



Christmas Eve

Immanuel Lutheran Church ELCA Forest City, Iowa

Pastors Rod Hopp & Zech Anderson

www.immanuelfamily.com

December 24, 2024 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:

"Jesu Bambino"	Quillano Anderson
"The First Noel"	Olivia Banta & Elaina Eastvold
"Do You Hear What I Hear"	Jason & Evelyn Slater
"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"	Lindsey & Finley Anderson
"What Child Is This"	Elizabeth May
"O Holy Night"	Melanie Harms Espeland
"Away in a Manger"	Bell Choir

5:00 PRELUDE:

"Away in a Manger"	Bell Choir
"Do You Hear What I Hear"	Jason & Evelyn Slater
"The First Noel"	Olivia Banta
"Jesu Bambino"	Quillano Anderson
"O Holy Night"	Melanie Harms Espeland

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Congregation participates in bold print

PROCESSION AND LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE AND ADVENT WREATH

"Christ Be Our Light" #715 (vs. 1)	Youth Choir
"Christ Be Our Light" #715 (vs. 2)	Youth & Adult Choir
"Christ Be Our Light" #715 (vs. 5)	ALL

L: Tonight we light, from the Christ candle, the candles of Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love to remind ourselves that in the waiting room of life – in times of blessings and in times of disappointment and hurt, Jesus is the one who leads us to life.

Prayer: Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting; in the uncertainties of life. Show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us with your hope, joy, peace, and love as we light these candles and keep vigil for your arrival. **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.

OPENING MEDLEY: "Once In Royal David's City"	#269 (vs. 1-3) ELW
"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"	#282 (vs. 1,3,4)
"O Come All Ye Faithful"	#283 (vs. 1-3)

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.**

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

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14 *The grace of God has appeared*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: **"Angels We Have Heard on High"** #289 (vs. 1)

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20] *God with us*

Announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.** Conclusion: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON / SERMON Pastor Rod Hopp

HYMN OF THE DAY: **"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"** #270

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: *L: God of grace, C: receive our prayer.*

Liam Bartleson

Karen Kofron

Tim Schmidt

Hayden Despenas

Kris Monson

Lucky Truong

Michaela Farus

Mercedes

Missionary Karen Anderson

John Holland

Jill (Lewison) Nedved

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Magallanes

Doris Johnson

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING: "Away in a Manger (Forever Amen)" Choir (3:00)
"I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve" #271 (5:30)

OFFERTORY: **"What Feast of Love"** #487 (vs. 1,3)

OFFERING PRAYER

God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION / LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION @ 3:00 (kits from the pew) **"I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve"** #271

COMMUNION @ 5:30: (2 stations) **"Your Little Ones, Dear Lord"** #286

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" #279

“Away in a Manger”

#277

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

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

HYMN: “Silent Night, Holy Night!”

#281

BLESSING

DISMISSAL: Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



CCLI License # 361906, A.R.R.; U.B.P.; I.C.S.; One License.net, License #A-703389, All rights reserved

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:

Organ/Piano: (3:00) Karen Post; (5:30) Audrey Olmstead

Song Leaders: (3:00) Sara Leichsenring, Pastor Zech, Steve Olmstead, Jaci Thorson; (5:30) Steve Olmstead

Choir Director: (3:00) Linda Ferjak

Readers: (3:00) Mary Kingland; (5:30) John Chisholm

Assisting Minister: (3:00, 5:30) Kathy McEnelly

Sound Tech/Video: (3:00) Karl Wooldridge/Ken Ferjak; (5:30) Geno Lopes

Ushers: (3:00) Ray & Joan Beebe, Ryan & Tori Eastvold family, Tina Berg

(5:30) Tina Berg, Stross Newcom, Leah Boyd, Ryan Boyd, Gary McCarthy

Altar Care: Kathy Leuwerke

Communion Set Up: Ruth Melby

Communion Servers (5:30): Mark & Joy Newcom, Tasha Banta

RADIO BROADCAST: The 3:00 Christmas Eve service is broadcast at 5:00 over KLOW-FM 107.3FM.

Broadcast is given in memory of Lanny Jenkins from Sandy and family.

POINSETTIAS GIVEN:

In memory of Lanny Jenkins from Sandy Jenkins and family

In memory of Aaron Sr. & Connie Charlson from Aaron Jr., Rita & Dirk Charlson

THIS WEEK:

TODAY: 3pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, communion, choir (2:30 pre-service)

4pm Christmas Eve Candlelight @ Bethany, Thompson

5:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, communion (5:00 pre-service)

WEDNESDAY: **MERRY CHRISTMAS!** (Church offices closed thru Friday)

SUNDAY: 9:15am Service of Christmas Lessons & Carols

10:15am Coffee Fellowship, FH

YEAR END GIVING: 2024 contributions should be in the church office by December 30 if you would like it to be on your 2024 statement. *Thank you for your gifts!*