



*Joy*  
to  
the  
*World*



**THE LORD**



**is COME**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **GREET ONE ANOTHER and SHARE THE PEACE**

[Please stand and face the Processional Cross as it travels through the sanctuary. This is done as a way to give honor to Christ and His work done for us there.]

### **OPENING VERSICLES**

[P] This is the day which the Lord has made;

**[C] Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

[P] From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**[C] The name of the Lord is to be praised.**

[P] Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

**[C] Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.**

[P] Prepare the way of the Lord.

**[C] Make His paths straight.**

[P] Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.

**[C] Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.**

[P] From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**[C] The name of the Lord is to be praised.**

**[All] Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### **PROCESSIONAL HYMN #373** *See amid the Winter's Snow*

1        See amid the winter's snow,  
          Born for us on earth below,  
          See, the gentle Lamb appears,  
          Promised from eternal years.  
          Hail, O ever-blessèd morn!  
          Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
          Sing through all Jerusalem:  
          "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

[P] The evergreen wreath reminds us of the eternal, unchanging love of God made evident through His Son. As we light the candles of the wreath, we are reminded of the prophet Isaiah's words: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light." (*Isaiah 9:2*) The wreath is

a symbol of endless love and faithfulness. In the center of the wreath is a white candle, a Christ Candle. We light the Christ Candle this Christmas Eve to remind us of the purity of Christ and that the light of Jesus has come.

[Advent candle is lit while the congregation sings]

2           Lo, within a stable lies  
              He who built the starry skies,  
              He who, throned in height sublime,  
              Sits amid the cherubim.  
              Hail, O ever-blessèd morn!  
              Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
              Sing through all Jerusalem:  
              "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

[P] The Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter, tells of the incarnation: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**[C] He was in the beginning with God.**

[P] All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.

**[C] In him was life, and the life was the light of men.**

[P] The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**[C] The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.**

[P] He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.

**[C] He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.**

[P] But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

**[C] And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

3           Sacred Infant, all divine,  
              What a tender love was Thine,  
              Thus to come from highest bliss  
              Down to such a world as this!  
              Hail, O ever-blessèd morn!  
              Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
              Sing through all Jerusalem:  
              "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

[P] Let us pray:

**[All] O Holy Son of God, Word made flesh, Light of the World, come and shine Your light in our lives, that we may receive You in faith to become children of God and heirs of Your kingdom. Amen.**

**PRESENTATION OF THE NATIVITY BY THE CHILDREN** (part 1)

*Isaiah 7:13-14; 9:1-2; 11:1-5; Luke 1:26-2:5*

**HYMN #361** *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

- 1        O little town of Bethlehem,  
          How still we see thee lie!  
          Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
          The silent stars go by;  
          Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
          The everlasting light.  
          The hopes and fears of all the years  
          Are met in thee tonight.
- 2        For Christ is born of Mary,  
          And, gathered all above  
          While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
          Their watch of wond'ring love.  
          O morning stars, together  
          Proclaim the holy birth,  
          And praises sing to God the king  
          And peace to all the earth!
- 3        How silently, how silently  
          The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
          So God imparts to human hearts  
          The blessings of His heav'n.  
          No ear may hear His coming;  
          But in this world of sin,  
          Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
          The dear Christ enters in.
- 4        O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
          Descend to us, we pray;  
          Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
          Be born in us today.  
          We hear the Christmas angels  
          The great glad tidings tell;  
          O come to us, abide with us,  
          Our Lord Immanuel!

**PRESENTATION OF THE NATIVITY BY THE CHILDREN** (part 2)

*Luke 2:6-7; Matthew 1:18-25*

**HYMN #364** *Away in a Manger*

- 1        Away in a manger, no crib for a 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 Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
          And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3        Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
          Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
          Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
          And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

**PRESENTATION OF THE NATIVITY BY THE CHILDREN** (part 3)

*Luke 2:8-14*

**HYMN #368** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

- 1        Angels we have heard on high,  
          Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
          And the mountains in reply,  
          Echoing their joyous strains.
- ref*     *Gloria in excelsis Deo.*  
          *Gloria in excelsis Deo.*
- 2        Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
          Why your joyous strains prolong?  
          What the gladsome tidings be  
          Which inspire your heav'nly song?
- 3        Come to Bethlehem and see  
          Him whose birth the angels sing;  
          Come, adore on bended knee  
          Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

**PRESENTATION OF THE NATIVITY BY THE CHILDREN** (part 4)

*Luke 2:15-16*

**HYMN #379** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* refrain

O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!

**PRESENTATION OF THE NATIVITY BY THE CHILDREN** (part 5)

*Luke 2:17-20; Isaiah 9:6-7*

**HYMN #387** *Joy to the World*

- 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 men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
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.

**RESPONSORY**

[P] Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

[C] **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

[P] He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

**[C] This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

[P] Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**[C] This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**[C] I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God  
the Father Almighty.**

**From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
and the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

### **PRAYER**

[P] In peace let us pray to the Lord:

**[C] Lord, have mercy.**

[P] For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

**[C] Lord, have mercy.**

[P] For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

**[C] Lord, have mercy.**

[P] For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

**[C] Lord, have mercy.**

[P] For reasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

**[C] Lord, have mercy.**

[P] For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

**[C] Lord, have mercy.**

[P] For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

**[C] Lord, have mercy.**

[P] For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

**[C] Lord, have mercy.**

[P] Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

**[C] Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

[P] Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives on reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**[All] Amen. I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER** [spoken together]

**[C] 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**

[P] Let us bless the Lord.

**[C] Thanks be to God.**

[P] The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
bless and preserve you.

**[C] Amen.**

[Distribution and lighting of candles]

**CLOSING HYMN #363** *Silent Night, Holy Night* (sts. 1–3, 1g)

- 1        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.
  
- 2        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!
  
- 3        Silent night, holy night!  
          Son of God, love's pure light  
          Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
          With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
          Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
          Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.
  
- 1g        Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!  
          Alles schläft, einsam wacht  
          Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.  
          Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
          Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,  
          Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

[silent prayer]

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## Sunday

8:45 am Sunday School + Adult Bible Class  
10:00 am Worship **First Reading** *Is. 63:7–14*  
**Epistle** *Gal. 4:4–7*  
**Gospel** *Matt. 2:13–23*

## Tuesday, December 31

6:00 pm New Year's Eve Candlelight Service

## Wednesday, January 1

NO Elder's Meeting

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Thank you to the children for performing their program for us tonight! And a very special thank you to **Kim Maxwell, Sharon Nielson, Carol Blankenburg** and **Roberta Sparenberg** for all of their hard work!

Narrator: **Cora Sowinski**

Isaiah, Shepherd: **Caroline Maxwell**

Mary: **Lucy Maxwell**

Gabriel: **Amelia Patterson**

Joseph: **Sam Davidson**

Innkeeper, Head Shepherd: **Cole Sowinski**

Announcing Angel: **Aubree Dannaman**

Little Angels: **Ashlyn Dannaman, Tori Patterson**

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### Tonight:

Greeters: Richard + Sherry Wright

Reader: Don Davison

Ushers: M.Wright, Remmert, Dannaman

Acolyte: Jordan Bueltmann

Cross: Noah Hanselman

### Next Tuesday (New Year's Eve):

Greeters: Doug + Wendy Kunde

Reader: Carol Blankenburg

Ushers: M.Freundt, R.Wright, Ballsrud

Acolyte: Aubree Dannaman

**December Elder:** Don Davison

### Sunday (December 29):

Greeters: Jeff + Brianna Gregg

Reader: Jean Ballsrud

Ushers: Merriman, Hanselman Family

Acolyte: Caroline Maxwell

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# Sanctuary Poinsettias

- Given by **David + Linda Trimble**  
in memory of Art + Doris Trimble  
in memory of Pat Manning  
for the Glory of God
- Given by **Carol + Phil Blankenburg** in honor of God
- Give by **Jim + Jean Ballsrud**  
in memory of Dale + Jean Geske, and Wes Ballsrud  
in honor of Mildred Ballsrud
- Given by **Rev. Kurtis + Cyndi Bueltmann + Family**  
in honor of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ
- Given by **Jeff + Bonita Amenda**  
in memory of Dorothy Martin  
in memory of George Amenda
- Given by **Mark, Elaine, Shelby + Harrison Schweitzer**  
in memory of Richard + Nancy Harrison
- Given by **Tom + Barb Kern** in honor of Immanuel — God is with us
- Given by **Beverly + Dwaine Merriman**  
for Faith Lutheran Church's unmeasurable blessings
- Given by **Paul + Sharon Nielson** for our Savior's birth
- Given by **Mary L. Merriman** in memory of Bake Merriman
- Given by **Hannah + Sophie Remmert** in memory of Grandpa Don Wager
- Given by **Rich + Sherry Wright** to the Glory of God
- Given by **Brian, Kathy, Cora + Cole Sowinski**
- Given by **The Hilliers** for Christ's birth
- Given by **Paige + Kevin Buck**
- Given by **Mark + Renée Freundt**  
in honor of our grandsons Thomas Young and Max Freundt
- Given by **Doug + Wendy Kunde** in memory of Carolyn Kunde
- Given by **Janet Antonio** in memory of my family
- Given by **Davisons**  
in memory of Grandma Hannah  
in memory of Grandpa Buster



# FAITH

LUTHERAN CHURCH

*New beginnings. New life.*

Faith Lutheran Church builds up the body of Christ by making disciples, offering new beginnings and new life through the Gospel of Christ.

- Fellowship to build up one another in love
- Assemble regularly for worship and sacraments
- Intercede in prayer on behalf of one another
- Teach the truth of God's Word
- Help people in our community and beyond by witnessing, inviting, and serving



**Pastor Kurtis Bueltmann**

office 217-762-9235  
cell 920-299-6912

**Pastor's regular office hours:**

Monday 9:00 – 11:00 am  
Tuesday 1:00 – 3:00 pm  
Wednesday 1:00 – 3:00 pm  
Thursday 9:00 – 11:00 am

*Occasionally other pastoral duties may interfere with the regular office hours.  
Please call pastor's cell phone if there is ever a need.*