

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

Thailand Missionary: Rev. Carl Kaye      Organist: Sara Sorenson

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**Christmas Eve Worship Service – 4:00 p.m.      December 24, 2011**

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VISITORS – We welcome you to this house of prayer this afternoon.  
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 and Opening Hymn: #387, "Joy to the World"

Invocation

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

**C: Amen.**

Psalms 98, prayed responsively (*front of the hymnal*)

Christmas Eve Collect

Christmas Carol: #366, "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Old Testament Reading .....Isaiah 7:10-14

Choral Anthem: "Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly" Palmer/Eggert

Sing of Mary, pure and lowly, virgin mother, undefiled.

Sing of God's own Son most holy, who became her little Child.

Fairest Child of fairest mother, God the Lord who came to earth,

Word made flesh, our very brother, takes our nature by His birth.

Sing of Jesus, Son of Mary, in the home at Nazareth.

Toil and labor cannot weary, love enduring unto death.

Constant was the love He gave her, though it drove Him from her  
side.

Forth to preach and heal and suffer, till on Calvary He died.

Glory be to God the Father; Glory be to God the Son;

Glory be to God the Spirit; Glory to the Three in One.

From the heart of blessed Mary, from all saints the song ascends,

And the Church the strain re-echoes unto earth's remotest ends.

Epistle .....Titus 3:4-7

Holy Gospel .....Luke 2:1-20 (KJV)

Apostles' Creed (*back cover of the hymnal*)

Christmas Carol: #361, "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Sermon: "God's Christmas Tree"

Isaiah 4:2a: "In that day the Branch of the Lord shall be beautiful  
and glorious..."

Offering

Choral Offering: "And the Glory of the Lord"

G. F. Handel; Adapt. R. Emerson

Christmas Spiritual: #388, "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Prayer of the Church

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

The Lighting of the Candles (Organ: "Away in a Manger")

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: Christ is our Light: The Child in the manger at Bethlehem, the Suffering Savior who dies on the cross, the Lord of all soon to come to judge the living and the dead. He is our Light here on earth and the eternal Light in heaven, where there is need of neither candle nor sun. Rejoice! The Light of the world has come. God is Light and in Him is no darkness at all.

**C: If we say we have fellowship with Him but still walk in darkness, we lie, and do not live according to the truth.**

P: But if we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another,

**C: and the blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all our sin.**

Christmas Collect (*prayed 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.**

Closing Hymn: #363, "Silent Night, Holy Night"

*(During this hymn the sanctuary will gradually get darker.)*

Departing Words

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.**

*(Candles may be deposited in the appropriate receptacle at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you.)*