



Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service

FULL BULLETIN December 24, 2025, 3:00 and 7:00 PM Worship

In person, YouTube & Face Book; Live *Broadcast 12/25/23 at 10:30 AM WLBK on 1360 Radio*

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND STUDENT CENTER

Rev. Marty Marks
Rev@godwithusilc.org

511 Russell Road
DeKalb, IL 60115

December 24, 2025
3 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. in person &
Facebook Live Service

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Theme for Worship: The prophet Isaiah describes the Messiah with several important names in our Old Testament lesson tonight: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. Today as we gather to celebrate the birth of the Christ child who come into the world to save us from our sins, we will rejoice in His role as “Wonderful Counselor”. We’ll also share in the joy of gathering with God’s family in worship surrounded by God’s family, singing our favorite Christmas hymns and receiving His blessed sacrament!

♪ Pre-Service Music
Words of Welcome

♪ “Wood of the Cradle”

3pm Solo (C-J Motisi)

♪ “Before the Marvel of This Night”

7pm Solo / Choir

♪ Opening Hymn: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

---LSB #379

1 O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the king of angels: *Refrain*

ref O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

2 Highest, most holy,
Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest: *Refrain*

4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv’n!
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Text: Public domain

Invocation

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

C Amen.

P The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

C **On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.** (*Isaiah 9:2*)

P For the grace of God that brings salvation

C **Has appeared to all people.** (*Titus 2:11*)

P Jesus Christ is born!

C Alleluia! Amen!

P On this holy night, we come to adore You, O Christ.

C **With devotion in our hearts, with praise on our lips, with joy in our souls, we worship You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

P Praise be to You, Father, for sending Your Son.

C **Praise be to You, Jesus, for becoming one of us and living among us.**

P Praise be to You, Holy Spirit, for creating living faith within us.

C Amen.

♪Hymn: “Come, Your Hears and Voices Raising”

---LSB #375, vs. 1 & 6

1 Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.

6 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,
From Your lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join Your choir above.

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001197

Confession and Absolution

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

♪Hymn: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

- 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.

---LSB #361, vs. 1 & 4

- 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: Public domain

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

[P] This is the Word of the Lord.

[C] Thanks be to God.

♪Hymn: “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

---LSB #366, vs. 1 & 4

- 1** It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,
From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

- 4** For lo, the days have come to pass
By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years
Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth
God’s ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear
The song the angels sing.

Text: Public domain

The Epistle Reading

Titus 3:4-7

⁴ When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

[P] This is the Word of the Lord.

[C] Thanks be to God.

♪Hymn: “Away in a Manger”

---LSB #365

- 1** Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2** The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.**

Text: Public domain

♪ **“O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

3pm Solo (C-J Motisi)

♪ **“Christmas Sanctus”**

7pm Choir

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1–14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the second chapter.

C **Glory to You O Lord.**

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You O Christ.**

♪ **Hymn: “Angels We Have Heard on High”**

---LSB #368

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains. *Refrain***

ref **Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav’n song? *Refrain***

- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain***

Text: Public domain

The Message: “Wonderful Counselor”

Rev. Marty Marks

The Offering/ Announcements

(An offering plate is available in the narthex; plates will not be passed during the worship service. Immanuel is excited that we now have the ability to accept offerings through online giving. Families can easily give one-time or set up as recurring gifts. Simply make a secure donation via electronic check by visiting www.ImmanuelDeKalb.com. If you choose to set up a recurring gift, you will be prompted by email to create your own online donor account to manage your gifts.)

♪ Hymn: “What Child Is This”

---LSB #370

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!
- 2 Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary!
- 3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!

Text: Public domain

Prayer of the Church

- P** Father, with joy and wonder we gather around the manger on this night along with the whole host of heaven and recall how great is Your love for us, sending Your Son into our world wrapped in our flesh as a tiny child to forgive our sins.
- C** Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.
- P** Jesus, on this night we recall how great is Your love for us. You gave up heaven, its perfection and joy, to become one of us and live among us, to redeem us from our lost condition.
- C** Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.
- P** Holy Spirit, on this night we recall how great is Your love for us, gathering us together through the waters of Baptism and nourishing our faith through the Word and by the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sin.
- C** Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift given, received in faith, and kept unto life eternal.
- P** Gracious Lord, we pray that we not shut the Lord Jesus out of our hearts, but be ever ready to welcome Him as He comes to us still today, with the same awe His has birth inspired over the centuries. Lord in your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.

- P** Everlasting Lord, we pray that we see Jesus not only as the baby of Bethlehem, but also honor Him as the Christ of the cross and recognize the majesty of the King of kings and Lord of lords, both humbly adoring and proudly proclaiming Him as our King and Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Renewing Lord, let the Good News of Christmas inspire a renewing of hope, faith, joy, wonder, and witness in our hearts, our homes, in this congregation, and in the Church throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Comforting Lord, we lift up all those who lack joy this Christmastime due to afflictions spiritually, mentally, and physically. We lift up those who request our prayers, and those we name in our hearts (*time for silent prayer*). Finally, Grant that the hope and promise found in a Savior born for them will give peace in times of trial. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through the Savior born for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift. Amen.**

♫Hymn: “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

---LSB #393

- 1 Infant holy, Infant lowly,
For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, Little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, Angels singing,
Bells are ringing, Tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!
- 2 Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, Heard the story,
Tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow,
Praises voicing, Greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Public domain

Service of the Sacrament

(The Lord's Supper is celebrated in this service in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us. If you share this confession, we invite you to commune with us. If you have doubts or questions concerning this confession of our faith community, we ask that you withhold participation until receiving clarification or instruction from our pastor. The pastor will also offer a blessing to any unconfirmed children who desire it. Special instruction about how to partake in the supper will be explained during the service in response to Covid-19 precautions.)

Preface

- | | |
|--|---|
| P The Lord be with you. | C And also with you. |
| P Lift up your hearts, | C We lift them to the Lord. |
| P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. | C It is right to give Him thanks and praise. |

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing

♪ **“All My Heart Again Rejoices”**

---LSB #360 v. 1

**1 All my heart again rejoices
As I hear, Far and near
Sweetest angel voices.
“Christ is born!” their choirs are singing
Till the air, Ev’rywhere
Now with joy is ringing.**

Text: Public domain

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C 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 and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen

♪ **Hymn: “A Great and Mighty Wonder”**

---LSB #383 vs. 1 & 2

**1 A great and mighty wonder,
A full and holy cure:
The virgin bears the infant
With virgin honor pure! Refrain**

ref Proclaim the Savior's birth:

"To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth!"

- 2 The Word becomes incarnate
And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems
To shepherds from the sky. *Refrain*

Text: Public domain

Celebrating His Birth in Song While Receiving the Lord's Supper

♪ "Were You There on That Christmas Night"

3pm Solo (C-J Motisi)

♪ "Oh, How Joyfully"

7pm Choir

♪ "Hark! The Herald Angles Sing"

---LSB #380 vs. 1 & 2

- 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*

ref Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

- 2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain*

Text: Public domain

♪ "Where Shepherds Lately Knel't"

---LSB #369 vs. 1, 2 & 4

- 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.
- 4 Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned
Its way into my heart—unasked, unforced, unearned,
To die, to live, and not alone for me,
To die, to live, and not alone for me?

Text: © 1986 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001197

♪ “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

---LSB #358 vs. 1, 2, 13 & 15

- 1 “From heav’n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev’ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:
- 2 “To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth
Shall be the joy of all the earth.
- 13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.
- 15 Glory to God in highest heav’n,
Who unto us His Son has giv’n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.

Text: Public domain

Candle Lighting

(The Pastor will light a solitary candle from the Christ Candle and hand it to an usher, who in turn lights the candles of the first person in each row at the center aisle. The flame is passed along to each person in the row. Please tip only unlighted candles. In light of Covid considerations, please attempt to make this a “touchless process.” Parents should determine if it is appropriate for their child to hold a lighted candle. After all have received the flame, the service continues.)

♪ “Silent Night”

---LSB 363

*Solo: Vs 1: Christel Springmire & Sandy Lancaster (in German)
The congregation will sing all three verses
after the German rendition is complete*

- 1 Silent night, holy night!
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 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav’nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

The Candles are Extinguished

The Benediction

♪ Closing Hymn: "Joy to the World"

---LSB # 387

- 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.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Text: Public domain

PARTICIPANTS – December 24, 2025		
Altar Guild: Carolyn McQuillan & Jackie Hanson		
	3:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.
Musicians	Linda Conrad, <i>Organist</i> ; C-J Motisi, <i>Soloist & Pianist</i>	Linda Conrad, <i>Organist</i> ; C-J Motisi, <i>Soloist & Pianist</i> Adult Choir
Pastor	Rev. Marty Marks	Rev. Marty Marks
Acolyte	Heather Allen	Chloe Marks
Lay Reader	Raegan Andsager	Robert Miller
Radio Narrator	Tammy Tiggelaar	---
Videographer/Sound	Doug Nelson	Doug Nelson
Slides	Ted Stone	Nathan Allen
Ushers	Taylor McWilliams	
Communion Assist.	Ken Boldt & Tom Sawyer	Chris Cook & Dan Lohmeier

Poinsettias Adorn our Altar this evening in celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!
Poinsettias have been donated to the glory of God by members of our congregation.
Please see insert for a complete list of names.

(Poinsettias can be picked up beginning Wednesday, December 24 after the 7:00 p.m. worship service. You can also pick up on Sunday, December 28 (following 9:00a.m. worship) or December 29 (8:30—2:30). If you would like yours delivered to you, please contact the office. If you know of a shut-in who would like one, or if you are willing to help deliver to shut-ins, please contact the office.)

Radio Broadcast (12/25): “To the glory of God and in loving memory of my husband, and our father, Richard Buehler,” by Cheryl, Jeremy, Matthew & Shawn.

TO BE A SPONSOR: Contact the office to reserve a date.

Cost: \$50 Flowers.

\$250 One-hour radio broadcast of the church service; \$125 Half-sponsorships are also available.

Make your check out to Immanuel, with a notation on the memo line saying, “flowers,” or “radio.”

These checks may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office.

OPEN FLOWER SPONSORSHIPS: January 4, 11 & 18; February 8 & 15; March 8 & 15;

OPEN RADIO SPONSORSHIPS: January 4, 11, 18 & 25; February 8; March 15, 22 & 29;

Rev. Marty Marks, Pastor 815-501-3951; rev@godwithusilc.org

C-J Motisi, Adult Choir Director, LCMS certified Lay Minister cj.cmsc@gmail.com 630-664-8005

Katie Martinez, Pre-School Director, 815-756-6669 (o); LittleLambs@godwithusilc.org

Darlene Hillman, Office Manager, 815-756-6669; office@godwithusilc.org

Alma Sanchez, Secretary, almas@immanueldekalb.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Thursday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

CHURCH PHONE: 815-756-6669; 756-6675; **Fax:** 815-756-9585

OFFICE E-MAIL: office@godwithusilc.org

CHURCH WEBSITE: www.ImmanuelDeKalb.com