

**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  
Korean Missionary: Pastor Patrick O'Neal

Organist: Sara Sorenson  
Acolyte: Dustin Stumpf

**Third Sunday in Advent**

**December 16, 2007**

**VISITORS - WE WELCOME YOU** to this house of prayer this morning. 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.

Today we partake of the Sacrament of the Altar, a feast where we receive the true body and blood of Christ along with the visible elements of bread and wine. Those visitors desiring to commune at this altar should first speak with the pastor regarding their beliefs. Though the Lord offers this gift to His church for the forgiveness of sins, He also admonishes us through St. Paul: "Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself" (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). Therefore, in faithfulness to our Lord and with love for our guests, this congregation insists on the Scriptural practice of Closed Communion. For a salutary use of the Lord's Supper, it is essential that those communing here be properly instructed, sorry for their sins, desiring God's forgiveness and His grace to live a sanctified life, and believe in the true presence of the body and blood of Christ in the Lord's Supper. Furthermore, since attendance at the Sacrament is Biblically and historically a sign of church fellowship, those who present themselves for Communion are to be in doctrinal agreement and fellowship with The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

The Service of Corporate Confession and Absolution

Prelude

Welcome

Ring of the Bell

Opening Hymn: #349, "Hark the Glad Sound"

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

Prayer

P: Father of mercies and God of all consolation, come to the aid of Your people, turning us from our sin to live for You alone. Give us the power of Your Holy Spirit that we may attend to Your Word, confess our sins, receive Your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer.

**C: Amen.**

Introit of the Day, prayed responsively ..... worship insert

Collect of the Day

Old Testament Reading ..... Isaiah 35:1-10

Gradual (prayed responsively) ..... worship insert

Epistle ..... James 5:7-11

Alleluia Verse

P: Alleluia!

**C: Alleluia!**

P: Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord.

**C: Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.**

**Alleluia!** (James 5:7a, 8b)

Holy Gospel ..... Matthew 11:2-15

Nicene Creed ..... back cover of the hymnal

Hymn of the Day: #752, "Be Still, My Soul"

Sermon: "Patiently Waiting for the Lord"

Offering

Prayer of the Church

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

Confessional Address

Confession and Absolution

P: Humble yourselves before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

*(Silence for self-examination and reflection on God's Word)*

**C: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.**

P: In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

**C: Amen.**

Lord's Prayer ..... sung by Todd Burns and Johnathon Burns  
Words of Institution

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

Distribution:

#344, "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

#624, "The Infant Priest Was Holy Born"

#333, "Once He Came in Blessing"

Post-Communion Prayer

Benediction

P: The God of peace will sanctify you wholly and keep your spirit, soul, and body sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.  
Go in peace.

**C: Amen.**

Closing Hymn: #341, "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

Announcements

Postlude

### **DATES TO REMEMBER THIS WEEK**

Wednesday:	4:30M	5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation
	5:30PM	7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation
	6:30PM	Advent Midweek Supper
	7:30PM	Advent Midweek Worship
	8:15PM	Choir
Thursday:	10AM & 7PM	CILS Christmas Program – Concordia
	1:30PM	Ladies Aid Potluck
Friday:		St. Thomas, Apostle: Hab. 2:1-4; Eph. 1:3-6; Jn. 20:24-31
		CILS on Break through January 1 <sup>st</sup>
Sat:	10:30AM-12PM	Sunday School Christmas Program Practice
Next Sunday:	9:00AM	Sunday School and Bible Class
	10:00AM	Fellowship Time
	10:30AM	Worship/Sunday School Christmas Program

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

Today	- Kim Frazier, Bill Langhans
Tuesday	- Mary Augustin, Patricia Schmitz
Thursday	- Linda Rehder
Friday	- Carol Koester
Saturday	- Herman von Knobelsdorff

### **IN OUR PRAYERS**

Pastor Lyle Kath (undergoing cancer treatment); Margie Stumpf (healing); Harold Augustin (healing); Tom Kolberg (healing); Paul Nystuen (resurgence of bladder cancer); Syvilla Madsen (healing); Dorothy Bremer (for strength and peace as she faces terminal cancer); Karen Gusa (sister of Jan Langhans, struggling with lung cancer); Marian Burkard (recovering from a broken arm); Jacob Diercks (recovering from rodeo injuries); Brad Greenwaldt (cousin of Bonnie Kassen undergoing chemotherapy for Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma); the Hutter and Germann families (as they welcome the birth of Isabel, born to Corey and Leslie Hutter).

### **Advent Midweek Supper**

The last Advent Midweek Supper will be held this Wednesday at 6:30PM in the fellowship hall. What a joy the food and fellowship has been over the past few weeks! This is a great opportunity for families with confirmation students as confirmation concludes at 6:30PM. If you are able, stay for the worship service at 7:30PM. This week Pat Banitt and Dawn Laffey are providing the food.

### **Advent Midweek Series: "Longing for the Lord"**

Based on a concept by Rev. L. Lloyd Behnken, our midweek Advent focus will be "Longing for the Lord." Don't miss the last service in this series at 7:30PM this coming Wednesday night. This week Pastor will speak on "Longing for the Christ of Christmas." Come earlier at 6:30PM for an Advent Supper in the Fellowship Hall.

### **Ladies Aid Christmas Potluck**

Everyone is invited to the Ladies Aid Christmas Potluck at 12:30PM this coming Thursday. The event will be held in the Fellowship Hall. All participants are asked to bring a wrapped \$5 gift for a game. Thanks!

### **Life Quote – December 16**

"We can strike our breasts in sorrow over sin and wag our heads in shame and yet lift them confidently towards our heavenly Father and offer Him thanks. For the birth, life, and death of His little one was for us and for our salvation." *Rev. Edward A. Engelbrecht, Senior Editor, Professional and Academic Books, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Missouri. A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life / [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)*

### **Sunday School Christmas Program**

The children of our congregation will help lead us in worship with their Christmas program on Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 10:30AM. Please mark your calendars and come and show your support for the Sunday School children of this congregation.

### **Holiday Worship Schedule**

Sunday School Christmas Program: December 23 at 10:30AM  
Christmas Eve: 4:00PM and 8:00PM  
Christmas Day: 10:00AM  
New Year's Eve: 7:00PM

### **"THE LUTHERAN HOUR" – Sunday, December 23**

**8:30AM on KCUE-AM; 6:00PM on KDHL-Faribault (920)**

#### **"Good News"**

**Speaker: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus**

When was the last time you heard really good news? Next Sunday "The Lutheran Hour" tells the story of Christ's birth. (Luke 2:8-10)

### **Fellowship Time Offerings**

Beginning on December 30<sup>th</sup>, donations received during the Sunday morning fellowship time will go to support the work of the New Horizons group at Immanuel.

### **Searching for Church Officers**

If you are a voting member of the congregation and are interested in serving as a church officer, please talk to Pastor or one of the elders at your earliest convenience. They are working on preparing the slate of candidates to be presented at the annual voters' meeting in January. Thank you.

### **Building Pledges for 2008**

If you haven't done so, there is still time for you to offer your building pledge for 2008. Simply place your pledge in the box outside the sanctuary door. Extra pledge cards and envelopes are available, as are prayer request cards. Thank you for your responses of worship and praise!

### **MN South District LCMS Senior High Youth Gathering**

**Attention Immanuel High School Students:** Would you be interested in attending the 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Gathering this year? The event will be held February 1-3 (Friday night to Sunday noon) at the Holiday Inn Select in Bloomington. The gathering will include worship, mission projects, free time, and music by Against All Odds. If you would like to attend, please sign-up on the bulletin board. We will also need at least one adult leader. Pastor can attend the first two days, but would need to be back for church on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Talk over this opportunity with your friends and parents!