

Emanuel Lutheran Church, Napoleon, Ohio

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Pastor James L. Castello

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First Sunday of Christmas — December 31, 2017

LBW—Lutheran Book of Worship WOV—With One Voice

*** Please stand as you are able**

9:00 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ringling of the Bell

PRELUDE Intermezzo on *Carol of the Bells*

(Intermezzo: a short piece of music for a solo instrument)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *(you may remain seated)*

P Blessed be the Holy One of Israel, the Word made flesh, the Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Gathered in the name of Jesus, let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.
Gracious God,

C **in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in darkness. We confess our failure to welcome this light. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the light of your grace, and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.**

P I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord. Your sins are forgiven in Jesus' name.

C **Amen**

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

(Printed on next page)

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 Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

Special Music: *Adeste Fidelis*

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.

^{62:1}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

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;
praise God | in the heights.

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

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

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

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

⁶**who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that 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 God's will;**

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

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

¹¹sovereigns 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,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.

¹⁴**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: 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** (please stand as you are able)

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] 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 # 70 *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (remain seated) (ring your bells on the refrain!)

*** 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

Carousel -Bell Choir

OFFERTORY 🎵 (you may remain seated)

Infant holy, infant lowly, For his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing, Bells are ringing, tidings bringing;
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

THE PRAYERS (you may remain seated)

A Drawn near to God as children and heirs of Christ's promise, we pray for all people of God, for our nation and our world, and for those in need.

A brief silence.

A For the faith communities of this town and for faith communities throughout the world. Help us to see ourselves in our neighbors, especially those who differ from us, and draw us together in common service to those who are hungry, poor, and oppressed. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A For the well-being of the earth as we begin another year entrusted with its care. Give us lively imaginations to see ways to conserve its limited resources, harness its renewable energies, and conform ourselves to its natural goodness. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A For peace among nations, for peace in our homes, and for peace in our hearts. Urge us to cry out at injustice and inequality among your people until vindication comes and righteousness prevails. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A For those who cannot see, for those who cannot hear, for those who have varied use of their limbs, and for those able to exercise all the senses. Help us to appreciate the fullness of God's gift of life in our varied abilities, and to celebrate the diversity that reveals a more complete image of the one who makes us all family. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A We give thanks for those who have gone before us in this year and now rest in you. Led by Mary and Joseph, Anna and Simeon, let us live in your praise until the day we depart in your peace. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P For those who wait in the shadow of death, for those who are ill, for those who struggle to see the future, and for all who lack even their basic needs. Transform our love toward them with the vision of eyes that have seen the salvation of God. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into your outstretched arms, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world.

C Amen

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

God our Father, God of fame, hallow'd be your saving name;
Everywhere your kingdom come, far away and here at home;
May we to your will comply as the angels do on high;
Grant each day our daily bread, thankful that by you we're fed,
Thankful that our care you've planned; all we have is from your hand.

Grant that we, our sins forgiv'n, follow in the way of heav'n:
May we, even at our worst, show forgiveness shown us first.
Guard us from the tempting devil, and deliver us from evil.
Yours the kingdom, so sing we, pow'r and glory ever be
Unto you while ages run. Yea, amen! So be it done!

*** BENEDICTION**

HYMN *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* -Bell Choir only (Ring your bells when this song is over!)

POSTLUDE *Caroling, Caroling*

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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.
- there are hundreds of bell choirs in the United States today.
- in the U.S., ensembles are known as handbell choirs. In the UK, they are known as a handbell team.
- bells range in diameter from 2" to 15". The C8 bell weighs 8 oz. and the larger bells weigh over 15 lbs.
- handbell ringers wear gloves because hand oils tarnish the brass.
- most songs are 4 minutes or less and used mostly in church settings. *Bohemian Rhapsody* by Queen is slightly over 8 minutes (no, don't bother asking your worship coordinator if you can play it at the contemporary worship service. Just don't.)

"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."

When Bells Ring

Jingle bells: let us know someone is coming.

Doorbells: announce that someone is here.

Church bells: ring loud and invite us to hear the good news that Jesus is our Savior.

Hand bells: rung in public places by people who collect money for the needy.

When you hear bells this season, lift up your head and remember, "Here comes Jesus!"

...from the Bell Choir...

The Bell Choir would like to help everyone bring in the new year with smiles on your faces and joy in your hearts. The first “fun” song we will play today is called “Carousel”. If you close your eyes while we play this song, see if you can imagine the carousel as the ride starts, begins to pick up speed, and eventually comes to a stop. There are many fun sounds during this song. As we end the service with our last song, see if this performance might look somehow familiar to you. We all hope you had a very blessed Christmas and enjoy a very joyous new year!

Altar flowers

Flowers are given to the glory of God by Brian & Dea Plummer in honor of their children, Hannah, Jacob, Ethan, and Carey.

Funeral

Please keep the family of Greg Wesche in your prayers. Greg passed away on December 22; his funeral was held on Thursday.

Offering Envelopes

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

Volunteers needed

Needed for January: *Readers* for 10:30 on January 14, 21, 28; *Sound board* for 10:30 on January 21, 28; *Ushers* for all services!!! Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex as soon as possible!

Serving Today

Pastor James L. Castello
Worship & Music Coordinator & Organist - Angela Tonjes
Bell Choir Director - Bill Panning
Lay Assistant - Alexandra Reynolds
Sound Board - Holly Mohring
Acolytes - Preston Speaks & Cameron Burken
Ushers -
Altar Guild - Lauren Helberg & Maxine Eickhoff
Prayer Chain Co-ordinator - Carol Castello (419-592-0847) or cjcast@yahoo.com

This Week

Monday		Office Closed
Wednesday	5:00 p.m.	Soul Food
	5:30 p.m.	Emanubells
	6:30 p.m.	7 th grade
	6:30 p.m.	Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Catechism bells
	7:30 p.m.	Living spirit
	8:00 p.m.	8 th grade
Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study
Saturday	1-5 p.m.	private party

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.”

Devotionals

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

Statistics

12/24 9 a.m. (200) 5 p.m. (99) communed (77) 10:30 p.m. (111) communed (98)
12/25 (52) communed (49) Simply Giving 12/18-12/24: \$105 Gen Fd; \$20 Bldg Fd

End-of-year Reports — NOW DUE!!!! Thank you!

