

# Lord of Life Lutheran Church

*Vision Statement: to love God and His creation as a Christ-centered/family-oriented ministry*

Website: [lord-life.org](http://lord-life.org)/Facebook: [Facebook.com/LordofLifeAlpharetta](https://www.facebook.com/LordofLifeAlpharetta)



## Sundays, December 22 & 29 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent & 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas Reminders & Announcements



WORSHIP – 10:30 am

### UPCOMING & ONGOING EVENTS

**We need VIPs for Christmas Eve Services** at 5:30 pm and 8:00 pm. Please sign up in the Narthex.



**Tuesday, December 24**  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Services**  
**Celebrating the Birth of Our Lord**  
At 5:30 pm (with special Children's sermon) and 8:00 pm

**First Sunday of Christmas**  
Sunday, December 29  
Service at 10:30 am



**Wed, January 1, 2020** Wishing everyone a happy and safe New Year!

**Saturday, January 4 at 9:30 am**



Church  
Undecorating

ADULT  
BIBLE STUDY

**Adult Bible Hour** resumes on Sunday, January 5 at 9:00 am

**Children's Sunday School** resumes on Sunday, January 12 during Worship Service at 10:30 am



**Bible Study Groups** resume their studies on Wednesday, January 8 with Ladies at 6:45 pm and Men at 7:00 pm.

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## WAYS TO HELP THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY:



**Thank you for your wonderful support of Angels Over Forsyth for our Angel Tree project for this year!**

## CHURCH CALENDAR

<b>Sunday, Dec 22– Fourth Sunday in Advent</b> 10:15 am meditation time <b>10:30 am Worship</b>	<b>Sunday, Dec 29– First Sunday of Christmas</b> 10:15 am meditation time <b>10:30 am Worship</b>
<b>Mon, Dec 23</b> 6:00 pm Men's Support Group 7:30 pm Choir Practice	<b>Mon, Dec 30</b> 6:00 pm Men's Support Group 7:30 pm Choir Practice
<b>Tues, Dec 24</b> 5:30 pm & 8:00 pm <b>Christmas Eve Candlelight Services</b>	<b>Wed, Jan 1</b> <b>Happy New Year – office closed</b> <b>Sat, Jan 4</b> 9:30 am Undecorate the church

### **December 22**

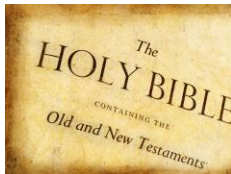
Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

### **December 25**

As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!

### **December 29**

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the "holy innocents" of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.



### **The Lessons for Sunday, December 22 – Fourth Sunday of Advent**

First Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16  
Second Lesson: Romans 1:1-7  
Gospel Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25

### **The Lessons for Sunday, December 29 – First Sunday of Christmas**

First Lesson: Isaiah 63:7-9  
Second Lesson: Hebrews 2:10-18  
Gospel Lesson: Matthew 2:13-23

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## A Meaning-Making Name

Names are powerful makers of meaning both in the scriptures and in our lives. Consider how much we associate people with their names. A name is merely a word, a sound, yet it can completely represent a person. And our names can be powerful. Think about the resurrection account in John 20 when a distraught Mary Magdalene does not recognize Jesus in the garden. She does not recognize him until when? He speaks her name.

The texts for the fourth Sunday of Advent invite us to explore the name “Emmanuel.” “Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel” (Isa. 7:14). And he shall be called “Emmanuel,” *God with us*. This reality changes everything. Never is God so *with us* as in Jesus of Nazareth. Here is God-made-flesh, and in his very name, the Son of God proclaims just how *with us* and *for us* God really is. This fulfillment of prophetic promise offers us a delicate and dramatic reality: God has slipped into skin and walks among us in a totally new way, offering us life and salvation.

That new way is the child born in Bethlehem, in a stable. He comes to us humble; he comes to us who are weak and unknown like the shepherds. While the rest of the world is engaged in the games of empire, we celebrate the Savior’s birth. Beyond the view of the watchful eye of Caesar, God was doing a new thing, forging true peace to upset the sham *pax* of imperial domination, a new kingdom whose only army is that of angels singing, rank upon rank, of God’s saving work. It all begins with the unforeseen birth of a child and the wonder of a mother. We, like shepherds, stand in awe at God’s gracious surprise. There is glory enough for all.

**Come worship with us on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent but also on Christmas Eve.**

