

## 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** *Away in a Manger* -Jackson Delaney  
*Do You Hear What I Hear?* -catechism bells

**Advent Candle Lighting** -Loralee Jones & Rick Ford

♪ Light a candle bright and tall  
For the Joy this season brings.  
Joy like fountains brimming full,  
Through our world now let it ring!  
Shine within our hearts today.  
Come, O Joy, to us we pray.

#### Prayers

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**

*Angels We Have Heard on High* -Rainbow Ringers

#### Poems

#### Scene 1

**Offering** *Caroling Medley* -catechism bells

**Scene 2**

*O Holy Night* -Rainbow Ringers

**Scene 3**

*Still, Still, Still* -Rainbow Ringers

**Scene 4**

*Away in a Manger* -Sunday School children

**Postlude** *Joy to the World*

Parents, please pick up your children in the basement.

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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 7<sup>th</sup>** and **28<sup>th</sup>**. 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

Acolytes - Preston Speaks & Cameron Burken

Ushers - Bob Ivancso, Bill Panning, Denny Ehlers, Ken Lange

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!



