

A Christmas Pageant  
To Be Presented at St. John's Ev. Lutheran Hancock, MN on December 24, 2010

Dear Parents and Students,

Here are the parts for our Christmas Eve Pageant for 6:30pm Christmas Eve. Please work on memorizing your parts and on the first verses of the hymns listed below. A copy of the words will for the hymn will be sent home next week, Dec 5. If you cannot be there on Christmas Eve, please let Pastor Bitter know as soon as possible (392-5572), so that someone else can cover your part. Thank you for the work you're putting in. The program and the hymn verse will be available on the churches website the evening of November 29. Go to <http://hancocklutheran.org> Click "We Believe . . ." Click "Sunday school material"

**Cast:**

Narrators – Teens

Mary – Morgan N.

Gabriel – Collin B.

Angel of the Lord to Joseph – Abi. B.

Angel of the Lord to the Shepherds – Ryan G.

Angel choir – Collin B., Abi B., Ryan G., Lilly Z., Kaitlyn R., Karleigh R.

Joseph – Cody G.

The Shepherds & Townsman– (1)Peyton R., (2)Gideon J. Kallista B., Preston B.

Wise men – (1) Preston R., Gabi J., Paxton R.

Herod & Townsman for Act 2, Scene 1 – Caleb B.. (In Herod custom but no crown)

Innkeeper & Bible experts – Emma N..

Townswomen – (1) Bryn. B.

Little Children – Gabi J., Paxton R., Lilly Z., Kaitlyn R.,  
Karleigh R, Kallista B., Preston B.

**Children's Songs:** (First verse of each one)

What Child Is This? – CW 67

Silent Night – CW 60

One Small Child – LAPPY 232

Away in a Manger (first two verse)

Go Tell It On the Mountain – CW57

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful – CW 55

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing – CW 61 (Recessional, Children sing first verse?)

Act 1: Jesus' Birth announced.

Scene 1: Gabriel speaks to Mary

*Setting: Mary's parents' house: A bench or stool with some sewing on it*

*Characters: Mary, Gabriel, townswomen*

*(Mary and other townswomen sitting together)*

**Narrator One:** Over 2000 years ago, the Roman Empire ruled from Spain to Iraq. In 27 B.C. Octavian Caesar became Caesar Augustus. His armies enforced peace over the lands he ruled.

**Narrator Two:** One of these lands was the land of Israel. 1000 years earlier Israel had been a mighty kingdom ruled by David and Solomon, the Lord's chosen kings. But David's royal line had long ago faded so that his descendants were now only common people. The kingly tree of David was only a dead stump.

**Narrator Three:** Two of David's lowly ancestors lived in the town of Nazareth in the northern part of Israel. One was a carpenter, named Joseph. The other was a young lady, named Mary.

**Narrator Four:** Mary was a virgin and engaged to Joseph. They were god-fearing people. Their hope was in the Savior whom God had promised long ago. This Savior would come from king David's family and rescue his people from their sins.

**Townswoman:** How are the wedding plans coming, Mary?

**Mary:** It'll be so different when Joseph takes me home as his wife.

**Townswoman:** Joseph will be a good husband to you.

**Mary:** That's what I've prayed for.

**Townswoman:** It's time for me to get home.

*(The other women leave. Mary sits alone)*

*(Gabriel enters, suddenly)*

**Gabriel:** *(joyfully)* Greetings, you who've been graciously blessed. The Lord is with you.

*(Mary is startled, frightened and confused.)*

**Gabriel:** Don't be afraid, Mary. See! You will conceive and give birth to a Son and call his name Jesus. He will be great. He will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. His kingdom will never end.

**Mary:** *(puzzled)* How can this be, since I'm a virgin?

**Gabriel:** The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Nothing is impossible for God.

**Mary:** *(humbly)* I am the Lord's servant. May it happen to me just as you've said.

*(Gabriel suddenly leaves. Mary sits and ponders it as the scene ends)*

**What Child is This? (CW 67)**

Act 1: Jesus' Birth announced.

Scene 2: An angel of the Lord speaks to Joseph

*Setting: Joseph's house. His bed on the floor or bench. (Beds were probably just a mat of cloth or woven fabric with some sort of coverlet or cloak used as blanket. They were often placed on the floor against a wall.)*

*Characters: Joseph, the angel of the Lord in a dream*

**Narrator Five:** Gabriel had also told Mary that her relative Elizabeth was going to have a son. Elizabeth was old and everyone thought she and her husband, Zechariah, would never have children.

**Narrator One:** This too was God's miracle. Elizabeth's son would be John the Baptist. About thirty years from now, John would prepare the way for Jesus to begin his ministry.

**Narrator Two:** Mary goes south to visit Elizabeth in Judea. After Mary returns to Nazareth, Joseph, her fiancé, notices a troubling development. Mary is pregnant, and he is not the father. He did not know that this was a miracle from the Holy Spirit. Now he faced a dilemma.

*(Joseph enters, passing back and forth. Trying to think what to do.)*

**Joseph:** *(struggling, debating with himself)* It wouldn't be right to go ahead with our marriage and cover her unfaithfulness. But I don't want to publicly humiliate her. What can I do?

*(Joseph pauses in deep thought.)*

**Joseph:** My only option is to quietly separate from her. I'll legally break off the engagement tomorrow as quietly as possible.

*(Joseph goes to bed and falls asleep)*

**Angel of the Lord:** *(voice in a dream)* Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. What is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a Son. You will call his name Jesus because he will save his people from their sins.

Now this whole thing has happened to fulfill what was said by the Lord through the prophet: 'Behold, a virgin will be with child and give birth to a Son, and they will call his name Immanuel.'

**Narrator Three:** Immanuel means "God with us." Jesus certainly is Immanuel. He is our God, who came to be with us in order to rescue us from our sins so that we may live with him forever.

*(Joseph getting up and heading out)*

**Joseph:** *(Relieved and excited)* God is sending the Savior! I'll do as he says and take Mary home as my wife. She is a virgin. What a miracle this birth will be!

**Silent Night (CW 60)**

Act 2: The birth of Jesus

Scene 1: The way to the manger

*Setting: The manger scene up front (a manger in a stable or a cave). Maybe an innkeeper off to the side. Mary and Joseph in the back of the church*

*Characters: Mary and Joseph, baby Jesus, the innkeeper, the shepherds, townswomen, & townsman*

**Little children:** Come to Bethlehem and see:  
God's Son is born for you and me.

**Narrator Four:** When the right time had fully come, God put his plan into action. He even used a heathen emperor, Caesar Augustus, to make things work out just as he wanted them to.

*Townspeople move about in the front*

**Shepherd 1:** Look at all these people coming to Bethlehem!

**Townsman:** They're here because of the census that Caesar Augustus ordered. Everyone has to go back to the town their ancestors came from. Some of these people have come all the way from Galilee.

**Shepherd 2:** I wonder how many of these visitors go all the way back to King David's family.

**Shepherd 1:** I hope there aren't more people coming.

**Townsman:** We're just about out of room.

**Shepherd 2:** Let's get back to our sheep out in the countryside (*Shepherds leave*)

*Joseph and Mary walk forward from the back of the church.*

**Narrator Five:** Joseph and Mary were from the family line of King David. So they left Nazareth in Galilee and went to Judea. They entered the town of David, which is called Bethlehem.

*(Joseph and Mary go to the Innkeeper)*

**Joseph:** Sir, do you have a room for us? My wife is about to have a baby.

**Innkeeper:** I'm sorry. All are rooms are filled. Maybe you can find a warm place over there by the animals.

*Joseph and Mary go to the manger*

**Narrator One:** While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born. Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son.

**Narrator Two:** She wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

*Mary lays the baby Jesus in the manger*

*One Small Child – LAPPY 232*

Act 2: The birth of Jesus

Scene 2: The birth announcement to the shepherds

*Setting: Judean countryside, lights dim*

*Characters: Shepherds and sheep, angel of the Lord, angel choir*

**Narrator Three:** Imagine a quiet evening under the dark sky – a few sleepy shepherds keeping watch over their flocks at night. Suddenly the darkness is shattered.

*[Lights come up. The angel of the Lord comes out.]*

**Narrator Four:** An angel of the Lord appeared. The glory of the Lord shown around them. Wouldn't you be terrified? These shepherds were.

*Shepherds trembling*

**Angel of the Lord:** *(joyfully)* Don't be afraid. See! I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born for you. He is Christ, the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: You will find the baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

*Angel choir suddenly appears*

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

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

*All the angels disappear*

**Shepherd 1, 2:** *(eagerly)* Let's go to Bethlehem and see what the Lord has told us about!

*Shepherds quickly leave*

*Away in a Manger*

Act 2: The birth of Jesus

Scene 3: The shepherds at the manger

*Setting: the manger*

*Characters: Mary, Joseph, Jesus, and the sheep by the manger*

*The shepherds in the back of the church*

*The shepherds hurrying up from the back of the church*

**Narrator Five:** The shepherds came quickly and found Mary and Joseph and the baby, who was lying in a manger.

*The shepherds kneeling at the manger, praising God, speaking with Mary and Joseph*

**Narrator One:** After seeing him, they made known the things which had been told them about this child.

**Narrator Two:** All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.

*The shepherds go back down the aisle saying to each other and those in in the pew:*

**Shepherd 1, 2: (repeatedly)** The Savior is born! Come and see Christ the Lord!

**Narrator Three:** The shepherds returned glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, which was just as they had been told.

*Go Tell It on the Mountain (CW 57)*

Act 3: The Wise men come  
Scene 1: At Jerusalem before Herod

*Setting: Jerusalem, back drop of ancient buildings?*

*Characters: Wise men (optional: some sort of camels), King Herod [off stage or on stage], (optional: people of Jerusalem), (optional: Bible experts or scribes)*

**Narrator Four:** Eight days after the child was born, he was circumcised according to the covenant God had made with Abraham. And he was given the name Jesus, which the angel had called him before he was conceived.

**Narrator Five:** Forty days after Jesus' birth, Joseph and Mary brought him to the temple in Jerusalem to present him to the Lord and to offer sacrifices, as God had commanded through the Law of the Lord.

**Narrator One:** While they were there, Simeon and Anna, who had eagerly awaited the Savior's birth, saw him. They praised God and told others whose hope for redemption was in the Lord. After this the family returned to a house in Bethlehem. Sometime later, there was a commotion back in Jerusalem

*Wise men start coming up the aisle in the church. Townspeople moving about.*

**Townswoman:** Have you seen those strangers from the east?

**Shepherd 1:** People say they are Magi, or wise men, looking for a newborn king.

**Townswoman:** What's King Herod going to think?

**Shepherd 2:** He's going to be very angry. *[Townspeople leave]*

*The Wise men ask Herod :*

**Wise men 1:** Where is the one who's been born king of the Jews? We have seen his star in the east and have come to worship him.

*[Herod sends for the Bible Expert]*

**Herod :** Where is the Christ to be born?

**Bible Expert:** *(unrolling scroll)* In Bethlehem of Judea. For this is what is said through the prophet: *(Reading from scroll)* "But you Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah. For out of you a leader will come, who will shepherd my people Israel." *[He leaves as Herod goes deep into thought]*

**Narrator Two:** King Herod had a plan to destroy this child. He would pretend to want to worship him and ask the wise men to find the child and report back to him. So he secretly calls to them to find out exactly when the star had appeared and says to them:

*[Herod summons the Wise men]*

**Herod:** Go and carefully search for the child. When you find him, report back to me so that I too can go and worship him.

**Wise man 1:** Let's head to Bethlehem right away. Look! There's the star. Let's follow it.

*Wise men, pointing up as if looking at a star, follow it down the aisle*

**Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful (CW 55)**

Act 3: The Wise men come  
Scene 2: They worship Jesus

*Setting: A house in Bethlehem, a bench with Mary sitting on it holding baby Jesus, Joseph standing off to the side.*

*Characters: Wise men, Joseph, Mary, Jesus*

*The wise men coming up from the back of the church as narrator speaks the bow and worship Jesus, opening their gifts*

**Narrator Three:** They followed the star and came into the house where Jesus was. They saw the child with Mary, his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him.

*Wait for the Wise Men to reach the baby*

**Narrator Four:** They opened their treasures and brought him gifts: gold, incense, and myrrh.

*Wait for them to present their gifts*

**Narrator Five:** Because God had warned them in a dream, they did not return to Herod, but went back to their own country on a different route.