

With Reflections from Martin Luther

First Sunday of Christmas

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Forest City, Iowa Pastors: Rod Hopp, Zech Anderson www.immanuelfamily.com in person | live stream | on the radio December 29, 2024 9:15am

Building community in the name and likeness of Jesus Christ.

Luther's reflections are drawn from Martin Luther's Christmas Book as translated and edited by Roland H. Bainton, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2017. Original edition copyright 1948 W.L. Jenkins. Used by permission of Westminster John Knox Press.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG: "From Heaven Above"

#268 (vs. 1-3, 12-14) ELW

OPENING DIALOGUE

L: Come! Look upon the baby Jesus, cradled in the arms of his mother.

C: Seeing this wondrous sight, may our hearts be comforted and our spirits filled with peace.

L: Come! Listen to choirs of angels announcing good news to all people.

C: Hearing this marvelous song, may we too sing: Glory to God in the highest!

L: Come! Receive this ancient story in your heart, not as history but as a gift.

C: Opening our hearts to this great mystery, may Christ be born in us today.

GREETING: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the

Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Luke 2:1-7

Luther's reflections on the birth of Jesus

CAROL: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

#276

SECOND READING: Luke 2:8-16

Luther's reflections on the shepherds and angels

CAROL: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

#282

#300

THIRD READING: Matthew 2:1-12

Luther's reflections on Herod and the wise men

CAROL: "The First Noel"

FOURTH READING: John 1:1-5, 14-18

Luther's reflections on the Word made flesh

CAROL: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" #295 (vs. 1-4)

NICENE CREED pg. 104

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: L: God of grace, C: receive our prayer.

Liam BartlesonKaren KofronTim SchmidtHayden DespenasKris MonsonLucky 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.

OFFERING: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" #490 (vs. 1,3,4)

OFFERING PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION SONGS: "The Bells of Christmas" #298 (vs. 1-4)

"Your Little Ones, Dear Lord" #286

"Love Has Come" #292

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

SENDING SONG: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" #288

BLESSING / DISMISSAL: Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to God's people on earth!
Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. CCLI License # 361906, A.R.R.; U.B.P.; I.C.S.; One License.net, License #A-703389, All rights reserved.

Today's worship service is broadcast at 11:00am over KIOW 107.3 FM. Broadcast is given in honor of all the volunteers who give their time and talents as a service to Immanuel.

Worship Participants:

Ushers: Jim Lund, Gary McCarthy, Tina Berg Altar Care: Marla Betz

Song Leaders: Steve Olmstead, Scott Bertelsen, Jaci Thorson Assisting Minister: David Readinger Sound/Video Techs: Bruce Mielke, Dave Midtgaard Scripture Reader: Mark Johnson Communion Songer: Danies Helst, Leab Boyd

Communion Servers: Denise Holst, Leah Boyd Organ/piano: Karen Post

Communion Set Up: Ruth Melby

announcements~12·29·24~Immanuel Lutheran Church

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!*

Immanuel is seeking to fill a Parish Nurse position. This is a nine-month, 16 hour per month position, January through May. The Parish Nurse partners with the church to build healthy community in Jesus' name, supporting the work of the church in healing and health of body, mind, and spirit. The person filling this position will embody this concept in the nursing care and ministry in the congregation and community by stressing health maintenance and illness prevention. An active nurse's license or a Health Education degree is required. For more details and a job description, contact Pastor Rod Hopp at pastorrod@immanuelfamily.com or 515-450-3704.

WE ARE HIRING: Taking applications for 15-hours-per-week afternoon Custodian. For more information contact Kim or Jaci in the church office.

Wednesday Community Meals: Serving each week 4-6:00pm in the fellowship hall—eat in or takeout. NO MEAL THIS WEEK, RESUMES JANUARY 8. Come enjoy the fellowship with others at this free community meal. Talk to Kathy in the kitchen if you would like to help anytime.

Prayer Chain Contacts: Jaci Thorson in church office (585-3152) or email jaci@immanuelfamily. **The prayer intercessors** are praying together on Zoom from their homes. Please notify office with any additions or corrections. **Pastoral Hospital Visits:** If you or your family members are hospitalized, please let us know.

Consider automatic giving: We invite you to consider supporting the mission and ministry of Immanuel through automatic giving by following the link on the website or calling the church office for assistance. OR USE IMMANUEL'S QR CODE TO GIVE ELECTRONICALLY. Thank you for your consideration. Mailing in your gifts is another way to support our mission and ministry.



This Week at Immanuel

TODAY: 9:15am Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols

10:15am Coffee, FH

WEDNESDAY: HAPPY NEW YEAR! Church closed

THURSDAY: 9am Women's Bible Study, Lounge

NEXT SUNDAY: 9:15am Worship

10:15am Promiseland / Coffee, FH