



Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Emden Christian Reformed Church**  
**Pastor David Zigterman**  
**Sunday, December 23, 2018**



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

**WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP**

- Prelude a time to prepare our hearts for worship
- Welcome and announcements
- Opening prayer
- Advent video *Peace*
- Advent Candle Lighting *Peace*
- \*God's Greeting of His People
- \*We Greet One Another

***The Longest Night***  
**Candlelight Service**

**The Christmas Story: Jesus Christ is the Same - Yesterday, Today and Forever!**

- Silent Night*
- Joy to the World*
- O Little Town of Bethlehem*
- Away in The Manger (children only)*
- Angels From the Realms of Glory*

**We Give Thanks**

- Prayer of God's people conclude with the Lord's Prayer
- Offering CMCS Tuition Support
- Song of preparation *O Come, O Come, Immanuel* PH 328 vs. 1,2

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

- Prayer for illumination
- \*Scripture Matthew 1:18-25 and Hebrews 13:8 pg. 1497, 1879
- Reader: This is the Word of the Lord
- Congregation: Thanks be to God

Message **Time For Dreaming**

- Prayer of Application
- \*Song of response *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* PH 351 vs. 1-3
- \*Profession of our faith: from Our World Belongs to God, st. 24, 57

**WE DEPART TO SERVE**

- \*Parting Blessing
- \*Closing Song *What Child Is This* SJ 202 vs. 1-3

*Just as the longest night of the year approaches, we light all four candles on our Advent wreath. Indeed, Christ's light shines in our darkness, and the darkness cannot banish it (see John 1:5). Welcome to worship.*

Next Sunday, December 30, 2018	<u>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</u>
Greeters: James & Phyllis Santjer	9:00am Sunday School
Library: Julie Link	1st & 3rd Sunday
Coffee Hour: Youth Family	(Sept.—May)
Sound System: Gerald Mulder	10:00am Morning Worship
Nursery: Isabelle Daugherty	Gene & Dawn Michelson
Ushers: Loren Marcus, James Santjer	B.P. 2210, Bamako
Letter to Michelsons: Doug & Anne Groen	Mali, West Africa
Congregational Visitor: Paul & Wanda Knapper	E-mail address
Offering: am The Broken	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

CHRISTMAS REMIXED - Did you know the book of Revelation tells the Christmas story? It's true. Complete with dragons and intense drama. Study Revelation 12 with Groundwork see the cosmic perspective on Christ's birth and purpose revealed through the Apostle John's vision. 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 fourth Sunday in Advent, retell the events leading up to Jesus' birth using the figures in your nativity creche. Don't have one? Use Lego or Playmobil people and blocks to make your own. Choose a narrator to read Luke 2:1-20 as the rest of you reenact the story. (Faith Formation Ministries; crna.org/FaithFormation)

### From World Renew

Group Volunteer Overseas - Are you a compassionate, respectful, and adaptable person who would like to volunteer overseas with others who have common interests? With World Renew's Global Volunteer Program, you will get an authentic cultural experience and learn about the deep history and traditions that define the life of an international community. To find out more, email Andrew at [globalvolunteer@worldrenew.net](mailto:globalvolunteer@worldrenew.net).

Jesus was Born for This - God offers us abundant life through His son, Jesus Christ. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas this week, include a gift for someone in need through the World Renew Gift Catalog. Your gift of a wheelchair, a sewing machine, or an adult literacy class is the best gift someone who lives in poverty, injustice, or disaster will receive this year. Go to [worldrenew.net/gifts](http://worldrenew.net/gifts) to give or call 800-333-8300 to order.

### From Calvin College

2019 JANUARY SERIES - the award winning free liberal arts education delivered in 15 weekly, lunchtime lectures. This year the series begins on January 3 and continues weekdays through January 23 from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. EST with topics such as technology and faith, the church and disabilities, restorative justice, cancer research, the #metoo movement, and so much more, by top experts in their fields. Thousands in west Michigan will join us on Calvin College's campus; others will watch the live feed at more than 50 remote webcast sites, while others listen online. For information about speakers, topics, remote sites, and listening options, go to [www.calvin.edu/january](http://www.calvin.edu/january)

Emden Christian Reformed Church PO Box 390—518 5th Street NW e-mail: <a href="mailto:emdenrcrc@centurytel.net">emdenrcrc@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 am—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.emdenrcrc.org">www.emdenrcrc.org</a> e-mail: <a href="mailto:j.k.groen56284@gmail.com">j.k.groen56284@gmail.com</a>
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**You are welcome to stop in and visit  
without an appointment.**

## TODAY



Greeters:	Darla Ruschen, Janel Watson
Library:	Julie Link
Coffee Hour:	Weldon & Char Zondervan
Sound System:	Todd Groen
Ushers:	Patrick Nelson, Randy Zieske
Nursery:	Jane Groen
Letter to Michelsons:	Curt & Judy Groen
Congregational Visitor:	Paul & Wanda Knapper
Visiting Elder:	Kim Mulder

## CHURCH CALENDAR

Today 2:00 pm **Renvilla Service** - Everyone is welcome  
Tuesday, Christmas Day 10:00 **Christmas Morning Service**

## CHURCH FAMILY

Congratulations to Dave & Andrea Daugherty on the birth of a grandson, Easton James, born to Jordon & Kim Daugherty this past Tuesday. Also to Gerald & Connie, great grandparents.



## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcement from council: Nick Daugherty and Todd Groen have allowed their names 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.

This afternoon at 2 pm Pastor David will be leading a service at Renvilla.

Tonight, we will be having a candlelight service at 6 pm. The message will be based on Psalm 80.

On Christmas Day we will have a worship service at 10 am and hear God's word from Luke 2.

Next Sunday, December 30, we will be hearing God's word from Matthew 2:1-12.



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. 25: Christmas Day service (offering for Hope Pregnancy Center)

Dec. 30: Offering for The Broken

Jan. 20: Annual Congregational Meeting

Jan. 30: Soup Supper



Sunday, December 23, 2018  
Matthew 1:18-25 and Hebrews 13:8  
**Time For Dreaming**

- Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever - yet what does that mean?

### REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

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)



- God with us yesterday



**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.

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.

- God with today

He who has not Christmas in  
his heart,  
will never find it under a tree.

— Roy L

- God with forever



**PRAYER**

~ Please remember those in our congregation

**C** who have continuous health concerns: Melvin Link, Marge  
**O** Link, Linda Mayer, Gerald Mulder, Darla Ruschen, DeeDee  
**R** Johnson

**N** \*\*\*\*\*

**E**  
**R** The Persecuted Church - Cuba (Voice of the Martyrs)

**Church Members Occupy Building to Prevent Demolition**

Believers at a church in Cuba are making sure their church building remains occupied at all times to prevent authorities from demolishing it. The building, a garage that was donated to the house-church group years ago, cannot gain legal registration through the government. The house church has worshiped in the building for eight years, but the government has recently increased pressure on the church to close. Authorities fined the building's owner the equivalent of two months' salary and have repeatedly offered to purchase the property. On December 2, government workers arrived to demolish the building, but they stopped when they saw that it was occupied by church members. The church members have decided to occupy the church continuously to prevent the demolition. Pray that believers in this house church will remain committed to Christ despite government pressure.

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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.

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.

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



Sunday Evening  
December 23, 2018

Words for meditation (to be read silently before the service begins):

Psalm 28:1-2

<sup>1</sup> To you, Lord, I call;  
you are my Rock,  
do not turn a deaf ear to me.  
For if you remain silent,  
I will be like those who go down to the pit.  
<sup>2</sup> Hear my cry for mercy  
as I call to you for help,  
as I lift up my hands  
toward your Most Holy Place.

Music for gathering

Welcome

A call to worship

We gather as day turns to memory and night is drawn across the land.

**All: You are the light of the world;  
Be a light in our darkness, O Christ.**

The dark of night can seem pale  
To one whose life is shrouded by sorrow.

**All: You are the light of the world;  
Be a light in our darkness, O Christ.**

Where do we go when our eyes cannot see you?  
How can we sing when the light grows so dim?

**All: You are the light of the world;  
Be a light in our darkness, O Christ.**

Find us in the nighttime of grief,  
Illumine the pathways through our loss,  
And guide us toward the dawn.

**All: You are the light of the world;  
Be a light in our darkness, O Christ. Amen.**

Hymns

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*  
*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

PH 329 vs. 1-3  
PH 194 vs. 1-3

Silent reflection

Prayer (based on Job 28:19 and John 1:4)

**All: Which is the way to the home of the light, O God?  
When will we know the rising of joy?  
You have set the patterns of the night and the day,  
You are the life that is light to all people.  
Come to us now, O God,  
And to all who know where the darkness lives.  
Come, and lead us to the home of the light. Amen.**

Scripture  
Message  
Prayer

Psalm 80  
**Restore Us, O God**

Hymn

*Our Darkness Is Never Darkness* (Taize)

Stories of the light

The light of creation - Genesis 1:1-5

(silence, followed by "Our darkness")

The light of the exodus - Exodus 13:17-22

(silence, followed by "Our darkness")

The light of prophecy - Isaiah 25:6-9

(silence, followed by "Our darkness")

The light of hope - Luke 1:46-55

(silence, followed by "Our darkness")

Special Music

*Imagine*

A ritual of remembering

*Light candles*

Hymn *All Praise to You, My God, This Night*

PH 441 vs. 1-4

Blessing

Closing Song

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

PH 638

"Adapted from *Words for Worship 2*, edited by Diane Zaerr Brenneman,  
2009 by Herald Press, Scottsdale, Pa."

December 23, 2018  
Psalm 80  
**Restore Us, O God**

- God is our shepherd (vs. 1-3)
- Darkness acknowledged (vs. 4-7)
- Darkness remembered (vs. 8-13)
- Looking to Jesus, the Light of the world (vs. 14-19)

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