

OFFERING HYMN: #254 (Blue Hymnal)

“We Three Kings”

All: 1st verse; Women: 2nd verse; All: 3rd verse; Men: 4th verse;
All 5th verse

Ushers please bring offerings to the manger during the 5th verse.

NINTH LESSON: John 1:1-14 (NRSV) Pastor Roger

From the very beginning God’s love was beyond our imagining; as soon as we think we can fully comprehend we hear, God’s son was with God and was God and was part of the act of creation itself. Jesus was the Word of creation, the light of the first day, the part of God that put on flesh that we might put on eternity.

HYMN: #234 (Blue Hymnal) Verses 1-4

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

TO BE SENT FORTH

***BENEDICTION:**

Pastor Roger

All prayer requests are welcome. Please write them in the book on the desk in the narthex.

MEMBERS: Please sign the pew pad and pass it down the pew and then back to the start. The last person should put the sheet in the offering plate. All e-mail addresses will be protected in blind copy so no one else sees your e-mail address. If you are receiving regular e-mails from Church, it is not necessary to write it in again.

VISITORS: Please fill out a yellow card found in the pew and place it in the offering place.

North Star District Prayer List for this week includes:
Breckenridge UMC—Mark Gronseth

**GRACE UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**



WORSHIP LEADERS

Ministers: All the People

Organist: Mark Forkner

Choir Director: Isaac Lovdahl

Pastor: Roger Grafenstein

Violinist: Kay Forkner

Pianist: Sharon Fangsrud

**Ushers: Roger Christopherson
and Steve Grow**

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 29, 2013

1st Sunday after Christmas

10:00 AM

Three Chimes signal the beginning of Worship

Learning to Live and Love like Jesus

You are never a stranger here. You are a child of God.

We gather as brothers and sisters in Christ. Welcome.

GATHERING POINT & PRELUDE:

As the choir and pastor are seated during these last moments before worship you are invited to pray:

For a person on the prayer list;

For the morning worship leaders and visitors

For a person the Spirit moves you to pray for

For openness to the gospel of hope. Welcome.

Announcements and Time of Christian Greeting

*Indicates those able may stand

FESTIVAL OF THE NINE LESSONS

WE GATHER TO PRAISE AND PRAY

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19 (NRSV) Pastor Roger

Sin enters the world in the Garden of Eden through the very human actions of Adam and Eve: poor decisions, passing the blame, unwillingness to admit to doing something wrong while feeling the guilt within.

HYMN: #196 (Blue Hymnal) Men: 1st verse & Women: 2nd verse

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

SECOND LESSON: Genesis 22:15-18 (NRSV) Pastor Roger

God promises Abraham and Sarah, an elderly childless couple, that they and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed by their descendants. Even as humans lose their way, God seeks a way to guide and bless all people.

THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (NRSV) Naomi Grow

The prophet foretells the birth of a holy king to a people who live in dark times.

HYMN: #211 (Blue Hymnal) vv 2 & 4

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

FOURTH LESSON: Micah 5:2-5a (NRSV) Lori Burkhardt

A holy and humble king is coming who will usher in a reign of justice for the poor and peace for all God’s people.

HYMN: #230 (Blue Hymnal) “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

All – 1st verse; Chocolate Lovers – 2nd verse; Fans of Candy

Canes & Apple Cider – 3rd verse; All 4th verse

SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS, AND PRAYERS:

Pastor Roger

THE LORDS PRAYER #895 (Blue Hymnal)

FIFTH LESSON: Luke 1:26-35, 38 (NRSV) Naomi Grow

(Angel Gabriel Enters)

God sends a messenger—the angel Gabriel—to invite a young woman named Mary to be part of a world changing plan—to say yes to the king in a way no other person could.

SIXTH LESSON: Luke 2:1-7 (NRSV) Stephanie Grow

(Mary, Joseph & baby Jesus Enter)

Amidst a backdrop of confusion, emperors, taxes, greed, and housing shortage, Jesus is born.

SPECIAL MUSIC: “O Holy Night” by Adolphe Adam

Performed by Rosemarie Johnk & Kay Forkner

SEVENTH LESSON: Luke 2:8-26 (NRSV) Stephanie Grow

(Shepherds Enter)

The first to greet the new king are those on the fringe of society, working the night shift, following the sheep. Their hearts are ready.

HYMN: #245 (Blue Hymnal) “The First Noel”

North Side—1st verse, South Side 2nd verse, All—3rd verse

EIGHTH LESSON : Matthew 2:1-11 (NRSV) Judith Eide

(Wise Ones Enter)

Those who can read the signs, even if they come from foreign lands and religions are the next to gather around the baby Jesus. Royalty recognizes royalty—and brings gifts.