

To activate the prayer chain, please contact Nalani (608-387-2311)

Office Hours: Wednesday, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Additional Contact Information:

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St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Wilton, WI

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2019

**Inviting People to  
Journey with Christ's Family  
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

*Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.*

\*The Sunday Assembly, Lorraine S. Brugh, Gordon W. Lathrop, Augsburg Fortress, 2008  
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### Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God\**

*Welcome and Announcements*

*Prelude.....A time for silent reflection*

*Advent Wreath Lighting*

*"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" vs. 1-4 ELW #240*

### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
the parent who rouses us from slumber,  
the shepherd who gathers us on the holy mountain,  
the deliverer who sets us free.

**Amen.**

Let us come before the living God in confession.  
*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation,  
**we open our hearts to you, O God.**  
**Search us and know us.**  
**Reveal all that we keep inside.**  
**To you, O God, we confess our sins,**  
**known and unknown.**  
**Forgive us, renew us,**  
**and lead us in your ways of justice and peace.**  
**Make us reflections of the radiant love**  
**of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Beloved children of the Most High,  
you are gathered before the righteous judge  
who has mercy on all.  
Splash exuberantly in the waters of baptism,  
where sin is washed away in the river of life.  
Dwell peacefully in the loving arms  
of the one who nurtures all creation.  
Go forth boldly in the assurance that your sins are forgiven  
in the name of the one who is coming and is already here,  
☐ Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

\*Gathering Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

**ELW #257**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

**\*KYRIE**

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above,  
and for our salvation,  
Let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world,  
for the well-being of the Church of God,  
and for the unity of all,

Arndt & Ballwahn parents,  
and brothers who have left us

Larry & Arlis Ballwahn

Earl & Anita Brandenburg

Dixie and Leonard Arndt

Loved Ones

George & Carolyn Dougherty

Karen Gruen

Bob Gruen Family

Elwin Steinke

Anita Steinke Family

Leonard & Galetta Brandau,  
Scott Buchholz, William Bever

Rick Brueggen Family

Everett Reineke, George &  
Lottie Van Hecker

Lois Reineke

Lorayne Denter

Lila Speicher

Mildred Radke, Josephine Krause,  
Carol Osteboe, Lorayne Denter

Smith-Nelson Funeral Home

**In Honor of**

**BY**

Eaton Family

Julitta Arndt

You may now contact Pastor Cathleen on a landline, #608-435-0097.  
This telephone itself is a "Caption Call". This means a written display of  
what you are saying is displayed for Pastor to read, and continue the  
conversation. Be patient, it takes a few seconds for your side of the  
conversation to be displayed. You may also leave a voice mail  
message.

In case of emergency, contact Pastor Cathleen, via text, 608-865-1074,  
Justin Arndt (608-435-6336) (414-587-6642) or Nalani Bever,

Sun., Dec. 29

No Sunday School  
Service of Scripture & Carols 10:15 AM

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Thank you to all who participated in the Good Gifts donations. We were able to make several purchases this past Wednesday during a gift match, and have placed ornaments on the tree to reflect the “double” gifts. The children completed their donations this morning during Sunday School.

Grace to You and Peace, a yearlong devotional journey through the

**There will be a Special Congregational Meeting after the Church Service on January 5, 2020. The purpose of the meeting is to ask for your feedback and suggestions regarding all aspects of the Church’s operation. For those unable to attend the January 5 meeting, individual conferences will be scheduled soon. If anyone in attendance wishes an individual conference, that too will be arranged.**

Epistles by Norma Cook Everist has been provided through Wartburg Seminary. We have sent the devotional through e-mail to our members. A hard copy of January is available in the narthex.

**Poinsettias Memorials**

**IN MEMORY OF**

**BY**

Ed Sr., Shirley, Ron Ross

Ross Family

Marie Liefke

Julitta Arndt

Let us pray to the Lord.  
**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house,  
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
**C: Amen.**

\*Canticle of Praise “This is the Feast” ELW p.149

\*Prayer of the Day

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Word**  
*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.\**

**FIRST READING**

*An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!*

**Isaiah 7:10-16**

<sup>10</sup>The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask,

and I will not put the Lord to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

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

### Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

<sup>2</sup>**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>4</sup>**O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

<sup>6</sup>**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>17</sup>**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

<sup>18</sup>And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

<sup>19</sup>**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

### SECOND READING

*Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's open-*

**Amen.**

Benediction

Sending Hymn

“Joy to the World”

**ELW #267**

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.\*

**IN OUR  
PRAY-  
ERS**

Katie Wallace, Florence Krause, Judy Bever, Tammy Roscovious,  
Pam Eaton, Dakota Holiday, Eileen Arndt, Carla Von Haden, Addison  
Arndt, Jeff Sullivan

### IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Todd Nofsinger, Dylan Dougherty, Robert Cale,  
Seth Tormoen

### THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God's People, Pastor: Cathleen Morris, Organist: Nalani  
Bever, Greeters: Louise Buchholz and Lila Speicher, Altar: Lori and  
Joel Arndt, Reader: Larry Ballwahn, Communion Server: Joel Arndt,  
Ushers: Tim Deichler, Bart Arndt, Justin Arndt, John Ornes

### CALENDAR FOR December 22 - December 29

Mon., Dec. 23 PM	Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal	5:00
Tues., Dec. 24 PM	Christmas Eve Service	6:00
Wed., Dec. 25	Christmas Day	No Ser- vice
Fri., Dec. 27	Jan/Feb Newsletter Deadline	

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

ELW p.153

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Words of Institution

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

P: God fills the hungry with good things.  
Come with joy to the feast.

Distribution

*Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ's table.*

“Lamb of God”

ELW p. 154

### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**God of abundance,  
we give you thanks that in this holy meal  
you have invited us to feast with you and one another.  
May the taste of your love remain with us,  
and may our words and our work in your name  
invite others into your bountiful grace.  
Send us from your table to proclaim your presence,  
even as we await the glorious coming of Christ our Savior.**

*ing he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.*

### **Romans 1:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup>the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup>including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:  
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

\*Gospel Acclamation

ELW p.151

### **GOSPEL READING**

*Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."*

### **The gospel according to Matthew 1:18-25**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived

together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife,<sup>5</sup>

for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”<sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

\*Hymn “My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness” **ELW #251**

### **Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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 OF INTERCESSION** (Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**)

#### **\*PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us show signs of Christ’s peace.

#### **Meal**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ\*

### **OFFERING**

\*Offertory Hymn “We Are An Offering”

**ELW #692**

\*Offertory Prayer

**Giver of every good thing,  
we set before you the gifts that you have already given  
to sustain our lives and to share with others.  
Help us to be good stewards of the earth and all that is in it,  
and let our lives be a testimony to the abundant feast  
you prepare for all who hunger.  
Amen.**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to our Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....