

December 24, 2023



Good News of Great Joy



CHRISTMAS
EVE
SERVICE

Christmas Eve Candlelight



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

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www.salemlutheran.org



Christmas Eve

Theme: Good News of Great Joy!

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Father, open my heart to hear and believe your word, so that through faith your Son may take his rightful place not just in the manger, but also within my heart. In his name I pray. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: Welcome to worship this Christmas Eve. We trust that God will bless you in this service of Scripture and song. Our focus, "Good News of Great Joy," is found in every reading and song. The progression of lessons and songs gradually reveals more and more about this joy that God gives to mankind in our Savior. Imagine yourself as someone who, over centuries, is trying to figure out the nature of God's gift. Or, if the readings are not familiar to you, let the meaning of God's gift become clearer and clearer to you as you hear each lesson and sing each song. O come, let us adore him—Christ the Lord!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP THIS CHRISTMAS: The "Twelve Days of Christmas" describe the whole Christmas season, beginning Christmas Day through the festival of Epiphany on January 6th. Join us for these continuing Christmas worship opportunities!

- *Monday, December 25 at 10:00am*
Good news: God Became Man
- *Weekend of Sunday, December 31 (Regular service times)*
Good News: Peace on Earth
- *Weekend of Sunday, January 7 (Regular service times)*
Good news: For All People

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Preacher: Pastor Ryan Wolfe Piano: Jessica Klatt

Choir Director: Luke Dorn

Handbell Director: Jessie Wolfe

Vocalists: McKenna Goplen, Sarah Wurst, Luke & Alli Dorn

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Order of Worship

A Service of Readings and Carols



PRESERVICE MUSIC

Handbell Choir
Vocalists

Of the Father's Love Begotten
Light of the World

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE THEME

Our worship this evening is an adaptation of the *Lessons and Carols* service traditionally held at King's College, Cambridge, England, on December 24th every year. *Lessons and Carols* was first held on Christmas Eve, 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who at the age of thirty-four had just been appointed Dean of King's College after experience as an army chaplain.

Hymn: Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

CW 362 sts. 1-3, 6



1 Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the
2 Christ, from heav'n to us descend-ing and in
3 Ja - cob's Star in all its splen - dor beams with
6 Gra - cious Child, in mer - cy hear us, from your



Lord with glad - ness prais - ing; loud - ly sing his
love our race be - friend - ing, in our need his
com - fort sweet and ten - der, forc - ing Sa - tan
low - ly man - ger cheer us, gent - ly lead us



love a - maz - ing, wor - thy folk of Christ - en - dom.
help ex - tend - ing, saved us from the wi - ly foe.
to sur - ren - der, break - ing all the pow'rs of hell.
and be near us till we join th'an - gel - ic choir.

Please stand after the hymn.

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

OPENING RESPONSES

M: Friends in Christ: In this Christmas season it is our duty and delight to hear the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has happened, which the Lord has told us about—the Christ-child, lying in a manger.

Tonight we read and learn from Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God—from the first days after our fall to the birth and glorious redemption brought to us by this Holy Child. Tonight we hear how peace was lost, and how peace is restored. But first, let us pray, for this is good and right.

Heavenly Father, we pray for ourselves and all people who worship you and your Son this holy night. By your holy Word, lead us to say with the angels,

C: Glory to God in the highest!

M: We pray for your blessing upon the people of our city, our state, our nation, and our world.

C: Glory to God in the highest!

M: We pray for the poor and helpless, the cold and hungry, the sick and sad, that you would give them the joy of your salvation and the comfort of your presence.

C: Glory to God in the highest!

M: We pray for unbelievers and enemies of the Church, that through your Law and Gospel you would lead them to recognize your Son as their only hope for eternal life.

C: Glory to God in the highest!

M: Finally, we remember before you all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light and beauty than we, that multitude which no one can number, who died in faith, and now praise you in your heavenly temple. We confess that we are united with them and with one another.

C: Glory to God in the highest!

M: We humbly offer up these prayers and praises in the words that Christ himself taught us.

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

M: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

JOY LOST, JOY PROMISED, JOY RESTORED

First Reading

Genesis 3:8-15

Humanity's separation from God dates to the fall into sin by the first humans, Adam and Eve. As tragic as this was, the account ends with God's promise of a stunning gift—that the woman's offspring, Christ, would defeat Satan and restore us to God. We call this good news the "gospel".

⁸Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

¹⁰He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

¹¹And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

¹²The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

**All read: ¹⁵And I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."**

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

CW 363



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to thee.
3 Now through his Son doth shine the Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground,



he from whom joy stream - eth poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death was reign - ing o'er us through sin and van - i - ty
where the an - gels sing - ing with all his saints u - nite,



not so bright - ly beam - eth the sun in yon - der skies.
thro' thy grace and mer - it, blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
till he o - pened for us a bright e - ter - ni - ty.
sweet - est prais - es bring - ing in heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
draw me un - to thee! Draw me un - to thee!
May we praise him there! May we praise him there!
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

Second Reading

Isaiah 11:1-9

700 years before the Savior is born, God describes the good news of coming joy in stunning pictures of peace.

¹A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

²The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD— ³and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;

⁴but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

⁵Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

⁶The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them.

⁷The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

⁸The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

⁹They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

By J. Vajda & C. Schalk

Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,
I come in half belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;
But there is room and welcome there for me,
But there is room and welcome there for me.

In that unlikely place I find him as they said:
Sweet, new-born Babe, how frail, and in a manger be:
A still small Voice to cry one day for me,
A still small Voice to cry one day for me.

How should I not have know Isaiah would be there,
His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:
A Child, a Son, The Prince of Peace for me,
A Child, a Son, The Prince of Peace for me.

Can I, will I forget how Love was born and burned
Its way into my heart: Unasked, unforced unearned,
To die, to live, and not alone for me,
To die, to live, and not alone for me.

Third Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

God wants there to be no doubt about his gift. Through prophecy he reveals the exact tiny village where Jesus would be born. The wonder of fulfilled prophecy continues to convince people about the validity of God's gospel gift even today.

²"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

³Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

⁴He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.

⁵And he will be our peace.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem

CW 333



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Fourth Reading

Luke 1:26-38

So many of God's ways of intervening in our world are beyond our understanding. Restoring joy to the world would take a miracle like no other. Like Mary, we humbly accept God's plans for us and marvel at his good news.

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on 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. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

CW 328



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's de - cree:
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her Im - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame:
a bless - ed vir - gin moth - er you shall be.
"To me be as it pleas - es God," she said.
in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail," said he to meek and low - ly Mar - y,
Your son shall be Im - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall praise and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name."
and Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say,



"most high-ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!
most high-ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!
Most high-ly fa - vored maid - en, Glo - ri - a!
"Most high-ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!

Fifth Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

The first reading described humanity's separation from God because of sin. God's gift to end this separation is his Son, Immanuel—"God with us."

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

²³“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!



Hymn: Peace Came to Earth

CW 330 sts. 1-2, 4



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho-sen night when an-gels
2 And who could be the same for hav-ing held the in-fant
4 How else could I have known you, O my God! How else could



clove the sky with song and light and God em-bod-ied
in their arms and lat-er felt the wound-ed hands and
I have loved you, O my God! How else could I em-



love and sheathed his might— Who could but gasp: Im-man-u-el!
side, all doubts dis-pelled— Who could but sigh: Im-man-u-el!
brace you, O my God! Who could but pray: Im-man-u-el!



Who could but sing: Im-man-u-el!
Who could but shout: Im-man-u-el!
Who could but praise: Im-man-u-el!

Sixth Reading

Luke 2:1-7

*God uses the powers of this world to fulfill tonight's third reading heard earlier.
The good news of joy was delivered in Bethlehem, just as he promised.*

¹In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Choir Anthem

Heaven's Rose

By S. Pethel

In days of old the prophets spoke foretelling of a time when hope would come,
when peace would be, and God's own light would shine.

That holy night in Bethlehem the God of Heaven chose
to send His Son, the Promised One, Our Redeemer, Heaven's Rose

Chorus

From the Highest heaven to such a lowly birth;
heav'nly love was given, a gift to all the earth,
with the Father's blessing, freely unto those
before him now confessing, "This is Jesus, Heaven's Rose."

As shepherds bow the angels sing, and stars shine ever bright;
The miracle, our destiny was born that wondrous night.
What mystery, what joy divine; we join with all of those
who sing through all of history, "This is Jesus, Heaven's Rose." (*Chorus*)

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming, from tender stem has sprung;
of Jesse's lineage coming, as those of old have sung. (*Chorus*)

Good News of Great Joy

Please stand for the Christmas Gospel.

Seventh Reading

Luke 2:8-20

That night the angels celebrated God's gift of restored joy and peace. The shepherds eagerly spread the word. We join them, glorifying and praising God for all that we have come to know about God's great gift.

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

All read:

**¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."**

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Please be seated.

Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

CW 350



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness!



peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,



with th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

Refrain



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Offering



Connect Card

Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.

We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



Give Online

Handbell Offertory

Joy Has Dawned
By D. Wagner

Lighting of the Christmas Candles

We light our individual candles at this time. The pastor lights his candle from the white candle on the Advent wreath. This is the Christ candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world. The ushers light their candles from the pastor's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. In this way the light of Christ is shared with all who worship here tonight. The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another.

Men's Chorus Anthem

Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

By Pace & Boyce

O beautiful Star of Bethlehem, shining afar through shadows dim.
Giving a light for those who long have gone.
And guiding the wise men on their way unto the place where Jesus lay.
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem, shine on, shine on.

Chorus

Beautiful Star of wonder, star of night, Star of Bethlehem,
Shine upon us until the glory, glory dawns.
Give us a lamp to light the way, Unto the land of perfect day.
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem, shine on, shine, on.

O beautiful star, the hope of light, guiding the pilgrim through the night,
Over the mountain 'til the break of dawn.
And into the light of perfect day it will give out a lovely ray.
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem, shine on, shine on. (*Chorus*)

O beautiful star, the hope of rest, for the redeemed, the good, and the blest,
Yonder in glory when the crown is won.
For Jesus is now the star divine, Brighter and brighter He will shine.
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem, shine on, shine on. (*Chorus*)

Christmas Prayer

M: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Christmas Blessing

M: May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life.

The blessing of God Almighty – Father, Son †, and Holy Spirit – be upon you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

Hymn: Silent Night, Holy Night

CW 337 sts. 1–3



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight. Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - dian't beams from thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts__ sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy



peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent Prayer & Announcements

Candles may be extinguished at this time and returned to the ushers as you leave church. We leave worship tonight with the quiet joy of a promise kept. When we gather again tomorrow morning we will sing with full praise as the whole world rejoices in our Savior's birth.

Acknowledgments

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Choir Post-Service Anthem

O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is
By G. Crueger, Arr. by Backer

O Jesus Christ, Thy manger is
My Paradise at which my soul reclineth.
For there, O Lord, doth lie the Word
Made flesh for us; Here-in They grace forth shineth.

The world may hold Her wealth and gold;
But thou, my heart keep Christ as thy true treasure.
To Him hold fast Until at last
A crown be thine and honor in full measure.





Christmas Poinsettias

IN LOVING MEMORY

Gearldine Roettger	Howie Elder	Leora Gilreath
Donald Roettger	Tracy Berdan	Roy & Shirley Koester
Alfred & Joanna Stoller	Ella Berdan	Burdette Bjorklund
Kent Hadrits	Gilbert Ecker	Andy McKean
Sue Galler	Rosella Ecker	Hazel McKean
John & Arlene Cromien	Kay Berdan	Linda McKean
Tom & Dorothy Gerson	LaVon Schmidt	Fran Schubkegel
Andrew Lochner	Brenda Ross	Franklin & Verna
Janice & Lloyd Grobe	George Hackler	Gruetzmacher
John Falck	Merlyn & Arayla Rogge	Harold, Carol, and Dickie
Robert Golish	Linda Wohlers	Wohlers
Gary Campbell	Gib & Eulah Schmoeckel	Evan & Beatrice
Michael Miller	Arlyn Kunze	Thompson
David Richert	Leonard LeMay	Harold and Mabel
Wayne Swanson	Olga and Arvid Deters	Zolldan
Ervin & Rose Schwalich	June & Wakter Husner	
Knute Lewis	Amber Nicole	
Dave Genter	Lyle and Aris Crawford	
Howard & Pearl Elder	Barb & Don Anderson	

Good News!

THE **12** DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

We thank you for joining us this evening, and hope you can join us again sometime this holiday season. You are probably familiar with the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. It is aptly named. The early Christian church would celebrate Christmas for twelve days. The Season of Christmas begins on December 25th with the great Festival of the Nativity. On January 6th, the Festival of Epiphany brings the season of Christmas to an end.



Monday, December 25 at 10:00AM

Good News of Great Joy—God Became Man

In a celebratory service we ponder some of the most profound words in Scripture, teaching us the meaning of this baby in the manger. On Christmas day we marvel at the incarnation of Christ, the miracle of God taking on flesh to save mankind. Worship includes the celebration of Holy Communion for our members. All are invited to join us 15 minutes before the service to join in singing some of our favorite Christmas carols.

Weekend of December 31st (Regular service times)

Good News of Great Joy—Peace on Earth

The angels sang to the shepherds a song of peace between God and men. The Son of God was born! In our service on this first Sunday after Christmas we remember that Jesus' perfect life as the true Son of God was lived so that we could be adopted into God's family ourselves. Praise our God of grace and love!

Weekend of January 7th (Regular service times)

Good News of Great Joy— For All People

The season of Christmas ends on January 6th, known as Epiphany, "the Gentile Christmas." On Sunday morning, January 7th we'll con-

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

For our guests

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help!

Please take note of a few helpful things:

- ✦ Restrooms with diaper-changing tables are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance.
- ✦ Our sanctuary is equipped with a "loop" system for hearing assistance. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position or ask an usher for a headset.
- ✦ You will find a connection card in your pew. Please share names, contact information, and prayer requests.
- ✦ Salem members give an offering to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to donate you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.
- ✦ Our services are streamed live on our YouTube channel. If you would prefer not to be on camera, please sit in the seats located beneath the balcony.

For those with young children

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing, pray, and grow with us in our services.

We provide a few special worship aids and helps for families:

- ✦ Children's bulletins & activity bags are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- ✦ If you or your child needs a quiet space, you can use the fireside room down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is streamed live on a TV in the room.
- ✦ On Sunday mornings, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for the children's message. Parents are welcome too!

**Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.**

