



First Sunday of Advent

Emden Christian Reformed Church
Pastor David Zigterman
Sunday, December 2, 2018



WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

- Prelude a time to prepare our hearts for worship
- Welcome and announcements
- Video The Advent Series: **Hope by The Bible Project**
- Advent Candle Lighting Hope
- *Call to worship based on Isaiah 40:3
- *God's Greeting of His People
- *We Greet One Another
- *Songs of Praise *God Himself Is with Us* PH 244 vs. 1-3
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee SJ 13 vs. 1-4

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

- Confession of sin
- Assurance of pardon Psalm 130:3,4,7 and Isaiah 40:28-31
- Song of gratitude *Spirit of the Living God* PH 424 vs. 1,2
- Prayer of God's people conclude by singing the Lord's Prayer
- Offering Ministry Shares
- Noisy-offering Anthony's TLT initiative
- Song of preparation *Ancient Words*

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

- Prayer for illumination
- *Scripture Habakkuk 1:1-7, 2:1-4, 3:17-19 *pg. 1456*
- Reader: This is the Word of the Lord
- Congregation: Thanks be to God

Message **A Time For Vision**

- Prayer of Application
- *Song of response *My Life Flows On in Endless Song*
- *Profession of our faith from Our World Belongs to God, st. 24, 57

WE DEPART TO SERVE

- *Parting Blessing
- *Closing Song *Now Blessed Be the Lord Our God* PH 630 vs. 1,2

A blessed Advent to you! Today as we worship, we begin the season of anticipation, hope and preparation for the coming Messiah. Welcome.

**Sunday Evening Worship Service
6:00 pm**

We will not be having an evening worship service at Emden.
You are encouraged to attend a service at one
of the neighboring churches.

- Raymond CRC 5:30 pm
- Prinsburg First CRC 6:00 pm
- Bunde CRC 5:30 pm

Next Sunday, December 9, 2018	SUNDAY SCHEDULE
Greeters: Kim & Nancy Mulder	9:00am Sunday School
Library: Julie Link	1st & 3rd Sunday
Coffee Hour: Bob & Joan Swyter	(Sept.—May)
Sound System: Curt Groen	10:00am Morning Worship
Ushers: Patrick Nelson & Randy Zieske	
Nursery: Dawn Link	Gene & Dawn Michelson
Letter to Michelsons: Adeline Groen	B.P. 2210, Bamako
Congregational Visitor: Paul & Wanda Knapper	Mali, West Africa
Offering: am General Fund	E-mail address Usmaan@hotmail.com
Elders:	Deacons:
Kim Mulder - President	Gerald Mulder - Chairman
Tim Link - Vice President	Curt Groen - Benevolent / Building Fund
Doug Groen - Clerk	Bob Swyter - Treasurer

From Back to God Ministries International

A SAVIOR FORETOLD - We find the first talk of a Savior and the first indicator of Christmas while Adam and Eve are still in the Garden of Eden. Join Groundwork as we study Genesis 3:14-15 to allow the context from which God's promise of a Savior emerges to broaden our understanding of Christ's birth. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

The Jesse Tree: A Family Devotional and Craft for Advent - Enjoy a fun and informative Advent activity to go along with December's Today devotional. You can download the devotional and Christmas ornaments at backtgod.net/downloads

From Faith Formation Ministries

Advent Family Faith Formation Tip - Teach Us to Pray, published by the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, is a wonderful resource for family worship. If you're looking for a meaningful way to celebrate Advent at home, the Advent section of this book is available as a free download at tinyurl.com/CICWAdvent. Each day's page includes a Bible reading, questions to talk about, prayer ideas, and more. (Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)

From World Renew

Advent is "Uzima!" with World Renew! - Uzima is the Swahili word meaning, "fullness of life." You can help a person, family, and community begin to experience the fullness of life God intends for them through World Renew's 2018-2019 Gift Catalog. Include a gift of enough food, better health, or literacy on your Christmas list this year. Give at worldrenew.net/gifts or call 800-333-8300. Give by December 2 to receive your acknowledgement cards before Christmas!

Is your Heart Ready? - Advent starts today. Is your heart ready? Celebrating Christmas isn't a day, it's a season. Orient your Christmas season with Advent devotions from World Renew and the CRC Office of Social Justice every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, starting tomorrow, Dec. 3. This year's devotional series titled Holy Impatience will explore doing justice in a world that belongs to God, a world where so many people are marginalized and oppressed, with a holy impatience both celebrating glimpses of the kingdom and eagerly yearning for what is to come. To sign up, go to crcna.org/advent.

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All Bulletin announcements due by Thursday noon.

Pastor David's office hours: Tuesday - Thursday 8:30 am—12:00 Pastor's

Pastors Cell: 320-400-3023

Office phone: 320-329-3932

**You are welcome to stop in and visit
without an appointment.**

TODAY

Greeters: Gerald & Connie Mulder
Library: Julie Link
Coffee Hour: Cody & Missy Strand
Sound System: Paul Knapper
Nursery: Lindsey Knapper
Ushers: Loren Marcus & James Santjer
Letter to Michelsons: Dalen & Donna Fuls
Congregational Visitor: Paul & Wanda Knapper
Visiting Elder: Tim Link



CHURCH CALENDAR

Today 2:00 pm *Renville County Christmas Choir concert*
Monday 7:00 pm *Ladies Bible Study* meet at Janel's in Prinsburg
Lesson 4
Wednesday 2:00 pm *Ladies Aid*

CHURCH FAMILY

From Anthony & Sara: I wanted to share with you another testimony about preaching. Back in January I preached about integrity at a large Pentecostal church here in town during a special event. I know that this message challenged people a lot, and many people thanked me. But sometimes I, like other preachers, wonder how much impact my sermons are really making. I preached at the same church again more recently. After the service someone came up to talk to me about the integrity message. He said that after that message he repented, recommitted himself to serving Christ faithfully, and he is a different person today. No more does he give in to lying or corruption. He feels like a new man, and he is no longer ashamed of himself.

He gave me a specific example. He is a teacher. A former student came to him who was trying to get into a special internship program, one that would probably secure her a good job in the future. Her grades weren't quite good enough, but this teacher had the power to change them and of course her family was going to pay him to do so. Although he could have really used that money, he shocked the student and her family by saying, "No, I cannot do those kinds of things anymore." Such testimonies remind me that God is at work through his Word even when I don't always see it or hear about it.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Program practice is each Sunday at 9 am. All Sunday School children are invited to join. The Christmas Program will take place during the morning service on December. 23.



Each Sunday morning, we will be having a time of prayer before the service beginning at 9:15.

The Renville County Christmas Choir will be performing their cantata ***Christmas Presence, A Gathering of Hope, Peace and Love*** at the Emden Christian Reformed Church on today, Sunday, December 2 at 2:00 pm.



Next Sunday, December 9, we will be hearing God's word from Esther 4:1-17 in the morning.

Ladies Aid will meet on Wed., Dec. 5 at Meadows on Main at 2pm.

Upcoming dates:

Dec. 9: Bible Study

Dec. 23: Sunday School Christmas Program (am);
The Longest Night service (pm)

Dec. 25: Christmas Day service 10:00 am

Jan. 20: Annual Congregational Meeting



Thank you for partnering with New 2 You Thrift Store and our Corners of Your Field Program. Over the past 27 months, we have been able to provide over \$27,000 in gift cards to more than 60 local churches and community organizations for use in their benevolence ministry. From providing relief to those affected by homelessness, domestic violence, floor/fire, school clothes for children in need, or winter coats for those who could not afford one, your partnership with New 2 You is making a difference in our community. Every time you donate your extra clothing, housewares, furniture or more with New 2 You credit is earned for your organization. Remember, where you give your excess matters. Because of donation made by members of our church to New 2 You, Emden had been given two \$20 gift cards for New 2 You. If you know of anyone who could use one of these, please contact a deacon.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Renville County Christmas Choir will be performing their cantata ***Christmas Presence, A Gathering of Hope, Peace and Love*** at the Emden Christian Reformed Church on Sunday, December 2 at 2:00 pm and at St. Aloysius Church in Olivia on Thursday, December 6 at 7:00 pm. This concert is sponsored by the Olivia Kiwanis Club as a fundraiser for Renville County Food Shelf and Santa's Closet. Come and enjoy the music of Christmas as we begin our Christmas celebrations.

An **Open House** celebration of 20 years of Ministry at Unity CRC is being held in honor of Pastor Steve Zwart and his family on Sunday, December 2, 2018 at the Unity CRC in Prinsburg, MN from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Unity CRC feels blessed to have Pastor Steve and his family in our church but also in our community. We look forward to sharing this day with you.



Let students in grades K-6 help you celebrate the reason for the season on Thursday, December 6th at 7:00 PM! Multiple grades will join together to share the joy of Christ's birth. Located in HS Gym. This year's offering will be shared with Hope Pregnancy Center of Willmar.

Pulled Pork Dinner: There will be a delicious Pulled Pork Sandwich feed on Friday, December 7 from 4:45 - 7:15 pm at the CMCS Event Center. The meal will include a pulled pork sandwich, chips, bar and beverage. This is a free will donation feed. Please join us in supporting the CMCS Baseball program and the Prinsburg Baseball Boosters to help cover the cost for equipment and field maintenance. Come enjoy a great meal before the CMCS boys basketball team host MACCRAY!



CMCS Band Christmas Concert

The CMCS Music Department invites you to an evening of instrumental music on Monday, December 10, at 7:00 for the 5-12 Band Christmas Concert. Students involved in 5th, 6th, Junior High, and Concert Bands will perform popular carols and other pieces such as "Little Drummer Boy," "Joy to the World," Mannheim Steamroller and many, many more. We hope to see you there!



The Prinsburg GEMS will be hosting a **"Taco in the Bag"** fundraiser on Thursday, Dec 13th, serving from 5 - 7 pm in the CMCS Event Center during the Boys Basketball game against KMS. Come out for an evening of food, fun and fellowship. Free-will donation.

A Christmas Drama / Cantata **"Good News From Home"** will be presented on Sunday, December 16 at 3:00 pm at First Lutheran Church in Renville. The Cantata will be followed by a light supper served by the RCW Ecumenical Mission Youth Group. Free-will offering for the meal. Everyone is invited.



CMCS Choir Christmas Concert

On Monday, December 17th at 7:00 PM, the 7-12 Christmas Choir Concert will feature both junior high choirs and the high school Concert Choir. Located in the Event Center.



Soles4Souls: Wearing out Poverty - If you have any shoes you are no longer using, please consider giving your shoes to this organization by placing them in the blue container near the entrance of the church.

Community Supper 3rd Thursday of each month—
December 20, 2018
5:00 – 6:30 PM First Lutheran Church
316 SW 3rd St ~ Renville, MN EVERYONE is welcome

Paul Knapper, instructor, is offering an 8 hour Defensive Senior Driving Class on Saturday, December 15 at 1:30 at the RCW School in Renville. Completion of this class allows for a 10% deduction on vehicle insurance for 3 years. To register, contact the instructor at 320-522-2575. 15 students will constitute a class. A 4 hour refresher class is offered at 9:00 on the same day.



The Village Children's Museum in Willmar, MN is in need of volunteers. If you are interested or have any questions, call Arlene at 320-894-2338.

Central Minnesota Senior Care is seeking to hire caring and compassionate individuals to work at our Assisted Living program located throughout Prinsburg, MN. We currently have a part-time position available with wages based upon previous experience in related work fields. We provide on-site training and yearly continuing education. Interested individuals must have a compassionate attitude and some basic knowledge of direct care with individuals. Apply online at www.centralmnseniorcare.com, call 320-441-7001 or email dawn@divinehouse.org
Central Minnesota Senior Care, Inc, is an Equal Opportunity Employer



The beginning of Advent

November is the month of Thanksgiving, but it often also includes the beginning of a new church year. This year, December 2 is the first Sunday of Advent. The season of Advent is about Jesus, the Word, "coming." It's about anticipating and preparing for Christ's arrival.

God comes to us in many and various ways. He speaks to us through the prophets and saints. He comes and speaks to us when we are listening. He comes in the beauty and mysteries of nature. Most of all, God comes in the person of Christ, speaking to his listeners face to face.

Pastor Edmund Steimle put it this way: "The Christian story is a story of God coming into the middle of life, of our lives, opening the dialogue with us."

That's what Advent is really all about: God visiting the earth in person to speak with anyone and everyone who is ready to do so.

Sermon Notes
Habakkuk 1:1-7, 2:1-4, 3:17-19
A Time For Vision

- Complaining

- Waiting

- Rejoicing

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PRAYER CORNER

REQUESTS
FOR
PRAYER

~ Please remember those in our congregation who have continuous health concerns: Melvin Link, Marge Link, Linda Mayer, Gerald Mulder, Darla Ruschen , DeeDee Johnson

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH: Laos

Young Woman Chooses Faith in Jesus over Family

Kaili came to know Christ in 2017, after a teacher shared the gospel with her. But when Kaili’s mother found out, she told her daughter to abandon her new faith. Kaili explained that she could not turn her back on Jesus. *“I have witnessed His love for me and know that Jesus is true,”* she told her mother. So her mother then removed Kaili’s name from the official family registry and told her they were no longer mother and daughter. Kaili moved in with her pastor’s family, and when she visited her family several months later many villagers noticed that she had changed. When they asked her about it, she told them, *“Jesus taught me. I want to follow the right way and honor Him.”* Kaili’s mother warned her to leave because village authorities were planning to arrest her. *“Please don’t come back,”* her mother told her. Pray for Kaili and for the pastor who is currently caring for her.

Continue to pray for area churches: Ebenezer Presbyterian, St. John’s Lutheran, First Lutheran, United Methodist, Holy Redeemer, Our Saviors Lutheran, Temple of Jesus Christ, Hispanic Church and Emden. Ask God to continue to move through His church to the glory of His kingdom. Remember—we are part of God’s kingdom and need to always be following Him.

Are you continuing to pray that God would use us to share His love and the Good News of the Gospel with our community? Pray that the presence of God will shine through us, the Emden Church Family, and that He will use us in His Kingdom will.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God”
Philippians 4:6

