

Greetings Saints of Emmanuel:

Christmas has come.

As enjoyable as college football is, I try to avoid referencing it unless it can be absolutely essential to the sermon.

Last Friday, I watched the brief halftime interview with Oklahoma's coach and was astounded by his attitude. I predicted (correctly) he would lose based on that interview.

So, too, our attitude matters with regard to our faith. I don't mean that we need to have a chipper and cheery attitude all the time. I mean that our attitude should correspond to believing what we believe:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

From the sermon:

"The Church Year — and especially the end of the season of Pentecost and this season of Advent — is a necessary salve to a culture that rejects Christ's coming in glory and in judgment. Our culture demands our time, our busyness, our money, our cares, our anxiety, our attention. The cares of work, of culture, of chores eat up our time and our attention, time and attention that we cannot recover.

As Christians, we can fall into the danger that Christ's coming is long way off, and so we just have no need of being ready for him. "I can wait on that stuff. I have more pressing things to focus on now."

The coach of Oklahoma fell into this exact trap on Friday. During the halftime interview, he made the mistake of believing and saying, "We'll be okay." I was astounded by his false confidence, his flippant attitude. His team had dominated 17-0 early on, only to give up the lead and the momentum to being tied 17-17 at the half. What business, what right, did he have to say, "We'll be okay." That's the wrong message to his team. And his team was punished for it; they lost.

Likewise, none of us can rely on saying, "we'll be okay," or "well, it's not that big of a deal" in regard to our faith. Our faith in Jesus is *the* deal. It's what gives eternal staying power to anything we may accomplish; and lack of faith is what ensures that what we accomplish will not matter in the scope of eternity."

What we do matters, and the good that God has given us to do will echo throughout eternity.

Jesus' descent from heaven into the womb of Mary into earthly time means that he will raise us with him into heaven into eternity.

In Christ our Lord,
+ Pastor Justin Baker

Tomorrow, Wednesday, December 24th

9:00 AM Prepare Luminaria

Please join us at 9AM to prepare and place the luminarias for Christmas Eve. We need about four to six more volunteers to help.

5:30 PM Light Luminaria

Please join us to help light luminaria. After that, join for:

6:00 PM Snacks and Hot Chocolate Before the Service

Newsworthy

Help with Luminaries

Join us to help setting up the luminaries Christmas Eve and taking them down the day after Christmas. We'll meet at

- 9am tomorrow to prepare them
- 5:30 tomorrow to light them
- 9am on the 26th to pack them up.

Poinsettia Orders

We have six poinsettias you can still claim. Send an email to the office to let us know if you'd like one.

Office Closed | 12/24 - 1/4

The office is closed beginning tomorrow (December 24th), and will reopen with regular hours Monday, January 5th. Because of this, there will be no eNews on December 31st. The January Herald will come out on the first Wednesday of the month, January 7th. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

United Together, We Pray

Prayers for Mission Workers

For the Omars and their ministry among Muslims in the Atlanta region; for the Thorstads in their work in Laos & Thailand; and for Dure Negassa and the Rev. Gemachu in their ministry in Kenya among the Oromos.

Prayers for those in need of Intercession:

George and Donna Campagna, Linda Casper, May Hill, Jim Troxell, David Weihe, Vince Berardinelli, Gayle Wertz, June Ugen, Julie and family, Trudy, Linda, Frances and family, Peggy, Brylee, Sandra, Zachary, Kevin, David, Kathy, Asa, Jerry, Jack, Al & family, Beth, Colleen, Rachael, Leila, Darin, Les & Cathy, Tony, Sarah, and Harry

Prayers of Bereavement

Most Blessed and Holy God, we implore you to remember *the family of Harry Yothers, the family of Debbie Pritts, the family of Cathy, the family of Mark, and the family of Rosalie.* Fill all families who mourn with the strength to grieve, the comfort of your presence, and faith unto life everlasting.

Prayer for this Church

We pray that you will fill this congregation with the faith that endures unto life eternal. We pray that you make us one people united in prayer. We pray that you will send families, children, widows & widowers, the elderly, and any others into our midst, that they may also be filled with faith, encourage this congregation, and bring honor and glory and praise to your name.

Tomorrow, Wednesday, the 24th| Christmas Eve Service, 7PM

Tomorrow evening, we will gather for our candlelight Christmas Eve service. Please join us then and bring a friend!

From Sunday's Sermon

Watch this past Sunday's sermon [here](#) or read it [here](#).

And if you missed last week's Wednesday service, watch the homily [here](#) or read it [here](#).

Last but not least, if you missed our worship service at Brookdale last Friday, you can read the homily [here](#).

Discipleship

Fellowship Hour, Dec. 28th, 9AM

We'll watch a [Christmas Movie](#) during [Sunday School](#) and decorate a [Christmas Cookie Nativity Set](#). (Free cookies!)

December 24th

9AM: Prepare Luminaria

5:30PM: Light Luminaria

6PM: Snacks and Hot Chocolate before the service

7PM: Christmas Eve Service

December 25th

10:15AM: Christmas Day Service

December 26th

9AM: Pack Up Luminaria

December 28th

9AM: Fellowship Hour (Christmas movie and cookie decorating!)

10:15AM: Worship on the Feast of the Holy Innocents

December 29th-January 3rd: Office Closed

January 4th

9AM: Sunday School

10:15AM: Worship on the Presentation of Our Lord

January 6th

7PM: Epiphany Worship Service

Upcoming Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays:

12/28 Angela Held
12/29 James Troxell
12/30 Carol McDowell
12/31 George Campagna
1/02 Dick Lester
1/03 Fran McDowell
1/11 Colleen Wee
1/14 Irv Pritts
1/17 Mary Ann Sinwell
1/19 Mary Lou McDonald
1/25 Amanda Wertz
1/28 Carol Wilson

Anniversaries:

1/24 Ed & Dorothy Datasch (50 years)









[Christmas Eve Bulletin](#)

[Christmas Day Bulletin](#)

[Sunday Bulletin](#)



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