The Recessional Hymn: “Go Tell It on the Mountain”
(1 - Children; 2,3 - Congregation)

Go tell it on the mountain, O-ver the hills and ev-’ry-where;
Go tell it on the moun-tain That Je-sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O’er si-lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo, a-bove the earth
3 Down in a lone-ly man-ger The hum-ble Christ was born;

Be-hold, through-out the heav-ens There shone a bo-ly light,
Rang out the an-gel cho-rus That hailed our Sav-ior’s birth,
And God sent his sal va-tion That bless-ed Christ-mas morn

Soli Deo Gloria!

Children’s Christmas Program
“The Christmas Story”
22 December Anno Domini 2010

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church
325 E. Warwick Dr. ~ Alma, MI 48801
(989) 463-5754 ~ www.peacealma.org
contact@peacealma.org
Rev. Thomas C. Messer, Pastor
Home: (989) 463-3093 ~ Cell: (989) 388-2037
pastor@peacealma.org

All hymns come from Lutheran Service Book © 2006 CPH, and are reproduced here with permission. This bulletin was created using Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 CPH.
Welcome

Welcome to our 2010 Children’s Christmas Program. We are delighted that you have come to support the children of Peace, as they have worked hard in their preparation to share the Christmas story with you, and we are confident that you will enjoy their presentation. For your convenience, the entire program is included in this bulletin, with the exception of the script, so that you will not need a hymnal to follow along and participate. Please be sure to take note of the directions given above each musical selection. Thanks again for coming out to support our children!

“Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.’” (Matt. 19:14)

Hymn: “The Star Proclaims the King Is Here”
(1, 3 - Children; 2, 4, 5 - Congregation)

1 The star proclaims the King is here;
   But, He-rod, why this sense-less fear?
   Lam-b in meek-ness stood
   Birth Seeks not the kingdoms of this earth.

2 The east-ern sa-ges saw from far
   And fol-lowed For He who of-fers heav'n-ly
   And by their known, might cleanse His
   And Holy spir-it ev-er-more.

3 With-in the Jordan’s sac-red flood
   The heav'n-ly Lamb in meek-ness stood
   That He, of whom no sin was red-den ed in-to wine!
   In streams that na-ture ne'er be-stowed.

4 And oh, what mir-a-cle di-vine,
   When wa-ter Jesus be, to Thee. Whom with the Fa-ther we a-
   And Holy spir-it ev-er-more.

5 For this Thy glad e-piph-a-ny
   All glo-ry,
   Jesus, be to Thee. Whom with the Fa-ther we a-
   And Holy spir-it ev-er-more.

The Concluding Prayer and Benediction

P Let us pray: Most merciful God, You gave Your eternal Word to become incarnate of the pure Virgin. Grant Your people grace to put away fleshly lusts, that they may be ready for Your visitation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P The grace of our Lord Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.
Hymn: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”
(1,4 - Children; 2,3 - Congregation)

(Scene 8: The Visit of the Wise Men)

(After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, wise men from the east, being led by a star in the sky, came to Jerusalem to find out where the king of the Jews had been born. When the evil King Herod heard about this, he found out from the chief priests and scribes that the prophecy stated that Bethlehem would be the place, and he summoned the wise men and told them to find the Child and to report back to him, so that he, too, could go and worship Him. The wise men found Jesus in Bethlehem, just as the prophecy had stated, and worshipped Him, presenting Him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, they departed and went back to their home country, avoiding Herod, for they knew that he was evil.)

Cast of Characters
(In order of appearance)

Narrators: Samantha Messer, Natalie Penzien, Tyrel Harwager
Gabriel: Sierra Luplow
Zechariah: Zane Luplow
Mary: Paige Harwager
Elizabeth: Morgan Johnson
Crowd: Teachers
Joseph: Myka Luplow
Angel #1: Morgan Johnson
Shepherd #1: Pastor Messer
Shepherd #2: Larry Elliott
Wise Man #1: Zane Luplow
Wise Man #2: Sierra Luplow
Wise Man #3: Tyrel Harwager
King Herod: Aaron Messer

In Addition to the Cast . . .

Soloist: Sierra Luplow
Duets: Sierra Luplow, Natalie Penzien
Trio: Paige Harwager, Myka Luplow, Zane Luplow
Organist: Mary Jakolat
Minister: Rev. Thomas C. Messer
Teachers: Sharyn Greening, Andrea Elliott, Carol Zeile
Sunday School Choir: All Sunday School children
(directed by Mary Jakolat)

This year’s Children’s Christmas Program was created and designed by Pastor Messer. The way in which the musical selections will be sung was arranged by Mary Jakolat. Special thanks to Sharyn Greening, Andrea Elliott, and Carol Zeile for helping to prepare the children.
The Ringing of the Bells
(The congregation stands at the Ringing of the Bells and faces the processional cross. It is customary to continue facing the cross as it is processed in, and to bow your head and make the sign of the cross in reverence and admiration to the Lord as it passes your pew. The same applies for the recessional as Service concludes.)

The Processional Hymn: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

(1 - Duet Sierra Luplow & Natalie Penzien; 2, 4, 6 - Congregation; 3, 5, 7 - Children)

Hymn: “Angels We Have Heard on High”
(Sung by Congregation)

Scene 7: The Shepherds Visit the Christ Child
(After the angels depart from them, the shepherds go at once to find the Savior the Lord had made known to them by the angels’ message. When they find the place where the Christ Child is, everything is just as the angels had told them. The shepherds share their story with Mary and Joseph, and, from that day forward, with everyone who would listen, and all marvel at their saying. After their visit, the shepherds return to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen.)
Hymn: “Away in a Manger”
(1 - Trio Paige Harwager, Myka Luplow, Zane Luplow; 2-3 - Children)

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
   The cattle are lowing, the baby wakes.
3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay

Scene 6: The Shepherds and the Angels
(In the same region where Mary gives birth to Jesus, there are shepherds working out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. Suddenly, an angel appears to them and tells them that a Savior has been born to them who is Christ the Lord, and informs them of where they can find Him. Then, a multitude of the heavenly host joins the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”)

The Invocation and Opening Versicles
P In the Name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.
P Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.
C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.
P In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.
C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.
P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

Hymn of Preparation: “What Hope! An Eden Prophesied”
(1, 3 - Congregation; 2, 4 - Children)

Scene 1: The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold
(The angel Gabriel visits the priest named Zechariah and announces to him that his wife, Elizabeth, shall conceive and bear a son, whose name shall be John, and who will prepare the way for the Lord to come. Zechariah finds this hard to believe, since he is an old man and his wife is beyond the age of childbearing, and, because of his unbelief, Zechariah is struck mute until the day his son is born.)
**Scene 2: The Annunciation**

(The angel Gabriel visits the virgin Mary, announcing to her that she will conceive a Son by the Holy Spirit, whose name shall be Jesus, and that He will be great and called the Son of the Most High. Gabriel also informs Mary that her cousin, Elizabeth, has conceived a son in her old age, and is already in her sixth month of pregnancy. Mary believes all that Gabriel tells her, saying, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.”)

**Scene 5: The Birth of Our Savior, Jesus Christ**

(According to the census issued by Caesar Augustus, and in order to fulfill prophecy, Joseph and Mary travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. While there, the time comes for Mary to give birth, but there is no room for them in the Inn. So, it happens that the Lord of the universe is born in a stable, amidst the animals, and placed in a manger, a feeding trough. Miracle of miracles, the Baby born to Mary, while seemingly helpless, holds the entire creation in the palms of His little hands.)
Hymn: “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”
(1 - Soloist Sierra Luplow; 2,4 - Children; 3 - Congregation)

With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
All generation laud and honor thee;
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn.

“All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name.”
And Christian folk through-out the world will ever say:

Most highly favored lady,” Glo - ri-a!
Most highly favored lady,” Glo - ri-a!
Most highly favored lady,” Glo - ri-a!
“Most highly favored lady,” Glo - ri-a!

Scene 3: The Visitation
(Mary, now pregnant with the Son of God, goes with haste to visit her cousin, Elizabeth. Upon her arrival, Elizabeth feels her son leap in her womb. Then, filled with the Holy Spirit, she praises Mary, saying, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” She goes on to tell Mary how her son leaped in her womb, and that Mary was blessed for believing God’s Word, to which Mary responds with what has become known in our liturgy as the Magnificat.)
Scene 4: The Birth of John the Baptist

(Elizabeth gives birth to her son, and on the eighth day, she and Zechariah take their son to be circumcised. Family and friends expect them to name him after Zechariah, but Elizabeth tells them that he shall be called John. When family and friends protest, Zechariah asks for a writing tablet and writes upon it, “His name is John!” And, immediately, his mouth is opened and his tongue loosed, and he speaks, blessing God. This leads all who witnessed it to wonder in amazement at what the birth of this son would mean, but Zechariah breaks into song, singing what has become known in our liturgy as the Benedictus.)

The Benedictus ~ Song of Zechariah

(Narrated by Tyrel Harwager)