



**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Emden Christian Reformed Church  
Pastor David Zigterman  
Sunday, December 20, 2020



Prelude	a time to prepare our hearts for worship	
Welcome and announcements		
Advent Candle Lighting		
*God's greeting		
*Greet one another		
*Song of Praise	<i>Oh Come All Ye Faithful</i>	SJ 188
	<i>The Birthday of a King</i>	SJ 212
Luke 1:46-55		
Confession of Sin		
Assurance of Pardon		
Congregational Prayer		
Song	<i>Of the Father's Love Begotten</i>	SJ 193
Prayer for illumination		
*Scripture	Luke 1:26-38	
	Reader: This is the Word of the Lord	
	Congregation: Thanks be to God	
Lord's Day 14		
Message	<b>Let it Be</b>	
*Song of response	<i>A Communion Hymn for Christmas</i>	SJ 222

**Celebration of the Lord's Supper**

*The Invitation*

Welcome to the feast of the Lord. All who are baptized and believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are invited to join in this meal. We come to the table not just as individuals but as a community. By sharing the loaf and the cup, Christ makes us one with him and with each other.

*The Thanksgiving*

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**People: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

**Sunday evening  
6:00 pm**

This evening, we will be having a candlelight service at 6pm.



**Candlelight  
Service**

<u>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</u> 10:00 am Morning Worship 5:00 pm Prayer Time
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**Elders:**

Duane Mulder - President  
Nick Daugherty - Vice President  
Doug Groen - Clerk

**Deacons:**

Samantha Link - Chairman  
Curt Groen - Bldg / Benevolent Fund  
Todd Groen - Treasurer

Minister: With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you have created heaven and earth, made us in your image, and kept covenant with us— even when we fell into sin. We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose coming opened to us the way of salvation and whose triumphant return we eagerly await.

*The Words of Institution*

Minister: We give thanks to God the Father that our Savior, Jesus Christ, before he suffered, gave us this memorial of his sacrifice, until he comes again. At his last supper, the Lord Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, he took the cup after supper and said, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this in remembrance of me.” For whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

Therefore we proclaim our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament:

**People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*The Prayer of Consecration*

Minister: Lord, our God, send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and cup may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we and all your saints be united with Christ and remain faithful in hope and love. Gather your whole church, O Lord, into the glory of your kingdom.

The Communion

\*Parting Blessing

\*Closing Song

*Joy Has Dawned* (led by quartet)

**Just as the longest night of the year approaches,  
we light all four candles on our Advent wreath.  
On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we encourage everyone to think  
often about God’s gift to us in Christ.  
What love God has for each of us!  
And what love we should have for one another!  
May the glorious good news of Christ’s birth fill us with love and good will.  
Welcome in the name of our Lord.**

### From Back to God Ministries International

GROUNDWORK: FOCUS ON JESUS - There's no doubt Christmas comes with mixed feelings this year, but no matter what might be missing or different, focus on Jesus. Study Colossians 1:3-23 with Groundwork and listen as the Apostle Paul reminds us why our hope is strongest when we fix our gaze on Christ and the promises of reconciliation his birth brings. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

### From Calvin University

January Series - Coming this January for the 34th year, Calvin University presents the 2021 January Series – the award winning free liberal arts education delivered in 15 weekly, lunchtime lectures. This year the series begins on January 6 and continues weekdays through January 26 from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. EST with topics ranging from the future of the Supreme Court, climate change, the era of intelligent technology, civil discourse, racial tensions, the arts as a healing balm and so much more by top experts in their fields. And access to the award-winning lecture series will be easier than ever. This year, due to the realities of COVID-19, the January Series will have a completely virtual audience. Attendees will be able to watch and listen to the 15 presentations on their own personal devices, in their own locations, or gather at small remote sites available across the continent. For more information about the speakers, topics, remote sites and to register for personal viewing, visit our website at [www.calvin.edu/january](http://www.calvin.edu/january)

### From Faith Formation Ministries

At-home Faith Formation Tip - The Practice of Hospitality: “. . . and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.” In what ways might you make more space for Jesus in your everyday life? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit [cena.org/FaithFormation/Practices](http://cena.org/FaithFormation/Practices))

### From World Renew

He is our Peace - Celebrate God's power made visible in His son, Jesus Christ, born to bring the world His peace and salvation. Share God's love with someone experiencing poverty, hunger, and injustice this Christmas with a simple gift: a goat, a handwashing station, or farm starter kit. Find these life-changing gifts and more in World Renew's 2020-2021 Gift Catalog at [worldrenew.net/gifts](http://worldrenew.net/gifts), or call 800-552-7972.

Emden Christian Reformed Church PO Box 390—518 5th Street NW e-mail: <a href="mailto:emdenrcr@centurytel.net">emdenrcr@centurytel.net</a> Secretary: Judy C Groen (320) 905-3921 All Bulletin announcements due by Thursday noon. <b>Pastor David's office hours: Tuesday - Thursday 8:30—12:00</b> <b>Pastor's Cell: 320-400-3023</b> <b>Office phone: 320-329-3932</b>	320-329-3932 Renville, MN 56284 web site <a href="http://www.emdenrcr.org">www.emdenrcr.org</a> e-mail: <a href="mailto:j.k.groen56284@gmail.com">j.k.groen56284@gmail.com</a> <b>e-mail: <a href="mailto:davidzigterman029@gmail.com">davidzigterman029@gmail.com</a></b> <b>You are welcome to stop in and visit without an appointment.</b>
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### TODAY

Todd Groen  
Building / Benevolent Fund

*Sound System  
Offering*

### NEXT SUNDAY 12/27/20

Paul Knapper  
CMCS Tuition Support

### CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, Dec. 20 10:00 am *Communion in the morning;*  
6:00 pm *Candlelight service*  
Friday, Dec. 25 10:00 am *Christmas Day service*  
January 24 11:00 am *Annual Congregational meeting* (Please note date change)

### CHURCH FAMILY

Dear Friends, greetings from Uganda, where it is still very hot and green.

We have two new blog posts for you at: <https://anthsara.blogspot.com>

*Small Group Bible Studies*

*Biblical Counseling Classes*

As we look forward to celebrating Christmas next week, we hope you will find joy in remembering the birth of Jesus and the salvation he has brought to us!

—In Christ, Sara and Anthony

### CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will again have in-person worship. Please wear a mask. We have masks available. Feel free to take one and use. Please maintain a distance of 6 feet whenever possible. Hand sanitizer is also located throughout the building. If you do not feel well, we request that you refrain from coming. You can watch our services on our facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/emdenrcr>. The sermon will continue to be made available on the website.

If you would like to continue giving during this time you may send your offering to PO BOX 390, Renville, MN 56284 or drop it off in the clay pot in the narthex. There is now also an online option. Visit <https://www.emdenrcr.org/online-giving> for more information.

Next Sunday, December 27, we will be hearing God's word from Matthew 2 and Lord's Day 5&6 in the Heidelberg Catechism.

Please consider this prayer challenge: Pray 1 minute each night at 8 pm for our nation.

Please feel free to take any books from the library you would like to keep. The library will be disbanded soon.



**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CMCS Christmas Concerts:** All of our Christmas Concerts for our students will be recorded and the link will be on our homepage of our website. The concerts will be posted by Wednesday, December 23rd. Thank you for supporting our students' hard work by watching these concerts via our YouTube channel. Have a blessed Christmas season!



Would you like to give a unique Christmas gift this year that will help people around the world and can have a long lasting, positive effect in their lives and their community? Through the World Renew Giving Tree Project you are able to purchase a goat, ducks, sheep, chickens, tools, nutrition kits, farming tools, sanitary items, wheelchairs and many other items for people around the world and share God's light with those who live in extreme poverty. On the back table is a basket of cards with different items of differing monetary costs that you can choose an item that fits within your budget or your families budget and donate to World Renew. Mail in your card and donation or go online or call World Renew (instructions are on the cards). You can also give your donation as a gift in someone else's name and request a gift card be sent to them to let them know.



Enrollment forms for the Back-the-Pack program can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/backthepackprogram/>. If you know of anyone who might be interested or in need of this program, please share this link with them.

CCT buses are available to pick up and take seniors/shut-ins to the grocery store, etc OR, they can deliver groceries to them. CCT Olivia: 320-523-3589; if you have any questions, you can contact Tiffany at the Willmar office at 320-214-7433.

**The long view of Advent**

Advent is about preparing not only for Christmas but also for Jesus' return. According to Scripture, that won't be the calm, silent scene described in Christmas carols.

In 1928, Dietrich Bonhoeffer preached: "It is very remarkable that we face the thought that God is coming so calmly, whereas previously peoples trembled at the day of God ... We have become so accustomed to the idea of divine love and of God's coming at Christmas that we no longer feel the shiver of fear that God's coming should arouse in us. We ... [forget] the serious aspect, that the God of the world draws near to the people of our little earth and lays claim to us."

God is love; we'll be in good hands at the end of time. But during Advent, also be in awe of God.

Embrace a reverent fear of the Lord that reminds you how profound it is that God chooses again and again to draw near and lay claim to you.

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**PRAYER**

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

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Luke 1:26-38

**Let it Be**

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**The Persecuted Church Syria  
War, Trauma and Cancer**

War, trauma and a child stricken with cancer drove Rida and his wife to seek hope at a Christian church, and there they met and accepted Jesus Christ. When the couple, who had formerly been committed Muslims, told Rida’s father about their conversion, he beat and cursed his son, spitting on him and telling him he would receive no inheritance. Rida’s extended family continued to harass Rida with threats and beatings. When his brother struck Rida’s wife, the police came and told Rida to press charges against his brother for the beating. But Rida told the police that the Lord Jesus had taught him to forgive. They continue to experience threats, even death threats, from their family. “They live in destitute poverty,” wrote a VOM worker, “notably after Rida fell from a ladder during one of his jobs and broke his leg.” Pray for courage and comfort for this family who has trusted Christ.

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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**

