mission this year! "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us." *Ephesians 3:20*



Emmanuel Lutheran Church Grab & Go Food Pantry

Next open date:

Sunday 12/31 - New Year's Eve
1 - 3pm



- > **More Sunday Server Volunteers needed!**— Please contact the Church Office if interested <
- > **New 2024 Altar Flower Sign Up sheet (Jan-April)** - posted in the Narthex now! <
- > **Offering Envelope Reminder:** Starting January 2024, offering envelopes will be mailed every other month instead of quarterly. If you receive offering envelopes, the first 2024 mailing will include envelopes for Jan. & Feb.

4th GRADE
WANTS
YOUR
USED
BOOKS!
NOW UNTIL JANUARY 5TH

Contact the Church Office for how to sign-up!

Big Lutheran School Basketball Tournament at ELS

JAN. 12-14, 2024!



Volunteers needed for Concessions & Admissions!

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 24, 2023 Fourth Sunday in Advent 10:00 AM

We Are Waiting and at Peace

AS WE GATHER

Advent is the season of waiting! Soon and very soon our waiting and planning for Christmas celebrations will come to their close, and we will rejoice in Christ's coming to save us. Such waiting and planning for Christmas can also guide us as we prepare for Christ's final advent, His ultimate coming, when He returns on the Last Day. Until that glorious Day, when all portions of God's plan for our salvation will be accomplished, we are blessed with the peace "which surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7). Such peace is an amazing gift that the Lord gave to the virgin Mary, the mother of our Lord, when she received God's Word from the angel Gabriel and then carried our salvation in her womb, delivering Jesus into the world. "Let it be to me according to your word," she said (Luke 1:38). May we say the same as we gather this day and, like Mary, receive the peace that God alone can give.

CALL TO WORSHIP Do You Hear What I Hear? arr. Snyder
Emmanuel Choir Madelyn Tyson, finger cymbals

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord" LSB 352

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 37:7a, 34a; Isaiah 30:18*

Pastor: Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for Him.
People: **Wait for the LORD and keep His way.**
Pastor: The LORD waits to be gracious to you.
People: **He exalts Himself to show mercy to you.**
Pastor: For the LORD is a God of justice;
People: **blessed are all those who wait for Him.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: So that we may experience the peace of sins forgiven, let us come before our Lord with humble hearts as we confess together:
People: **Gracious Father, we all have sinned and fallen short of Your glory. By what we have done and by what we have failed to do, we have broken Your commands and have not accomplished Your plans for our lives.**
Pastor: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, You alone give us the redemption and the restoration, the absolution and the ability to follow Your Word. Through the work of Jesus, the Word made flesh, do for us what is impossible apart from You.
People: **Forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we may follow Your plan for our lives and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
Pastor: In the mercy of our gracious Father, Jesus came into this world, journeying from the crib to the cross, from the tomb and to His throne of glory in order to secure our forgiveness according to God's plan of salvation. Receive His assurance of pardon this day as we celebrate Jesus' coming to save us. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might,

People: **that we may experience the peace of knowing all things are possible with You;**

Pastor: for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16*

¹ Now when the king lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ² the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” ³ And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you.” ⁴ But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, ⁵ “Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in? ⁶ I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷ In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’” ⁸ Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince^[b] over my people Israel. ⁹ And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.

¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me.^[a] Your throne shall be established forever.’”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *Romans 16:25–27*

²⁵ Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 1:26–38*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And

he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God."³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant^[e] of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *LSB 357 VV.1-4*

SERMON "A House is Not a Home" *2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all words, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: In Your great mercy, O Father, You sent the angel Gabriel to bring Your Word to the virgin Mary, calming her fears and filling her with Your peace.

People: **With grateful hearts, we receive Your Word again this day. Favor us with Your grace that we would trust our Prince of Peace and receive Him who comes to us in His body and blood.**

Pastor: Hear us as we pray in His name and in the words He has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" *LSB 356*

"Arise, O Christian People" *LSB 354*

POST-COMMUNION HYMN "My Soul Rejoices" *LSB 933*

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION *Romans 16:27; Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: May our gracious God strengthen your hearts, for His plan of salvation has been revealed to us in the coming of His Son, our Savior and King.

People: "To the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen."

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "Hark the Glad Sound" *LSB 349*

**A House is Not a Home
2 Samuel 7:1-11**

*d wants to give us a _____. God wants to give us what we need to make our
lives _____. That's what God did when He chose to come to us in Jesus
Christ and make His _____ among us.*

- I. Real Homes Have _____
- A. We are very careful about our _____
1. Real life is full of _____ and contradictions
 2. David one day decided that it was time to build his _____
 3. David wanted to build a brand spanking new house for _____, and all of a sudden _____ says, No! I don't want it!
 - a. God saw that David wanted a _____ to David
 - b. A _____ is not a home; it's not the real you
- B. The Example of 18th Century Russian Count Gregory _____
1. Our lives can become a facade covering the _____
 2. The _____ of building versus the heart of _____
- II. God Builds _____
- A. God's agenda is not building structures but _____
1. We invest ourselves in big dreams and plans, the noble works of our _____; but God invests Himself in lives, hearts, and _____
 2. "No David, I don't want you to build me a _____, a place to live. Instead, I want to build you a house, a _____. I want to give you a lineage, a _____
- B. This year I'm going to do _____ right!
1. God says: I am not looking for _____ perfection; I am looking for love, messy though it may be.
 2. God's agenda is _____, making a home for himself among people

- III. God Came to His Own _____
- A. The Gospel of John tells us that there was a day when God came to His own home, but His own _____ would not receive Him
1. And the Word became _____ and dwelled among us
 2. Jesus didn't come to a decorator showroom; He came to a rude _____ behind the inn in Bethlehem
- B. Your life doesn't have to be _____; in fact, it cannot be
1. Jesus wants to live here - _____ and all!
 2. Has your _____ prepared Him room?

*It does take a heave of living to make a
_____ a _____. Has your heart
prepared Him room? O come to my heart, Lord
Jesus, there is room in my heart for Thee!*





Emmanuel Lutheran Prayer List The Week of December 24, 2023

HEALTH, HEALING AND OTHER NEEDS

These are people in need of prayers this week. Take them home. "Lord Jesus we commend into Your hands the needs of people that go through challenges of many kinds. You know the joys, troubles, illnesses, and fears. We now commend them to You."

(New or updated prayers are in **BOLD**)

- ◇ **Justin Hodges** (H.Hodges) **Justin is not feeling well. Admitted to the hospital on 12/20 and being released 12/22. Prayers for swift relief soon.**
- ◇ **Diana Hempel** **As of this week, has been moved to the Laurels for rehabilitation.**
- ◇ **Aaron Farmer** (B.King's friend) **Aaron has a cancer diagnosis. Prayer are for healing for him and his family.**
- ◇ Cynthia Cline Undergoing treatments for cancer. At home recovering from treatment for an infection. Prayers are or healing and comfort.
- ◇ Dee Tilley Recovering from hysterectomy on 12/13. Prayers for comfort & healing.
- ◇ Mary Hufnagle Recovering from Covid, Prayers for God's swift healing and a vibrant recovery!
- ◇ Carol Bruckner Had Spinal Surgery on 12/7. Prayers for swift healing and surgery success!
- ◇ Rick Herman Had surgery on 12/5,. Prayers for recovery.
- ◇ Patti Reece Had spinal surgery on 11/21. Prayers for full recovery!
- ◇ Tommy Ridgeway Staph infection in knee after surgery. Prayers for healing, patience, & comfort for he & Kathy.
- ◇ Betty Ude (S.Ude's Mother) Broker her hip& now in rehab. Prayers lifted high for an outpouring of love & spiritual strength over Betty.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WITH CANCER OR LONG-TERM ILLNESSES/CONDITIONS:

- ◇ Doug Greene Lynn Case-Scott (S.Buckner's friend)
- ◇ Marilyn Saylor Richard Brinkley (S.Pruett's friend)
- ◇ Emily Nieting Ralph Ector, Snr (S.Edward's father)
- ◇ Cynthia Cline Sam Leder (V.Stinson's cousin)
- ◇ Helen Cline Muriel Williams (S.Edward's friend)
- ◇ Marjorie Locke Don Young (P/CJ Reece)
- ◇ Ken Treadway Hubert Hicks (C.Cline's friend)
- ◇ Mike Walker Ann Melious (P/H McCarthy family)
- ◇ Julia Kearley Jenny Buckner (C.Cline's neighbor)
- ◇ C.J. Reece Carol Harris (S.Ude's friend)
- ◇ Dale Wooten Robin Worley (J.Kearley's friend)
- ◇ Jan Williams (C.Waites Mother) Min Soo Lee (E.Bailey's friend)
- ◇ er) Janice (L.Giese's friend)

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WITH CANCER OR LONG-TERM ILLNESSES/CONDITIONS (cont'd.):

- Becky Presley (S.Brock's friend)
- Garret Reiser (R/Dee Gordon's family)
- Chris Alstrin (L.Schulhof's friend)
- Ralph Ector, Snr (S.Edward's father)
- Virginia Lopez (E.Lopez's mother)
- Melinda Condrey (Hufnagle's friend)
- Bob Jones (M.Stinson's uncle)
- Muriel Williams (S.Edward's friend)
- Kristen Kirby (S.Pruett's cousin)
- Antonia Simpson (L.Meulenberg's friend)
- Bob Frey (D.Wooten's friend)
- Keith Haynes (R.Rush's friend)

PRAYERS FOR OUR SEMINARIAN

- ◇ Adam Nieting & his wife Emily (Concordia Theological Seminary)

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBER BROTHERS & SISTERS

- * Dot Fastenau
- * Teenie Smathers
- * Bertha Mertens
- * Marjorie Locke
- * Jean Metcalf
- * Marjorie Yelton
- * Helen Cline
- * Tommy & Kathy Ridgeway
- * Marilyn Saylor
- * Diana & Isabelle Hempel
- * Ray & Glenda Bailey

"Be joyful always, pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants from you in your life in union with Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Dear Jesus, You are the great physician of body and soul. Come to those who are experiencing cancer and bring healing to their bodies. Use the gifts of medicine and doctors to work Your healing power. Lift their spirits and enable them to trust in You during this difficult time. Let them cast all their cares upon You for You care for them. For their families and caregivers, be their Encourager and Helper. Thank you Jesus, Amen.

Sharing God's Answers to Our Prayers!

Tommy and Kathy should be returning come sometime next week, and Tommy is clear of infection!

◇ = Emmanuel Lutheran Church Member

Emmanuel is a praying community. We believe the promise of God regarding His Word. If you would like to put someone on the prayer list, we need the following information:

- Your name
- Name of person to be added, and their relation to you (friend, relative, etc.)
- Nature of prayer concern (healing, grief, birth, thanks, etc.)

Please be sure to secure the person's permission before submitting their name— and to update us on their progress.