

**Emanuel Lutheran Church, Napoleon, Ohio**

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**First Sunday of Christmas — December 27, 2015**

*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 as you are able**

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P 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** (8:00) **LBW # 41** *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

(10:30) *Three French Carols* -Bell Choir

**\* 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.**

**\* PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen**

(10:30) **Special Music:** *Gloria* -Bell Choir

**FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26**

<sup>18</sup>Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup>His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. <sup>20</sup>Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the

LORD"; and then they would return to their home.

<sup>26</sup>Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

**A The word of the Lord.**

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 148**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;  
praise God | in the heights.

<sup>2</sup>**Praise the LORD, | all you angels; sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, | sun and moon; sing praise, all you | shining stars.

<sup>4</sup>**Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,  
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name | of the LORD, who commanded, and they | were created,

<sup>6</sup>**who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.**

<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD | from the earth,  
you sea monsters | and all deeps;  
<sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, | snow and fog, tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;**  
<sup>9</sup>mountains | and all hills, fruit trees | and all cedars;  
<sup>10</sup>**wild beasts | and all cattle,**  
**creeping things and | flying birds;**  
<sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers | of the world;  
<sup>12</sup>**young | men and maidens,**  
**old and | young together.**  
<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name | of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.  
<sup>14</sup>**The LORD has raised up strength for the people**  
**and praise for all | faithful servants,**  
**the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. | Hallelujah!**

**SECOND READING: Colossians 3:12-17**

<sup>12</sup>As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

**\* GOSPEL: Luke 2:41-52**

<sup>41</sup>Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup>When the festival was ended and they started to

<sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their

relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.

<sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." <sup>49</sup>He

said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand what he said to them.

<sup>51</sup>Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

P The Gospel of our Lord  
C **Thanks be to God.**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**HYMN LBW # 71** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

**SERMON**

**\* HYMN LBW # 44** *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

**\* 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) *Gloria* -Bell Choir  
(10:30) organ

**OFFERTORY** *(please remain seated)* 🎵 *(The First Noel)*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** *(please remain seated)*

A Rejoicing with all the faithful, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.  
*A brief silence.*

A Let us pray for evangelists and pastors; for teachers and storytellers; for seminarians and those discerning their call to ministry; and for all who proclaim the gospel in word and deed. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A For the earth and all its creatures; for those seeking refuge from damaging storms; for those who work outdoors in weather that is hard to bear, in winter cold or summer heat; and for all whose labor provides us with food, clothing, shelter, and transportation. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A For all nations and their leaders; for those who bring harmony within division; for those who challenge injustice and prejudice; and for those who are sent far from home to serve and protect others. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A For this assembly; for musicians and poets; for elders and youth; for those who ask questions and those who mentor others to deeper faith and compassionate service. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A With thanksgiving, we remember all who have died, those whose lives have helped us to see your love and compassion. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P For parents of missing children; for youth who have no safe place to call home; for travelers; for those who are anxious; for those who grieve and all who are sick *(especially)*. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Pondering the mystery of your love, we offer our prayers in the name of Christ, the Word made flesh.

**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** (8:00) *Three French Carols* -Bell Choir  
(10:30) **LBW # 39** *Joy to the World*

**POSTLUDE**

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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.

**End-of-the-Year Reports**

Attention all Boards: Annual Reports are due in the office by December 31.

**Volunteers needed**

Readers and Sound Board operators are needed for January!! Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex or talk to Peggy Snyder or Holly Mohring.

### Serving Today

Pastor James L. Castello

Worship & Music Coordinator & Organist - Angela Tonjes

Bell Choir Director - Bill Panning

Readers - 8:00 Ruth Hershberger 10:30 Bill Panning

Sound Board - 8:00 Alexandria Biederstedt 10:30 Marv Mt.Castle

Acolytes - 8:00 Tyson Reynolds & Laci Dachenhaus

10:30 Zachary Skeens & Haydon Speakes

Ushers - 8:00 Mike Yaney, Barb Hoffman, Tom Hoffman, Doug Elling

10:30 Larry Ashbaugh, Rupert Schweinhagen, Chris Peper

Altar Guild - Marilyn Fretz & Joleen Brubaker

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

### This Week

Wednesday 5:00 p.m. Soul Food

### Offering Envelopes

Have you picked up your offering envelopes for 2016? They are located in the hallway outside the church office.

### Newest YouTube Videos

Napoleon Community Band - Christmas Concert at Emanuel Lutheran Church on

December 7: <https://youtu.be/kzXVSVvf9ts>

December 13 Cantata: <https://youtu.be/PtGAIFJ3so> (searchable via "Pastor Castello")



### A special baby

Mark Lowry, who wrote the lyrics to the Christmas song "Mary, Did You Know?" says he's always been amazed by Mary's silence at the cross, as her son was being crucified. Maybe she was remembering back to that first Christmas, he wonders, when she counted Jesus' fingers and toes.

"I wonder if she realized then that those were the same fingers that had scooped out the oceans and formed the seas. I wonder if she realized those were the same feet that had walked on streets of gold and been worshiped by angels. Those little lips were the same lips that had spoken the world into existence. When Mary kissed her little baby, she wasn't just kissing another baby; she was kissing the face of God."

Mary silently watched her son die 33 years later, Lowry notes — not just for the world but also for his own mother. "The baby boy she had delivered on that first Christmas was now on a cross delivering her."

