

**GOOD AFTERNOON!**  
**WHAT'S HAPPENING (December 21)!**  
**Merry Christmas!**



***This weekend there will be NO 4:00 Saturday Service, and there will be NO Morning Service on Christmas Eve.***

**Sunday, Christmas Eve Services:**

- 3:45 p.m. Congregational Carols
- 4:00 p.m. Family Worship with Holy Communion and Children's Program
- 6:45 p.m. Congregational Carols
- 7:00 p.m. Festival Worship with Holy Communion

**On Monday, December 25, Christmas Day** there will be a single worship service with Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

**There will be NO 4:00 Saturday Service on December 30**

**On Sunday, December 31, New Year's Eve** there will be two worship services. One at 10:00 am, featuring the Queen City Jazz Band! Sing along to favorites like "Jesus Lifted Me" and "Amen!" Come early to hear additional songs before the service begins. More details at <https://alutheran.org> or <https://www.queencityjazzband.com/>

At 3:00 pm on New Year's Eve there will be another, more traditional worship service (without the band), followed by dinner catered by Romano's at about 4:00 pm. Please sign up in the narthex to attend the meal. Also, if you can help serve or clean up, there is a sign-up for that as well. This is a wonderful opportunity to conclude the year in worship and fellowship!

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**2023 is quickly coming to an end!** To be sure your donation qualifies for 2023 tax deduction, the donation must be made by the last Sunday in December, December 31<sup>st</sup>! If you are giving via worship or mailing in the offering, it must have a postmark date of December 31<sup>st</sup>. If you are giving online, it must be completed on December 31<sup>st</sup> and/or it must be dropped off at the church by December 29<sup>th</sup> before 1:00 pm.

**The Memorial Service** for Henry Kerluke will be on Sunday, January 7, at 2:00 p.m., followed by a meal. The Memorial Service for Rick Eastridge will be Saturday, January 13, at 11:00 a.m., followed by a meal.

**A number of you have asked** how you can help Sue Eastridge in these days. When I spoke with her recently, she spoke about something that brought her great anxiety - her family will be coming from out of town and staying at her house for a few days before her husband Rick's funeral service on January 13. She can't clean her house due to a number of physical ailments she struggles with. I'm going to put together a cleaning crew for January 8 and 9. I'll get instructions from Sue on what needs to be done and we'll work on those days. If you are available please let me know.

Pastor John

**At the end of this year** Ann Westra will complete her service as director of the Ascension Chorale. We thank her for directing the Chorale and assisting the congregation to worship our great God during this past year. Beginning in January, Stephanie Roettjer, our Director of Christian Education, will be the interim Director of the Chorale as we look for a permanent director.

**Benefit Dinner for Ama Orr - Thank you** to everyone who attended the dinner last evening, sponsored by Thrivent, and attended by more than 80 people attended! The amount raised for Ama was \$2,173.00, and the Ascension Foundation will match \$250.00, for a total of \$2,423.00! *Many thanks to the Trustees, Jenna Lawrenz, Laurie Mullane, and other volunteers who helped make the dinner possible!*

Please continue to pray for Ama, and if you would to help her via Go Fund Me, here is the link - <https://gofund.me/8a720c6d> . Thank you!

**Prayers for Lisa and Jim Wert and their family:** We pray especially for Lisa and Jim's extended family following a horrific car accident in Wisconsin that claimed the lives of the four step-children, Daniel, Fabian, Lillian and Daniela, of Lisa's former husband, former Denver Redeemer Lutheran Pastor, Pastor Kurt Schilling. The driver of a pickup truck, who was traveling the wrong way, struck their vehicle head-on. He was arrested and suspected of being intoxicated. Please pray for comfort and healing for the family at this terrible time. There is a GoFundMe account at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/6guam-gonzalez-children>.

Pastor Schilling's church address is:

Emmaus Lutheran Church  
c/o Kurt Schilling  
N180 County Rd A  
Waupaca WI 54981

**During 2023 the following people served our congregation** in these capacities: Tim McClaren, President; Bob Hea, Vice-President; Barbara Rutter, Secretary; Margo Pasha, Treasurer; Jim Wert, Board of Elders; Chuck Mielke and Terry Utecht, Board of Trustees; Joyce Lord, Community Outreach; Linda Achziger, Board of Stewardship and Ladies Guild; Ian Kirschner, Youth Board; Christa Kirschner, Board of Education, Tom Munson, Life Enrichment; and Anita Baresel, Board of Social Ministry. We thank you for all that you have done for this congregation and for our community. Your work has made a difference!!

**The 2024 Flower weekly signup sheet** is located on the bulletin board on the landing just down from the Narthex. Simply fill out your name, dedication for a special event, and write a check for the number of arrangements, each arrangement is \$27.00, the cost for both arrangements is \$54.00, this is the same cost as 2019. If you want to share your special event with another person that is perfect – we love to celebrate everyone's special day.

You are welcome to take your donated flowers home after the last service, or you can opt to give them another good deed. The Ladies of Circle IV will take the flowers left to the homebound and hospitalized members of our church to brighten their day!

You may pay for your flowers using the envelopes located below the sign-up sheet and place it in the weekly offering plate. It is particularly important to mark your check clearly "ALTAR FLOWERS" so the offering counters do not credit it to the General Fund, but to floral budget, the church does not have a floral budget, and all Altar Flowers are made possible by donations. Please remember to pay for your flowers by the Sunday you are dedicating them.

Thank you all for your flower donations and the beauty, which they bring to our Church.

**News from Extended Day Preschool** Preschool is buzzing with the excitement and anticipation of Christmas! Our sweet little Christmas program is on Thursday afternoon, followed by special treats and crafts. On Friday we are having a PJ day (not sure who is more excited, the kids or the teachers), pizza for lunch, and holiday videos. It will be a great way to start our Christmas break. Thank you for being such a supportive congregation of the preschool. It is amazing that many of you have reached out to the preschool in one way or another...thank you so much. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

For those of you who would like to send your little one to preschool next year...yaay! Registration will be in January and current forms will be on our website soon ([www.alcpreschool.com](http://www.alcpreschool.com)). Come play with us! :)

**SHARING JESUS Bible Study!** Written and taught by Pastor Ginkel, the group meets on Wednesdays at 10:00 am in Room 106. Please join us. Pastor Don's booklet, SHARING JESUS, is available on request.

**The Saturday afternoon Bible study led by Curt and Karen Engle:** We won't have a Bible study on December 23rd or December 30th. We will resume the 3:00 Saturday Bible study on January 6th! Merry Christmas, and we hope to see you there! Email Curt at [Kengle0920@gmail.com](mailto:Kengle0920@gmail.com)

**Ascension Quilters** will meet not meet this Friday. For more information, call Jackie Adams at 303-798-5161.

**Learning to acknowledge the abundance of God's blessings** to us is the beginning step of putting together the gift plan within our overall estate plans. People of all generations have been guilty of grumbling against God for perceived lack of material blessings we would desire. Yet the estate planning process begins by documenting your financial assets. Most are amazed when they see how much is there. Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor has a tool to help you get started on this documentation. Contact Jason Jones at [Jason.Jones@lfnd.org](mailto:Jason.Jones@lfnd.org) or call him directly at (970) 988-0305.

**With the Advent season upon us**, we eagerly await the arrival of the Newborn King. We can eagerly await, with hope and assurance, the promise of a Savior who will one day return for us yet again!

Please consider praying with us on Zoom every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at 2:30 pm. Contact [MargoALPasha@yahoo.com](mailto:MargoALPasha@yahoo.com)

**Prayers:** For Jerry Gerdes, at Littleton Hospital; For Clyde Wiggins; For Tamara Lee, Mike Zehnder's sister, who has a broken tibia, and will have surgery today, December 21. She will have a 3-month recovery. For Joyce Gallagher, who has back pain, and for her great niece, Liz Schneider, following thyroid surgery; For Jan Nichols, who has pain and weakness in her neck; For Pam Poseley, who has pneumonia and RSV and is at Swedish Hospital; For Jeanine MacCluskey, who has entered hospice; For Jim Donovan; For Dennis Anderson, brother of Judy Hermsmeyer, diagnosed with stage four lung cancer that has spread to both lungs; For John Klepetka; For Mary Brown; For Shirley Nichols; For Kim McClaren; For Carol Zeller; For Ama Orr; For Barry Kratzer; For Lawrence Brown; For peace in Israel and Gaza, in Ukraine, and throughout the world; For our country; For God to send His Holy Spirit on all believers for strengthening of faith and witness.

**Prayers of Thanksgiving ...** for many years of happiness for Dick and Doris Kuhlmann, who will celebrate **72 years** of marriage on December 22!!  
*Happy Anniversary!*

**Shortly after the first of the year...** Norm and Connie Fringer will be moving to Windsor to be closer to family. Norm and Connie have blessed this congregation in numerous ways, including being the chairs of the Columbarium Committee for a number of years, assisting many families during the loss of their loved ones. *Thank you, Norm and Connie, and God bless you in many ways.*

**Flowers on the Altar** are given by Ron and Ann Kaneko, in joyful celebration of their 59<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on December 27!

<b><u>Attendance</u></b>	<b><u>Service Time</u></b>	<b><u>Attendees</u></b>	
Saturday, 12/16	4:00 pm	82	
Sunday, 12/17	8:00 am	73	
	10:30	110	
Wednesday, 12/3		39	
Wednesday, 12/20		56	Total: 360

**Online Views** (as of December 19) for December 10: 120 views.

**Calendar (Saturday, December 23 – Sunday, December 31):**

Sat. (12-23)	10:00 a.m.	Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal
		<b>NO 4:00 Service</b>
Sunday (12-24)		<b>CHRISTMAS EVE – NO Morning Service</b>
	3:45 p.m.	Congregational Carols
	4:00 p.m.	Family Worship with Holy Communion and Children's Program
	6:45 p.m.	Congregational Carols
	7:00 p.m.	Festival Worship with Holy Communion, Ascension Chorale and Gloriosa Dei Ringers

Mon. (12-25)		<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service with Holy Communion
Tues. (12-26)		<b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>
Weds. (12-27) - Fri. (12-29)		Office Open 8:00 – 3:30 pm (Weds. & Thurs.) 8:00 – 1:00 pm (Fri.)
Sat. (12-30)	10:00 a.m.	<b>NO 4:00 Service</b>
Sunday (12-31)		<b>NEW YEAR'S EVE – NO Morning Service</b>
	10:00 a.m.	Worship with the Queen City Jazz Band
	3:00 p.m.	Worship with Holy Communion
	4:00 p.m.	Meal catered by Romano's

**Stewardship:**

<b>2023</b>	Sat/Sun, December 16-17	Year-to-Date (YTD)
Budgeted Revenue	\$12,000.00	\$612,000.00
Received Amount	\$12,586.00	\$679,348.00
Project Peter Receipts	\$4,325.00	\$63,432.00

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**CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUE.org:** Enjoy the Twelve Days of Christmas on KFUE Radio, with special Christmas music, Scripture, and greetings until January 6. Blessed Christmas! Christ is born!