

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 22, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.

AS WE GATHER

When Jesus appeared on the scene of human history, His coming was like the light of a new day. Isaiah had prophesied a day would come filled with joy as at the harvest or when victors divide spoils. But daylight also reveals problems covered by darkness, like the divisions at the Church in Corinth, as Paul writes. Jesus' light not only reveals, but it also forgives, heals, and enlivens. People brought the sick and demon-possessed to our Lord, and the first four disciples jumped at the opportunity to follow Him. What ills shall we bring to worship today for resolution? Sins requiring forgiveness, gloom needing joy, divisions seeking reconciliation? Jesus came into human history to die and rise for us; today He comes through Word and Sacrament in grace and mercy to meet our deepest needs. Let us rejoice in the light of God's forgiveness, mercy, and love.

HYMN "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" WOV 649 / LSB 411

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus. *Refrain*

ref In Him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father. *Refrain*

3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain*
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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *1 Corinthians 1:18; Psalm 27:14*

Pastor: The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing,

People: but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Pastor: Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage;

People: wait for the LORD!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Matthew 4:17; Philippians 3:20; 1 Corinthians 1:18*

Pastor: St. Matthew writes that Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
Let us respond by confessing our sins and asking our Lord's forgiveness.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not

loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: “For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” Be assured that through Jesus’ blood-bought rescue, you are already citizens in the Kingdom of heaven. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN “White as Snow” -Leon Olguin

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White as snow, white as snow,
Though my sins were as scarlet;
Lord, I know, Lord, I know,
That I’m clean and forgiven.
Through the power of Your blood,
Through the wonder of Your love,
Through faith in you I know that I can be
White as snow.

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord,

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 9:1–4* (Light and joy will replace gloom and sadness.) There will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 27:1–14*

Leader: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

People: The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Leader: When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh,

People: my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

Leader: Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;

People: though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

Leader: One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:

People: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.

Leader: For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

People: he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

Leader: And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;

People: I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Leader: Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

People: You have said, “Seek my face.”

Leader: My heart says to you, “Your face, Lord, do I seek.” Hide not your face from me.

People: Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help.

Leader: Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!

People: For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the Lord will take me in.

Leader: Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

People: Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence.

Leader: I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!

People: Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 1:10–18* (There should not be divisions in the one Church.) I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe’s people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. What I mean is that each one of you says, “I follow Paul,” or “I follow Apollos,” or “I follow Cephas,” or “I follow Christ.” Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 4:12–25* (In Galilee, Jesus calls the first four disciples.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

When [Jesus] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,

Galilee of the Gentiles—the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY “You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore” WOV 784 (We do not have permission to reprint this song. Please use the song book if possible.)

SERMON “Blackholes” Matthew 4:12–25

NEW MEMBER INSTALLATION

Dear Friends in Christ, on this day we have the joyful privilege of welcoming into our fellowship at Emmaus Lutheran Church these fellow saints in the body of Christ now present here before you.

To those of you who are becoming members through Affirmation of Faith, I would now ask you in the presence of God and this congregation:

Do you acknowledge and confess the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church to be the true and unaltered teachings of the Word of God? If so, answer, “I Do.”

Do you desire in the sincere obedience of God, to be received into the communicant fellowship of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of Emmaus congregation? If so, answer, “I Do.”

Do you intend to continue in the confession of this Church, to make diligent and faithful use of His Word and Sacrament, and to lead a sober, righteous and God-pleasing life, even unto the end? If so, answer, “I do so intend, with the help of God.”

Please join with the people of Emmaus in confessing our faith with the words of the Apostles’ Creed. *I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

In the Name of our Gracious God and on behalf of the people of Emmaus, I bid you welcome as members of Emmaus Lutheran Church and encourage you to faithfully continue with us in worshiping God, in hearing His Word and sharing His Supper, in proclaiming the Good News of God in Christ through word and deed, and in striving for justice and peace in all the earth. May the blessings of the Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit rest upon you and abide with you. Depart in peace, serving the Lord!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING

We offer our gifts to the Lord as we use this time in our service for contemplation and preparation for the sacrament of communion. Offerings can be placed in the plates at the back entrance doors as you leave the sanctuary.

PREFACE 2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

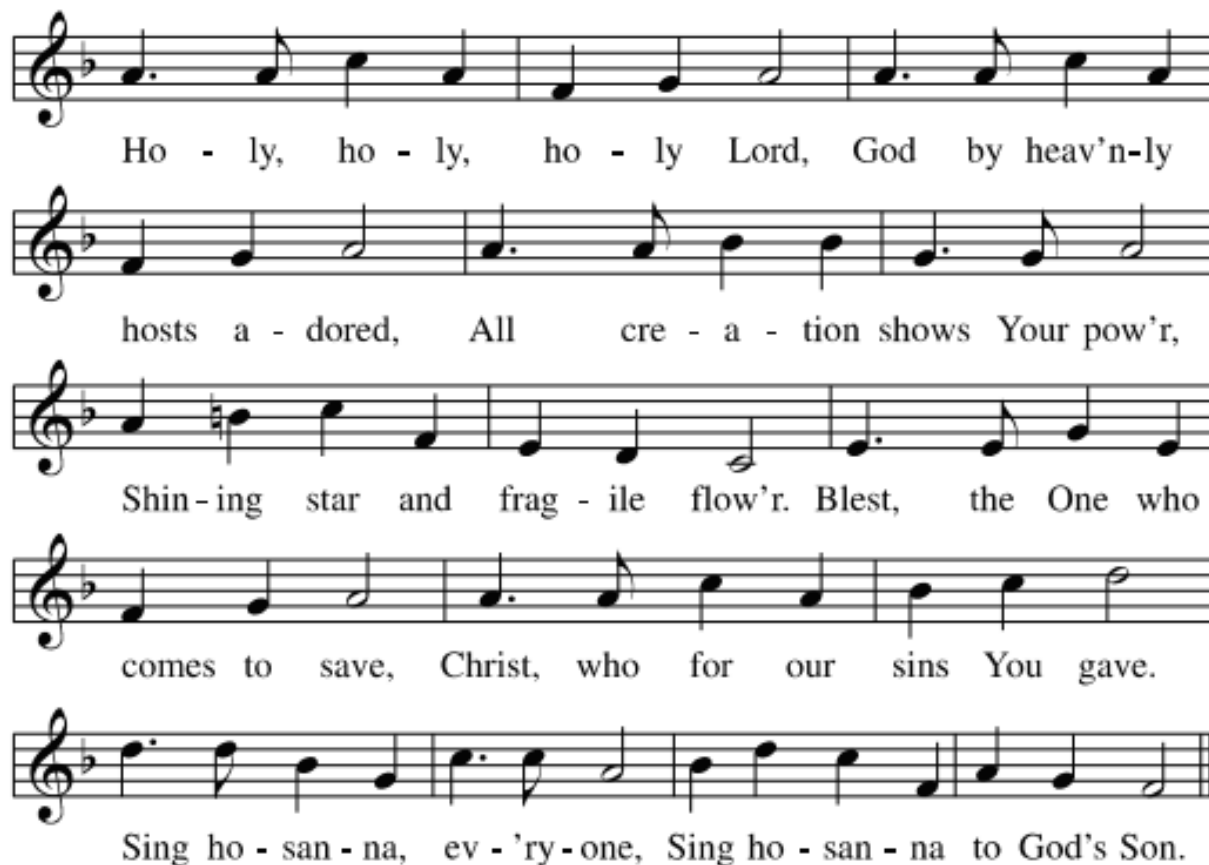
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God by heav'n-ly
hosts a - dored, All cre - a - tion shows Your pow'r,
Shin - ing star and frag - ile flow'r. Blest, the One who
comes to save, Christ, who for our sins You gave.
Sing ho - san - na, ev - 'ry - one, Sing ho - san - na to God's Son.

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Tune: George Elvey 1816-93, public domain.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. As the glory of Your presence once filled Your ancient temple, so in the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You manifested the fullness of Your glory in human flesh. We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper You reveal Your glory to us. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood so that we may one day behold Your glory face to face.

People: Amen.

WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD’S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

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.

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI



Je - sus, God's own Lamb, we pray As You take all
sin a - way, Hear us as we call Your name
That with You we may re - main. You came to us
from a - bove; You have poured on us God's love.
Take our sin, give us Your peace, Till our days on earth shall cease.

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You are invited to receive the Lord's Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN "Just As I Am" -Charlotte Elliott, Travis Cottrell, Sue C. Smith, David Moffitt, William Batchelder Bradbury
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1. Just as I am without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2. Just as I am and waiting now
To rid my soul of one dark blot.
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Refrain: I come broken to be mended.
I come wounded to be healed.
I come desp'rate to be rescued.
I come empty to be filled.

I come guilty to be pardoned
By the blood of Christ, the Lamb.
And I'm welcomed with open arms,
Praise God, just as I am.

3. Just as I am I would be lost,
But mercy and grace my freedom bought.
And now to glory in Your cross,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come. *Refrain twice*

Ending: Praise God, just as I am... Just as I am.

BLESSING

Pastor: May our Lord's body and blood strengthen and preserve you in true faith to life everlasting. Depart in peace and with joy.

People: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" *LSB 643*

1 Sent forth by God's blessing,
Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.
The Supper is ended.
O now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching,
Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us,
His love shall unite us
To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.

2 With praise and thanksgiving
To God ever-living,
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing,
In love ever caring,
Embracing His children of each tribe and race.
With Your feast You feed us,

With Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
With praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.
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DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: *Matthew 4:20 – “Immediately they left their nets and followed him.”*
Discipleship cost Peter and Andrew everything they had. They left their trade, their hometown, their families, and they followed Jesus. God has called us to the same discipleship, the same devotion, though the exact details of how that is lived out will vary. The important thing is this: we know that all we have is the Lord’s, to be used for His purpose. We are His disciples and are ready to follow where He leads.

MOM & BABY ITEMS NEEDED: Every month Jeena Vomhof collects personal items for teenage moms (hand cream, body cream, pads, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, chapstick, etc.) and babies 6 months - 2 years old (diapers, diaper cream, wipes, toys, clothes, etc.) living at LifeHaven. At LifeHaven Transitional Living Services for Teen Moms, young mothers and their children are welcomed, accepted and supported. Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota’s LifeHaven is a family-style home on the east side of Saint Paul that provides housing and support to 16-17 year old mothers and their children, who are experiencing homelessness. If you would like to donate, items may be dropped off at Jeena’s store: Namaste Brows and Boutique, 1718B Lexington Ave. N, Roseville, MN 55113.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: The annual voters’ meeting of Emmaus will be held on Sunday, January 29 after the service. We will be voting on the 2023 budget and copies of the annual report will be available.

2022 GIVING STATEMENTS: You will receive your contribution statement in the mail if your total contribution amount for 2022 is \$250 or more. Statements were mailed January 16. If your contribution to Emmaus was less than \$250, you did not receive the statement by early February, or you need a replacement copy of your statement please either leave a message on the Emmaus church phone or call Nancy W.

MEN’S GAME AFTERNOON: We will be having a men’s (confirmation age and up) game afternoon on February 4th noon-4pm in the Social Hall. Food and drink will be provided. Bring any games you would like to play. Todd will also bring a selection from their collection. Please RSVP to Todd P to ensure adequate food is available. If you miss RSVPing please still come and enjoy the food and fellowship.

AMAZON SMILE AND AED FUNDRAISING: You can help raise funds for the AED by continuing your normal Amazon orders. Simply order through Amazon Smile, choose Emmaus Lutheran Church St. Paul as your charity and the donated funds come directly to Emmaus. The donation comes from Amazon and all funds received for the calendar year 2023 will be used to support the purchase and maintenance of the AED. Thanks for helping support this fundraiser.

2023 BUDGET: We have a few printed copies of the proposed 2023 budget in the narthex of the church if you did not receive the information by email. We will be discussing this during our January 29th meeting.

SUPER BOWL TRAIL MIX: Are you ready for the big game? Are you ready for the better than normal commercials? Are you ready to have a good time on February 12th? The answer is...NO. You are missing something! What is it, you may ask? Emmaus Youth Trail Mix! To help enhance your Super Bowl experience (along with raise money for upcoming conferences), the Youth will be making a variety of trail mixes. They are...

-Chocolate Cherry (NUT FREE)

-Chex Mix with or without nuts

-Fruit and Nut with or without M&M's

-Puppy Chow

Trail mix comes in a quart-sized bag and is a free will donation. Let Pastor Nick or Dawn know how much and what you would like by January 29th. Order pickup information coming soon.

LENT LUNCHES: Following the 11:30 a.m. Lent services at Emmaus beginning Wednesday, March 1 please join us for a light lunch in the Social Hall, continuing each Wednesday through March 29. Come and enjoy good food and fellowship as we share our Lenten journey.

HEAR "THE LUTHERAN HOUR" on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week's broadcast: "Hopelessly Hopeful" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Having hope for humanity is not the same thing as hoping in humanity. (Colossians 1:27)

LWML WINTER GATHERING: Saturday, February 4, 9:30-11:00 a.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (655 Forest St N, St. Paul, MN 55106). Registration and refreshments at 9:00, \$5 donation. "For Such a Time as This: Lessons from Esther on Living as Christians in a Post-Christian Age" Presenter: Rev. Dr. Joshua Hollmann, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, Concordia University. Bring your Bible. If you are planning to attend, please notify Beth at 651-631-8956 or bdschust@msn.com by January 30.

CONCORDIA ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE: Concordia Academy's open house on February 7, 6:00 - 8:00 PM, gives prospective students and families a great chance to see how CA honors God through excellence in academics, arts, athletics, and more! Meet teachers and students, take a tour, learn about programs, and see if CA is the right fit. Please RSVP at www.concordiaacademy.com/openhouse.

B3 FREE BASKETBALL NIGHT AT CA FOR 6TH-8TH GRADERS: Students in Grades 6-8 are invited to Concordia Academy on Friday, January 27, at 5:00 PM for home boys and girls basketball games vs. New Life Academy, pizza, popcorn, photo booth pics, halftime games, and awesome prizes. It's all free for 6th-8th graders! (Parents also get free admission to the basketball games.) Get more details and RSVP at www.concordiaacademy.com/b3.

The Great Emmaus Cook Off

Do you have an award-winning chili? Now is your time to shine! Emmaus will be holding a chili cookoff after the Congregational meeting on Sunday, January 29th. Not a chili chef but rather a dessert baker? We have you covered! We will have a bake off too! We will use a Thrivent Action Grant to purchase toppings (cheese, onions, noodles), bowls, utensils, and hotdogs. If you think your chili needs something different to complement its delicious flavors, please bring that with. As far as the bake off goes, please bring anything you need to show off your amazing flavors. We will have plates and utensils.

This will be a free-will offering and all offerings will go towards buying Emmaus' first AED. The AED will cost approximately \$2,000.

If you are interested in making chili or a dessert, please sign up. We are also looking for help with set up and clean up. If you are interested in one of those please sign up.