

Emanuel Lutheran Church, Napoleon, Ohio

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First Sunday of Christmas — December 28, 2014

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Emanuel’s mission is to witness to the good news of salvation through Christ to individuals, the community and the world through discipleship and service.

LBW–Lutheran Book of Worship WOV–With One Voice

*** Please stand if you are able**

PRELUDE *Christmas Pastorale*

Ringing of the Bell

Carol of the Bells -Bell Choir

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the Word made flesh, the Lord and giver of life.

C Amen.

P Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God's mercy.

God of peace,

C we confess that we are not at peace—with others or with ourselves. We bring to you all that tears us apart: discord in our families, violence in our world, our own conflicted hearts. In your mercy, mend us. Reconnect us to one another and to you. Let peace reign over all the earth, through the Prince of peace, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

P In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God has given us grace upon grace: forgiveness that is stronger than our sins, love that can heal every broken heart. Hear this word of God's pardon and peace: in the name of Jesus our Savior, you are free from all your sins. Rise, shine, for your light has come.

C Amen.

HYMN *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day* (ring your bells on the first and last verse!)

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

2 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.

3 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.”

4 Yet 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.”

5 Then 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!

*** 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.

*** HYMN OF PRAISE** ♪

The bells of Christmas chime once more;
The heav’nly guest is at the door.
He comes to earthly dwellings still
With new year gifts of peace, good will.

Oh, join with me, in gladness sing,
To keep our Christmas with our king,
Until our song, from loving souls,
Like rushing mighty water rolls!

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P *Let us pray.* Almighty God, you have made yourself known in your Son, Jesus, redeemer of the world. We pray that his birth as a human child will set us free from the old slavery of our sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

Special Music: *Christmastime* -Bell Choir

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10—62:3

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my
God;
for he has clothed me with the
garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of
righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a
garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her
jewels.
¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in
it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause
righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations. For

Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like
the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
²The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory; and
you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
³You shall be a crown of beauty in the
hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your
God.

A The Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 148

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;*
praise him | in the heights.

²**Praise him, all you an- | gels of his;* praise him, | all his host.**

³Praise him, | sun and moon;* praise him, all you | shining stars.

⁴**Praise him, heav- | en of heavens,*
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name | of the LORD;*
for he commanded, and they | were created.

⁶**He made them stand fast forev- | er and ever;*
he gave them a law which shall not | pass away.**

⁷Praise the LORD | from the earth,*
you sea-monsters | and all deeps;

⁸**fire and hail, | snow and fog,*
tempestuous wind, do- | ing his will;**

⁹mountains | and all hills,* fruit trees | and all cedars;

¹⁰**wild beasts | and all cattle,*
creeping things and | winged birds;**

¹¹kings of the earth | and all peoples,* princes and all rulers | of the world;

¹²**young | men and maidens,*
old and | young together.**

¹³Let them praise the name | of the LORD,*
for his name only is exalted, his splendor is over | earth and heaven.

¹⁴**He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his | loyal servants,*
the children of Israel, a people who are near him. | Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4–7

⁴But when the fullness of time had come,
God sent his Son, born of a woman, born
under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those
who were under the law, so that we might
receive adoption as children. ⁶And because
you are children, God has sent the Spirit of

his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba!
Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but
a child, and if a child then also an heir,
through God.

A The Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (ring your bells!)

Fling, you bells, your songs to heaven,
Ring your music to the sky,
Sing the everlasting Gospel, Lift your hearts to God on high;
Ring, you bells, your message clearly, Jesus is the Word made flesh.

*** GOSPEL: Luke 2:22–40**

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,

according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty- four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.

³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

P The Gospel of our Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

HYMN LBW # 71 *Angels We Have Heard on High* (ring your bells on the refrain!)

SERMON

*** HYMN LBW # 41** *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*** APOSTLES' CREED**

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

TITHES AND OFFERINGS (8:00) *Watts' Cradle Hymn* -Zach & Jason Palamara
(10:30) *Love Came Down at Christmas*

OFFERTORY (please remain seated) (*tune: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*)

Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son,

Glory to the Holy Spirit, glory to the Three-in-One.

Here we offer to you gladly all the gifts that you impart,

As we glory in your presence, giving from a grateful heart.

THE PRAYERS (*please remain seated*)

A Rejoicing in the light of Christ that shines upon us, we pray for the church, the world, and all according to their needs.

Brief silence.

A Blessed are you, O God, for the salvation revealed in the face of Christ. Reveal the glory of your loving presence in our congregation and fill our hearts with songs of your praise. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Blessed are you for the earth that brings forth new life in due season. Blessed are you for sun and moon, snow and fog, mountains and hills, creeping things and flying birds. Thank you for them all. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Blessed are you for the hope you send among the nations. Stir leaders to act with righteousness and peace, that nations will see your glory. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Blessed are you for the children in our midst. Raise up for them faithful families, mentors, guides, and teachers, and make them joyous, healthy, and kind. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Blessed are you for the saints. Especially today we remember the innocent children killed in Bethlehem after Jesus' birth. Keep us in communion with them until we receive our inheritance with them in light. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Other petitions.

P Blessed are you for coming to us in our weakness. Shower healing and hope on all for whom the future seems to hold more threat than promise, the discouraged, the weary, and the sick (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Hear the hopes and prayers of our hearts, O God, and magnify our joy at the birth of your Light among us, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen

*** LORD'S PRAYER**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C 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

*** BENEDICTION**

*** HYMN LBW # 70** *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (ring your bells on the refrain!)

POSTLUDE *Joyous Christmas Bells*

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Altar flowers

Flowers are given to the glory of God by Shirlee Mires Fejes in loving memory of Phil, Lisa, and Nelson.

This Week

No events scheduled this week. Happy New Year!

Newsletter

Be sure to pick up your copy of the new January newsletter, available at both entrances.

Serving Today

Pastor James L. Castello

Worship & Music Coordinator & Organist - Angela Tonjes

Readers - 8:00 Laura Ellis-Kruse 10:30 Bill Panning

Acolytes - 8:00 Seth Tonjes & Jessica Yunker

10:30 Abby Allison & Morgan Ashbaugh

Altar Guild - Andrea Hoffman & Marilyn Fretz

Prayer Chain Co-ordinator - Carol Castello (419-592-0847) or cjcast@yahoo.com

End-of-the-Year Reports

All boards please note: Your end-of-the-year report is due in the church office by 12/31.

Statistics

12/21 attend 84 + 223 (307) Offerings \$5,860.50 (\$345 Bldg Fd; \$15 Wrld Hngr; \$5.50 Sun Sch; \$297.50 poinsettias; \$792.50 Cap Imp) Simply Giving (12/15 - 12/21) \$390 Gen Fd; \$70 Bldg Fd

Offering Envelopes

Be sure to pick up your 2015 offering envelope boxes. They are located in the hall way by the church offices; however, please do NOT use them until January!

Volunteers needed!

We need readers and sound board operators for January! Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex, talk to Shelly Storch or Peggy Snyder, or call the church office if you are willing to assist in either of these areas.

Bell Facts

-Long ago people believed bells could frighten away evil spirits

-Most churches had a bell and would ring it as a sign that something important was happening

-In war time bells were melted down for cannons; in peace time cannons were melted for bells

-PT Barnum introduced handbell ringers to America in 1844

-Today there are hundreds of bell choirs in the United States

“Doctor, I need psychiatric help! I keep thinking I’m a bell!” “Take two aspirin and if you’re not better in the morning give me a ring.”