



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
37515 Park Trail, Almelund, MN 55012
Pastor Justin Fenger
Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2025

A welcoming community rooted in Christ, growing in faith and serving with joy!



SERVICE FOR SUNDAY 12/24/2025
GATHERING
TODAY'S SERVICE IS USING ELW: RED BOOK

PRELUDE:

Dadu Reeves

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS:

A: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

A: Incarnate God,

C: You have given us the most precious gift of all: yourself. And yet we live as if there is nothing extraordinary about being your children. We forget, ignore, or devalue your blessings of grace and forgiveness. We undermine ourselves and others, and refuse to seek help when it is available. Show us your mercy and forgive our stubborn ways, for the sake of Jesus. Amen.

A: Immanuel is here. Fear has been banished. Hear the words of your redemption in the angels' chorus and see your salvation in the real person of Christ on earth. We are forgiven, and we are never alone. **Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP:

A: A child is born! God's son has come to us!

C: Glory to God in the highest heaven!

A: Do not be afraid—this is good news!

C: Glory to God in the highest heaven!

A: Let the heavens be glad, and the earth rejoice!

C: Glory to God in the highest heaven!

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE:

Candle lighting by Abbott family 5:30; Cook family 10:00

Candles of Advent

Thank you for helping
lead worship today!

Pastor:
Justin Fenger

Pastor Assistants:
Marco Sherve 5:30
Mark Weslander 10:00

Organist:
Dadu Reeves

Special Music:
Dadu Reeves

Reader:
Abigail Johnson 5:30
Elizabeth Sandberg
10:00

Ushers:
Marty & Jody Johnson

Communion Servers:
Julie Weller
Norm Peterson
Beth Berger

Pastor Justin

Sound Tech:
Lorraine Rue

Camera Tech:
Dave Rue

Proclaim:
Carli Linngren

Children's Sermon:
Pastor Fenger

Altar Guild:
Nancy Nadeau

We invite you to follow
the service and take part
in a way that feels right
to you.

Hearing devices are
available from an usher.

P = Pastor

L = Leader

C = Congregation

R = Reader

Sections in **bold** are to
be read by the
congregation

Today's Scripture

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96

Luke 2:1-14, [15-20]

*Light one candle in the night. Light one candle of Peace;
Peace for the world to calm its fear; Peace for the news we long to hear;
Peace in a child who will soon appear Light one candle of Peace.*

One:

The prophet Isaiah proclaimed, “*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.*” Tonight we gather to celebrate that light born among us in Jesus.

Two:

The angels sang, “*Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.*” Tonight we remember that God’s promise of hope, peace, joy, and love comes to life in a child laid in a manger.

Three:

(Light candles 1, 2, 3, and 4)

We relight the first candle, a sign of our hope for true peace on Earth.

We relight the second candle, a sign of God’s peace rooted in justice.

We relight the third candle, a sign of the joy that brightens our waiting.

We relight the fourth candle, a sign of love that comes near and will not let us go.

Four:

(Light the Christ candle)

We light this Christ candle as a sign that God’s promise is fulfilled:

The Light of the World has come. In Jesus, hope is born, peace is given, joy is shared, and love is made flesh among us.

All: Jesus Christ, Light of the World, shine in our lives and in all the earth. Amen.

ADVENT FAMILY REFLECTION:

OPENING HYMN: O Come All Ye Faithful (v.v.1,2,3)

ELW 283 Red

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Heavenly Wonder, **This night was the beginning of something earth shaking. Bring us in awe to the cradle of the baby who has come to live among us, to heal us, and to be our brother: our savior, Christ Jesus. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC:

Dadu Reeves

CHILDREN'S SERMON:

SCRIPTURE READING:

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PSALM:

Psalm 96

R: O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

C: Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

R: Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

C: For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.

R: For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

C: Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

R: Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

C: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering,
and come into his courts.

R: Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

C: Say among the nations, “The Lord is king! The world is firmly established;
it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity.”

R: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

C: let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

R: before the Lord; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW 289 Red

GOSPEL:

Glory to you, O Lord

Luke 2:1-14, [15-20]

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.³ All went to their own towns to be registered.⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

SERMON:

HYMN OF THE DAY:

The First Noel (v.v.1,2,)

ELW 300 Red

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

OFFERTORY:

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

ELW 276 Red

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS:

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW 184 Red

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

A: We place before your altar, O God, the gifts which our hearts are inspired to offer. Though nothing can fully express our wonder at your incarnation, we know that you will accept what we bring as a tribute of love and thanksgiving for your priceless gift to us. We ask this in his name, Jesus Christ our newborn king. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION:

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

ELW Pg. 112 Red

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name;
Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC INVITATION:

Gather us around your table as strangers gathered to witness the newborn Christ. Feed us with joy and kindle your glow in our hearts this night as we incline our ears to hear your story once more. Come, blessed people—the holy dinner is served!

DISTRIBUTION:

Away In A Manger

ELW 278 Red

AFFIRMATION OF CHRIST'S BIRTH

P: Let us affirm the birth of Christ and this miracle of incarnational love.

A: We believe in the good news of Christmas:

C: Jesus was born to show us true hope, peace, joy, and love.

P: We believe in the good news of hope:

C: The Bread of Life has come so all hearts and bellies might be fed.

A: We believe in the good news of peace:

C: The Bread of Life has come to reconcile us to each other and to God in perfect peace.

P: We believe in the good news of joy:

C: The Bread of Life has come, so our joy is multiplied while we share what we have with others.

A: We believe in the good news of love:

C: The Bread of Life is for every person and all creation, unconditionally and forever.

P: We believe in the good news of Christmas:

C: God desires everyone to live joyful, abundant lives, cradled in love.

HYMN:

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
(Sung until all individual candles are lit)

ELW 282 Red

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL:

A: Long ago, in a town called "House of Bread," the Bread of Life was born.

His mother, Mary, placed him in a feeding trough where animals eat their food.

But this baby came to feed the whole world.

And from this manger, he will grow and leave his home—he will go out into the world, feed the people, and teach us how to love God and one another.

The final candle has been lit because the birth of Jesus changed everything.

We must take this light, this Bread of Life, and share it with a hungry world. Behold, Christ is born.

CLOSING HYMN:

Silent Night, Holy Night

ELW 281 Red

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

A: May Christ, the Bread of Life, born this day to love and serve the world, accompany you as you go.

May the love of our Creator, who calls us to care for the hungry and oppressed, surround you.

And may the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to imagine a kingdom where all needs are met, strengthen you, now and always.

Go in hope, peace, joy, and love to feed the hungry, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of Christ's birth.