

# Emanuel Lutheran Church, Napoleon, Ohio

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## Christmas in July † July 23, 2023

P - Pastor ♦ C - Congregation ♦ A - Assisting Minister

**LBW**-Lutheran Book of Worship-Green ♦ **WOV**-With One Voice-Blue

**ELW**-Evangelical Lutheran Worship-Red

**\* Please stand as you are able**

**PRELUDE**    *The Three Kings* by Gordon Young

### WELCOME

**SPECIAL MUSIC**    *Away in a Manger* arr. Mindy Meyers    -Peggy Snyder, violin

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P    Amidst the darkness of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome the light of God's forgiveness.

P    Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

**C    Forgive our lack of faith and trust in your will.**

P    Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

**C    Forgive our neglect of the poor.**

P    The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

**C    Forgive our selfishness and complacency.**

P    The magi followed the star to find the Savior of the nations.

**C    Forgive our reluctance to seek you with all our hearts.**

P    The angel said, "You shall call his name Jesus for he will save his people from their sins." With great joy, I announce to you the entire forgiveness of all you sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C    Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN ELW # 283** - Red    *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

### 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    Almighty God, you made that holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C    Amen**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7**

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

**SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14**

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup> He it is

who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

**\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**  *(please stand as you are able)*

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

**\* GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup> In that region there were

shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” <sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to

Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”<sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.<sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;<sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were

amazed at what the shepherds told them.<sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.<sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **HYMN SING AND REFLECTION**

*Congregation chooses 7 hymns from the red hymnal page numbers 269 to 300*

**\* 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.**

**PRAYERS** *(you may be seated)*

**A** Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

**A** O God, you call your church to announce the gospel of reconciliation and truth both near and far. Guide your church as it seeks your wisdom and shares it, trusting your Spirit bearing witness among us. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**A** You brought forth all creation and called it good. Direct policymakers to protect lands and seas. Bring rain to sun-parched fields and protect areas impacted by natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**A** You desire peace among nations and peoples. Guard our neighborhoods from hatred, watch over police officers and firefighters, and teach us to advocate for those who live in fear. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**A** You are gracious and merciful, comforting those who suffer any affliction especially those on our hearts and minds. Sustain your people living with HIV/ AIDS, provide shelter for all who are unhoused, and release any who are unjustly imprisoned. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**A** You name each of us as your children. Guide our hospitality ministry to welcome all, our education ministry to equip us for faithful living, and our social ministry to enact the gospel in our community. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**A** You send faithful people to proclaim freedom from bondage and to renew your church. Encourage us by the witness of the faithful departed, so that we live into that same hope. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

P Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

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**

P May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,  
the obedience of Joseph,  
the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the determination of the magi,  
and the peace of the Christ child.

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

### **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**SENDING HYMN ELW # 267** - Red *Joy to the World*

**POSTLUDE** *Fantasia on "Adeste Fidelis"* by John F. Wade arr. Lani Smith

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### **Altar Flowers**

Flowers are given to the glory of God by Maxine Eickhoff in loving memory of Mom & Dad.

**This week please hold in prayer:** Mary Lou Zwiebel, Paul Long, Ed & Betty Panning, Garrick Walker, Ronald Hoops brother of Mary Lou Streicher, Lee Weirauch, Bob Lulfs, Nancy & Ken Lange, Terry Lacy, Matt Von Seggern, Dezarea Harshman, for all those on our hearts and minds, and for peace in our nation and the whole world.

**Thursday Bible Study:** Please join us weekly on Thursday at 9:30am in the adult Sunday school room.

### **Summer Coffee Hour**

Thank you to our coffee hour hosts this morning, Brass Ensemble. Please plan to stay after worship as we gather for some refreshments and fellowship downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Next week's hosts: Adult Sunday School.

**Year of Gratitude:** This week we give thanks for our amazing musician Vanessa! From choir and bell choir to brass ensemble and trios, to planning and practicing music for worship, to teaching students of all ages piano, and more, Vanessa thrives. She is excellent at making sure the pieces of worship fit well together and that all worship points to Jesus. We are so incredibly thankful to have her as part of the team!

**Caring Corner for July and August** - we would like to highlight the LWR kits we annually put together. Lutheran World Relief collects these kits and sends them to communities/countries that need them. Fabric kits supply fabric and supplies needed for individuals to sew clothing for themselves and others. Personal care kits provide items needed for personal hygiene. School kits provide needed school supplies.

**Take Me Out to the Ballgame!**

Emanuel will join folks from around NW Ohio at the Toledo Mudhens game on Sunday August 20th for Faith and Family day. Pregame activities begin at 2pm with presentations from the team chaplain, some of the players, and a faith band. First pitch is at 4pm. Tickets are \$15 per person and for an additional \$8 you can get a hotdog, chips, and a drink. We are sitting on the 3rd base line. Please sign up and pay in the office by August 1st. Play ball!

**This Week**

Monday, July 24	7pm	Finding Our Way OD Support Group
Wednesday, July 26	1:30-3pm	Open Office Hours at Pocket Park or Coffee Shop
	4pm	Christmas Planning in July
Thursday, July 27	9:30am	Bible Study
	7pm	Worship
Sunday, July 30	9am	Worship in person or online MV Service Learning Camp

**Interested in joining a musical ensemble?**

Brass ensemble starts on August 23rd at 6pm and the choir starts on August 23rd at 7pm.