

Emanuel Lutheran Church, Napoleon, Ohio

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Pastor James L. Castello

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Third Sunday in Advent — December 17, 2017

LBW—Lutheran Book of Worship WOV—With One Voice

*** Please stand as you are able**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ringling of the Bell

PRELUDE *Adeste Fidelis* -Ted Rohrs, sung in Latin

Advent Candle Lighting -Chelsey Saneholtz

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *(you may remain seated)*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

C Amen.

P Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.
God of all time,

C we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.

P Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

C Amen

HYMN *God Rest ye Merry Gentlemen*

God rest ye merry gentlemen; let nothing you dismay.
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day.
To save us all from Satan’s pow’r when we were gone astray.
Refrain: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav’nly Father, a blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son fo God by name. *Refrain:*

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas all other doth deface. *Refrain:*

GREETING

P From the one who was, who is, and who is to come: Grace and peace be with you all.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to
the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of
ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of
mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint
spirit.
They will be called oaks of
righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display
his glory.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former
devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their
recompense,
and I will make an everlasting
covenant with them.

⁹Their descendants shall be known among
the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the
LORD has blessed.

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.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 126 -sung by Living Spirit

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing,
¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this
is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not
despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test
everything; hold fast to what is good;
²²abstain from every form of evil. ²³May the
God of peace himself sanctify you

entirely; and may your spirit and soul and
body be kept sound and blameless at the
coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one
who calls you is faithful, and he will do
this.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION  -sing twice

*** GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28**

(please stand as you are able)

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose
name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to
testify to the light, so that all might believe
through him. ⁸He himself was not the light,
but he came to testify to the light. ¹⁹This is
the testimony given by John when the
Jews sent priests and Levites from
Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?"

²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but
confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And
they asked him, "What then? Are you
Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the
prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they
said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an
answer for those who sent us. What do you
say about yourself?" ²³He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in
the wilderness,

"Make straight the way of the Lord,"
as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴Now they had
been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked
him, "Why then are you baptizing if you
are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the
prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize
with water. Among you stands one whom
you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming
after me; I am not worthy to untie the
thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in
Bethany across the Jordan where John was
baptizing.

P The Gospel of our Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

HYMN LBW # 67 *Away in a Manger*

SERMON

HYMN LBW # 54 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* (you may remain seated)

* APOSTLES' CREED (please stand as you are able)

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 & OFFERINGS

Welcome to Our World -Living Spirit

OFFERTORY ♪ *The First Noel Doxology* (you may remain seated)

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.

THE PRAYERS (you may remain seated)

A Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people.

A brief silence.

A Guiding Lord, bless church leaders, volunteers, teachers, musicians, acolytes, deacons, pastors, seminarians, and those discerning a call to ministry. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Creating God, protect Earth's wilderness, especially where the lands are isolated and unexplored. Watch over all living creatures who remain free from human exploitation.

Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Prince of Peace, send us your Spirit of unity, so that justice may spring up among the nations. Give us the will to repair the broken systems that perpetuate injustice. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Lord of justice, strengthen and increase the ministry of food pantries, meal service deliveries, employment training programs, and advocacy for equity among all classes and races. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Eternal God, clothe us in your garments of salvation, so that together we may rejoice in your presence with the saints who have died and with those unable to be with us today. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Merciful God, comfort your children who are mourning, bind up the brokenhearted, and heal our wounds. We pray for those who are homeless or imprisoned, refugees, those who struggle with addiction or mental illness, and all in need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

* LORD'S PRAYER (please stand as you are able)

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 *Emanuel, Emanuel*

Emanuel, Emanuel, Almighty God is with us!
Emanuel, Emanuel, Almighty God is with us!
The Lord of heaven high above
Has come to us in tender love.
Emanuel, Emanuel, Almighty God is with us!

POSTLUDE *Angels We Have Heard on High*

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Thank you to today’s instrumentalists!

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Altar flowers

Flowers are given to the glory of God by the Wesche and Daman families in loving memory of Orville Daman.

Youth fundraiser

Sweet stocking stuffers are available for a freewill donation. They also make a great hostess gift, a reminder that “HE is the gift.” Proceeds benefit the teenagers attending the National Youth Gathering next summer. Look for them on the cookie table.

Christmas cookies

If you ordered cookies from the youth group they are ready for pick-up TODAY! There are 12 dozen extras available on a first-come first-serve basis. A freewill offering will gladly be accepted.

Offering Envelopes

The offering envelopes for 2018 are available in the hallway outside the church offices.

Christmas Cantata

The musicians of Emanuel will present their annual Christmas Cantata next Sunday, December 24. There will be ONE service that day at 9:00 a.m. Entitled “Emanuel God With Us!”, this cantata tells the Christmas story with music and spoken word. This is our Christmas worship to God and a gift to our Emanuel family. We invite you to join us and bring a friend. Refreshments will be served after worship.

Worship Schedule — mark your calendars!!!

Sunday, December 24

- 9:00 a.m. ONE service – Cantata
- 5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
- 10:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Monday, December 25

- 9:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday, December 31

- 9:00 a.m. ONE service BELL Sunday

Bell Sunday – December 31, one service, 9:00 a.m.

The music on this Sunday will be all about the bells, and the Bell Choir will be providing the special music. Bring your jingle bells from home to ring in the new year! There will be some extra jingle bands at both doors that day.

Flowers

There are openings for flowers on **January 7th** and **28th**. If you would like to have flowers on either of these days, please sign up now!

Devotionals

Portals of Prayer Christ In Our Home are available at both entrances. There are both regular and large print editions.

Volunteers needed

Sound board operators are needed for:

December 24 – 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex, talk to Betty Mowery or Holly Mohring, or call the office as soon as possible!

Serving Today

Pastor James L. Castello
Worship & Music Coordinator & Organist - Angela Tonjes
Bell Choir Director - Bill Panning
Lay Assistant - Laura Ellis Kruse
Sound Board -
Acolytes - Rudi Dachenhaus & Alyssa Kruse
Altar Guild - Lauren Helberg & Maxine Eickhoff
Prayer Chain Co-ordinator - Carol Castello (419-592-0847) or cjcast@yahoo.com

Calendars

2018 calendars are available at both entrances. Take several!

This Week

Monday	9:30 a.m.	Angel Tree deliveries
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday	3:15 p.m.	After School Club
	5:00 p.m.	Soul Food
	5:30 p.m.	Emanubells
	6:30 p.m.	Choir

Statistics

12/10 Attendance 86+99 (185) communed (90) Tithes and Offerings \$4,678 (\$75 Bldg Fd; \$5 Wrld Hngr; \$50 Good Sam Fd; \$95 mem-Carolyn Lammy)
Simply Giving 12/04-12/10: \$130 Gen Fd; \$45 Bldg Fd; \$25 Good Sam; \$25 Wrld Hngr

Activity Bags

Activity/Busy/Church bags are available on the coat trees at each entryway and in the balcony. Please feel free to take one for your child to enjoy during the worship service, and then return it to the tree afterward. All are welcome to our service, as “it is better to have a child wiggle in church than to wiggle out of it.”

Annual Reports

All committees and boards are asked to have their annual reports in to the church office by the end of December. Thank you!

Christmas Dinner

There will again be a free community dinner here at Emanuel at 12 noon on Christmas Day. Sponsored and served by Cheryl Kerwin and friends from the church out on Route 110, everyone is welcome to come and eat, and anyone is welcome to come and help!

Overcoming despair

Christmas can be a difficult time for people who are hurting or grieving. In the 1860s, poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow had reason to despair: America was at war with itself, his son was severely wounded in battle and his wife died in a fire. The first Christmas after his wife's death, Longfellow wrote, “How inexpressibly sad are all holidays.”

Three years later, on Christmas Day 1864, Longfellow penned a poem that later became the song “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day.” The lyrics move from despair to hope — and, thanks to Jesus, so can we.

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!

Then 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!



