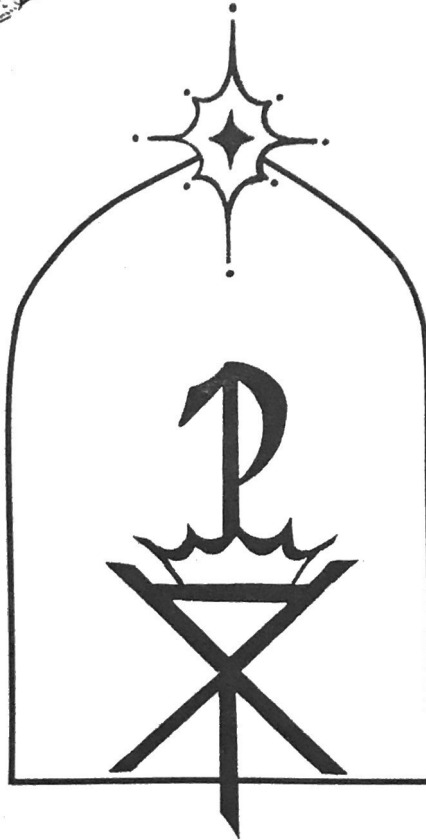




# IMMANUEL BOAR'S HEAD CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL



— An Old English Festival with Audience Participation —

SATURDAY, DEC. 12 - 7:30 & SUNDAY, DEC. 13 - 4:00 & 7:30

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
115 South Sixth • St. Charles, Missouri  
946-2656

## **Children's Christmas Service**

(Grades 1-3)

December 22, 1987, 7:30 p.m.

## **Christmas Eve Services**

**Vespers Services**

December 24, 1987, 6:30 & 8:30 p.m.

(Lord's Supper)

**Candlelight Service**

December 24, 1987, 11:00 p.m.

## **Christmas Day Service**

December 25, 1987, 9:30 a.m.

(Lord's Supper)

## **New Year's Eve Service**

December 31, 1987, 7:30 p.m.

(Lord's Supper)

## **Weekly Worship Services**

Sunday - 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School and Bible Classes - 9:30 a.m.

Deaf Worship - 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday Worship - 7:30 p.m.

## THE STORY OF THE BOAR'S HEAD FESTIVAL

Rooted in pagan times when the boar was the first dish served at a Roman feast, the colorful ceremony of the Boar's Head became a part of the Christmas celebration in the great manor houses of the Middle Ages. The Christian Church endowed the custom with symbolic meaning and elevated it to the service of God, thereby enriching the lives of all it touched. The ceremony, sponsored by the Lord of the Manor became a Service of Praise to Jesus Christ, Lord of the Universe and Redeemer of the world.

In medieval England the boar was a ferocious beast and sovereign of the forest, a danger and menace to man and, therefore, the symbol of evil. The presentation of the boar's head at Christmas time signified the triumph of the Christ Child over sin.

No one knows who first planned the Boar's Head Procession, but it is a matter of record that it was in use at Queen's College, Oxford, shortly after the founding of the University in 1340, and there it continues to this very day.

After centuries of presentation, to the ceremony of the Boar's Head there has been added the Yule Log (symbolizing our "Light of the World") whose embers burn all year and then light the next year's log. Also added over the course of many years were the Wise Men, the Shepherds, Mary and Joseph, Good King Wenceslas, and the Beefeaters (English ceremonial guards).

The Festival came to America already in colonial days where it was first observed in New England. Through Episcopal churches and schools the ceremony was well established by the late 19th century, particularly at the Hoosac Boys School of Hoosick, New York.

From these beginnings, the Boar's Head Christmas Festival has since spread to be celebrated in many Christian settings, including Concordia College, Ann Arbor, Michigan. We at Immanuel are particularly indebted to Dr. Paul Foelber and Prof. John Sturmfels, both of Concordia, for their encouragement and guidance.

We also thank Mr. John Frank of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Saginaw, Michigan; Mr. Vincent Slater of Plymouth Congregational Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana; and Headmaster John Wright of the Hoosac Boys School in Hoosick, New York for the valuable assistance they have given us in the preparation of the Immanuel Boar's Head Christmas Festival.

After much thought and preparation, Immanuel Lutheran Church continues this ancient tradition, giving it new life through the music, drama, and gifts shared with you by the members of this congregation. This Festival is presented with the hope and prayer that it may be an offering of praise to the One whose Birth we soon celebrate and that it may witness the joy we share in His Salvation.

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Production of the Immanuel Boar's Head Christmas Festival is an enormous undertaking, requiring almost a full year of preparation and considerable expense. To preserve the mood and beauty of the festival, there is no offering; but contributions of any amount will be gratefully received. They may be made in collection baskets presented by cast members at the exits following the festival.

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Throughout the Festival, the congregation is invited to sing all verses and choruses printed in bold type.

Following each performance everyone is invited to a reception in the Dining Hall of our school. The cast and musicians will also be there. Punch and cookies will be served by our Lydia Society.

**PLEASE, NO FLASH PICTURES!**

## CHORAL PRELUDE TO THE FESTIVAL

### Fourth Grade Choir

- December 12, 7:30 pm -

"On Christmas Night".....Ralph Vaughn Williams  
"Bethlehem Town".....Lloyd Miller  
"Christmas Wish".....W. Held

### Junior Chorus

- December 13, 4:00 pm -

"On Christmas Night".....Ralph Vaughn Williams  
"Come Children Run".....B. Fraser  
"Carol of the Wise Men".....H. Hopson

### School Chorus

- December 13, 7:30 pm -

"On Christmas Night".....Ralph Vaughn Williams  
"Song of the Stable".....D. Haas  
"Shout the Glad Tidings".....B. Vick, Jr.

## T H E C O U R T L Y S T O R Y

### THE COMING OF THE YULE SPRITE

*Into the darkened church comes a small child carrying a lighted taper, symbolizing the coming of Christ into the dark world of sin. Slowly it moves to the altar, where it is given to light the Christ candle. This light - His Light - stands lit throughout the Festival.*

### APPROACH OF THE HERALD BANNERS

*The Festival begins as the sanctuary is turned into a medieval gothic manor house where many of the customs and symbols of Christmas are first introduced.*

"AWAY IN A MANGER"

### PROCESSION OF THE BEEFEATERS

*The gong sounds the hour, the heavy tread of the Beefeaters -- traditional guardians of a King -- falls on the ears like the march of history. Solemnly they stand their Watch of Honor.*

"I SING OF A MAIDEN"

I sing of a maiden that is matchless.  
King of all kings  
To her son she chose.

He came all so still  
Where his mother was,  
As dew in April  
That falleth on the grass.

Mother and maiden was never none but she;  
Well may such a lady Goddes mother be.

## THE BOAR'S HEAD PROCESSION

*The trumpets sound, the light grows and the story unfolds quickly as singing companies enter bearing a Boar's Head, a plum pudding, a mince pie, and their accouterments. Since ancient times the fierce wild boar has been a symbol of evil. Its presentation signifies the victory of the Christ Child over sin. The plum pudding and mince pie suggest the richness and fullness of the gifts of God. For all these blessings the Boar's Head Carol renders praise unto God.*

*Members of the congregation are not witnesses only, but are participants, joining in paeans of praise to Almighty God. As the Boar's Head is brought into the church, each verse is followed by the chorus of rejoicing:*

"Caput apri defero, Reddens laudes Domino."  
*(I bear the boar's head, praising the Lord.)*

*(Audience joins in singing the bold print.)*

The boar's head in hand bear I  
Bedecked with bays and rosemary.  
And I pray you my masters, be merry,  
Quot estis in convivio.  
*(So many as are in the feast.)*  
**Caput apri defero, Reddens laudes Domino.**

The boar's head, as I understand,  
Is the bravest dish in all the land.  
When thus bedecked with a gay garland,  
Let us servere cantico.  
*(Let us serve with a song.)*  
**Caput apri defero, Reddens laudes Domino.**

Our steward has provided this,  
In honor of the King of Bliss,  
Which on this day to be served is  
In Regimensi atrio.  
*(In the Queen's hall.)*  
**Caput apri defero, Reddens laudes Domino.**

The mightiest hunter of them all  
We honor in this festal hall  
Born of a humble virgin mild,  
Heaven's King became a helpless Child.  
**Caput apri defero, Reddens laudes Domino.**

He hunted down through earth and hell  
The swart boar death until it fell.  
This mighty deed for us was done.  
Therefore sing we in unison:  
**Caput apri defero, Reddens laudes Domino.**

Let not this boar's head cause alarm,  
The huntsman drew his power to harm.  
So death, which still appears so grim,  
Has yielded all its power to him!  
**Caput apri defero, Reddens laudes Domino.**

## "MASTERS IN THIS HALL"

*The entire court welcomes the Lord of the Manor, gathering for a joyful celebration at his invitation.*

Masters in this Hall, hear ye news today  
Brought from over sea, and ever I you pray:

Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!  
Nowell sing we clear.  
Holpen are all folk on earth  
Born is God's Son so dear.  
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!  
Nowell sing we loud!  
God today hath poor folk raised  
And cast adown the proud.

Going o'er the hills, through the milkwhite snow,  
Heard I ewes bleat while the wind did blow:  
Nowell! etc.

Shepherds many an one sat among the sheep,  
No man spake more word than they had been asleep:  
Nowell! etc.

Quoth I, 'Fellows mine, Why this guise sit ye?  
Making but dull cheer, Shepherds though ye be?'  
Nowell! etc.

'Shepherds should of right leap and dance and sing,  
Thus to see ye sit, is a right strange thing':  
Nowell! etc.

Quoth these fellows then, 'To Bethlem town we go,  
To see a mighty lord lie in manger low':  
Nowell! etc.

How name ye this lord, Shepherds? then said I,  
'Very God,' they said, 'Come from heaven high':  
Nowell! etc.

This is Christ the Lord, Masters, be ye glad!  
Christmas is come in, And no folk should be sad:  
Nowell! etc.

## COURT DANCERS

*While court musicians delight the ears of all, court dancers perform for the king and his assembled guests.*

### "BRANSELES DE BOURGOGNE"

"ON THIS DAY EARTH SHALL RING"  
(Audience joins in singing the bold print.)

On this day earth shall ring With the song children sing  
To the Lord, Christ our King, Born on earth to save us:  
Him the Father gave us.  
**Ideo-o-o, Ideo-o-o, Ideo Gloria in Excelsis Deo!**

His the doom, ours the mirth; When he came down to earth,  
Bethlehem saw his birth; Ox and ass beside him  
From the cold would hide him.  
**Ideo-o-o, Ideo-o-o, Ideo Gloria in Excelsis Deo!**

God's bright star, o'er his head, Wise men three to him led,  
Kneel they low by his bed, Lay their gifts before him,  
Praise him and adore him.

**Ideo-o-o, Ideo-o-o, Ideo Gloria in Excelsis Deo!**

On this day angels sing; With their song earth shall ring  
Praising Christ, heaven's King, Born on earth to save us,  
Peace and love he gave us.

**Ideo-o-o, Ideo-o-o, Ideo Gloria in Excelsis Deo!**

"The First Nowell"

*With the festivities of the court complete, the court musicians leave playing a merry song of the season. Having finished their duties of the court, the Beefeaters follow to pursue other tasks.*

"GOOD KING WENCESLAS"

*A peaceful calm settles over the manor house as Good King Wenceslas and his Page take time to reflect on the evenings festivities. From the porch of the manor, they notice beggars gleaning the street for unwanted scraps of food. Led by love and concern, Good King Wenceslas and his Page sing of Christian ideals in daily life when men care for each other.*

(Audience joins in singing the bold print.)

CHOIR

Good King Wenceslas looked out on the feast of Stephen,  
When the snow lay round about, deep, and crisp, and even.  
Brightly shone the moon that night though the frost was cruel,  
When a poor man came in sight gathering winter fuel.

KING

Hither, page, and stand by me. If thou know'st it, telling,  
Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?

PAGE

Sire, he lives a good league hence, Underneath the mountain,  
Right against the forest fence, By St. Agnes' fountain.

KING

Bring me flesh, and bring me wine, Bring me pinelogs hither.  
Thou and I will see him dine, when we bear them thither.

CHOIR

Page and monarch, forth they went, Forth they went together,  
Through the rude wind's wild lament And the bitter weather.

PAGE

Sire, the night is darker now, And the wind blows stronger,  
Fails my heart, I know not how, I can go no longer.

KING

Mark my footsteps, good my page, Tread thou in them boldly,  
Thou shalt find the winter's rage, Freeze thy blood less coldly.

CONGREGATION

In his master's steps he trod, Where the snow lay dinted;  
Heat was in the very sod, Which the Saint had printed.  
Therefore, Christian men, be sure Wealth or rank possessing,  
Ye who now will bless the poor, Shall yourselves find blessing.

## THE YULE LOG PROCESSION

*Gathered from the woods, the Yule log was brought ceremoniously to the hearth and lighted from the embers of last year's fire, symbol of the rekindling of love, promise for the year ahead, and a prayer for God's keeping.*

### "DECK THE HALL"

*The waits come sharing the gladness of Christmas. Their exuberant gaiety and high spirits are the gifts of the young.*

(Audience joins in singing the bold print.)

**Deck the hall with boughs of holly, Fa La La...  
'Tis the season to be jolly, Fa La La...  
Don we now our gay apparel, Fa La La...  
Troll the ancient yule tide carol, Fa La La...**

See the blazing Yule before us, fa la la...  
Strike the harp and join the chorus, fa la la...  
Follow me in merry measure, fa la la...  
While I tell of Yuletide treasure, fa la la...

Fast away the old year passes, fa la la...  
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses, fa la la...  
Sing we joyous all together, fa la la...  
Heedless of the wind and weather, fa la la...

### "WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS"

We wish you a merry Christmas,  
We wish you a merry Christmas,  
We wish you a merry Christmas,  
And a happy New Year.

*(Refrain:)* Good tidings we bring to you and your kin;  
We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Now bring us some figgy pudding,  
Now bring us some figgy pudding,  
Now bring us some figgy pudding,  
And bring some out here. *(Refrain:)*

For we all like figgy pudding,  
For we all like figgy pudding,  
For we all like figgy pudding,  
So bring some out here. *(Refrain:)*

And we won't go until we've got some,  
And we won't go until we've got some,  
And we won't go until we've got some,  
So bring some out here. *(Refrain:)*

## THE WASSAILERS

*The hour grows late. After much merriment the court jester seeks a quiet spot to contemplate the events of the evening. He is joined by a lively group which has more singing to do.*

### "WASSAIL CAROL"

(Audience joins in singing the bold print.)

**Here we come a-wassailing among the leaves so green.  
Here we come a-wandering, so fair to be seen.**



*(Refrain:)*  
Love and joy come to you and to you your wassail too.  
And God bless you and send you a happy new year,  
And God send you a happy new year.

We are not daily beggars that beg from door to door,  
But we are fellow neighbors whom you have seen before:  
*(Refrain: Love and Joy...)*

We have got a little purse of stretching leather skin;  
We want a little of your money to line it well within:  
*(Refrain: Love and Joy...)*

God bless the master of this house, likewise the mistress too,  
And all the little children that round the table go:  
*(Refrain: Love and Joy...)*

Good master and good mistress while you're sitting by the fire.  
Pray think of us poor fellows who are wandering in the mire:  
*(Refrain: Love and Joy...)*

*(Audience shall stand.)*  
God bless us all Immanuel wherever we may be!  
Those who wander, those at home, in Christ are one with thee.

*(Refrain:)*  
Love and joy come to you and to you your wassail too.  
And God bless you and send you a happy new year,  
And God send you a happy new year.  
*(Audience shall be seated.)*

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## T H E C H R I S T M A S S T O R Y

*Having celebrated many customs of Christmas, our thoughts return to Bethlehem and the reason for our Christmas joy.*

### MARY AND JOSEPH APPROACH THE INN

*The innkeeper gives the weary couple his last accommodation -- a crude stable.*

### THE APPARITION

*In a field outside of Bethlehem, a group of shepherds pass the long night. The trumpet sounds and the shepherds rise in alarm.*

### THE ANGEL GABRIEL

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  
And lying in a manger.

### CHOIR OF ANGELS

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

## THE SHEPHERDS

*In simple adoration the shepherds summon each of us to worship, "to see this thing which has come to pass."*

### "LET US NOW GO EVEN UNTO BETHLEHEM"

Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, And see this thing which has come  
to pass, Which the Lord hath made known unto us.

*The shepherds reach their destination and find the Babe, Mary and Joseph.*

### "HAIL TO THE LORD'S ANOINTED"

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son.  
Hail in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,  
To take away transgression, and rule in equity.

Kings shall bow down before Him, and gold and incense bring.  
All nations shall adore Him, His praise all people sing.  
For He shall have dominion o'er river, sea and shore,  
Far as the eagle's pinion, or dove's light wing can soar.

### "MUSETTE"

*A simple folk dance for the newborn babe.*

### "NOWELL"

*The shepherds mark the place of our Savior's birth, expressing their joy in the word "Nowell!"*

### "KINGS TO THY RISING"

Where is He, born King of the Jews?  
For we have seen His star in the East.  
Where is He, born King of the Jews?  
For we have come to worship Him.

In Bethlehem the King is born!  
Rejoice! Emmanuel has come!  
Sing we Noel! Noel! Noel!

Where is He, born King of the Jews?  
For we have seen His star in the East.  
Where is He, born King of the Jews?  
For we have come to worship Him.

'Tis here He lies; Give thanks, be glad!  
Amidst the oxen sleeps our Lord,  
Sing we Noel! Noel! Noel!

Where is He, born King of the Jews?  
For we have seen His star in the East.  
Where is He, born King of the Jews?  
For we have come to worship Him.

Behold your Lord! Rejoice! Rejoice!  
In praise lift up a joyful voice!  
Sing we Noel! Noel! Noel!

At last the long and hopeful search is done;  
Afar from distant lands we come,  
Moved by great tidings of a newborn King;  
Costly the gifts to Him we bring.

Fall on your knees, proclaim His birth,  
Let there be peace throughout the earth!  
Sing we Noel! Noel! Noel!

**"LET ALL MORTAL FLESH"**

*The court returns, drawn to the altar. Each has made his individual journey to this place. People from everywhere come and gaze in amazement at this miracle that has come to pass. The highest king and the lowliest shepherd are united. The young and old walk together. God has come down to each of these persons, and each of them reaches up to God. All of us gathered here share the wonder which has come down through the centuries even unto this particular year.*

(Audience joins in singing the bold print.)

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded,  
For with blessing in his hand  
Christ our Lord to earth descendeth,  
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
As of old on earth He stood,  
Lord of lords in human vesture,  
In the body and the blood.  
He will give to all the faithful  
His own Self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven  
Spreads its vanguard on the way,  
As the Light of Light descendeth  
From the realms of endless day.  
That the powers of hell may vanish  
As the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph:  
Cherubim with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the Presence,  
As with ceaseless voice they cry,  
"Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Lord most high!"

**"O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL"**

*The drama of man's response to God's great gift of His Son has been enacted before you. After young and old, rich and poor, wise and simple have offered their unique gifts to the Christ Child, all go forth to the glorious strains of "Adeste Fidelis" as the audience and players join together in this song of joy and adoration.*

(Audience shall stand and join in singing.)

**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: O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

God of God, Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God, Begotten, not created: (Refrain)

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above:  
Glory to God, in the highest: (Refrain)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. (Refrain)

### THE CHRIST LIGHT

*A hush settles over the scene. The bright companies of courtiers, common folk, shepherds and kings have melted away, but the light -- symbol of the continuing presence of the Christ Child in our world -- continues to glow. The sprite returns and with the minister lights the taper, carrying the "light" of Christ to a world, waiting in darkness.*

### S O L I D E O G L O R I A

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BOAR'S HEAD FESTIVAL CAST, 1987  
(In Order of Appearance)