

Heart Beat

To Grow in Christ and Make Christ known

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

December 3



December 24—9:30 Service

First Reading

[2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16](#)

Psalm

[Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26](#)

Second Reading

[Romans 16:25-27](#)

Gospel

[Luke 1:26-38](#)

December 10

First Reading

[Isaiah 40:1-11](#)

Psalm

[Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13](#)

Second Reading

[2 Peter 3:8-15a](#)

Gospel

[Mark 1:1-8](#)

December 24—5:00pm Service

Candlelight service with communion



December 17

LYFE



December 31

First Reading

[Isaiah 61:10—62:3](#)

Psalm

[Psalm 148](#)

Second Reading

[Galatians 4:4-7](#)

Gospel

[Luke 2:22-40](#)



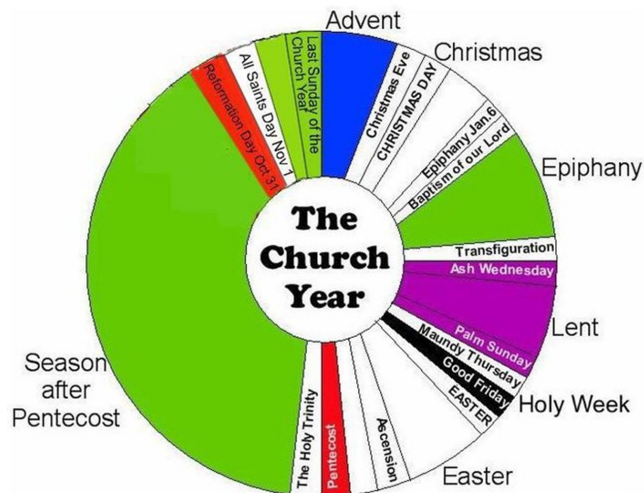
Welcome to the month of December and the new Liturgical Church Year that starts with the 1st Sunday of Advent. As we talked about in last Sunday's message, if the Church Year is new to you, let me provide you with a quick overview.. (please see picture below) The Liturgical Church Year [Year B - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America \(elca.org\)](http://elca.org) is a repeating calendar consisting of multiple seasons that, in its fullness, tell the entire story of Jesus Christ and his ministry.

The Liturgical Church Year orders our formation with Jesus Christ through Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost. In engaging with the Liturgical Church Year, we are spiritually formed by recalling and entering into God's great human, yet divine life.

This Spiritual tradition was developed in the early church and has been passed down through history in the worship of the church. It enjoys biblical foundations, historical staying power, and contemporary relevance.

The colors of the Liturgical Church Year also have special meaning reflective of the season. For more information on the colors, please go the link below for more details.

[The Meaning and Use of Liturgical Colors \(elca.org\)](http://elca.org)



As we start a new Liturgical Church Year, and prepare for a New Calendar Year, please consider how you can grow spiritually in the upcoming year living into God's two greatest commandments, to "Love God" and "Love Neighbor," as well as your baptismal promise.

God's Blessings and Merry Christmas !!

Rev. Rex Rogers

(402) 533-3816

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Nov 15, 2023 - Council Minutes

Attendees Pastor, Patty Olson, Lisa Anderson, Nate Williams, Julie Pearson, Brandon Mathistad, Vicki Johnson, and Liz Heim all present. Vicki Kuhlmann, Nadine Toft, and Dash Cameron were unable to attend.

Secretary's report was read and approved.

Pastor Rex gave his report. Many visits, phone calls and texts with members. He is also providing services on alternating weeks at Arbor Care.

Unfinished Business:

- Sound system update should be done early Dec.
- Parsonage repairs to front steps are completed.
- Nomination Committee will need at least 2 possibly 3 replacements for council.
- Christmas Eve will have 9:30am service no communion, 5pm service with communion.
- Possible updates to basement paint/lights.

New Business:

- THDCCC Community Service Nov 19th 4:30 at our church.
- Lutheran Family Services contacted Pastor with Wellness Boxes proposal as a holiday giving idea. We already planned for holiday giving so this may be a Lenten project.
- Discussed possibly reconsidering maintenance plan for Eakes Printer/Copier. Ink was \$900, so they are sending an estimate.
- Discussed replacing computer for office, no action taken at this time.

No committee reports.

Treasurer's Report:

- All bills have been paid.
- 2024 Church Budget discussed.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be Dec 20, 2023, 7:00 PM.

Liz Heim
Secretary

Bishop Scott Alan Johnson's November Reflection

*"A theologian of glory calls evil good and good evil. A theologian of the cross calls things
what they actually are.*

—Martin Luther, Heidelberg Disputation (1521)—

Beloved in Christ,

The month which has just passed has been a time of heartbreak and frustration for many of us, as we have seen violence and suffering continue in some places around the world and erupt again in others. I have been in conversation with many of you across the synod regarding the conflict in Israel/Palestine and the varying statements about that conflict from myself, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, and others. After many of these conversations, I have found myself reflecting on the myriad possibilities for interpretation that each of us brings to the table. One single sentence which may appear to have a simple, straightforward meaning can be received and understood far differently than its originator may have intended. Social media has been the latest in a long line of environments where fostering outrage is the coin of the realm, and these days, business is good. When this is the case, there may develop a fear of speaking out entirely, or a tendency to say so little that even when one does speak, nothing is actually said. This makes November 2023 a curious month to live out the charge to "Go and...be honest," but perhaps it is a crucial month to do so as well.

Assuming the mantle of honesty is a double-edged sword. Criticism is easy; constructive criticism is difficult. Distinguishing between the two as a listener can be excruciating. I'm certain many of you have experienced the trauma which can result from someone who believes they are a theologian of the cross and simply calling a thing what it actually is. Some of you, like myself, have also experienced the horror of realizing that your truth-telling has actually made a situation worse. Even when we are at our best, living out our calling to bear true witness, being truth-tellers and truth-hearers is hard work, requiring an intense vulnerability as we genuinely listen and speak to one another without defensiveness or unjustified interpretation. This sort of honesty reminds me of the lyrics of a Rich Mullins song:

*And it's hard when your soul has been stripped bare
Hard to lift your eyes toward Heaven...Lord it's hard, oh, it's hard,
You know it's hard to be like Jesus.*

It is incredibly hard to be the kind of honest God is calling us to be, but it's also incredibly important. In a time when many have what the apostle Paul described as "itching ears...accumulating for themselves teachers to suit their own desires,"[1] how can we practice speaking the truth in love, and listening for that truth in the same love? How can we offer a gracious environment in which honesty is treasured, vulnerability is protected, and all are truly welcomed? A theologian of the cross might call that sort of environment heavenly, for that's what it is.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Scott Alan Johnson

Treasurer's Report

Category	October	2023 YTD
Budget Amount	\$10,962.50	\$131,550.00
Actual Income	\$11,419.37	\$99,159.54
Actual Expenses	\$9,566.71	\$112,355.55
Variance	\$1,852.66	(\$13,196.01)

We made some gains in October and now have a total of \$ -13,196.01.

Thank you for your faithful offering !!

Thank you for your continued support !!

If you wish to mail an offering to the church, the address is:

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
210 S 12th Street
Tekamah, NE 68061

Vanco Online Giving:

[Online Giving - Emmanuel Lutheran Church \(elctekamah.com\)](http://elctekamah.com)

Julie Pearson, Treasurer

Special Funds

The following is a partial list of Special Funds for the church. If you wish to contribute to these funds, just indicate that with your offering.

- Capital Improvement
- World Mission
- Emergency Fund
- Memorial
- LYFE
- High School Youth Gathering
- Sound System / Technology

Lutheran Youth Faith Education

LYFE met only once on November 15th as there was no school on November 1st. Our lesson focused on the upcoming Christmas season. We watched a great animated film, "The Star," that provided a wonderful message on the birth of Jesus. If you have not seen this movie, I would recommend you watch it. Following the movie we had our Thanksgiving dinner.



For December we will meet on December 6th and December 13th to prepare for the Christmas program that will be on Sunday, December 17th, during the church service.

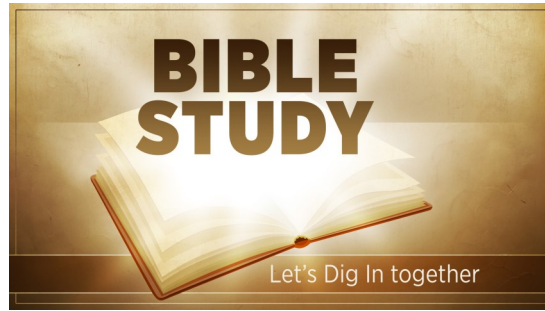


Confirmation class met on November 8th with our topic of discussion being the New Testament Book of Mark, focusing on how it is different from the other gospels. The Book of Mark was not written by an original Apostle, and does not address Jesus' early life. The Confirmands will next assist with the Hanging of the Greens service setting up on Saturday, December 2nd, and assisting in worship on Sunday, December 3rd.



The first event was a pizza, popcorn, and movie night which was held on October 30th. The youth group will next assist with the Hanging of the Greens service setting up on Saturday, December 2nd, and assisting in worship on Sunday, December 3rd.





Bible study is the practice—whether individually or within a group—of reading, interpreting, and applying Scripture to daily life.

Christians do not study the Bible simply to amass information they will not use. The point of Bible study is to know God and prepare believers to do God's work in the world. Peter tells us to be "prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Pet 3:13). Studying the Bible helps us get ready for the opportunities God gives us to tell people about him.

Our bible study has been utilizing the Max Lucado book "Life Lessons from Romans" as the source. On November 30th we wrapped up the 12 week sessions and celebrated with a pizza supper.

Look for an announcement after the first of the year as we will start the next bible study, to continue to grow in God's word and how we can apply it to our daily lives,

Poinsettias

If you would like to donate a poinsettia in memory of a family member or friend, please contact the church office with the appropriate names for the Christmas Eve bulletin.





December Birthdays

1-Dec Susan Hansen
Hugo Stark

4-Dec Lisa Anderson
Bryghem Walton

5-Dec Jarred Goodwin

7-Dec Grady Belfrage
Mona Stout

8-Dec Jamie Brummond
Delmar Chamberlain

11-Dec Wayne Hansen
Hurley Sapp

12-Dec Garrett Krause

13-Dec Elden Ahrens
Elaine Chamberlain
Diane Zimmerman

16-Dec Thatcher Zink

17-Dec Van Hansen
Pam Tonjes

18-Dec Patty Olson

12-Jan Scott Olson

21-Dec Joan Clements

21-Dec Teagan Erickson

22-Dec Amanda Walton

23-Dec Justine Wood

24-Dec Garret Gregerson
Emily Stansberry
Addison Stansberry

26-Dec Liz Heim
Vineta Knudsen

27-Dec Bailey Holiday

29-Dec Mettie Bridges
Olivia Stansberry

30-Dec Derek Haber

31-Dec Kenzington Walton



December Anniversaries

1-Dec Clements, Bernie & Joan

5-Dec Wascher, Larry And Thelma

12-Dec Brummond, Kevin & Klairse

27-Dec Rogers, Chuck & Linda



Please remember to pray for all of our family and friends who are ill, receiving treatments, or needing special care:

Harry & Diane Zimmerman, Roanna Barger, Don Bromm, Patty Hancock, Palmer Brummond, Paul Potadle, Tom Lipps, Jolene Von Seggern (Linda Schnell's daughter), Steve Wascher (Larry and Thelma's son), David Hayes (Patty Olson's brother), Laurie Kealy-Fallon (Mary Rogers' cousin), Lorraine Kealy (Mary Rogers' mother), Shirley Schutt, Midge Green, and the Crowell Home residents and staff, Boz Ahrens, Delmar Chamberlain, and the Tekamah's Arbor Care Nursing Home residents and staff – those we name out loud or silently to ourselves.

Families of: Kenny Kleen, Marsha Jensen, Sharon Adamson

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30 6:00 Bible Study	1	2
3	4	5	6 3:45—LYFE	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 3:45—LYFE 6:00 Confirmation	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 7:00 Church Council	21	22	23
24	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26	27	28	29	30
31	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2	3	4	5	6
9:30 Sunday Worship 10:30 Fellowship						
9:30 Sunday Worship Holy Communion 10:30 Fellowship						
9:30 LYFE Program 10:30 Fellowship						
9:30 Sunday Worship						
5:00 Candlelight Service Holy Communion						
9:30 Sunday Worship 10:30 Fellowship						



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210 S. 12th Street

Tekamah, NE 68061-1413

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