



THEME FOR THE DAY: NO TIME

Christmas Eve

Immanuel Lutheran Church ELCA Forest City, Iowa
Pastors Rod Hopp & Zech Anderson, Intern Elizabeth Carr
www.immanuelfamily.com
December 24, 2023 3:00 & 5:30 p.m.

Building community in the name and likeness of Jesus Christ.

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

2:30 PRELUDE:

“O Tannenbaum”

“Ave Maria”

“Away in a Manger”

“Do You Hear What I Hear?”

“Hallelujah”

“Angel Tidings”

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (video)

Dave Tett, piano

Quilliano Anderson

Jason & Evelyn Slater

Mark & Joy Newcom

Olivia Banta & Elaina Eastvold

Bells, directed by Ruth Melby

Wednesday Band

5:00 PRELUDE:

“O Tannenbaum”

“Low How a Rose Er Blooming” (video)

“Do You Hear What I Hear?”

“Angels’ Song” (video)

“Away in a Manger”

“Angel Tidings” (video)

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (video)

Dave Tett, piano

Elizabeth May & Tim Schmidt

Mark & Joy Newcom

Choir

Jason & Evelyn Slater

Bells, directed by Ruth Melby

Wednesday Band

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Congregation participates in bold print

CANDLE LIGHTING: “O Holy Night”

Melanie Harms Espeland

GOSPEL: Luke 2

Pastor: ¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered.

Men: ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

Women: ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Pastor: ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

ALL: ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

Pastor: ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

**ALL: ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”**

Pastor: ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”

Men: ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;

Women: ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

Pastor: ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

PRAYER

Emmanuel, God-with-us, the time is now. You are here! However this night finds us—filled with joy or touched by grief, alone or in the company of our loved ones—you are with us, and you will never leave. And so we sing with the angels:

ALL: Alleluia and Amen!

OPENING MEDLEY: **“O Come, All Ye Faithful”**
 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

#283 ELW

#270

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

(pause)

God of life,

you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security.

We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us.

Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage.

Where we are cynical, restore our trust.

Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.

Amen.

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God’s promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In ☩ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

Amen.

GREETING: L: 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

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 9:2-7 *Light shines: a child is born for us*

HYMN: **"Joy to the World"**

#267

CHILDREN'S SERMON / SERMON

Pastor Zech Anderson

HYMN: **"Go Tell it on the Mountain"**

#290

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: *L: Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.*

Ruby Sue Albertsen

Joyce Kasper

Tim Schmidt

Kristy Anderson

Chris McCormick

Lowell Solberg

Liam Bartleson

Carol Merritt

Jennie Spencer

Hayden Despenas

Jill (Lewison) Nedved

Missionary Karen Anderson

Parker Farland

Wilma Sauer

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Magallanes

SHARING OF THE PEACE: *L: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: And also with you.*

OFFERING: "The Angels' Song"

Choir (3:00)

"Ave Maria"

Quilliano Anderson(5:30)

OFFERTORY: **"What Child is This"**

#296 (vs. 3)

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance,

receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

COMMUNION SERVICE PREFACE: **(to the tune of "Angels We Have Heard on High")** #289

May the good Lord be with you, Lift your hearts to God in praise

May the Lord be with you too, To the Lord our hearts we raise

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

In the Word of God made flesh, Great and wonderous mystery

Now we see with vision flesh, God's abundant majesty.

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Therefore with the Church on earth. And the Hosts of heav'n above.

Let us praise his name, whose birth brings to us eternal love.

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria In excelsis Deo!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION / LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION @ 3: (from the pew) **"Away in a Manger"** #278

COMMUNION @ 5:30: (2 stations) **"Away in a Manger"** #278

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" #282

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" #276

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE: (tune of **"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"**)

Oh, thank the Lord and sing his praise. What he has done proclaim!

Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and gladly bear his name.

Who leads his thankful people forth His promises to claim.

Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, oh, tidings of comfort and joy.

Lord, let your servant go in peace. Your Word has been fulfilled.

My eyes have seen the saving work which for the world you willed.

The glory of you chosen race as light for all revealed.

Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, oh. tidings of comfort and joy.

CANDLELIGHTING SERVICE: light candles; READING: John 1:1-18

HYMN: **"Silent Night, Holy Night!"** #281

BLESSING

DISMISSAL: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "Angels' Medley" arr. Hamilton Audrey Olmstead (5:30)



WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:

Organ/Piano: (3:00) Karen Post; (5:30) Audrey Olmstead
Song Leaders: (3:00) Mark & Joy Newcom; (5:30) Steve Olmstead
Choir Director: (3:00) Linda Ferjak
Readers: (3:00) Ken Korth; (5:30) Ken Hansen
Assisting Minister: (3:00, 5:30) David Readinger
Sound Tech/Video: (3:00) Brody Hopp/Cooper Blaser; (5:30) Geno Lopes
Ushers: (3:00) Ryan, Tori, Rylee & Nevaeh Eastvold, Stross Newcom;
(5:30) Neil & Leah Boyd, Mary Kingland
Altar Care: Kathy Leuwerke
Communion Set Up: Ruth Melby
Communion Servers (5:30): Joan Hansen, Kevin Hansen

RADIO BROADCAST: The 3:00 Christmas Eve service is broadcast at 5:00 over KLOW-FM 107.3FM. Broadcast is given in honor of Jesus' birthday from Neil & Leah Boyd and family.

POINSETTIAS GIVEN:

In memory of Patricia Bendickson from Tori, Ryan, Rylie & Nevaeh Eastvold
In memory of Marion Eastvold from Wayne & Marcia Eastvold and family (2)
In memory of Lanny Jenkins from Sandy Jenkins and family (blue)
In memory of Ralph & Lois Holst from their loving daughter, Nancy, Doug & Jason

THIS WEEK:

TODAY:	2:30pm pre-service music begins 3pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, communion 4pm Christmas Eve Candlelight @ Bethany, Thompson 5pm pre-service music begins 5:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, communion
MONDAY:	MERRY CHRISTMAS! Church closed
TUESDAY:	church offices closed
WEDNESDAY:	NO events scheduled
THURSDAY:	6:30pm Good Grief Group
NEXT SUNDAY:	9:15am Sunday Worship 10:15am Coffee Fellowship, FH



MERRY
Christmas