

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD  
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH – HAY CREEK  
24686 OLD CHURCH ROAD, RED WING, MN 55066  
[www.immanuel-lcms.org](http://www.immanuel-lcms.org)

Pastor: Rev. Lowell Sorenson, 388-4577      Organist: Sara Sorenson  
Russian Missionary: Rev. Jonathan Muhly      Acolyte: Brandon Schmitz

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2012

**A Ceremony of Christmas Carols**

**VISITORS – WE WELCOME YOU** to this house of prayer this evening. May you feel at home among friends as we worship together. We invite you to sign your name in the guest book in the back of the church and hope you will return again soon.

Prelude  
Ring of the Bell  
Cross Procession/Opening Hymn: #377  
"On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"

Invocation  
P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C: Amen.**

Christmas Eve Collect, spoken by Pastor

Christmas Carol: "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"  
Traditional English; Public Domain

1)  
God rest ye merry gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay,  
For Jesus Christ, our Savior, Was born on Christmas day:  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r, When we were gone astray:  
O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy!

2)  
From God, our Heavenly Father, A blessed angel came,  
And unto certain shepherds Brought tidings of the same:  
How that in Bethlehem was born The Son of God by name:  
O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy!

Old Testament Reading ..... Isaiah 9:2-7  
Response  
P: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C: Thanks be to God!**

Christmas Verse: "The First Noel" Traditional English;  
Public Domain  
The first Noel the angel did say Was to certain poor shepherds in  
fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, On a cold winter's night  
that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

Choral Christmas Anthem: "As Mary Sleeps"  
Words and Music: Jill Gallina

Christmas Carol: #393, "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Epistle ..... Titus 2:11-14  
Response  
P: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C: Thanks be to God!**

Festival Alleluia #952

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-20 (KJV)  
Responses  
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.  
**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**  
(*The Gospel is read.*)  
P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**C: Praise to You, O Christ!**

Apostles' Creed .....back cover of the hymnal

Christmas Carol: #364, "Away in a Manger"

Sermon: "This Is Your Baby!"

Offering

Christmas Carol: #368, "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Prayer of the Church

Christmas Collect (prayed together in unison)

**O God, as You make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, grant that we, who joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our judge; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer .....back cover of the hymnal  
Benediction

Closing Christmas Carol: "Silent Night" #363

*(First verse sung in German, then the English verses 1-3 sung from the hymnal.) (During this hymn the sanctuary will gradually be darkened.)*

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!  
Alles schläft, einsam wacht  
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.  
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

Departing Words

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

**C: the Light no darkness can overcome.**

P: Stay with us, O Lord, for it is evening,

**C: and the day is almost over.**

P: Let your Light scatter the darkness

**C: and illumine Your Church.**

P: In Him was life, and that life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.  
Go in peace.

**C: Amen.**

***(Please deposit candles in the appropriate receptacle at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you.)***

Postlude