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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

Sunday December 25th, 2023
10am Traditional Service
Christmas Day

www.emmanuel Lutheran.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

12/25/23 Server Schedule:

SERVERS	10am
Acolytes:	TBD
Lectors:	Stephanie H.
Ushers:	Ed. D. & Scott H.
Communion:	John Jennejahn
Elders:	TBD

December Altar Guild

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

December Offering Counters

The Meyer's



“Christmas Is...” *Isaiah 52: 7-10*

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

Sun. 12/17 : 8:30am— 58 persons; 11:00am—70 persons
Wed. 12/20: 12pm & 7pm— 42 persons

Last Sunday's (12/17) Website & FaceBook Hits*

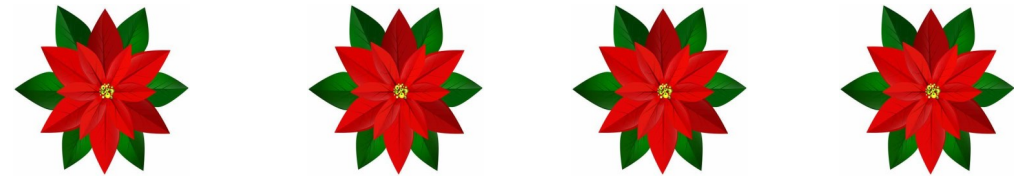
Website 8:30am— 22 11am— 20
Facebook: 8:30am— 63 11am— 77

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

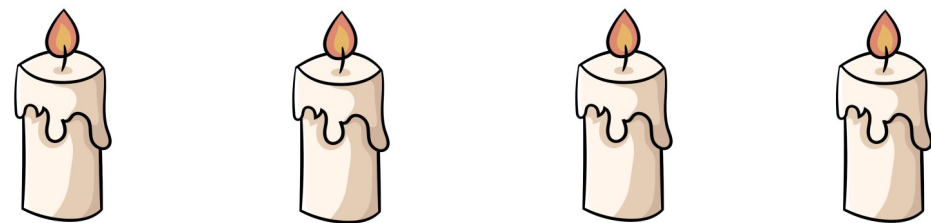
Mon. 12/11 – Sun. 12/17: 408 homes; 656 individuals
Total DEC 2023 served: 1,053 homes; 2,502 people

Last Week's Offerings

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



MERRY
Christmas



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. 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 25, 2023 CHRISTMAS DAY 10:00 AM

AS WE GATHER

What is true Christmas weather? Reading the words of well-known hymns and carols, one might conclude that cold weather and wintry precipitation were being experienced in Bethlehem when Jesus was born, especially considering such titles as “The Snow Lay on the Ground” and “See amid the Winter’s Snow.” While the weather on that first Christmas is certainly up for debate, the fact of the birth itself is not. It is a blessed fact! Hymn writer Edward Caswell exclaims, “Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem!” (LSB 373). The songs of praise from the angelic host when our Lord was born are echoed in our hymns and carols. Paul encouraged the Ephesians to be “singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart” (Ephesians 5:19). Whatever the weather may be outside, today is a day for singing to the Lord—with all your heart!

CALL TO WORSHIP Mary, Did You Know? *arr. Schrader*
Emmanuel Choir A. L. Brown, solo

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” LSB 380

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the_angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!” Refrain | Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the_incarinate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to
dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel! Refrain |
| ref Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!” | 3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of
Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Refrain |
| 2 Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin’s womb. | |

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt. | Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES *Isaiah 60:1; 9:2; 2 Corinthians 4:6*

Pastor: Arise, shine, for your light has come,
People: and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
People: those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.
Pastor: For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,”
People: has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in

the face of Jesus Christ.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us come before our loving Father, confident of His forgiveness for Jesus' sake.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

People: Almighty God, heavenly Father, we poor sinners plead guilty before You of all sins. We are by nature sinful people. Time and again, we have lived as if You did not matter and as if we mattered most. We have not honored the name of the Lord Jesus, the newborn King whose birth we celebrate this day, as we should. We have not walked in the brightness of Your light. Our thoughts and desires have been stained by sin. We are sorry for all of these our transgressions, and we ask for Your grace. It is our sincere desire to do better in our lives.

Pastor: God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"

1 Now sing we, now rejoice,
Now raise to heav'n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art!
Thou my Savior art!

2 Come from on high to me;
I cannot rise to Thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit,
O pure and holy Child;
Through Thy grace and merit,
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto Thee!
Draw me unto Thee!

3 Now through His Son doth shine
The Father's grace divine.
Death was reigning o'er us
Through sin and vanity
Till He opened for us
A bright eternity.
May we praise Him there!
May we praise Him there!

4 Oh, where shall joy be found?
Where but on heav'nly ground?
Where the angels singing
With all His saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing
In heav'nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there!
Oh, that we were there!

Text: Latin and German, 14th cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-74, alt. | Text: Public domain

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 52:7–10*

⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

⁸ The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion.

⁹ Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰ The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Hebrews 1: 1–6*

¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”? ⁶ And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God's angels worship him.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN “On Christmas Night All Christians Sing” *LSB 377*

1 On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring,
On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.

2 Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad,
Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin He set us free,
All for to gain our liberty?

3 When sin departs before His grace,
Then life and health come in its place,
When sin departs before His grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the newborn King.

4 All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night,
All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night:
“Glory to God and peace to men
Now and forevermore. Amen.”

Text: English | Text: Public domain

HOLY GOSPEL *John 1:1–14* (The Word becomes flesh on earth.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

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

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life,¹ and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

HYMN “Once in Royal David’s City” *LSB 376*

1 Once in royal David’s city
 Stood a lowly cattle shed,
 Where a mother laid her baby
 In a manger for His bed:
 Mary was that mother mild,
 Jesus Christ her little child.
2 He came down to earth from heaven,
 Who is God and Lord of all,
 And His shelter was a stable,
 And His cradle was a stall;
 With the poor and mean and lowly
 Lived on earth our Savior holy.
3 For He is our childhood’s pattern,
 Day by day like us He grew;
 He was little, weak, and helpless,
 Tears and smiles like us He knew;
 And He feels for all our sadness,
 And He shares in all our gladness.

4 And our eyes at last shall see Him,
 Through His own redeeming love;
 For that child so dear and gentle
 Is our Lord in heav’n above;
 And He leads His children on
 To the place where He is gone.
5 Not in that poor, lowly stable
 With the oxen standing by
 Shall we see Him, but in heaven,
 Set at God’s right hand on high.
 Then like stars His children, crowned,
 All in white, His praise will sound!

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–95, alt. | Text: Public domain

SERMON Christmas Is...

Isaiah 52: 7-10

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN “What Child Is This” LSB 370

- 1 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!
- 2 Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you Hail, hail the
Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!

- 3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98 | Text: Public domain

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, sovereign Lord, for in Your great mercy You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus, into our flesh to be our Savior. We thank You that He has been born as a King and yet as One who comes to serve and bring salvation. We bless You for calling us to repentance and inviting us to receive the gifts that He alone can bestow. Grant that with true thankfulness we may approach His Table of grace there to receive His body and blood and through them the priceless gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. We ask this in His saving name.

People: 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 \times 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 \times blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

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.**

PAX DOMINI

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

People: **And also with you.**

(The Congregation is invited to share the Christmas Peace with those around them)

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS “O Come, All Ye Faithful” *LSB 379*

- 1 O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the king of angels: Refrain
- ref O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!
- 2 Highest, most holy,
Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*
- 3 Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest: Refrain
- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv’n!
Word of the Father

Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786 | Text: Public domain

“Angels from the Realms of Glory” LSB 367

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation’s story,
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth. *Refrain*
ref Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light. *Refrain*

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star. *Refrain*

4 Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear. *Refrain*

5 All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One. *Refrain*

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2–4): James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.; (st. 5): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, Salisbury, alt. | Text: Public domain

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You have gathered us together at Your Table and refreshed us through this Sacrament. Keep us, we pray, in Your faith and favor that we live for You and be fit temples for the Holy Spirit. Grant that the body and blood of our blessed Lord preserve us in true faith unto life everlasting. Hear us for the sake of Jesus our Savior, who has come to earth in the flesh and now lives and reigns in glory with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

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 “Go Tell It on the Mountain” *LSB 388*

Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev’rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching
O’er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. *Refrain*
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior’s birth. *Refrain*
- 3 Down in a lonely manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That blessèd Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Text (sts. 1–3): John W. Work II, 1873–1925, alt.; (ref): African American spiritual | Text: Public domain



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.

**Christmas Is...
Isaiah 52:7-10
December 25, 2023**

Christmas is about what God _____ and _____. Christmas is about God's _____ made tangible through history. It's about how God has touched our lives with His _____. CHRISTMAS IS...

- I. For _____ Who Have _____
- A. Would you believe this is a 2,500 year old Christmas _____ from God?
1. God sent this greeting when the _____ people were in exile in Babylon in the 6th century
 2. The _____ was also for the ragtag handful of people who remained behind in Jerusalem
 3. Their mindset: Life was out of _____
 4. The Temple of Solomon had been _____ by the armies of Babylon
- B. Is this how God's _____ to Abraham would end?
1. Of _____ not! God is _____
 2. The greeting to _____ people (Isaiah 52:7)
 - a. A message of _____ news
 - b. This is why messengers have beautiful _____
- C. We have much in _____ with the Israelites
1. We have been in _____ due to our sin
 2. We don't even deserve the message of _____
 - a. We are surrounded by the _____ of Christmas but long for _____
 - b. Christmas is nothing if we don't have God's greeting of "Good _____"
- II. For People Who Need _____
- A. The God of History _____ in the world for us all
1. He made it possible for us to have _____
 2. _____ have come to us
 - a. And they are _____!
 - b. The Christmas angel proclaims: " _____ on earth"

3. God gives us a message of _____, peace, and _____ -
and He gives us the ability to receive and believe it

- B. God has _____ us
1. That is the _____ gift
 2. The Hebrew word for "deliverance" is the root of the name _____
 - a. Jesus _____
 - b. Jesus _____
- C. Christmas is about _____ people and how God supplies all our needs
1. Isaiah _____
 2. Much like _____, God reveals His arm for you
 - a. The Savior laid _____ His powerful arm by covering Himself in Flesh
 - b. In _____ God came to assure us that He has a better life in store for us

Christmas is not for a people who have _____ and need _____; Christmas is for people who have _____ and need everything. Christ is God's Good News greeting for _____ to sinners. It is the "Good News of Great joy that will be for all the people..."

