



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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

THIRD READING: Matthew 2:1-12

Luther's reflections on Herod and the wise men

CAROL: **"The First Noel"**

#300

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)

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WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: *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.*

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.

† † † † † †

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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 Servers: Denise Holst, Leah Boyd

Organ/piano: Karen Post

Communion Set Up: Ruth Melby

