CHRISTMAS EVE ~ * ~ DECEMBER 24, 2022



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 250 * 205 West Jefferson Street
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"Being Transformed By God's Grace To Love And Serve."

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ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE December 24, 2022



+If it is uncomfortable for you to stand where indicated, please feel free to remain seated.



Pre-Service Music

Lois Viebrock, Organist Jeannette VonHolten, Pianist

Special Music by the Choir

"Carols, Rejoice!"

"Yet a King"

Welcome and Announcements

please stand as you are able Opening Hymn

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

#283

1 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, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

2 The highest, most holy, light of light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain*

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n! Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2

Greeting

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Lighting the Advent Wreath and Christ Candle

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined.

At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven."

In Christ, God's Word is made flesh and lives among us.

With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.

May the light of this wreath and Christ Candle show forth your signs of peace and hope for the world.

Bless us as we celebrate your arrival this night!

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; 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 Processional Hymn

"O Come, Little Children"

- O come little children
 O come one and all
 O come to the cradle
 In Bethlehem's stall
 The bright star will guide us
 And show us the way
 To Jesus who's lying
 Asleep on the hay
- 2) O come everybody
 O come to the stall
 With hearts full of love
 For this baby so small
 O sing little children
 To Him you adore
 O sing with the angels
 Sing peace evermore



Following the program the children will return to sit with their families.

Christmas Reading

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.

Words of Christmas Hope

Pastor Stephen Zeller

please stand as you are able Hymn

"The First Noel"

#300

1 The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.



Refrain Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

2 They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.

Refrain

3 And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far; to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. Refrain

4 This star drew near to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest; and there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay.

5 Then entered in those wise men three, full rev'rently upon their knee, and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

Refrain

Refrain

Text: English Traditional

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your prayer. Hear our prayer.

Sharing The Peace

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

please be seated Offering

Donated to Oaks Indian Mission and Seniors of North Benton County

please stand as you are able

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray......God with us: You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. **Amen**

The Great Thanksgiving
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Hear, O Lord, the prayer you taught us to pray......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.

please be seated HOLY COMMUNION

By Stations

All who believe that Jesus is present in the Bread and the Wine and has the power to forgive are welcome to commune.

Red wine or white grape juice is available.

Communion Hymns
"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

#270

1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled." Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies; with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

- 2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity! Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*
- 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
 Hail the Sun of righteousness!
 Light and life to all he brings,
 ris'n with healing in his wings.
 Mild he lays his glory by,
 born that we no more may die,
 born to raise each child of earth,
 born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.



2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.



3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

#288

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ve hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.

Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

> Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866



please stand as you are able

Post-Communion Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray......On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A Celebration Of The Light Of The World

(When lighting the candle, tip the unlit candle to the lighted candle; then allow the next person to do the same from your lighted candle.)

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!

He is the Light no darkness can overcome.

Come to us, Lord, on this holy night; let your light scatter the darkness.

Come to us, Lord, and illumine your Church.

The old has passed away; behold the new has come! Bring light at last to our world as you foretold through the prophets.

You have come to us, and you call us out of darkness and into your marvelous light!

Hymn "Silent Night" #281

- 1 Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
 Alles Schlaft; einsam wacht
 nur das heilige Eltern paar,
 das im Stalle zu Bethlehem war,
 bei dem himmlischen kind,
 bei dem himmlischen kind.
- 2 Silent night, holy night!
 All is calm, all is bright
 round yon virgin mother and child.
 Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
 sleep in heavenly peace,
 sleep in heavenly peace.
- 3 Silent night, holy night!
 Shepherds quake at the sight;
 glories stream from heaven afar,
 heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
 Christ, the Savior, is born!
 Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 4 Silent night, holy night!
 Son of God, love's pure light
 radiant beams from your holy face,
 with the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
 Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Blessing

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

(extinguish candles)

Sending Hymn

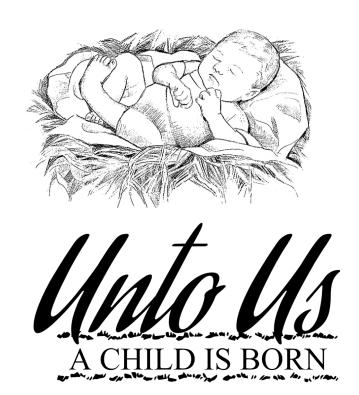
"Joy To The World"

#267

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found,
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.



Dismissal Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ! **Thanks be to God.**



* *	Characters In Children's Program
Narrator #1:	Leighton Tinney
Narrator #2:	Braden Rehmer
Scripture:	Kaylan Poe
Gabriel:	Freddie Goosen
* Mary:	Lexi Goyette
Elizabeth:	Miranda Gerken
* Messenger Angel #1:	Khloe Viebrock
Messenger Angel #2	Kelsey Viebrock
Joseph:	Ben Goosen
Innkeeper:	Grant Kullman
Shepherd #1:	Kale Kreup
* Shepherd #2:	Mason Randall
* Shepherd #3:	Jace Tinney
Shepherd #4:	Gannon Elliott
* Shepherd:	Jentry Kyle
Wise Man #1:	Hudson Kullman
Wise Man #2:	Logan Jackson
₩ Wise Man #3:	Lane Smith
* King Herod:	Grady Elliott
* Angel Choir:	Leigha Viebrock, Charlotte Zeller, Nora Mullins, Lena Smith and Lauren Jackson
Kindergarten and Pre-	K: Gracynn Elliott, Noah Gerken, Rosalee Humphreys, Konway Kreup, Ainsley Kullman, Korbin Kyle, Tucker Nash, Cooper Oelrichs, Easton Oelrichs, Emma Remington, Mason Smith, Gunner Theisen, Kyler Tinney, Macoy Tinney and Isaac Zeller

~ * ~ A SPECIAL THANK YOU ~ * ~

Rev. Stephen Zeller, Pastor

Christmas Program Committee and Assistants, Emily Kullman and Anne Goosen

Children and Parents for their dedication to practices and the program.

Russ Oelrichs, sound

Todd Rusk, projection screen

Luther League for lighting the candles

Lois Viebrock, organist

Jeannette VonHolten, pianist

Joyce Schlesselmann, choir director

St. Paul's Choir

Ushers, Altar Guild and Custodian for all their hard work.

