

Choir: *Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

Child & Cong: **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.**

Choir: *And He shall reign forever and ever! Joy to the world! Joy to the world!
Forever, and ever! Forever, and ever!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

Announcements

Special thanks to the children for presenting the Word of God to us this evening. We thank them for their hard work, and we praise the Lord for all their talents. We thank the choir for their beautiful singing this evening as well. Thank you to Megan Goodwin and Pastor Rodebaugh for their help with the children. Thank you to Teresa Bernthal for recording and playing the music for the service. The service was written and directed by Neil Bernthal. We praise and thank the Lord for willing servants to use their gifts to the glory of our Lord and Savior.

Join us tomorrow morning at 10:15 a.m. for the Christmas Day Service. We will be singing songs of praise to Jesus Christ who was sent to free us from the darkness of sin, death, and the devil.

The called workers (Goodwins, Rodebaughs, and Bernthals) would like to thank the congregation and everyone who gave the generous gift this Christmas season. We are truly blessed by your support. We thank the Lord for such a gracious gift and wonderful congregation to serve. Thanks again.

Thank you to all who donated candy and goodies for the children's Christmas bags.

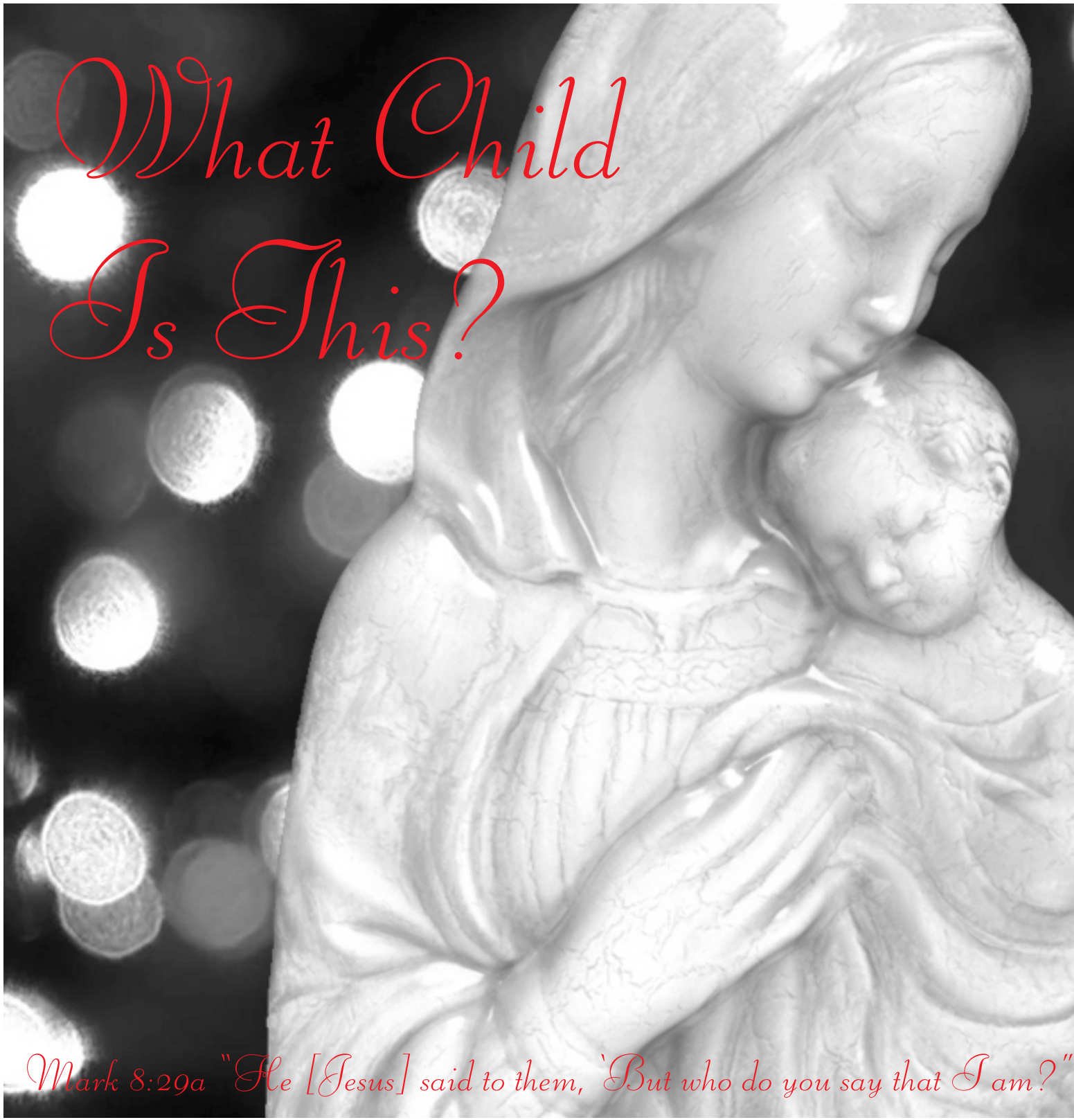
The Wiffle Ball Tournament is this Saturday at 9:00 a.m. ages 7-16. Register at www.winterhaven.clclutheran.org/wiffle-ball-registration
I need volunteers and supplies to help run the event. If you can help, please see Mr. Bernthal.

Shut-in/Encouragement List

Betty Sweet is now living at the memory care facility at Spring Haven. Emily Kuehne suffers from total blindness and severe knee pain when standing or walking. Patti Meno continues to receive treatment for her kidney condition and is awaiting a transplant. Ray Seger is back at his rehab facility and remains shut-in. Delores Seger recently had an operation on her back and is praying it will take care of her back pains. Bill Issitt III remains mostly housebound while recovering from several health problems. Richard Cook is dealing with general unsteadiness. Johanna Jaehnigen remains mostly housebound, being no longer able to drive. Joe Jackson, the father-in-law of Robin Jackson, is recovering in the hospital from a severe stroke. Sharon Brown was hospitalized this week with pneumonia; she is now recovering at home.

Looking Ahead...

- ✝ **Dec. 25:** Christmas 10:15 am
- ✝ **Dec. 29:** Wiffle Ball 9:00 am
- ✝ **Dec. 30:** Elders and Trustees
- ✝ **Jan. 6:** 10:15 am service
- ✝ **Jan. 6:** Board of Ed
- ✝ **Jan. 13:** Church Council



Immanuel Lutheran Church and School
December 24, 2018

1449 34th St. NW Winter Haven, FL 33881 www.winterhavenlutheran.org

Processional: "What Child Shall Come?"

Children What child shall come this lonely night and bring God's love forever?
choir Will all behold the shining light and sing with joy together?
"This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!"

Sing we noel, sing we noel, sing we noel, sing we noel, sing we noel, sing we noel,
Sing we noel, sing we noel! And bring for all eternity God's peace to all creation?
Emmanuel, the Lord and King! Emmanuel, rejoice and sing! Sing we noel!
What child shall come this night? Come to dwell? Sing we noel! The Lord, Emmanuel.

N: It is finally here-Christmas. Soak it all in because it took a lot of time and energy for us to get here. For weeks and even months the world has been busily preparing for Christmas. Stores shelving their Christmas wares. Residents decorating their yards. Children making their Christmas wish lists and memorizing parts for plays, programs, and pageants. Parents shopping for that perfect gift. The parties being planned. The cookies being baked. The family gatherings being prepared. The endless getting ready for a one day, maybe two day event, is finally done. Whew! Take a deep breath and relax; the moment everyone has been waiting for is here. But what have we been waiting for, preparing for, getting ready for, and decorating for? In the backdrop of the world's commercialized Christmas can we really see through all the trappings to get to the heart of Christmas? To do this, we need to answer one question. The answer to this one question will not only determine the true meaning of Christmas, but it will determine your soul's fate. For the answer to this question will divide the believer from the unbeliever. The question is this:

What child is this?

Look at the sweet innocent baby wrapped in strips of cloth lying in that feed box for a bed. Who is that? What child is this lying there gazing up in the lowliest of birth places? The world has and does come up with many answers to this question. Some say this child is a good example. Others say He is a prophet and a great teacher. Still others say that His life is a good story to be taught because it is filled with morals to live by. But this question has to be answered individually by each one of us. Who do you think this child is? Tonight, we will answer this soul saving Christmas question by searching the scriptures to see what God says about this child. The Bible will answer this question: **What child is this?**

1. What Child is This? What Does God Say?

N: When looking for an answer to a question, always start at the beginning. To answer our Christmas question we need to start at the beginning of time with Adam and Eve. God gave Adam and Eve the opportunity to show their love for Him by obeying His command to not eat of the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. They disobeyed this command, and their sin infects each one of us. Yet God showed His grace and love by promising a "Seed of the woman" who would crush the devil and redeem us from sin and death. What does God say about this Child?

Child: Genesis 3:15 "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

N: God says this Child is the answer to the problem that began after creation. This child lying in the manger is the promised "Seed" sent to defeat sin, death, and the devil. This child is the Messiah, the Promised One, whose sole reason for birth was to die on the cross to pay for mankind's sins.

Child: Matthew 3:17 "And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'"

N: As this Child grew up, God had more to say about Him. God spoke at Jesus' baptism. God declared from the heavens that this Child was not just Mary's son. This Child is God's Son. Looking at Jesus as a child in Mary's arms or as an adult preaching in Israel, people could not see that Jesus was God. He looked plain and ordinary. Yet, God spoke. God spoke with His voice at Jesus' baptism witnessing to the fact that Jesus is God's beloved Son.

Child Song: "God of God Light of Light"
Choir Song:
Refrain: God of God and Light of Light Jesus, Immanuel, God of God and Light of Light Jesus, Immanuel,
3times Born of virgin mother, He came with us to dwell Born of virgin mother, He came with us to dwell.

He, true God of God, true Light of Light, our Lord Immanuel.
Refrain:

Offering, Prayer, Benediction

Cong. Song: "Silent Night"
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.

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.

N: What Child is this? God answers:

Cong.: The Promised Seed my Son whom I Love.

N: Isaiah answers:

Cong.: The virgin born Child, Immanuel, the sacrifice for our sins.

N: The angels answer:

Cong.: The Savior, Christ the Lord, the Son of the Most High.

N: The shepherds answer:

Cong.: The Christ Child who brings peace on earth.

N: The disciples answer:

Cong.: The Christ, the Word eternal, the glory of God, the Son and Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

N: There is but one more person to answer, YOU! Jesus asks you,

Child: Mark 8:29a "But who do you say that I am?"

N: On this Christmas night with the worldly pressures outside and with the many human ideas clamoring around about who Jesus is, can you answer this soul saving, life and death question?

Child: Romans 10:9 "That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

N: Through the Holy Spirit what will you answer? What Child is this?

Recessional: "Hallelujah! Joy to the World!"

Choir: *Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*
Child & Cong: **Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive her King.**
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

5. *What Child is This? What Do the Disciples Say?*

N: This Child did not stay a child for long. Like all children Jesus grew into an adult. This Child that Mary held in her arms traveled throughout Israel preaching, teaching, and healing the people. He gathered followers called disciples who lived and traveled with Him for three years. These disciples sat at Jesus' feet to listen to His words. They witnessed the miracles Jesus performed. Jesus Himself asked His disciples who He was. Let us hear their answers to this question "What Child is This?"

Child: Mark 8:29 "He [Jesus] said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered and said to Him, 'You are the Christ.'"

Child: John 1:49 "Nathanael answered and said to Him, 'Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!'"

Child: John 20:28 "And Thomas answered and said to Him, 'My Lord and my God!'"

N: The disciple John gives His own Christmas account of this Child's birth. He, however, leaves out the shepherds, angels, manger, stable, and even Mary and Joseph. John goes to the very beginning and explains that this Child had no beginning. This Child, called the Word, though born in human flesh was begotten of the Father from eternity. This Child in bodily form housed the glory of God.

Child: John 1:1-2,14 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

N: John the Baptist also testified about who Jesus is, and he explained what Jesus would do for mankind.

Child: John 1:29b "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

N: The disciples and John the Baptist confessed who this Child is. They saw this Child as their Savior doing the work of His Father, God the Father. They heard His life-saving words, saw His life-changing miracles, and viewed His life-redeeming death and resurrection. What Child is this? The disciples say. . .

Cong.: **This grown Child is the eternal Word made flesh housing the glory of God, the Son and Lamb of God who came to take away the sin of the world. He is the Christ the King of Israel!**

Cong. Song: **"What Child Is This?"**
Why lies He in such mean estate Where oxen now are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; For sinners here The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through; The cross He'll bear for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the Son of Mary!

6. *What Child is This? What Do You Say?*

N: There is but one more confession about this Child that we need to hear. We have heard from God, Isaiah, the angels, the shepherds, and the disciples. Now we need to hear from **YOU!** What do you say about this Child? What do you see in this Child that lies sweetly in the manger? Can you see past the fluff, the commercialization and the worldly peace-on-earth Christmas message that others attach to this Child? Can you see Jesus for who He really is? Can you answer this soul-saving Christmas question: **What Child is this?** Only through the Holy Spirit can we truly know who this Child is.

Child: I Corinthians 12:3b "No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit."

Child: Luke 9:35 "And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!'"

N: God spoke again. This time He spoke on the Mount of Transfiguration. Jesus unleashed His Godly powers for Peter, James, and John to witness. God declared from the heavens again that Jesus, this Child, is the Son of God. What Child is this? God says. . .

Cong.: **This Child is the Messiah, the Promised Seed of the woman, God's Son sent to crush sin, death, and the devil through His sacrifice on the cross.**

Cong. Song: **"What Child Is This?"**
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. *What Child is This? What Does Isaiah Say?*

N: God spoke again telling us what Child this is. This time God spoke through His prophet Isaiah who lived approximately 700 years before the birth of Jesus. Let us hear what Isaiah says about this Child.

Child: Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

N: This Child did not have an ordinary birth. This Child was born of a virgin-an impossible but miraculous birth. This Child, conceived in Mary by the Holy Spirit, had no earthly father, for God was His Father. Because of this, this Child was born perfect without the effects of sin that were inherited by every other child born. This Child is Immanuel, God living with us.

Child: Isaiah 9:6 "For unto us a Child is born, 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."

N: Can we hear Isaiah telling us who this Child is? Wonderful Counselor and Mighty God: Jesus is the miraculous wonder of both God and man who gives us the counsel of His Word. Everlasting Father: He loves us as a father and cares for both our physical and spiritual needs. Prince of Peace: He restored the relationship between God and man by giving us the forgiveness of sins through His death.

Child: Isaiah 53:4-5 "Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed."

N: When we look at this helpless baby, do we see beyond the manger? Do we see the cross behind the cradle? For this Child was sent not to be a quaint Christmas story to tell as family and friends gather around, but this innocent Child was pierced, bruised and punished, stricken, smitten, and afflicted for your sins and mine. This Child was born to seek and to save the lost of the world, us. What Child is this? Isaiah says. . .

Cong.: **This Child born of the Virgin is the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace who was punished on the cross to bring the world peace, the forgiveness of sins.**

Cong. Song: **"Behold, a Branch Is Growing"**
Isaiah hath foretold it In words of promise sure,
And Mary's arms enfold it, A virgin meek and pure.
Thro' God's eternal will This Child to her is given At midnight calm and still.

O Savior, Child of Mary, Who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of Glory, Who dost our weakness know,
Bring us at length, we pray, To the bright courts of heaven And to the endless day.

3. *What Child is This? What Do the Angels Say?*

N: God's plan of salvation for the world was revealed to Adam and Eve. Thousands of years had passed with millions of people waiting for the promise to be fulfilled. The time had come. It was time for this Child, the Messiah, to be born. God spoke again of this Child through His angelic messengers. What do the angels say about this Child?

Child: Matthew 1:21 "And [Mary] will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

N: This angel came directly from God proclaiming to Joseph the essence of this Child's role on earth. The name of this Child describes His purpose and His reason for being born. "You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." This Child born in the lowly stable next to the animals was God's plan of salvation, for He is the Savior.

Child: Luke 1:31-32 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David."

N: The angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would be the mother of this Child. As she gazed adoringly at her first born son, the words of the angel must have echoed in her heart: "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest." Sinful Mary gave birth to the perfect, eternal, Son of God. This Child is God's Son.

Child: Luke 2:1-7 "And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

Child Song: "Mary Did You Know?"

Mary did you know that your baby boy would some day walk on water?
Mary did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you delivered, will soon deliver you?
Mary did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary did you know that your baby boy, will calm a storm with his hand?
Did you know that your baby boy, has walked where angels trod?
When you kissed your little baby, then you kissed the face of God.
Mary did you know, the blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again;
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb!
Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all Creation?
Mary did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy was Heaven's perfect Lamb?
This sleeping child you're holding is the Great I AM!

Child Luke 2:8-14 "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Mark 8:29a "He [Jesus] said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?'" page 3

N: The angels were God's messengers proclaiming the good news of this Child and the reason for His birth. Are we listening as the angels proclaim that this Child, Jesus, would save His people from their sins? Do we understand that this Child being rocked in Mary's loving arms is the perfect, eternal, Son of the Highest? Are we viewing this Child as just a baby or as the promised Messiah?

What Child is this? The angels say. . .

Cong.: This Child, Jesus, is God's perfect Son, born of Mary to save His people from their sins.

Child Song: "Angel's Lullaby"

Hush, hush a baby's asleep. Born in a holy manger, sweet dreams He will keep.
Hush, hear the angels on high sing to the holy baby a sweet lullaby.
Allelu, Allelu, they sing a glad Noel for born is the King of Israel.

The first Noel the angels did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay.
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep on a cold, winter's night that was so deep
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

4. *What Child is This? What Do the Shepherds Say?*

N: Shepherds heard the news of this Child's birth. The angels' message, "born unto you a Savior" and "peace on earth," rang in their ears as they left their sheep to behold "Christ the Lord." Let us run with the shepherds to Bethlehem and fall before the manger to hear what they say about this Child wrapped in swaddling clothes.

Child: Luke 2:15-20 "And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them."

N: The shepherds were the first to worship this Child. They found the scene just as the angels had said, "a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." What did they say about this Child? They preached exactly what the angels told them about this Child, "Born unto you a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." They spread the angels' message that this Child was bringing peace on earth, the peace to make the relationship between God and man right again.

What Child is this? The Shepherds say. . .

Cong: This Child wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger is the Savior, Christ the Lord.

Child Song: "While by My Sheep I Watched at Night"

While by my sheep I watched at night, Glad tidings brought an angel bright.

Refrain: How great my joy, *great my joy,* joy, joy, joy, *joy, joy, joy!*
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high! *Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!*

There has been born, so he did say, in Bethlehem a child today.

Refrain:

There does He lie, in manger mean, Who shall redeem the world from sin.

Refrain:

Lord, evermore to me be nigh, Then shall my heart be filled with joy.

Refrain:

Mark 8:29a "He [Jesus] said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?'" page 4