

# Christmas Eve Services at Emanuel



**Tuesday December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**4PM – Service with Christmas Pageant**

**Zoom Link for 4PM service:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87315541964?pwd=eHFiaPj056Y9GS5FUMrDzavnhRWOeO.1>

**Meeting ID: 873 1554 1964 Password: 650662**

**11PM – Late night candlelight service**

**Zoom Link for 11PM service:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86724397520?pwd=5Xt1XC7CkZ0ujfGJC9SPn1QwSPX5Ob.1>

**Meeting ID: 867 2439 7520 Password: 893809**

# Emanuel's Christmas Giving Tree



Thank you to everyone who provided gifts for the Giving Tree. Special thanks to the Vasa Order of RI for once again donating toys to Emanuel's Giving Tree. This year we made Christmas special for 16+ children. Thank you to Christine Stewart & Lori Martin for organizing and distributing the gifts. Thank you to Lori's friend Dawn & Molly for helping too. Merry Christmas!

# Live Laugh & Learn Lunch



The next lunch will be held:

**Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>** 12:30PM to 2PM

at the **Cowesett Inn**

226 Cowesett Avenue, West Warwick, RI 02893

Estimated cost \$10 to \$30

If you would like to go, please email, text or call  
Michael Groleau at

Cell: 401-465-5021

Email: [MichaelKGroleau@gmail.com](mailto:MichaelKGroleau@gmail.com)

Friends welcome!

# Blue Advent Stole

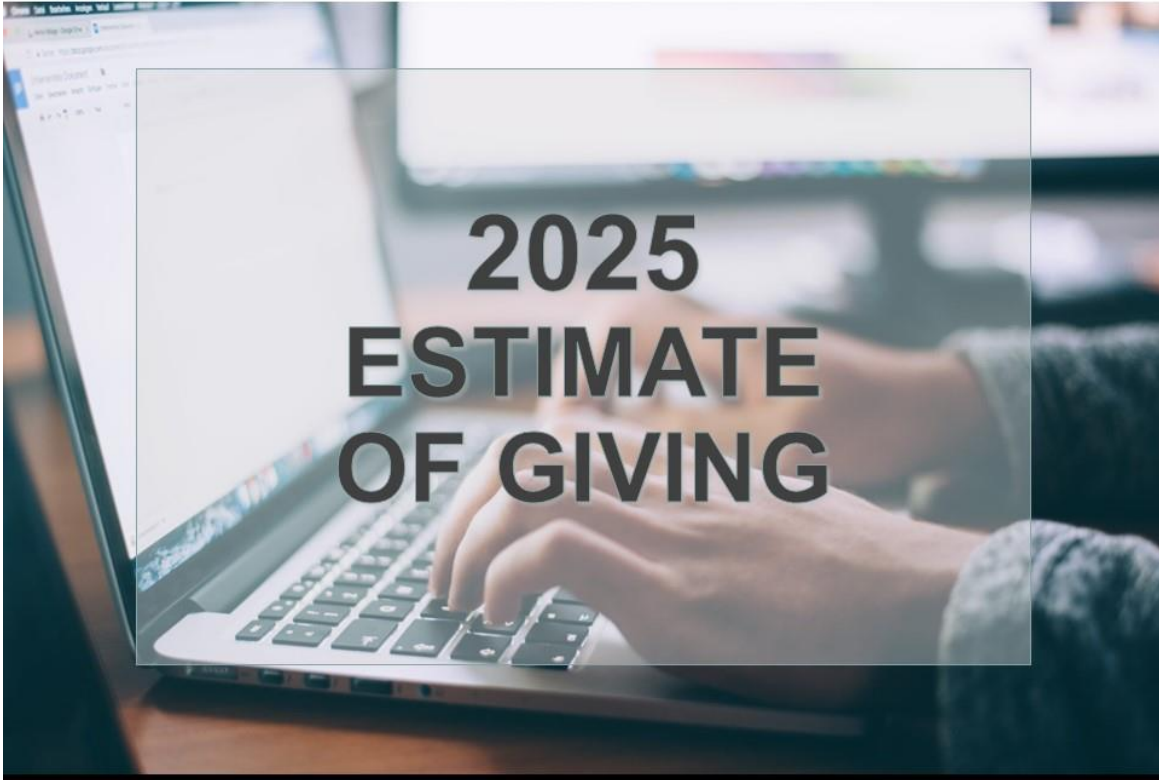


This is my blue Advent stole. Many years ago my parents got it for me as an early Christmas present. Each year I think of them as I find it and put it on at this time of year.

Blue is the color of Advent. Blue is the color of hope. It's also the color of the pre-dawn sky, just before the sun comes up.

This time of year we look forward to God's son coming to be with us

# Requesting 2025 Estimates of Giving



Thank you for your support this past year.

As this year comes to a close we have begun to look forward to 2025 and have begun putting together a budget for the new year. Please help us with this process by taking a moment to send in your estimate of giving for 2025. You can do this be either filling out the form on Emanuel's website:

[www.emanuelww.org](http://www.emanuelww.org)

*(Under the "DONATE" menu item click on "2025 GIVING FORM")*

Or you can mail a paper copy of the estimate of giving form to the church office. In case you need form, a copy is **attached** to this email. If possible, please submit your 2025 estimate of giving by

**Sunday December 29<sup>th</sup>**

Thank you in advance for your input. If you have any questions, please call or email me. Thank you.

# Did You Know?



Last week we served 76 families and gave out 5,218 pounds of food at Emanuel's Food Pantry.

# Readers of Emanuel



## January 2025

The Readers of Emanuel book club is reading  
“The Nickel Boys” by Colson Whitehead.

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize • New York Times Bestseller • Longlisted for The National Book Award • Winner of The Kirkus Prize • One of Publishers Weekly's 10 Best Books of the Year • Soon to be a motion picture. The Nickel Boys is a 2019 novel by American novelist Colson Whitehead. It is based on the historic Dozier School, a reform school in Florida that operated for 111 years.

We haven't set a date for our next meeting yet, but it will be on a Sunday in late January. We will meet after worship at ~12pm in Jacobs Hall. Everyone is invited!

## Emanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes November 14, 2024

Attendees: Ken Wieboldt, Sue Wieboldt, Myron Gadoury, Ray Nunez, Pastor Todd Stange, Bruce Johnson, Jack Gibbs, Mark Melanson, Marcia Melanson

**Opening Devotions** Pastor Todd

**Minutes:** Motion to accept the October Council minutes by Pastor Todd. Seconded by Bruce

**Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee:** Income was \$18K last month and expenditures were also \$18K. Thrivent Endowment account went down last month because of negative monthly earnings and growth (-\$2,089.56). YTD we have had an increase of \$8,843.87 in the Thrivent Main account. YTD earnings and growth is \$21,678.00. Total earmarked items amount to \$8,131. We have underspent the budget by \$7,200.00. Carol was unable to find cheaper insurance than Church Mutual, so we will remain with them in the coming year.

**Finance** would like Council to reconsider the matter regarding feedback on the video. There was some discussion by the Council regarding this matter. The Lay Minister and the Pastor should turn off their mikes when singing so as not to overpower the congregation during songs. There was some discussion about purchasing a different kind of mike to pick up the choir when they sing. Myron will look into the cost of this. Perhaps the quality on YouTube would be better. We would need to look into the cost of YouTube.

**Christian Ed Committee:** There was a decision made to have the Christmas Pageant at the 10:30 service the Sunday before Christmas (December 22<sup>nd</sup>). It was suggested by the committee that the Christmas Eve service be moved to 9:00 PM versus the usual 11:00 PM. Pastor will send out a survey to determine the time of the service on Christmas Eve. Confirmation classes have spotty attendance, with two Sundays having no confirmands in attendance. There was a discussion about the commitment needed to be a confirmand. Marge and Sue think that they should have a discussion with the kids about this. Pastor will follow up with this and report out at the Council meeting next month.

**Property Committee:** Myron got a quote for landscaping – to cut grass is \$75 a cut at \$300 a month and will be \$400 a cut for the landscaping (New London side), which will be on a yearly basis. Myron will continue to seek out quotes. There will be a cemetery cleanup the last Saturday in November. Michael will make up some slides for the solar meeting after church. There was a discussion about replacing the boiler (around \$15,000). There is better efficiency with the boiler type we have now. If the boiler breaks down, it could take three weeks to replace it. That would be a problem in the winter as the day care would need to be shut down during that time. If it breaks down in the spring, they would not necessarily have to shut down the day care. Myron is going to look for a replacement janitor for the church,

**Worship and Music:** The Tuesday before Thanksgiving there will be a church service at Pilgrim Lutheran Church. Pastor will be giving the sermon. There will be a Holden Evening Prayer service on December 15<sup>th</sup>. The Epiphany service will take place this year and we will be inviting other churches to join us. Choir has started up again and they are now singing on Sundays.



The Bazaar went very well. We made \$5615.00 plus some additional monies still owed. The bake sale made \$500 more than last year, nearly \$1700. The raffle made over \$2000. Pastor went to the new Bishop's convocation this last week. There are congregations in the Synod who have licensed lay ministers. They act in the stead of Pastors.

The next meeting is on December 12<sup>th</sup> and will be held at the Wieboldt's home at 6:00.

### **Closing**

### **Meeting Adjourned at 8:40 PM**

Notes respectfully submitted by Donna Sennett

## **2025 Offering Envelopes**



The 2025 Offering envelopes are in! If you use offering envelopes, please pick your box of envelopes in the back of the sanctuary. If you didn't have envelopes this year and would like some for 2025, feel free to take an unmarked box. There is a sheet for you to put your name and address next to the envelope number you are taking. Thank you.

**Are You Interested in Giving?**



# **Rhode Island Blood Center**

Pilgrim Lutheran Church is organizing a blood drive in honor of one of their members Chris Spencer. They have reached out to Emanuel to see if anyone would be interested in giving blood. A date has not been set yet, but it will be in January or February of next year.

If schedule permitting you would be willing to give blood, please let pastor Todd know. Thank you!

[pastor@emanuelww.org](mailto:pastor@emanuelww.org)

# Please Submit Your Reimbursements



**by December 19<sup>th</sup>**

Our treasurer, Carol Johnson, kindly requests that all reimbursements for the current year be submitted by 12/19.

You can email Carol at **[treasurerelcww@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerelcww@gmail.com)** or put them in her mailbox in the church office. Thank you!

# Wednesday Bible Study of Genesis



**2 weeks off**

**Next session Wednesday  
January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7PM**

# Do You Like Coffee?



If so, consider hosting coffee hour one Sunday. If it's your first time (or 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>), people will help you and show you where everything is.

Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the entry way. Thank you.



## Sharing Our Stories of God

We are inviting people to share stories of how God has shown up in their lives.

If you would be willing to share a story from your life, please let Pastor Todd know. Thank you.

[pastor@emanuelww.org](mailto:pastor@emanuelww.org)

## Bible Readings for Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup>

### First Reading

**Luke 1:26-38**

*Jesus' birth is foretold. God's promise from centuries before will be fulfilled in an unwed, young woman from a small town.*

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.' <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

### Second Reading

**Luke 1:39-56**

*Elizabeth, John the Baptist's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.*

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

50 His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

51 He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;

53 he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

54 He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,

55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

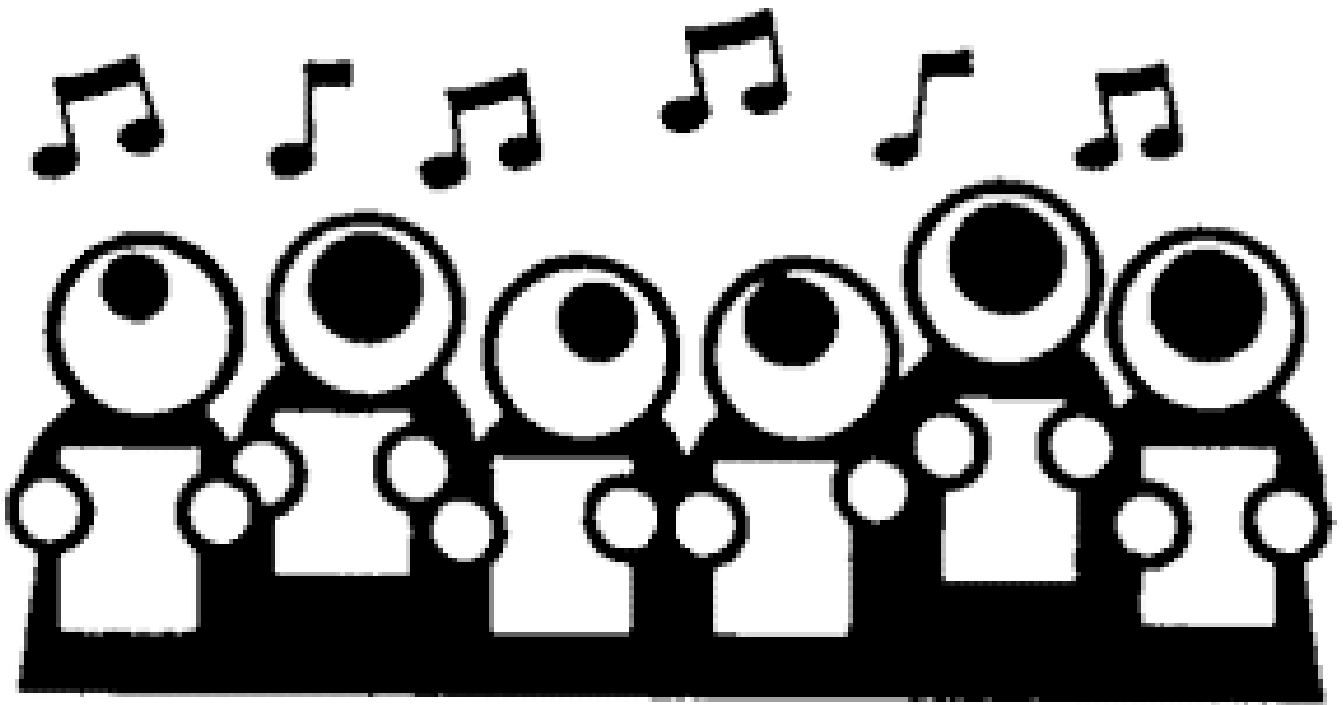
56 And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

### **How do the Bible readings speak to you?**





# Choir at Emanuel



**Sundays at 9AM  
in the sanctuary.**

**All who like to make  
music are welcome.**

## On-line Worship at Emanuel Sundays at 10:30AM



### What to Do - if You would Like to Come to On-line Worship

Just click on the Zoom link below on Sunday at 10:30AM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/93690864460?pwd=cHZ5RVNsdnFYcDhhNVdMKzA2VENlQT09>

You can also join us by phone by calling (929) 205-6099 and entering Meeting ID: 936 9086 4460 and Password: 933328

A video of the service will be posted on Emanuel's website and Facebook group page later in the day.

# Offerings to Emanuel



## Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who has been mailing in their offering or giving through Simply Giving and Givelify.

Offerings can be mailed to:

Emanuel Lutheran Church  
20 Leaf Street  
West Warwick, RI 02893

OR you can use either the Simply Giving program, which allows you to automate the giving of an offering from a checking account, or Givelify, which is online app that allows giving through a debit or credit card.

If you would like to find out more about either of these, please let Emanuel's Treasurer, Carol Johnson, or Pastor Todd know. Thank you.

**You can give to Emanuel through Givelify by clicking on the DONATE button on Emanuel's website OR by clicking here: [Donate](#)**

[www.emanuelww.org](http://www.emanuelww.org)

## Do you have Thrivent Choice Dollars?



**THRIVENT  
FINANCIAL®**

*Connecting faith & finances for good.®*

## HOW TO DIRECT THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS®

If you have a Thrivent Financial relationship, you may have Thrivent Choice Dollars.

Thrivent Choice Dollars can be given to many organizations including Emanuel. Last year Emanuel received over \$2,000 in Thrivent Choice Dollars. These funds helped Emanuel's ministries. Thank you!

**If you have Thrivent Choice dollars, you have to direct them, otherwise they are not given out.**

**To see if you have Thrivent Choice dollars and to direct them, go to:**

- Online at [www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice).
- Phone: [800-847-4836](tel:800-847-4836) and say "Thrivent Choice" at the prompt. The Member Connection Center is open until 6 p.m. Central time, Monday – Friday.

# Sermon Topics



*Narrative Lectionary September 8 – June 8*

12/22 Jesus' Birth Announced

12/29 Christmas Lessons & Carols

1/5 Boy in the Temple

1/12 Jesus' Baptism

1/19 Sermon at Nazareth

...

**Please keep these children of God  
in your prayers this week:**

**For Healing & Comfort:** Nancy Kennedy & her daughter Sierra

**Worship Assistants**

	<i>December 22</i>	<i>December 29</i>
<b>Counter:</b>	<b>Glenn Johnson</b>	<b>Mike Ricci</b>
	<b>8:00AM</b>	<b>8:00AM</b>
<b>Lector:</b>	<b>Kathy Marco</b>	<b>Kathy Garriott</b>
<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Tim Hart</b>	<b>Tim Hart</b>
	<b>10:30AM</b>	<b>10:30AM</b>
<b>Lay Minister:</b>	<b>Diane Gadoury</b>	<b>Bruce Johnson</b>
<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Christian L.</b>	<b>Christian L.</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Ken Wieboldt</b>	<b>Brandee Muncey &amp; Joanne Powers</b>
<b>Lector:</b>	<b>Jack Gibbs</b>	<b>Mary Schabek</b>
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	<b>Christian L.</b>	volunteer needed

**December's Memorial Candle**



The Memorial Candle for December is given by Susan Auger  
in loving memory of **Douglas Auger.**

# Christmas Eve

## Worship Assistants

	<i>December 24</i>
	<b>4:00PM</b>
<b>Lay Minister:</b>	<b>Diane Gadoury</b>
<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Aubrey Suffoletto</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Lector:</b>	<b>Christmas Pageant</b>
	<b>11:00PM</b>
<b>Lay Minister:</b>	<b>Donna Sennett</b>
<b>Usher</b>	<b>Ken Wieboldt</b>
<b>Lector</b>	<b>Sue Wieboldt</b>



### This Week at Emanuel

<b>Monday, December 16</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Deliveries to food pantry (10AM – 1PM)</b>
	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Al-Anon (Jacobs Hall)</b>
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<b>Tuesday, December 17</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Tuesday Morning Bible Study (JH)</b>
	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Food Pantry 10AM - 12PM</b>
		<b>Pastor Office Hours 10AM – 2PM</b>
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<b>Wednesday, December 18</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Ellie's Circle (JH)</b>
	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Bible Study on Genesis (JH)</b>
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<b>Thursday, December 19</b>		
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<b>Friday, December 20</b>		<b>Sue's Office Hours</b>
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<b>Saturday, December 21</b>		
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<b>Sunday, December 22</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>Worship in Person</b>
<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Choir</b>
	<b>9:15am</b>	<b>Sunday School (FH) &amp; Confirmation (JH)</b>
	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Worship in Person &amp; Online</b>
	<b>11:30am</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>

### Next Week at Emanuel

<b>Monday, December 23</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Deliveries to food pantry (10AM – 1PM)</b>
	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Al-Anon (Jacobs Hall)</b>
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<b>Tuesday, December 24</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Food Pantry 10AM - 12PM</b>
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>4:00pm</b>	<b>Service with Christmas pageant</b>
	<b>11:00pm</b>	<b>Late night Candlelight Service</b>
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<b>Wednesday, December 25</b>		<b>Christmas Day!</b>
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<b>Thursday, December 26</b>		
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<b>Friday, December 27</b>		<b>Sue's Office Hours</b>
	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>Wedding Rehearsal</b>
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<b>Saturday, December 28</b>	<b>1:30pm</b>	<b>Wedding</b>
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<b>Sunday, December 29</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>Lessons &amp; Carols Worship in Person</b>
<b>First Sunday of Christmas</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Choir</b>
	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Lessons &amp; Carols Worship in Person &amp; Online</b>
	<b>11:30am</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>



## **Upcoming Commemorations**

### **Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552**

**Friday, December 20, 2024**

Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.

### **Stephen, Deacon and Martyr**

**Thursday, December 26, 2024**

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.

### **John, Apostle and Evangelist**

**Friday, December 27, 2024**

The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

### **The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

**Saturday, December 28, 2024**

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

Double click on link below to see Emanuel's online calendar:

**[Emanuel's Online Calendar](#)**

The calendar is on Emanuel's web site.