



Third Sunday of Advent

**Emden Christian Reformed Church**  
**Pastor David Zigterman**  
**Sunday, December 16, 2018**



**WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP**

Prelude a time to prepare our hearts for worship  
 Welcome and announcements  
 Opening prayer  
 \*Call to worship Psalm 95:1-3  
 \*God's Greeting of His People  
 \*We Greet One Another  
 Advent video Joy  
 Advent Candle Lighting JOY  
 \*Songs of Praise *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* PH 329 vs. 1-4  
                                   *Joy to the Word! The Lord is Come* PH 337 vs. 1-4

**WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE**

Confession of sin  
 Assurance of pardon 2 Corinthians 3:17-4:1  
 Guide for grateful living Colossians 3:1-4  
 Song of gratitude *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* LUYH 351 vs. 1-4  
 Prayer of God's people conclude with the Lord's Prayer  
 Offering Building Fund/Benevolent Fund  
 Noisy-offering Anthony's TLT initiative  
 Song of preparation *Angels from the Realms of Glory* PH 354 vs. 1,3,5

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

Prayer for illumination  
 \*Scripture Isaiah 41:21 - 42:9 pg. 1123  
     Reader: This is the Word of the Lord  
     Congregation: Thanks be to God

Message **Time For All**

Prayer of Application  
 \*Song of response *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* PH 353 vs. 1,2  
 \*Profession of our faith: from Our World Belongs to God, st. 24, 57

**WE DEPART TO SERVE**

\*Parting Blessing  
 \*Closing Song *Ring the Bells* SJ 203

*On this third Sunday of Advent, we're glad you've joined us  
 to prepare for Christ's coming — at Christmas, at the end of time  
 and as we gather here today. 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.

First Lutheran Church Renville  
 Christmas Drama / Cantata 3:00 pm

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

Next Sunday, December 23, 2018		<b>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</b>
Greeters:	Darla Ruschen, Janel Watson	9:00am Catechism
Library:	Julie Link	1st & 3rd Sunday (Sept-May)
Coffee Hour:	Weldon & Char Zondervan	Sunday School meets during
Sound System:	Todd Groen	the Worship Service
Ushers:	Patrick Nelson, Randy Zieske	10:00am Morning Worship
Nursery:	Jane Groen	
Letter to Michelsons:	Curt & Judy Groen	Gene & Dawn Michelson
Congregational Visitor:	Paul & Wanda Knapper	B.P. 2210, Bamako
Offering: am	CMCS Tuition Support	Mali, West Africa
		E-mail address
		Usumaan@hotmail.com
<b>Elders:</b>		<b>Deacons:</b>
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

FAMILY FIRE - Family Fire is an online community exploring Spirit-led family, marriage, parenting, in-laws, blended families, and intimacy. Find encouraging articles and devotions at familyfire.com. Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

THE COVENANT FULFILLED - Christmas is the culmination and fulfillment of God's promise. Join Groundwork as we explore the whispers of Christmas in Ezekiel 16:59-60, Luke 22:19-20, and Hebrews 8:7-10 to grasp the magnitude of God's grace in Christ's birth and the importance of remembering God's covenant at Christmas. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

### From Faith Formation Ministries

Advent Family Faith Formation Tip - On this third Sunday in Advent, spend some time talking about the many ways God shows that he loves us, including sending his own Son. List as many ways as you can. Then talk about how your family can show that you love each other and how you can show love to your friends and neighbors.

(Faith Formation Ministries; crdna.org/FaithFormation)

### From World Renew

Jesus is Abundant Life - Celebrate God's power made visible in His son, Jesus Christ, who was born to bring us salvation. Give the powerful gift of Uzima, "fullness of life," (Jn. 10:10) to someone experiencing poverty, hunger, and injustice this Christmas – a goat, a plow, or farm starter kit. Find these life-changing gifts at worldrenew.net/gifts or call 800-333-8300 to order.

Emden Christian Reformed Church	320-329-3932
PO Box 390—518 5th Street NW	Renville, MN 56284
e-mail: emdencrc@centurytel.net	web site <a href="http://www.emdencrc.org">www.emdencrc.org</a>
Secretary: Judy C Groen (320) 905-3921	e-mail: j.k.groen56284@gmail.com
All Bulletin announcements due by Thursday noon.	
<b>Pastor David's office hours: Tuesday - Thursday 8:30 am—12:00 Pastor's</b>	
<b>Pastors Cell: 320-400-3023</b>	
<b>Office phone: 320-329-3932</b>	<b>You are welcome to stop in and visit</b>
	<b>without an appointment.</b>

### TODAY

Greeters:	Patrick & Christy Nelson
Library:	Julie Link
Coffee Hour:	Randy & Verla Zieske
Sound System:	Brad Link
Nursery:	Donna Fuls
Ushers:	Loren Marcus, James Santjer
Letter to Michelsons:	Char Groen
Congregational Visitor	Paul & Wanda Knapper
Visiting Elder:	Kim Mulder



### CHURCH CALENDAR

Next Sunday: 10:00 am ***Christmas Program*** in morning worship Service

### CHURCH FAMILY

Dear Friends, this week we have two blog posts for you at

<https://anthsara.blogspot.com>

You'll get to read about our visit from last month to a refugee settlement where one of World Renew's partner organizations is working.

*Bidibidi Refugee Settlement      Pollution*

We also wanted to give you a quick update on our guard, Julius, and his friends who recently got saved. We don't know about what is happening in all of their lives, but one of them, Patrick, was at our house for a few nights the other week and said that though he was uncertain about his new faith and hadn't wanted to give up certain sins, he now wants to continue moving forward in his relationship with Jesus. And Jairus and Julius are reading the Bible, going to church, and encouraging one another. Julius has been living with a woman, but is now making plans to get married to her. Here in Uganda, that involves making an agreement with her parents and organizing what to give them as a dowry, so it isn't a very quick process. However, Julius has already met with her parents and is working on getting together the money and cows for the dowry. Please continue to pray for these young Christians as they grow in their faith.

In Christ,      —Sara and Anthony

## 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.



Next Sunday, December 23, we will be hearing God's word from Matthew 1:18-25 in the morning and have our Sunday School Christmas Program.

In the evening we will have *The (almost) Longest Night* service. This will be candlelight service that allows us to proclaim the coming of the Light that will not be overcome by any darkness.

### COUNCIL NOTES

- Treasurer's Report - November
  - Beginning Balance      \$ 6,228.05
  - Total Deposits        \$11,161.67
  - Total Expense         \$ 7,684.37
  - Ending Balance        \$ 6,270.35
  - Building Fund:      \$12,461.41
  - Benevolent Fund:    \$ 5,196.33
- Visiting elder for January: Kim Mulder
- Decisions made:  
The offering on Dec. 25 will be for Hope Pregnancy Center

The offering on Dec. 30 will be for The Broken

Names for serving on council next year were discussed. Nick Daugherty has allowed his name to stand for Deacon. Paul Knapper, Duane Mulder, and Brad Link have allowed their names to stand for Elder. If you have any suggestions please talk to a member of council.



In January, we will begin a new Bible Study called *Discovering and Living God's Heart for Immigrants: A Guide to Welcoming the Stranger* by Matthew Soerens and Jenny Yang. This will begin January 13.

Upcoming dates:

- Dec. 23: Sunday School Christmas Program (am);  
The (almost) Longest Night service (6 pm)
- Dec. 25: Christmas Day service (offering for Hope Pregnancy Center)
- Dec. 30: Offering for The Broken
- Jan. 20: Annual Congregational Meeting
- Jan. 30: Soup Supper



## REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Christmas Drama / Cantata "**Good News From Home**" will be presented today, 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, Dec. 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.

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

Save the Date: Men you are invited to the 26th annual **No Regrets Men's Conference** on February 2, 2019. The No Regrets Men's Conference is an annual conference for males ages 13 and up. Men, when you invite your sons, you receive a discounted ticket price of \$10 for each of your sons! Invite your sons and friends! The conference will be streamed live at our facility, Rock of Life CRC, located at 1708 8th St SW 56201. The doors open at 7:30 am for registration, coffee, juice and donuts. The live stream begins at 8:30 am. Lunch will be provided and the conference will conclude at 4:30 pm. Pay and register online at [www.rockoflifecrc.org](http://www.rockoflifecrc.org) by January 28 or download the registration form online or call Renae at 320-235-3060 or email [willmarcrc@gmail.com](mailto:willmarcrc@gmail.com)



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.



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.

Sunday, December 16, 2018

Isaiah 41:21-42:9

**Time For All**

- Idols confronted



Somehow, not only for Christmas,  
But all the long year through,  
The joy that you give to others,  
Is the joy that comes back to you.  
And the more you spend in blessing  
The poor and lonely and sad,  
The more of your heart's possessing  
Returns to you glad.

—John Greenleaf Whittier

- The servant



## PRAYER CORNER

REQUESTS  
—FOR—  
PRAYER

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

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### THE PERSECUTED CHURCH: Laos

#### Pray for Single Mother of Three Children

*Abandoned by her husband, she is seeking wholeness in Christ.*

Hiba came to the Christian center in Lebanon looking for food. Instead, the administrator offered her a job, a lifeline for the single mother of three children. Her husband had abandoned the family, following his Islamic spiritual mentor to Turkey and remarrying; he had completely forgotten the family he left behind. Hiba and the Bible teacher at the center became close friends, but she only listened politely when the teacher shared from Scripture. Then, one day in October, Hiba came to the center looking very sad. She told the Bible teacher over coffee that women have the worst lives. The teacher gently told her that the Bible shows how God loves and honors women. They discussed Ruth, Esther and Naomi, and suddenly Hiba wanted to read the Bible for herself. She read aloud from the book of Esther, and the two women discussed it. "Lots of prayers are needed for Hiba and her three children," a VOM contact said. "A new journey just begun for her, and she needs a lot of support."

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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**

