



Emden Christian Reformed Church  
Pastor David Zigterman  
Sunday, December 27, 2020



**Sunday evening**  
**5:00 pm**

There will be no prayer service tonight.

***WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP***

Prelude a time to prepare our hearts for worship

Welcome and announcements

Call to Worship

\*God's greeting

\*Greet one another

\*Song of Praise

*Angels From the Realms of Glory* PH 354

*As with Gladness Men of Old* PH 358

Psalm 36

Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon

Congregational Prayer

Song

*We Three Kings of Orient Are* SJ 220

Prayer for illumination

\*Scripture Matthew 2

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

Congregation: Thanks be to God

Lord's Day 5&6

Message

***What Child is This?***

\*Song of response

*What Child Is This* SJ 202

\*Parting Blessing

\*Closing Song

*The First Noel* SJ 205

***Welcome to our last worship service of 2020. God is Lord of all time and eternity, so  
we walk with him — and one another — into all that the new year brings.***

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 am Morning Worship

5:00 pm Prayer Time

**Elders:**

Duane Mulder - President

Nick Daugherty - Vice President

Doug Groen - Clerk

**Deacons:**

Samantha Link - Chairman

Curt Groen - Bldg / Benevolent Fund

Todd Groen - 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.

GROUNDWORK: FAITH QUESTIONS WE ALL ASK - “Do we still need the Old Testament?” “Does God really love me? If he does, why is my life falling apart?” and “Will we make it through the pandemic?” Study Matthew 4:1-11, Psalm 13, Romans 5:8, and Matthew 25:31-46 with Groundwork as we seek answers to questions faithful believers have sent us this year and grow stronger in faith together. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork’s weekly emails for future episodes.

**From Faith Formation Ministries**

At-home Faith Formation Tip - The Practice of Hospitality: Kathleen Norris wrote, “True hospitality is marked by an open response to the dignity of each and every person.” As you go through your week, focus on approaching every person you meet with this kind of open response. At the end of the week, look back at how this approach changed your attitudes and actions. (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit [crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices](http://crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices))

**From World Renew**

Give Thanks for Abundant Life - Thank you for sharing God’s abundance through the World Renew Gift Catalog in 2020. Your gift of a chicken, a water filter, or a goat can turn everyday events into miracles among people who face poverty, disaster, and injustice. You can still give online at [worldrenew.net/gifts](http://worldrenew.net/gifts) or call 800-552-7972.

Emden Christian Reformed Church  
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Secretary: Judy C Groen (320) 905-3921  
All Bulletin announcements due by Thursday noon.  
**Pastor David’s office hours: Tuesday - Thursday 8:30—12:00**  
**Pastor’s Cell: 320-400-3023**  
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**You are welcome to stop in and visit without an appointment.**

**TODAY**

Paul Knapper  
CMCS Tuition Support

*Sound System  
Offering*

**NEXT SUNDAY 1/03/21**

Curt Groen  
Ministry Shares

**CHURCH CALENDAR**

January 24 11:00 am *Annual Congregational meeting*



**CHURCH FAMILY**

Congratulations to Zach & Teri Johnson on the birth of Kanan Zachary James who was born on December 16. May God bless them as they continue to teach their children the love of Jesus.



We extend our deepest sympathy to Connie Mulder and the family on the death of Gerald this past Tuesday. May God bless them and give them peace and strength, surround them and uphold them with His love and the love of family and friends in the coming days. There will be a visitation tonight from 5:00 - 7:00 and the funeral will be on Monday morning at 10:30.

**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.

**Budget Envelopes:** As Deacons, we have decided to discontinue using pre-printed budget envelopes. With payment by check, we will continue to keep record of your giving for tax purposes. We would appreciate if you would note on your check the designated cause. Offerings for the Building / Benevolent fund are usually divided equally, unless otherwise noted. We appreciate your continued giving toward the work of the Lord.

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

Next Sunday, January 3, we will be hearing God’s word from Titus 2:11-14 and Lord’s Day 7 in the Heidelberg Catechism.

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

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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.



O COME  
LET US  
ADORE HIM!

**Colin Watson, executive director of the CRCNA, shares an advent reflection for this difficult 2020 year.**

I’m thankful to see 2020 come to a close, as I’m sure you are. In this Advent season we remember anew that we serve the God who has shown his active love by sending his Son to redeem us and to restore his world. When Jesus came to earth, it was at a difficult time. The land was ruled by Roman conquerors, and daily life was hard for most. Yet God was present – and he was about to prove it in a magnificent way through the birth of Christ.

I’ve been thinking about the Christmas story in this strange year of 2020. In the past 12 months we have endured the COVID-19 pandemic, issues around racial tensions, polarizing U.S. elections, and global economic uncertainty. Back in Nazareth and Bethlehem it had been a strange year for Mary and Joseph as well — one that included an unexpected pregnancy, contemplations of divorce, visits from angels, community gossip around infidelity, and then the unexpected requirement to make a long journey to Bethlehem for a census at the height of Mary’s pregnancy.

As they made their way to be counted in the census and as they looked for lodging in a crowded town, I’m sure that Mary and Joseph were eagerly looking forward to putting all of that behind them. They were probably anxious to return to Nazareth and the comfort of their own home. They looked forward to their life together as a newly married couple. And, most importantly, they longed for the birth of this child whom God had said would be the long-awaited Messiah.

We too exist in a time of waiting. COVID-19 has forced us to change much about the way we live and work. We grieve not only the loss of loved ones but also the loss of large birthday parties, wedding receptions we had planned on, traditional funeral gatherings, “regular” Sunday worship, and the ability to gather and work together. We long for vaccines so that we can put COVID-19 behind us. We long for the healing of our loved ones, for racial reconciliation in our countries, and for economic recovery across the globe.

With these things in mind, I’d like to suggest that this Advent season we follow Mary and Joseph’s example and focus on the Messiah. I think specifically of the promise of Isaiah 9:2: “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.”

As we struggle in this year of seeming darkness, we know that God has chosen to come and dwell with us. He is here, walking alongside us, living within us by his Spirit. When we feel overwhelmed or ill-equipped, we know that we can turn to the light. We can trust in God to sustain us.

But the Christmas story isn’t just about a baby in a manger. It isn’t only about God choosing to be with us. It is also about Jesus’ victory over death for our sake, the beginning of eternal life in him right now, and the knowledge that God provides light in any darkness that we may experience. When all we can see is the danger around us, we can remember that God is in control and will work with and through it to bring about his good and perfect will.

As we look forward to 2021, may these promises give us hope.

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**PRAYER**

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

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**The Persecuted Church Vietnam  
13 Families Beaten, Kicked Off Land**

Thirteen Hmong families moved from Northern Vietnam to the Dak Lak province after enduring physical beatings and having their land confiscated. Although Christianity is legal in Vietnam, many in the country, including members of its repressive Communist government, see Christians as a threat. Minority tribal groups like the Hmong often face the most violent and harsh forms of persecution. Pray that these families will remain firm in their faith despite their new environment. Pray that they will find community and share the gospel in their current village, and pray that those who persecuted them will come to know Christ's forgiveness and love.

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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.

Sunday, December 27, 2020

Matthew 2

**What Child is This?**

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

