

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

310 N. Seguin St. — P.O. Box 168

La Vernia, Texas 78121

Phone & Fax Number: (830) 253 - 8121

Rev. Eric Milette
Adrienne Stone

Interim Pastor
Organist

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Services December 24, 2021 6:00 & 11:00 PM

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candles & Christ Candle

WOV # 630

Christmas Hymn

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

LBW # 45

(Please stand)

- 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 The highest, most holy, Light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing!
Refrain: Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come let us adore him
Oh, come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
- 3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God,
In the highest:
Refrain: Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come let us adore him
Oh, come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
- 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: Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come let us adore him
Oh, come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Call to Worship

- L: In the beginning was the Word.
C: **And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**
L: He was in the beginning with God.
C: **All things came into being through Him, and without Him, not one thing came into being.**
L: What has come into being in Him was life,
C: **and the life was the light of all people.**
L: The light shines in the darkness,
C: **and the darkness did not overcome it.**
L: And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
C: **and we have seen His glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.**

Christmas Confession

- L: Let us confess our sins to God who has gifted us with His Son:
C: **We confess that we are people in need of a Savior. We have been to the manger, but have served other gods. We have seen the star but have looked in other places for our salvation. We have said "yes" to the baby Jesus but have said "no" to the suffering Servant calling us to commitment. Forgive us our sin and give us a new beginning.**

The Forgiveness

Hear the Good News of Christmas. The God of all the universe has turned all of creation toward Bethlehem, to a lowly manger where Jesus begins His life of servanthood and suffering. The humble baby comes as King to save everyone from their sins. Tonight we hear angel voices singing, "Glory to God in the Highest" as our forgiveness is made possible in Jesus, the Messiah.

Prayer of the Day

God of majesty, on this holy night your light and life broke into the darkness of our human condition. Grant that your light and life will continue to shine through us into a dark and weary world until that time when your glory reigns forever; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

(Please be seated)

First Lesson

Isaiah 9: 2-7

Christmas Hymn

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

LBW # 50

- 1 Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story; Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
*Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king.*

- 2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding, Watching o'er your blocks by night,
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the infant light.
*Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship,
 Worship Christ, the newborn king.*

- 3 Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations, You have seen his natal star.
*Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship,
 Worship Christ, the newborn king.*

- 4 All creation, join in praising, God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising To the eternal Three in One.
*Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship,
 Worship Christ, the newborn king.*

Second Lesson

Titus 2: 11-14

Christmas Hymn

"The First Noel"

LBW # 56

- 1 The first Noel, the angel did say, Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

- 2 They look-ed up and saw a star Shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and night.
Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

- 3 And by the light of that same star Three Wise Men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent, And to follow the star wherever it went.
Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

- 4 This star drew near to the northwest, O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay Right over the place where Jesus lay.
Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

Children's Message

Rev. Eric Milette

Christmas Gospel

Luke 2: 1-20

(Please stand)

Christmas Message

Rev. Eric Milette

Christmas Creed (Sung to the tune of "O Little Town of Bethlehem – *Please stand*)

In God the Father we believe, The Lord of hosts His name.
All things from Him their form receive; By His strong Word they came.
By Him was all created, In earth and heav'n above.
He made them all, things great and small. By His great pow'r and love.

In God's Son Jesus we believe, Who came at God's own hour.
Whom Virgin Mary did conceive, By Holy Spirit's pow'r.
He suffered and was buried. Was raised at God's own call.
To reign on high, and to draw nigh, At last as Judge of all.

In Holy Spirit we believe, And in Christ's Church on earth.
The saints, united, faith receive, A precious gift of worth.
He sanctifies and keeps us, By His empow'ring love.
Forgiven, we the grave shall flee, To live with God above.

Prayers of the People

Sharing of the Christmas Peace

Offering & Hymn

"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"

LBW # 60

- 1 Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Refrain: 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, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"
- 3 Hail the heav'nborn Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, Born to give us second birth.
Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Communion Litany

- L: We declare that we are Christmas people and, as Jesus was born in the stable,
we are born again to everlasting life.
- C: We have come to worship and bow down.
We have come to kneel and give thanks.
We have come to worship Jesus.**
- L: In this family meal we celebrate the gift of God to us.
- C: In sharing the bread and wine
we find forgiveness of sins
and God's resurrection presence with us.**
- L: God has given us this gift to share.
- C: We come to partake and be changed.**

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Communion Carols

"What Child Is This"

LBW # 40

- 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?
 God 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!

"Away in a Manger" (*Led by Tim Ferguson*)

LBW # 67

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
 The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes, But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
 I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
 Bless all the dear children in your tender care And fit us for heaven to live with you there.

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

LBW # 71

- 1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
 And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
 Refrain: 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'nly song?
 Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

LBW # 54

- 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, good will to all, From heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats O'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hov'ring wing.
And ever o'er its babel sounds The blessed angels sing.
- 3 And you, beneath life's crushing load, Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way With painful steps and slow:
Look now, for glad and golden hours Come swiftly on the wing;
Oh, rest beside the weary road And hear the angels sing!
- 4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on, By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever circling years Shall come the time foretold.
When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world give back the song Which now the angels sing.

Communion Blessing *(Please stand)*

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Candlelight Service *(Special Music by Rev. Eric Milette and Wendie Roser)*

As candles are being lit, the special music will be sung softly in the background; once all the candles are lit, the Pastor will begin the Candlelight Service liturgy. During the lighting of the candles, keep lit candles upright, tip only unlit candles.

L: This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaimed to you:
That God is Light and in Him there is no darkness at all.

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

L: 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 Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin.

Christmas Hymn

"Silent Night"

LBW # 65

- 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, Heavenly 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 your holy
face, With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord at your birth, Jesus, Lord at your
birth.

*During the 3rd verse, follow the direction of the Pastor and raise your candle to honor
the Christ Child's birth.*

Prayer of Dedication

- C:** O Christ, our only Savior, we ask as we hold our candles, that You would
dwell in us. May we leave this worship with the light of hope in our eyes,
the fire of inspiration on our lips, Your Word in our minds, and Your love
in our hearts. Amen.
- L:** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwell in the land
of deep darkness, on them has light shined.
- C:** For unto us a Son is given, and the Government will be upon His shoulder,
and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace.

Blow gently to extinguish your candle, and keep candles upright until the melted wax hardens.

Christmas Hymn

"Joy to the World"

LBW # 39

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its 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 all 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 sin and sorrow 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.

Postlude

Dismissal

Go in the power and presence of the Christ Child! Share His love!

Thanks be to God!

Merry CHRISTmas!

Welcome to our worship! We gather on the eve of our Savior's birth to celebrate His coming. God has fulfilled all His promises to us in and through the Christ Child. May our time together make this Christmas more special to you!

We will be celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion at our worship this evening.

All who are baptized and believe Christ is truly present in the Sacrament are welcome to join us at the Lord's Table. We will serve Holy Communion in a continuous manner. Please follow the direction of the ushers. Gluten free wafers and white grape juice are available for those who prefer it. Simply indicate to the Pastor of your desire. Those who have not been instructed in the Sacrament are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

A word about the Candle lighting Ceremony: During the Candle lighting Ceremony tonight, the Pastor will light his candle from the Christ Candle on the Advent Wreath. The ushers will come forward at that time to receive the light from him and proceed down the side aisles. The first person in each row will receive the light from the usher. **IMPORTANT:** Never tip the lighted candle. Always hold it upright and allow the person with the unlit candle to tip it toward the flame to light it. When extinguishing your candle, please blow carefully so as not to blow hot wax.

Sunday, December 26, 2021 – Services of Lessons & Carols.

Poinsettias may be picked up following the 9:30 am service on December 26th.

2022 offering envelopes may be picked up in the Annex.

All year-end giving must be done by Sunday, December 26th
to be counted on your 2021 Contribution Statement.



The beautiful poinsettias that are adorning our Sanctuary this Christmas are given to the glory of God and . . .

in memory of Debbie Baumann and David Lambeck **by Marvin & Laura Baumann**

in honor of Jesus' birth **by Gary & Yvonne Beran**

in memory of Herbert Boeck, William Stolle, Herbert Stolle, and Robert Stolle **by Willie Jean Boeck**

in memory of William O. Loren and Dalton & Leta Mae Campbell **by Karen Campbell**

in memory of Jana's father, David McElwrath **by Marc Gray & Jana Clarke**

in memory of Leonard 'Doc' & Lula Coble **by Garland & Chrystal Coble**

in memory of Robert Coldewey **by Donna & Jesse Jefferson and Annie Coldewey**

in memory of our grandfathers, Byron Hanna and Harvey Cone, **by Mason & Carter Cone**

in memory of Bob & Lois Corbin and Allen Kosub **and** in honor of Lillian Kosub **by Phil & Cindy Corbin**

in memory of Dr. Bob Dittmar **and** in honor of grandchildren Hayden & Paige Dittmar and Kimber & Levi Hild **by Bernadine Dittmar**

in memory of Willious & Mary Lee and Howard & Violet Dorsett **by Bill & Carroll Dorsett**

in memory of Walter & Lillie Esser and Eva Jo Willett **by Bridgett Faglie**

In Memorium of the Rawe and Mueller families **by Edna Mae Fannin**

in memory of husband, Robert Ferry Jr., parents Willie & Elsa Witte, and Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ferry Sr. **by Elsie Ferry**

in memory of Georgia Wilson and James Goodman **and** in honor of Marvin & Laura Baumann **by Hershel & Patrice Goodman**

in memory of Densford Zimmerman and Darlene Wollney **and** in honor of Larry Rose, Darren Heinsohn and family, Mark Heinsohn and family **by JoElla Heinsohn**

in memory of Dr. Bob Dittmar **by Whitney Hild**

in memory of Allen Kosub, Willie & Elsa Witte, and Eugene & Minnie Kosub **by Lillian Kosub**

in memory of Pete Pierdolla **by Adeline Pierdolla**

in memory of Emmett & Elda Stork, Arno Kautz, and Stacey Prater **by Tony, Donna, Lauren, & Jacob Prater**

in memory of Don Roskydal **by LaVerne Roskydal**

in honor of our children and our parents: Dr. & Mrs. Elam Scull and Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Whitwell **by Will & Renee Scull**

in memory of Bob & Elsie Zuehl and Hob & Lois Cate **by Shirley Stanush**

in memory of Milton Stensgaard **by Phyllis Stensgaard**

in memory of parents, Emmett & Elda Stork and Walter & Grace Scull **by Charles & Candy Stork & kids**

in memory of Alvin Volkmann, Carl & Uree Richter, Alvin & Hattie Volkmann, and Mike Kandis **by Kathy Volkmann**

in memory of Vic & Hertha Wagner and Hoot & Celeste Harrison **and** in honor of Jamie and Tommy **by James & Amy Wagner**

in memory of our parents and grandparents, Ron & LaVerne Crow and Densford Zimmerman, **and** in honor of Kathryn Zimmerman **by Eddie, Brenda, Dylan, & Adriana Willeford**