



ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

OUR MISSION:

TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

TO MAKE DISCIPLES

TO EMBODY GOD'S LOVE

Introduction

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.

Thanks be to God!



DECEMBER 21, 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP 9:00AM

BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00AM

YOUTUBE LIVE STREAM 10:00 AM



Assisting in Worship Today

Preaching: Pastor Quentin Surace

Organist: Emily Schuttenberg

Acolyte:

Lay Reader: Linda Hewitt

Greeters: Cheryl Brown, Marcheta Campbell

Ushers: Deb Crawford

Assisting Minister: Linda Hewitt

Crucifer:

Communion Assistants:

Council Duties: Jonathan Ray, Susan Williams

Attendance last Sunday, December 14th was **103** (includes YouTube Live viewers).

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00 AM

DECEMBER 21, 2025

**Please stand as able*

P: Pastor; A: Assisting Minister; C: Congregation

GATHERING

Setting 2 ELW

GATHERING MUSIC (9:45AM)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (9:55AM)

PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES BY ACOLYTE

Instrumental

INVOCATION AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE BY PASTOR QUENTIN

HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

V. 1-4

ELW #257

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure. C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.....Long-expected God,

C: we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

P: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ✝ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins. C: Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

ELW # 254

***KYRIE** (Setting 2) Pastor sings the verses, assembly sings the refrain.

ELW p.120-121

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: 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. C: Amen.

WORD

LESSONS

Isaiah 7:10-16, Romans 1:1-7

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

"Alleluia"

ELW p.124

GOSPEL READING

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. C: Glory to you, O Lord

Matthew 1:18-25

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Quentin Surace

SERMON

Pastor Quentin Surace

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

"Savior for the Nations, Come"

ELW #263

***APOSTLES' CREED**

ELW p.127

***PRAYERS BY ASSISTING MINISTER**

A: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.....God of grace, C: hear our prayer.

***SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE**

MEAL

THE OFFERING

Instrumental Special

OFFERING PRESENTATION/RESPONSE “Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow”

ELW #885

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heav’nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. **C: 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 the Lord our God.

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

***PROPER PREFACE FOR ADVENT**

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (sung)**

ELW p.130

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow’r and might, heav’n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION FOR HOLY COMMUNION: II**

ELW p.134

***THE LORD’S PRAYER** P: Lord, teach us to pray . . .

DISTRIBUTION

We welcome all who believe Jesus is Lord to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. An usher will guide you to the center aisle to receive communion. You may return to your seat by the outer aisle. If you are not able to come forward, please notify an usher by raising your hand and communion will be brought to you. After communing all who wish may go to the altar for prayer. You may also come forward for a blessing.

AGNUS DEI (LAMB OF GOD)

ELW p.135

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“Once in Royal David’s City”

ELW #269

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION BY ASSISTING MINISTER**

A: God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **C: Amen.**

SENDING

***BLESSING** P: May God who comes among us, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. Together let us proclaim our mission:
C: To proclaim the Gospel. To make disciples. To embody God’s love. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

“Joy To The World”

vs. 1 & 4

ELW #267

***Dismissal:** P: Go in peace. Keep awake. **C: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Instrumental

Isaiah 7:10-16

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? 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. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. 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.”

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 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, 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, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, 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.

Matthew 1:18-25

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 pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. 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, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

Church Staff

Pastor: Pastor Quentin F. Surace
Music Director: Emily Schuttenberg
Family Ministries Director: Wendy Hefner
Finance Secretary: Deanna Butcher
2025 Church Council President: Terry Hefner

Custodian: Larry Smyre/Mark Oakley
Secretary: Patricia Hoke
Preschool Co-Director: Randyl Abernathy
Preschool Co-Director: Maria Wright