

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS ~ * ~ DECEMBER 26, 2021

Lessons & Carols



**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 250 * 205 West Jefferson Street
Cole Camp, MO 65325**

"BEING TRANSFORMED BY GOD'S GRACE TO LOVE AND SERVE."

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If it is uncomfortable for you to stand where indicated, please feel free to remain seated. The congregation responds where it is bold print.



Prelude

please stand as you are able

Call To Worship

"First Coming"

by Madeleine L'Engle

God did not wait till the world was ready, till the nations were at peace.

God came when the heavens were unsteady, and prisoners cried out for release.

God did not wait for the perfect time. God came when the need was deep and great.

God dined with sinners in all their grime, turned water into wine. God did not wait till hearts were pure.

In joy God came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.

To a world like ours of anguished shame God came, and God's light would not go out.

God came to a world which did not mesh, to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.

In the mystery of the Word made Flesh the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane to raise our songs with joyful voice,

for to share our grief, to touch our pain, God came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

Gathering Carol

"Angels, From The Realms Of Glory"

#275

Opening Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray... **Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

please be seated

First Lesson

"Light Is Created"

Genesis 1:1 - 5, 14 - 18

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Carol

"It Came Upon The Midnight Clear"

#282 vs. 1 & 4

Second Lesson

"God Promises A King"

Isaiah 9:2 - 7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Carol

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

#270

Third Lesson

"The Annunciation To Mary"

Luke 1:26 - 35, 38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

"The Christmas Story" from *I Wonder:*

Exploring God's Grand Story, an Illustrated Bible by Glenys Nellist

Fourth Lesson

"The King Will Come From Bethlehem"

Micah 5:2 - 5a

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Carol

"O Little Town Of Bethlehem"

#279 vs. 1 & 3

Fifth Lesson

"The Birth Of Jesus The Messiah"

Matthew 1:18 - 25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do 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 as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

Sixth Lesson

"The Birth Of Jesus"

Luke 2:1 - 7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Carol

"Infant Holy, Infant Holy"

#276

please stand as you are able

Prayers of Intercession

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Sharing The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

please be seated

Offering

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.....**Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Seventh Lesson "The Shepherds Go To See The Savior" Luke 2:8 - 20

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Carol

"Angels We Have Heard On High"

#289

Eighth Lesson "The Mystery Of The Incarnation" John 1:1 - 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who

received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,
¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of
God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Carol

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

#283 vs. 1, 2, 4

please stand as you are able

Christmas Dialog

based on Psalm 98

Sing to God something brand new!

For God has done wonderful things!

God has not forgotten to love us all!

Even the ends of the earth have heard!

Make a joyful noise!

Break forth in song!

With strings and horns,

sing praise to the Holy One!

With the roaring sea and everything in it!

With all the land and everything in it!

The floods clap their hands.

The hills sing for joy.

Thank God! God is coming to set everything right:

Justice for everyone, everything fair.

Sing to God something brand new!

For God has done wonderful things!

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass
against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For
thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.**

Blessing

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God, all creatures here below!

You are the shepherds telling the story.

We tell it in the streets and across the land.

You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.

You are the angels announcing peace.

We live with joy and go now in peace. Amen.

Sending Carol

“Go Tell It On The Mountain”

#290

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ has come!

Thanks be to God!

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Text of Christmas Dialog: Worldmaking adaptation by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan



~ * ~ **Coming Events** ~ * ~

December 26 - January 3	Pastor’s Vacation
January 9	Welcome New Members
January 16	Annual Meeting

"WE ARE PEOPLE OF HOPE"



Welcome: Welcome to our last worship service of 2021, as we continue to celebrate the Christmas season during worship. God is Lord of all time and eternity, so we walk with him — and one another — into all that the new year brings.

We invite everyone to enjoy coffee, snacks and fellowship before worship in the Gathering Space. Please join us!

In Our Prayers: "Unspoken prayer concerns", Rocky Goyette, Jon Beckman, Kevin Tatum, Margie Gerken, Irene Viebrock, Kyle Luetjen, and Greg Ives.



Tim Berendzen, Nancy Webb (sister-in-law of Glen Webb), Rev. Don Marshall (Executive Director of Oaks), John Turley, Pat Arline (friend of Taylor Vanderlinden), Rebecca Heimsoth (friend of Norma Schlesselman), Dieter Knowle (brother of Kim Knowle-Zeller), Debbie Viebrock (daughter-in-law of Delbert Viebrock), Ronnie Logan (brother of Gale Logan), Marvin Logan (brother of Gale Logan), Marlin & Ruth Lackas (sister & brother-in-law of Paul Fuelling), Mary Fuelling (sister-in-law of Paul Fuelling), Reagan Phillips, Greg Wright (family of Jim & Kim Gumbel), Rick Osborne (friend of Gale Logan), Bill Russell (friend of Florence VonHolten), Gina Smith, Baby Emma Ruth Eckhoff, Bill Hamilton, Marvin Bockelman (brother of Margie Gerken), Alex Stevens (friend of Tina Ives), Jeffery Jones (son of Bonnie Bohling), Joyce Jones (sister of Connie Gerken) and Adam Gumbel (son of Jim & Kim Gumbel).



Nursing Home: Vern Dean Bohling, Margie Gerken: *Ambrose*. Luella Viebrock, Marie Viebrock, Florence VonHolten & Cecelia Wiedemann: *GSCC*. Kathy Hallauer: *Loving Arms*.

Military: Please keep all those who have served our country past and present in your prayers, especially: ENS David M. Gardner (son of Pam Balke), Private Bradyn Hood (grandson of Connie Gerken), MSgt. Jason Ostberg (son-in-law of Suzanne Lutjen) Lt. Col. Ron Poe, Cpt. Joseph Strathman, Sgt. Russell J. Wiedemann (grandson of Cecelia Wiedemann) and Cpt. Wayne Wiedemann (grandson of Cecelia Wiedemann).





With Sympathy: We also pray for those families who have lost loved ones; family and friends of Junior Webb (brother of Glen Webb).

Prayers: If you would like your name added or removed from the prayer list, please contact the church office at 668-3537.



LBPS: Little Blessing Preschool will **not** be in session on Tuesday, **December 28th** or Wednesday, **December 29th**.

Newsletter: The Sunbeam committee will meet on Wednesday, **December 29th** at 3:00pm.



Health Care: The Benton County Health Department will be here on Thursday, **December 30th** from 8:00am until 10:00am to help you with your health care needs.

Secret Sisters - Just a reminder that now is the time for the Secret Sister Reveal!! Also, there are sign-up sheets at the ushers' stand for the Secret Sisters for 2022! Sign up and enjoy the fun!!



Adult Sunday School: Come join the Adult Sunday School class at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings beginning on **January 9, 2022**. After we finish up a lesson or two of our Genesis Bible study, we will then immediately begin a study of the book of Daniel in January. The book of Daniel contains some well-known Bible stories, but also some perplexing prophecies and visions. Come join us as we walk through Daniel chapter by chapter and gain insight into the message of Daniel. Participants will have a study guide from several references to enhance our study. Come join us as we explore Daniel and discuss lessons learned we can apply to our lives.

Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting is right around the corner. It will be held on Sunday, **January 16th** at 12:15pm after a meal of soup & chili. Do you have reports that you would like to include in the Annual Report? Please submit them to the church office by Tuesday, January 4th.



THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, December 26:	10:00am	Worship Holy Communion by Stations
Wednesday, December 29:	3:00pm	Sunbeam
Thursday, December 30:	8:00am	BCHD
Saturday, January 1:	NO	Casual Worship
Sunday, January 2:	10:00am	Worship Holy Communion at the Altar



~ * ~ **IN OUR COMMUNITY** ~ * ~

Cantata: A Christmas Cantata is being sponsored by the Cole Camp Regional Ministry, and performed by the Cole Camp Community Choir under the direction of Alicia "Sam" Cole, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cole Camp on Sunday afternoon, **January 2nd**, beginning at 4:00p.m. Pre-service music with a brass ensemble will start at 3:45 p.m. The cantata, "Fantasia Noel", arranged by Joshua Spach, celebrates the traditions of Christmas ~ NOEL ~ while exploring an adventurous, new musical "FANTASIA," captured by the spirit, heart, and soul of his joyously definitive Christmas arrangements and performed by members of the Cole Camp community. Please join us in a joyous celebration of our Savior's birth!



Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Ministers The Whole Congregation
Presiding Minister Pastor Stephen Zeller
Organist Lois Viebrock
Pianist Jeannette VonHolten
Altar Guild Janice Gerken & Teresa Viebrock



First Sunday Of Christmas ~ December 26, 2021

Assisting Minister Darin Oelrichs
Communion Assistants No Communion
Reader Susan Kyle, Rhonda Schlesselman,
..... Hannah Schlesselman
Children's Sermon Kim Knowle-Zeller
Acolytes Wyatt Keith & Khloe Viebrock
Flowers Mary Haluptzok
Fellowship Hour
Ushers Greg Bredehoeft, Assistant Head Usher
..... Eric Kullman, John Oelrichs, Chester Schlesselman & Kelly Viebrock



Epiphany Of Our Lord ~ January 2, 2022

Assisting Minister
Communion Assistants At the Altar
Reader Sara Jackson
Children's Sermon
Acolytes Logan Jackson & Grant Kullman
Flowers Susan Goosen
Fellowship Hour
Ushers Bruce Wienberg, Assistant Head Usher
..... Jim Gumbel, Mark Oelrichs, Justin Tinney & Kelly Viebrock