



*Illustrations  
of*

IMMANUEL

# St. John's Lutheran Church and School

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Pastor David Brandt

Pastor Joel Luetke

Pastor John Baumann

Senior Assistant Karl Christie

Principal Richard Cody



## WELCOME:

Joy to the World the Lord has Come!!! We are thankful that you are able to worship with us this Christmas to hear the good news that our Savior came to take away our sins and to give us eternal life in heaven.

As you worship with us today, we want you to know that we have some worship aids that you may like to make use of including large print bulletins and listening devices that are directly linked to our sound system. If you would like to make use of these worship aids, please ask one of our ushers for assistance.

If you are in need of a restroom, we have two bathrooms located in the narthex area and we have more downstairs. If you need a quiet place to take your child, we have two cry rooms also located in the narthex area. We also have an elevator that will take you to the basement if you like. If you are in need of any other assistance while worshipping with us today, feel free to talk with one of our ushers.

If you are a guest or visitor and would like to learn more about our church, please speak with our pastor.

May God richly bless your Christmas worship as you hear the good news of how God sent his one and only Son to save us from our sins.

# Christmas Caroling by the Congregation

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## Congregation: "O Come All Ye Faithful" (CW 354)

1. Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels

*Refrain:* Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore Him,  
Oh, come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

2. God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, to earth He comes,  
Only begotten Son of God the Father.

*Refrain*

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.  
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest.

*Refrain*

## Congregation: "Once in Royal David's City" (CW 343)

1. Once in Royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed;  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.
3. And our eyes at last shall see him Through his own redeeming love,  
For that child, so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heav'n above,  
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.
4. Not in that poor, lowly stable with the oxen standing by  
shall we see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high.  
Then like stars his children crowned, all in white, his praise will sound.

**Adult Choir: “While By My Sheep”  
“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”  
“The First Noel”**

**Congregation: “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” (CW’93 56)**

1. Gentle Mary laid her child, lowly in a manger;  
There he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place – Can he be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race, who have found his favor.
2. Angels sang about his birth; Wise men sought and found him.  
Heaven’s star shone brightly forth, Glory all around them.  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing.  
All the plains were lit that night; All the hills were ringing.

**Congregation: “Go Tell It on the Mountain” (CW 361)**

*Refrain:* Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills, and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

*Refrain*

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth.

*Refrain*

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

*Refrain*

**Adult Choir: “Rejoice, Rejoice Emmanuel”**

**Arr. Jeffrey A. Smith**

**Congregation: “Hark, The Herald Angels Sing” (CW 350)**

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

*Refrain:* Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come, off-spring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!

*Refrain*

**Congregation: “Joy to the World” (CW 353)**

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev’ry heart prepare him room  
And heav’n and nature sing,  
And heav’n and nature sing,  
And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.



**Adult Choir: “Immanuel”**

**Arr. John Purifoy**

# “ILLUSTRATIONS OF IMMANUEL”

**Children's Christmas Service**  
**1:30 PM December 23, 2022**  
**6:30 PM December 24, 2022**

*Please note: Today our children will lead us in the worship of our Savior and God.  
Since this is a worship service to glorify God, we ask that no pictures be taken during the service. Thank you.*

***Congregation will participate in all items in bold.***

*Please Stand*

**Children and Congregation Processional Hymn: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” st. 1,2 (CW 327)**

- 1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**
- 2. O come, O Root of Jesse, free your own from Satan’s tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save, and bring them vict’ry o’er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

Text: Latin hymn, c. 12th century, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

*Be Seated*

## INTRODUCTION

**Narration:** Have you ever heard the phrase “A picture paints a thousand words”? Sometimes things that are difficult to explain verbally can be better understood when depicted visually. Jesus often spoke using parables. These stories share spiritual truths using pictures of familiar things in our world: a mustard seed, a rebellious child, a wedding banquet, a lost coin. In the same way, God gives illustrations throughout Scripture that point to this central message of his Holy Word: He promised and sent us a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Let’s gaze with wonder at some of those illustrations and renew our hearts and joy through our Savior Jesus.

**PreK:** O God, your love goes round and round the people of the earth.  
And now we pray, oh give to us the joy of Jesus' birth.

**PreK Song: "As Each Happy Christmas"**

1. As each happy Christmas dawns on earth again,  
Comes the holy Christ Child to the hearts of men.
2. Enters with His blessing into ev'ry home,  
Guides and guards our footsteps as we go and come.
3. All unknown beside me He will ever stand  
And will safely lead me with His own right hand.

Text: J.W. Hey; tr. Mrs. H. Spaeth; Tune: John C. H. Rinck, 1770-1846

## 1. FROM PROBLEM TO PROMISE

**Narration:** In the first book of the Bible—Genesis, chapter 3—we're told that God created two perfect humans called Adam and Eve. Not long after they were created, they disobeyed God's command and brought the corruption of sin into the world. When God gave the first promise of the Savior, he spoke to Satan the tempter, who was in the form of a serpent.

**Gr. K-2:** "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel" (Genesis 3:15).

**Narration:** The promised Savior would be born from mankind. God paints a picture of this offspring of Eve crushing Satan and all his power underfoot. But the serpent is not only a picture of the problem of sin. Later in the Old Testament there was a time when the Israelites were plagued by poisonous snakes and dying from their bites because of their rebellious sin. God commanded Moses to make a snake of bronze and hang it on a pole before the people. God promised that all who looked at the bronze snake would be spared from death. Jesus recalls this event in the book of John chapter 3. He shows how it points to the time when he himself would be hung on a cross to save all people.

**Gr. 3-4:** Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him (John 3:14-17).

## Gr. 5-8 Song: “The Tree of Life” (CW 574)

1. The tree of life with ev’ry good in Eden’s holy orchard stood,  
and of its fruit so pure and sweet God let the man and woman eat.  
Yet in this garden also grew another tree, of which they knew;  
its lovely limbs with fruit adorned against whose eating God had warned.
2. The stillness of that sacred grove was broken as the serpent strove  
with tempting voice Eve to beguile and Adam to by sin defile.  
O day of sadness when the breath of fear and darkness, doubt and death,  
its awful poison first displayed within the world so newly made.
3. What mercy God showed to our race, a plan of rescue by his grace,  
in sending One from woman’s seed, the One to fill our greatest need—  
for on a tree uplifted high his only Son for sin would die,  
would drink the cup of scorn and dread to crush the ancient serpent’s head!
4. Now from that tree of Jesus’ shame flows life eternal in his name;  
for all who trust and will believe, salvation’s living fruit receive.  
And of this fruit so pure and sweet the Lord invites the world to eat,  
to find within this cross of wood the tree of life with ev’ry good.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955 © 1993 Stephen P. Starke; admin. Concordia Publishing House.  
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## 2. FROM SACRIFICE TO SUBSTITUTE

**Narration:** After the fall, Adam and Eve’s family grew and began to fill the earth. Many years later God appeared to their descendent Abraham and promised him that his descendants would number as many as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. God also promised that the Savior would be born from his family. But then a little while later God asked Abraham to do the unthinkable, something that seemed to contradict God’s earlier promise to Abraham. God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son Isaac.

**Gr. 5-6:** Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?” “Yes, my son?” Abraham replied. “The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son” (Genesis 22:6-8).

**Narration:** Isaac did not die that day. As Abraham was about to sacrifice his son, God stopped him and provided a ram to substitute for Isaac. Each one of us could never make sufficient sacrifice for the sins we commit. Staring eternal death in the face, we see in 1 Peter that God himself provides his Son to pay the necessary sacrifice for our salvation. Jesus’ perfect life provides the perfection we are unable to achieve on our own. Jesus’ suffering on the cross at Calvary pays the price for our every sin. As God the Father rightfully raises his hand to kill each of us for our sins, he stops himself and provides his own Son as our substitute to die in our place. Listen as the apostle Peter explains:

**Gr. 7-8:** “[Jesus] committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed” (1 Peter 2:22-24).

**Congregation Hymn: “O Rejoice, All Christians, Loudly” (CW 366)**

- 1. O rejoice, all Christians, loudly,  
for our joy has now begun;  
wondrous things our God has done.  
Tell abroad his goodness proudly,  
who our race has honored thus,  
that he has befriended us.**

***Refrain:***

**Joy, O joy, beyond all gladness! Christ has done away with sadness!  
Hence, all sorrow and repining, for the Sun of grace is shining!**

- 2. See, my soul, your Savior chooses  
poverty and weakness, too;  
in such love he comes to you.  
Neither crib nor cross refuses,  
all he suffers for your good  
to redeem you by his blood.**

***Refrain***

- 3. Lord, how shall I thank you rightly?  
I am saved eternally  
by your life and death for me.  
Let me not forget it lightly,  
but with all my heart believe  
that from you I shall receive**

***Refrain***

- 4. Jesus, guard and guide your members,  
fill them with your boundless grace,  
hear their prayers in ev’ry place.  
Fan to life faith’s glowing embers;  
grant all Christians far and near  
holy peace, a glad new year.**

***Refrain***

Text: Christian Keimann, 1607–1662; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

### 3. FROM LAMB TO LOVING SACRIFICE

**Narration:** The grandson of Abraham was Jacob, whom God gave the name Israel. His descendants became the nation of Israel, and they were enslaved in Egypt for hundreds of years. God used the nation's exodus from Egypt as yet another illustration that points to our Savior, the Lamb of God. On the night before the Israelites were freed from slavery, God gave the following instructions to Moses:

**Gr. 3-4:** The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt . . . "Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. . . .

**Gr. 5-6:** Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. . . .

**Gr. 7-8:** On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt" (Exodus 12:1,3,6,7,12,13).

**Narration:** The blood of the slaughtered lamb protected the Israelites from the righteous wrath of God. Centuries later John the Baptist, who was Jesus' cousin, pointed to Jesus as the perfect sacrifice whose blood would cleanse the world from their sins. Recalling the final plague in Egypt and the blood of the lamb by which God's people were saved from death, John points to Jesus with these words:

**Gr. K-2:** John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

#### **Children and Congregation Song: "Joy Has Dawned" (CW 352)**

*Stanza 1 - K-8, Stanza 2 - K-4, Stanza 3 - Gr. 5-8, and Stanza 4 - Congregation and Children*

1. Joy has dawned upon the world promised from creation –  
God's salvation now unfurled, hope for every nation.  
Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory,  
But a humble gift of love – Jesus born of Mary.
2. Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels  
As the mighty Prince of life shelters in a stable.  
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness,  
Cling now to a mother's breast, vuln'erable and helpless.
3. Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory.  
Gifts of men from distant lands prophesy the story:  
Gold – a king is born today; incense – God is with us;  
Myrh – his death will make a way, and by his blood he'll win us.

- 4. Son of Adam, Son of heav'n, given as a ransom;  
Reconciling God and man, Christ our mighty champion!  
What a Savior! What a friend! What a glorious myst'ry!  
Once a babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of hist'ry.**

Text and music: Keith Getty, b. 1974, and Stuart Townend, b. 1963 © 2005 Thankyou Music (PRS)

## **4. FROM BRANCH TO BETHLEHEM**

**Narration:** After delivering his people from slavery in Egypt, God led the nation of Israel to the land of Canaan, which had been promised to Abraham. Here, Israel would become a great nation. They would be ruled one day by King David. The prophet Isaiah tells us that King David's father, Jesse, would be the stump from which the branch of the promised Savior would come forth.

**Gr. K-2:** A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—and he will delight in the fear of the LORD (Isaiah 11:1-3).

### **Gr. K-2 Song: "Behold, a Branch Is Growing" Stanzas 1,2,4 (CW 360)**

1. Behold, a branch is growing of loveliest form and grace!  
As prophets sang, foreknowing, it springs from Jesse's race  
and now begins to flow'r  
in midst of coldest winter, at deepest midnight hour.
2. Isaiah had foretold it in words of promise sure,  
and Mary's arms enfold it, a virgin meek and pure.  
Through God's eternal will  
this child to her is given at midnight calm and still.
3. O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woes,  
O Savior, King of glory, who conquered all our foes,  
bring us at last, we pray,  
to the bright courts of heaven and to the endless day.

Text: German 16th cent.; tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845–1925, sts. 1-3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4, alt.

**Narration:** The prophet Micah points to the Messiah who would be born in Bethlehem, the town of King David. Please join in reading this prophecy from Micah chapter 5 verses 2 through 4 responsively:

**Women:** “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah,

**Men:** out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

**Women:** Therefore, Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,

**Men:** and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

**K-8:** He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

**All:** And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

**Gr. 3-4 Song:** “O Little Town of Bethlehem” st. 1,2,4 (CW 333)

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
  
2. For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above  
While mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wond’ring love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.
  
4. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

## 5. FROM MAJESTY TO MANGER

**Narration:** Finally, the time came for the Savior to come to earth, for the Messiah to be made man, for the promised and prophesied one to be born and placed in a manger. Isaiah clearly shows us this is no ordinary baby. He came from the majesty of heaven and became like us—human, born of a virgin. He is God with us: Immanuel.

**Gr. K-8:** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

**Narration:** Let's listen to this familiar story of Jesus' birth in chapter 2 of Luke's gospel.

**Gr. K-4** "In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So, Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." (Luke 2:1-7)

### **Children and Congregation Song: "Silent Night" (CW 337)**

*Children sing stanza 1 in German and English, congregation joins on stanzas 2 & 3.*

1. (children) Stille nacht, heilige nacht

*German* Alles schlaft, einsam wacht

Nur das traute, hoch heilige Paar

Holder Knabe, im lochigen Haar

Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh. Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

1. (children) Silent night, holy night,

*English* All is calm, all is bright.

Round yon virgin mother and Child.

Holy Infant so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.

**2. (ALL) Silent night, holy night,**

**Shepherds quake at the sight;**

**Glories stream from heaven afar,**

**Heavenly hosts sing alleluia,**

**Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!**

**3. (ALL) Silent night, holy night,**

**Son of God loves pure light.**

**Radiant beams from Thy holy face,**

**With the dawn of redeeming grace,**

**Jesus, Lord at Thy birth. Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.**



**Narration:** In Luke chapter 2, angels proclaimed the arrival of the long-awaited Savior of the world to shepherds watching their sheep just outside of Bethlehem. The message and the messengers were a spectacular sight and sound, but the Messiah would be found seemingly helpless and in a lowly place. **Gr. 5-6:** “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests” (Luke 2:10-14).

### **Children and Congregation Song: “Glory to God”**

*(The Children will sing the verses. The congregation may join in the refrain. Congregation, please stand for the third/final refrain.)*



1. Low in a humble manger Jesus the Christ Child lay,  
Watched by the virgin mother, there on the fragrant hay,  
Keeping her loving vigil far from the worldly throngs,  
When thro’ the night came ringing glorious angel songs.

**Refrain: “Glory to God” the angels sing; Praises to Christ the heav’nly King;  
Peace be on earth, good will to men,” Hear we the angels sing again!  
“Glory to God,” the angels sing, Praises to Christ, the heav’nly King;  
Peace be on earth, good will to men, Good will to men.”**

2. Little, the loving mother dreamed of their meaning then,  
How He should die on Calv’ry, die for the sins of men.  
But down the weary ages, out from that manger bed  
Streams all the light of heaven, soon o’er the world to spread.

**Refrain** *(repeats two times.)*

**Narration:** The shepherds were filled with joy and responded immediately.

**Gr. 7-8:** When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger (Luke 2:15,16).

## Congregation Hymn: “Where Shepherds Lately Knelled” Stanzas 1-3 (CW 345)

1. **Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel’s word,  
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;  
but there is room and welcome there for me,  
but there is room and welcome there for me.**
2. **In that unlikely place I find him as they said:  
sweet newborn babe, how frail! And in a manger bed:  
a still, small voice to cry one day for me,  
a still, small voice to cry one day for me.**
3. **How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,  
his prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:  
a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,  
a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.**

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 © 1987 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## 6. FROM JONAH TO ETERNAL JOY

**Narration:** The birth of the Savior would be meaningless had he not completed the work he came into the world to accomplish. Jesus himself pointed to his own death and resurrection when he talked with Nicodemus about the sign of Jonah.

**Gr. K-4:** As Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth (Matthew 12:40).

**Narration:** The final illustration of Immanuel points to his death and victory over the grave. Jesus completed the work of salvation when he rose from the dead. He crushed the power of Satan under foot and proclaimed victory over death—not just for himself but for all who place their trust in him. Paul writes to the believers in Corinth to assure them that through the resurrection of Christ Jesus, they too will live eternally with him in heaven.

**Gr. 5-8:** Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:20-22)

**Narration:** From beginning to end and everywhere in between, God illustrates pictures for us that point us to his Son, Jesus—the King of kings who came down from heaven and was born in a lowly manger. He became one of us. He lived perfectly in our place. He suffered the consequence of our sin. He completed the work of our salvation in his resurrection. Because of all this, we are guaranteed victory over sin and death and promised eternal joy in heaven, where we will join to sing the praises of the King of kings forever.

## Gr. K-8 Song: “Immanuel” by Kathleen Schroeder

1. O can you see the pictures God paints throughout his Word?  
We see them in the Scriptures; their echoes can be heard:  
the shadows of the future, our God’s eternal plan  
for bringing us salvation—we sing his praise a-gain.

*Refrain:* The Lord of lords, the King of kings,  
the Holy One of whom we sing,  
the Word made flesh, a helpless child,  
the Son of God, so meek and mild—Immanuel.

2. Then climbing up a mountain a wooden cross he bears;  
fulfills his Father’s bidding, a sacrifice pre-pared—  
not year-old lamb or firstfruit on altar made of stone,  
his body and his lifeblood for all would now atone.

*Refrain*

3. Then in that very moment all prophecy fulfilled,  
our Savior crushed the serpent and all creation stilled.  
They laid him in a tomb there, the lifeless Son of Man.  
But death could never hold him—the Son would rise again!

*Refrain*

4. Redeemed, our hearts now worship this infant Savior-King.  
We kneel beside his cradle and hear the angels sing.  
With thankfulness we serve him in ev’rything we do.  
We lift our songs to heaven with joyful praises to . . .

*Refrain*

### Offering & Connect Card

1. During this time, our ushers will be taking an offering. We also offer online giving on our app/website or scan the QR Code. If you are a guest or visitor, please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. Thank you!



2. Don’t forget to fill out the Connect Card located in your pew! Please complete it in the offering plate or give it to an usher. You may also complete the connect card on our app under “Check In” on the homepage. Thank you!

Online Giving

*Please Stand*

**Congregation Offering Hymn: "I Stand Beside Your Manger Here" (CW 334 v. 1)**

*Melody: "The Day Is Surely Drawing Near"*

**I stand beside your manger here, O Jesus, life from heaven.  
The gifts I bring as I draw near are what to me you've given:  
my spirit, courage, mind, and heart-take all I am, take ev'ry part;  
in mercy let it please you.**

**Prayer for Christmas**

**Blessing**

**Children and Congregation Recessional Song: "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" (CW 363)**

- 1. Now sing we, now rejoice, now raise to heav'n our voice;  
he from whom joy streameth poor in a manger lies;  
not so brightly beameth the sun in yonder skies.  
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!**
- 2. Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to thee.  
Cheer my wearied spirit, O pure and holy Child;  
thro' thy grace and merit, blest Jesus, Lord most mild,  
draw me unto thee! Draw me unto thee!**
- 3. Now through his Son doth shine the Father's grace divine.  
Death was reigning o'er us through sin and vanity  
till he opened for us a bright eternity.  
May we praise him there! May we praise him there!**
- 4. Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'nly ground,  
where the angels singing with all his saints unite,  
sweetest praises bringing in heav'nly joy and light.  
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!**

Text: Latin hymn, 14th century; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–1874, alt.

# CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

“Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare him room. And heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n, and heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.” (CW 353 st. 1) May the Word of God bring us peace and joy today and throughout the New Year! The pastors, faculty, and staff wish to extend the warmest Christmas greetings to you and your family.

## CHRISTMAS WEEKEND WORSHIP

Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

4:00 P.M. – Sunday School Service @ Lowell Campus

6:30 P.M. – Children’s Christmas Eve Service @ Juneau Campus

9:00 P.M. – Candlelight Service @ Lowell Campus

Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

9:00 A.M. – Christmas Festival Service @ Juneau Campus Only

## THANK YOU

The faculty and their families wish to thank the kind members of St. John's for all their assistance in the weeks leading up to Christmas and throughout the year. We also thank you for the cards, gifts, and words of kindness expressed this Christmas.

## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDY BAGS

All children in grade school and younger will receive a candy bag as they leave the service. We thank the following people for donations for the candy bags: Zank family for the peanuts, Guenther family for oranges, Gerbitz family, and the generous families who made donations of candy and money towards the candy bags. Thank you to everyone who helped in assembling the candy bags.

## FELLOWSHIP

After the afternoon service on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, you are invited for cookies, refreshments, and Christian fellowship in the basement.

## BULLETINS

If you are attending the December 23<sup>rd</sup> service, you are welcome to keep your bulletin to “Illustrations of Immanuel” or return it to an usher at the end of the service to be used in the December 24<sup>th</sup> service.

## CHAIRS

Help is needed after the service on December 24<sup>th</sup> to take the folding chairs in the front of church down to the church basement. Thank you for your assistance.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Principal & Teacher Gr. 7&8

Teacher Preschool 2, Gr.7&8, & Extended Learning

Teacher Gr. 5&6

Teacher Gr. 3&4 & Music Director

Teacher Gr. 1&2

Teacher Kindergarten

Teacher Preschool 3&4

Teacher Preschool 2&3

Officiant

Organist

Mr. Richard Cody

Mrs. Rebecca Zellmer

Mr. Michel Krebs Jr.

Mr. Matthew Lober

Mrs. Suzanne Colantonio

Mrs. Nichole Gunst

Mrs. Crystal Schultz

Mrs. Rachel Christie

Pastor David Brandt

Mrs. Ruth Affeld

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CHRIST  
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