

WELCOME to Emanuel's Lutheran Church!

We eagerly await the coming of Christmas and are glad you are with us today.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Children's church: kindergarten to 5th grade gathers in the chapel.

GATHERING HYMN

"The King Shall Come"

ELW 260

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM: Madden Henry Vickers

ELW p. 227

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

AM: Let us pray together.

C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

L: A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁰The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." ¹³ Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted." The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7,17-19

Congregation responds with bold text.

- ¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- ² In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.
- ³Restore us, O God;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴O LORD God of hosts,

how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

- ⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- ⁶ You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- ⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

- ¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.
- ¹⁸ And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.
- ¹⁹ Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Marcus

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

ELW 263

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

AM: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation. In the anticipation of these days, prepare our hearts for your arrival. Stir our spirits through the gifts of artists, musicians, poets, and preachers, as together we proclaim your advent among us.

Response to each petition: AM: God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

AM: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C: Amen.

PEACE

MEAL

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING HYMN

"Fling Wide the Door"

ELW 259

Giving information is located on the back of the bulletin.

OFFERING PRAYER

AM: Let us pray.

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

COMMUNION

Communion will take place via continuous line (right side) and continuous kneeling (left side). We welcome all baptized persons to the Lord's Table who believe Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. Children are welcome to be brought forward to receive a blessing. Participants to the right will be offered a wafer and invited to eat with these words, "the body of Christ given for you." Gluten free wafers are available. Next, step to the right, to the silver tray that contains glasses of white grape juice at the center and outer empty glasses for wine. Lastly, participants will step to the last assistant who will pour the wine and share these words, "the blood of Christ shed for you." Place your glass in the

small silver bowl at the end of the first pew as you return to your seat. If you wish to come forward and not receive either element, simply cross your arms for a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMNS

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

ELW 257

Verses 1-4

"All Earth is Hopeful"

ELW 266

TABLE BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

AM: Let us pray.

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

P: May God who comes among us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"Canticle of the Turning"

ELW 723

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Emanuel's Lutheran Church welcomes

Madden Henry Vickers

son of Bryce Vickers

into the body of Christ and into the mission we share as
a new member of Emanuel's Lutheran Church
through the sacrament of Baptism.

Thanks and praise to God.

Grandparents are Todd and Bree Vickers. Great-grandmother is Nancy Seidenberger. Madden's sponsors are Klein Vickers and Blaine Vickers **Musician:** Edward Workmon, organ

WORSHIP LEADERS for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21, 2025: Preaching and Presiding: Pastor Marcus; Assisting Minister: Elizabeth Jandt; Communion Assistants: Dave English, Fran Vinyard, Liz Witten, Janelle Leon-Weinman, Marsha Schroeder; Reader: Melissa Barbre; Ushers: Rissa Springs, Ilene Cherry, Darlene Zies, NEEDED; Altar Guild: Marsha Schroeder, Dave English, Sheila English; A/V Tech: Jonathan Zitelman; Council Greeter: Bill Salt; Hospitality: Gloria Hanna, Barbara Haas, Doris Jefferies; Safety Attendants: TBD

WORSHIP LEADERS for the Service of Lessons and Carols on the First Sunday of Christmas, December 28, 2025: Preaching: Pastor Marcus; Presiding: Pastor Rudy; Assisting Minister: Marsha Shcroeder; Readers: TBD; Ushers: Tim Troell, Joe Kane, Deborah Almquist, Bev Seidenschwarz, Barbara McCall; AV/Tech: Andrew Almquist; Council Greeter: Rissa Springs Hospitality: Deborah Almquist, Gerry Harrison, Sheila English; Safety Attendants: TBD

EMANUEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY WORSHIP is in-person, online, and aired on KWED AM 1580 radio at 10:30 a.m.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED December 25, 2025 and will reopen Monday, January 5, 2026.

SUNDAY STUDIES:

- **THE HERITAGE CLASS** (307): 9:15am. Seeking to unlock the wisdom of the Bible through fellowship and robust group discussion. Winter Study: "Light, Life, Salvation."
- **JOY CLASS**: Bible stories and songs for adults with intellectual disabilities. Class meets the first Sunday of each month in the WMR at 9:00am.
- **THE DISCIPLES CLASS** (Family Life Center): 9:00am December 7-21. Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" Advent Study led by Paul Sims.
- **CHILDREN'S CHURCH**: During worship Children's Ministry volunteers lead our PK to 5th grade learners to the Children's Church room, just down the hall from the sanctuary, and return as we share the peace.
- **THE COMPASS COOPERATIVE** gathers on Sundays with our church partners- Emanuel's, St. Andrew's, and Spirit of Joy at Spirit of Joy campus. Middle School (6-8 grades) from 4-5pm, dinner for everyone at 5pm, and High School (9-12 grades) from 5:30-6:30pm. Contact <u>Hannah@elcsequin.orq</u> for more info.
- **CONFIRMATION CLASS** meets **today**, **December 21** at 11:45 in the WMR.

WEEKLY AND MONTHLY STUDIES AND PROGRAMS:

Chair Yoga with Gina (Family Life Center): Wednesdays at 9:00am resumes January 7

3C: Community-Connection-Conversation (Church Lawn): Tuesdays at 7:30am

The Wired Word (Family Life Center): Tuesdays at 8:45am

Sweet Hour of Prayer (Family Life Center): Thursdays at 10am

Pathways to Healing Grief Support (Family Life Center): Resumes in January, 2nd Sun. at 2pm

Caregiver Café (Family Life Center): 3rd Sunday at 2:00pm

Faith Circle (Women's Ministry Rm):3rd Tuesdays at 2:00pm

Joy Circle (Women's Ministry Rm): 2nd Thursday at 9:30am

Ladies Aid (Women's Ministry Rm): 1st Wednesdays at 2:00pm resuming in January

ALTAR FLOWERS are placed in honor of Madden Vickers in celebration of his Baptism. Given by Todd and Bree Vickers, his grandparents.

LUTHERAN LUNCH BUNCH is starting the new year at a new restaurant. Join the group after worship on **Sunday, January 4** at The Cowboy's Palace, 550 N TX-123, Suite #184, Seguin, TX. The Lutheran Lunch Bunch is a lively group of post-worship food enthusiasts who gather at a local restaurant on the first Sunday of every month. With full hearts from the service and empty stomachs ready for fellowship, you're invited to dive into hearty meals, laughter, and lively conversation.

SENIOR SOCIAL CLUB LUNCHEON will be on **Thursday, January 15** at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall. We will be celebrating Oktoberfest with Bill Hauserman making us some wonderful German dishes. Everyone please bring sides or desserts to share, especially if you have some favorite German recipes.

Registration

2026 ALL-CHURCH RETREAT: Everyone is invited to Camp Chrysalis in the beautiful Hill Country on January 23-25! We will worship and eat together, hike and canoe, swing on the giant swing, enjoy a night under the stars with s'mores, share in fellowship and do some service projects. Registration and health forms are completely online. Payments can be made to Emanuel's online or via check or cash. Note "Church Retreat" in the memo line. All registration documents must be submitted by Sunday, January 11. Costs per person are \$70 for preschool and under, \$90 for kinder to 5th grade, and \$110 for 6th grade to adult. Prices include all meals, snacks, activities, and housing!

Hosting Team members, assistants, ushers, and those interested in this crucial ministry for our church, to an update meeting in the Women's Ministry Room on **Sunday**, **January 4** at 9am. The plan for this meeting is to go over our current practices, update contact lists and teams as necessary, answer questions about hosting and ushering, and encourage new faces to join teams. Contact Pastor Marcus if you are not able to make the meeting but would be interested in continuing to serve or joining a team.

EUCHARISTIC & CARE FACILITY TRAINING: Pastor Rudy invites you to join him on **Sunday, January 11** at 9am in the Women's Ministry Room for an informational session and training for anyone interested in joining our Eucharistic teams. Every month, volunteers from our congregation lead worship services in six resident care facilities. The services include singing, Holy Communion, and connection to our community. All current volunteers are invited to join the class as well. A special commissioning and blessing of volunteers will take place during the Sunday service in celebration of this new year of Eucharistic ministry. Contact Pastor Rudy if you are unable to make this training and wish to join one of the teams.

GRIEF SYMPOSIUM: CARING FOR CHILDREN & ADOLESCENTS is presented by Emanuel's Lutheran Church and the Resilient Foundation, a cooperative mental wellness ministry of Seguin-area churches. Join us on **Thursday, January 8**, 2026, from 9am – 12:30pm in the Seguin ISD Boardroom, 1221 E. Kingsbury St, for an informative event for parents, caregivers, educators, and community members. This symposium will provide insight, understanding, and hope for those walking alongside grieving children and adolescents. Registration and Event Information is online here: https://shorturl.at/Pz5hR



EMANUEL'S CONGREGATION COUNCIL And Ministry Team Liaisons

President, Rissa Springs, Worship Team
Vice President, Bryce Kennedy, Outreach & Service Team
Secretary, Paul Sims, Education Team
Treasurer, Susan Yeatts, Fellowship & Feast Team
Sheila English, Fellowship & Feast Team
Charles Jobe, Safety and Property Team
Tim Kent, Fellowship & Feast Team
Janelle Leon-Weinman, Gather & Grow Team
Bill Salt, Education Team
Darlene Zies, Outreach & Service Team
Natalia Almquist, Gather & Grow Team

ALL TEAM MEETING NIGHT Wednesday, January 28, 2026 5:30pm in the Women's Ministry Room

All of Emanuel's Ministry Teams gather on a single evening to share a meal, collaborate, plan, and schedule upcoming events and ministry projects. Join us this last Wednesday of January.

EMANUEL'S STAFF

Senior Pastor, The Rev. Marcus Bigott, 830-377-8643 cell, pastormarcus@elcseguin.org
Associate Pastor, The Rev. Rudy Salazar, Jr. pastorrudy@elcseguin.org
Visitation Pastor- San Antonio, The Rev. Darwin Huartson, dhuartson@icloud.com
Day School Director, Michelle Martin, mmartin@elcseguin.org
Office and Campus Administrator, Sherry Hardwick, sherry@elcseguin.org
Director of Finance, Jeni Payton, jeni@elcseguin.org
Principal Organist, Edward Workmon, edward@elcseguin.org
Director of Choirs, Samuel Bigott, sbigott@ingramisd.net
Bereavement and Senior Care Coordinator, Donna Simmons, donna@elcseguin.org
Compass Cooperative Program Director, Hannah Hansen, hannah@elcseguin.org

EMANUEL'S MISSION STATEMENT: "To be the church God is calling us to be by declaring God's love, serving others, and embracing all."

GIVING AT EMANUEL'S: Donations and tithes to the church may be given by envelopes in the pews, mailed to the church, online, or scanned with QR Code below.



Emanuel's Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America 206 North Travis Street | Seguin, Texas 78155 (830) 379-5046 | info@elcseguin.org Church office is open Monday-Thursday from 8-5 www.EmanuelsLutheranChurch.com

The King Shall Come



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit-tle child, to bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright er than the ris ing morn when Christ, vic to rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright er than that glo rious morn shall dawn up on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the hills and life east - ern joy a - wakes. to glo - ry that lights the but crowned with like the sun morn-ing sky. lone-some place of death, de - spite the left rage of foes. and the when Christ in splen-dor comes, and we shall see the his face. day Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick-ly, King of kings. Hail, Christ the

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, Kentucky Harmony, 1816

Savior of the Nations, Come



- 1 Sav ior of the na tions, come; vir gin's son, make here your home.
- 2 Not by hu man flesh and blood, but the mys tic Breath of God,
- 3 Won-drous birth—oh, won-drous child—from his throne, a vir gin mild!
- 4 From God's heart the Sav ior speeds, back to God his path-way leads;



heav'n and Mar - vel earth: God has cho - sen birth. now. such the Word of God made flesh. was fruit of wom - an. blos som fresh. Mar - y's God, and Ver - y son, ea - ger now his race run! to out van-quish death's com - mand, back to reign God's right hand. to at

- 5 Now your manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light. Night cannot this light subdue; let our faith shine ever new.
- 6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, incarnate Word!
 To the holy Trinity praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. hymnal version Music: Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, J. Walter, Geistliche Gesangbüchlein, 1524 Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

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Fling Wide the Door

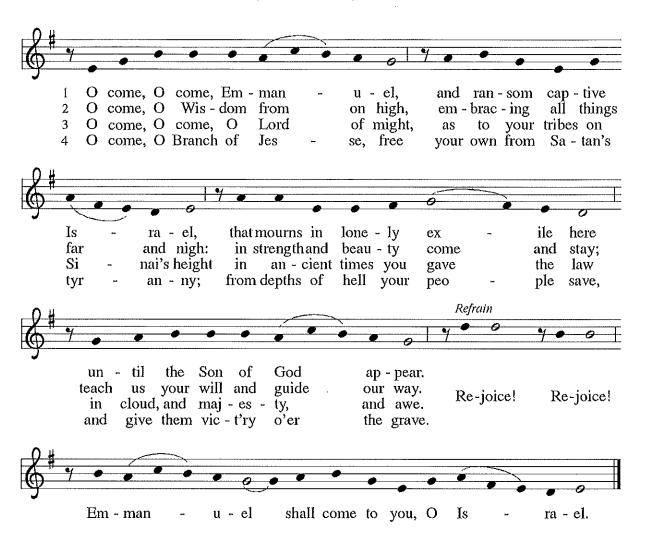


Text: Georg Weissel, 1590-1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943

Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, Geistreiches Gesangbuch, 1704

Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

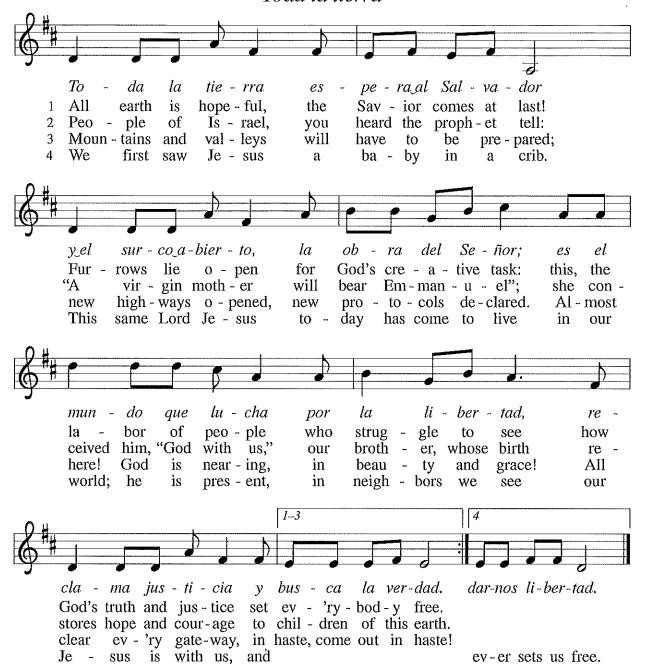


- 5 O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. Refrain
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one: refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent. Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

All Earth Is Hopeful

Toda la tierra



- 2 Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel: "De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel," será "Dios con nosotros," hermano será, con él la esperanza al mundo volverá.
- 3 Montes y valles habrá que preparar; nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar. Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar, y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.
 - 4 En una cueva Jesús apareció, pero en el mundo está presente hoy. Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está; y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946 Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé

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Canticle of the Turning



Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat
Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional
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