

### **Greetings Saints of Emmanuel:**

*Christmas has come and gone. Epiphany is here.*

The Magi -- whom we usually refer to as "wise men" -- are mysterious figures. They, like the Star, appear, seemingly out of nowhere.

But perhaps it is not so mysterious.

Six hundred years before, Nebuchadnezzar exiled Daniel from Judah into Babylon. There, Daniel predicted the fall of Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom -- and subsequent kingdoms! -- and the rise of the one *divine* king and *everlasting* kingdom. Couldn't his book--written half in Aramaic, a language used by these Babylonians--have been passed down, generation to generation, inspiring these very Magi to seek out the baby Jesus' rising Star?

In great faith and humility, they seek out and find the baby Jesus in order to *worship* this baby King. They bring him gifts -- gold, frankincense, myrrh -- so that he is equipped to be crowned and anointed King.

But what comes next? Herod orders baby Jesus' execution; Joseph is warned in a dream; the Holy Family escape to Egypt.

Because of the Magi's great and generous gifts, the Holy Family is equipped and provided for during their stay. They can afford the journey and this unexpected layover, thanks to the Magi.

And so, we see that the exile of Judah into Babylon -- a grievous event six hundred years before! -- is the very thing that ensures both that the baby king is worshipped and that his family is provided for.

God's timing is *nothing* like our own. Always, everywhere, he uses the unraveling of the world to order everything according to his plan, his will, his way.

If God so ordered provision for his Son across six hundred years, how might God be ordering his will and his way in your life and in your family's life and in the many generations to come?

In Christ our Lord,  
+ Pastor Justin Baker

### **Today, Wednesday, January 7th**

11:00AM: Prayer for Families

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 11AM to pray for our families to continue in and return to the faith.

### **Newsworthy**

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#### **Pastor Out of Office | January 12 - 24**

Pastor Justin will be traveling & visiting family. You can reach out to the office for his cell phone to call him for any reason.

**Christianity on Book | January 31, 1PM, The Bakers**

We will have our first "Christianity on Book" discussion. We will be discussing "Live Not By Lies" by Rod Dreher, which you can order [here](#). Please order the book now so that you can read it prior to our discussion! Whether or not you've been a part of the Live Not By Lies Sunday school, this will be a rich discussion and a great opportunity to continue wrestling with the content. Please plan to join us then!

### **Thank You to the Boy Scouts**

Thank you to our local Boy Scouts for the generous donation of our new flag outside the building! We so appreciate your generosity and care.

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### **Please Read: Worship Volunteers**

Volunteer scheduling for worship services is now coordinated by the church office. An email has gone out to all volunteers with the schedule for January. The schedules for February and March will be coming out via email this week. If you receive those emails, please reply to let the office know you've seen them and that you're available on the days scheduled!

To see the January schedule, click [here](#).

To see the February schedule, click [here](#).

### **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, John, Kevin, Jim, Frances, 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 Debbie Pritts, the family of Harry Yothers, and the family of Mark*. 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.*

## **Worship**

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### **From Sunday's Sermon**

Our Lord Jesus brings about the fall and rising of many, that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed. The haughty will be brought low; the humble will be raised.

How does this take place? The Cross. Our Lord Jesus —the most—the only—humble man — is lifted up on the cross, revealing his stunning and absolute glory, so that all who put their hope in him may indeed be saved. Those who put their hope in Jesus will rise with Jesus in his eternal kingdom. All who put their hope in anyone or anything else will not.

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

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

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## Discipleship

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### Sunday School, 9AM

**January 11:** Topic TBD

**January 18:** We will meet to discuss Live Not By Lies one final time on Sunday, January 18th. If you just can't get enough, please join us for our Christianity on Book discussion on January 31st!

**Starting February:** Beginning on February 1st, we will begin a series titled "The Gospel Twisted: The Heresies of Our Day." Please plan to join us!

**January 25 Fellowship Hour:** Bible Trivia!

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**Bible Study on the Book of Daniel | Resumes January 26th**

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## Stewardship

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This week, the church is undergoing the installation of gutter guards around the property. We look forward to the ways this will keep our property in good condition!

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### More This Month

**January 7th**

**11:00AM: Prayer for Families**

6:00PM: Steps and Stories

**January 8th**

7:00PM: Boy Scouts

7:30PM: Al-Anon

**January 9th**

5:30PM: Girl Scouts

**January 11th**

**9:00AM Sunday School**

**10:15AM Worship on the Baptism of Our Lord**

**January 12th**

Pastor Out-Of-Office

**2:00PM: Quilting**

6:30PM: Start the Week

**January 13th**

Pastor Out-Of-Office

**9:00AM: Bell Choir**

**10:00AM: Bell Choir Subset**

**January 14th**

Pastor Out-Of-Office

**11:00AM: Prayer Group (Zoom)**

6:00PM: Steps and Stories

**January 15th**

Pastor Out-Of-Office

7:00PM: Boy Scouts

7:30PM: Al-Anon

**January 16th**

Pastor Out-Of-Office

6:00PM: Girl Scouts

**January 17th**

Pastor Out-Of-Office

**January 18th**

Pastor Out-Of-Office

**9:00AM: Sunday School (Live Not By Lies)**

**10:15AM: Worship on the Second Sunday After Epiphany**

**January 19th**

Pastor Out-Of-Office

**2:00PM: Quilting**

6:30PM: Start the Week

**January 20th**

Pastor Out-Of-Office

**9AM: Bell Choir Rehearsal**

**10AM: Bell Choir Subset**

5:30PM: Champion Cheerleading

7PM: Troop 208 Leaders

**January 21st**

Pastor Out-Of-Office

6PM: Steps and Stories

**January 22nd**

Pastor Out-Of-Office

7PM: Boy Scouts

7:30PM: Al-Anon

**January 23rd**

Pastor Out-Of-Office

5:30PM: Girl Scouts

**January 24th**

Pastor Out-Of-Office

**January 25th**

**9AM Sunday School Fellowship Hour: Bible Trivia**

**10:15AM Worship on the Third Sunday After Epiphany**

**January 26th**

**1PM: Daniel Bible Study**

**2PM: Quilting**

**6:30PM: Daniel Bible Study**

6:30PM: Start the Week

**January 27th**

**9AM: Bell Choir**

**10AM: Bell Choir Subset**

**January 28th**

**11AM: Prayer Group (Zoom)**

6PM: Steps and Stories

**January 29th**

7PM: Boy Scouts

7:30PM: Al-Anon

**January 30th**

**11:15AM: Brookdale Worship Service**

**January 31st**

**1PM: Christianity on Book Discussion (Live Not By Lies)**

### Upcoming Birthdays & Anniversaries

#### **January Birthdays:**

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

#### **January Anniversaries:**

1/24 Ed & Dorothy Datasch (50 years)

#### **February Birthdays:**

2/06 Lisa Pepka

2/09 Joe Ugen

2/10 Dana Visnic Ford

2/11 Jeff Pelusi

2/17 Jordan Pelusi

2/21 Peggy Lewis

2/25 Stephen Cehovin

**February Anniversaries:**

2/09 Mark & Alma Heyl (44 years)

2/28 Jim & Peggy Lewis (65 years)

**Photo Gallery on Our Website!**

We've added a photo gallery to our website to make pictures easier to access and view (and to make the newsletter clearer). Contact the office to add pictures of events to the gallery! (We will feature fewer photos in the newsletters so that we can include more on the website.) View the website photos [here](#).

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church Women**

**Tuesday Morning**

**February 3, 2026**

Luther Hall

**10:00 AM Breakfast**

**&**

**Nella Baker presenting**

*“The CODA Life:*

*Growing Up in a Deaf Family”*



**Devotions:** Danette Hunter

**Hostesses:** Karen Kuczek  
Peggy Lewis

**Program Rep.:** Julie Schamber



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