

ADVENT EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE

7:30 PM DECEMBER 24, 2023

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
WITH HOLY COMMUNION



Greetings and Announcements

* *Invocation*

* *Confession and Forgiveness*

C: God, wonderful counselor, we confess that we have turned from your gifts and chosen our own way. We have not made room for you in our hearts or in our world. We have lived in fear; we have not welcomed the stranger; we desire gifts that will not endure. Forgive us our sins, known and unknown, and open us to receive the peace of Jesus dwelling in and among us. Amen.

P: God's loving kindness has appeared to us in Christ our Savior. We are saved, not by anything we have done, but by God's mercy poured out on us richly. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Through the Spirit living in you, God give you faith to trust Jesus, who is Love born for you, now and always **C: Amen**

Opening Hymn: "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful" LBW #45

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!

- 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*

- * P: Blessed are you, O Christ, Son of God,
you were before time began
and came into the world to save us,
Blessed are you, Son of righteousness,
you shine with the Father's love
and illuminate the whole universe
Blessed are you, Son of Mary,
born a child, you shared our humanity.
- * **C: Let heaven and earth shout their praise.**
- * P: Blessed are you, Son of David, born to rule,
you received gifts from the Wise Men.
Blessed are you, Son of man, baptized by John,
you save us from ourselves.
Blessed are you, heavenly King,
teaching and preaching
healing and comforting,
you proclaimed the Kingdom.
- * **C: Let heaven and earth shout their praise.**
- * P: With all the voices of heaven we celebrate the coming of our Savior.
- * **C: Let heaven and earth shout their praise.**
- * P: With all the creatures on earth we sing and dance at his birth.
- * **C: Praise and honor and glory to You, O Lord most high.**
- * P: We rejoice in your coming, O Lord.
We remember your baptism and your life as servant of all and once more we seal our
unity in the faith.
- * **C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**
- * P: **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 Jesus Christ our
Lord, who lives and reigns with you and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen**

Choir Anthem:

“Glory to God in the Highest”

The First Lesson: 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.

Carol: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

LBW # 71

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

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? *Refrain*
- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

The Second Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

¹In 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.

Carol: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (vs. 1 & 4) LBW # 54

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

- 4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

The Third Lesson: Luke 2:8-14

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!"

Carol: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" LBW # 60

- 1 Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With th'angelic hosts proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

- 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 man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

The Fourth Lesson: Luke 2:15-20

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.

Carol: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

LBW # 41

- 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.

- 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;
Oh, come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

Sermon

Carol: "Away in a Manger" LBW #67

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay;
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
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.

*** Candle Lighting Ceremony**

P: Arise, shine; for your light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Jesus said, "I am the Light of the World; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." "You are the light of the world... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven."

(Light is distributed to the Congregation)

* ***The Prayers***

P: God of Love, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you were merciful to those who walked in darkness and despair, receive then the prayers we offer today for the peace of the world and the salvation of all men. Remember your church in all the world, give wisdom and courage to our pastors and to all the leaders of your people, bless the Christians of all lands and give them your peace.

C: Lord, be gracious to us all.

P: You are a God of peace. Let peace reign all over the earth, heal the wounds of pride and arrogance, clear the vision of those blinded by greed, and let men everywhere know your word of love in Jesus Christ.

C: Lord, be gracious to us all.

P: Your Son came like a beacon in a dark night.

Give us courage and the radiance of love to bring his light into our darkness and keep us restless until it has penetrated the whole world.

C: Lord, be gracious to us all.

P: Watch over our loved ones that they may remember your love and share with us in thanksgiving. Increase the faith and confidence of the aged, and the poor.

Encourage the afflicted. Give hope to those in despair and comfort to those who mourn.

C: Lord, be gracious to us all.

P: We remember the faithful departed who rest in your love and care. Bring us and all your children to stand in the full light of your presence and the radiance of your love.

C: Lord, be gracious to us, and give us your peace. Amen.

* ***Carol: "Silent Night, Holy Night"***

LBW # 65

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.

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 your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

(Candles may be extinguished)

* ***The Sharing of the Peace***

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

* ***The Offering*** *(Please leave your offering on our website:*

https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=Dc8dzPGn4-LCajFevTkh9MYPCImH2sG-jdxWYJMFGW_IQfxkD4hBw8WoQ6UZLveQvLkSxosar2o939JWiAad87o7zqy-JU_UuLu19bUbJx2MmPFcXvWIUz6A7FDgkhUKkoPpduXvnt8gXUeZjQYbn9G3frHW_C59Y_VCHQ6_VCoE=&ver=3

****The Offertory Prayer***

Let us pray. . . **Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth.**

As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ Our Savior. Amen.

****The Thanksgiving***

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh. Holy God, bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks; He broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sin. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**** Lord's Prayer***

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.**

**** Invitation to Communion*** – The gifts of God, for the people of God!

**** Prayer after Communion***

P: God of wonder, in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near. As you have come among us now, send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever.

C: Amen

**** Blessing***

P: God the Creator who delights in you,
Jesus the Savior who is born for you,
And the life giving Spirit who shines on you,
bless you and keep you in hope and peace. **C: Amen.**

*** Carol: "Joy to the World"**

LBW #39

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its 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.

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**

P: Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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OUR MISSION – FAITHFUL IN THE WORD

- + To **gather** as God's people and nurture one another
- + To **know** the Word of God
- + To **grow** in faith, love, and service
- + To **go** into the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ



SERVING OUR LORD IN WORSHIP

Worship Leader

Pastor Matthew E. Ollikainen

Music Director

Michael Dettra

Worship Assistant

Gail Oines

Guest Musicians

Nicholas Goldkranz - Trumpet

A CHRISTMAS GREETING

Greetings to all who join with us this evening to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus. May you and your family have a very blessed Christmas. Please come and worship with us again.



ALTAR FLOWERS - POINSETTIAS

The poinsettias displayed on the steps of the altar are those ordered by members of the congregation. The dedication list is on a separate sheet inside the bulletin.

Poinsettias may be picked up any time after the 7:30 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: SUNDAY, December 17

8:00 a.m. 21 9:30 a.m. 27 Sunday School 5 **Total 53**



SCHOOL SCHEDULE IN DECEMBER

On Christmas Eve, **December 24**, and New Year's Eve, **December 31**, there will be **no Sunday School class**. Class will resume on **January 7**.

PASTOR MATT'S END OF DECEMBER SCHEDULE

Pastor Matt will be out of the office from Tuesday, December 26, and will return Wednesday, January 3.

Pastor Bo Banister will be providing emergency pastoral coverage for Pastor Matt while he is away. Pastor Banister can be reached at 765-426-0500.

CHURCH OFFICE SCHEDULE FOR END OF DECEMBER

The church office will not be attended during the week of Tuesday, December 26, and will reopen on Wednesday, January 3.

FLOWER CHART & MISSION SUPPORT FOR 2023

The sign-up sheets for Altar Flower and Mission Support dedications for 2024 are on the table in the narthex. The cost to dedicate one bouquet is \$25.00. One week of Mission support is \$25.00.

INSTALLATION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS AND RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS FINISHING TERMS – SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 9:30 SERVICE

On Sunday, January 7, at the 9:30 service, the Installation of new Council Members and the Recognition of Members of Council Members finishing their terms will take place.

BLOOD DRIVE, TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

The Blood Drive at Advent will take place, January 30, 2024 from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Please consider donating and asking your friends and neighbors to join you. All those participating will be entered for a chance to win tickets for Super Bowl LVIII, February 11th in Las Vegas. Package includes tickets, round trip airfare, hotel and a \$1,000 gift card.

Sign up in the narthex or online at RedCrossBlood.org and enter Sponsor Code: Adventlutheran, or call 1-800-Red Cross or Audrey at 215-913-1037, Thank you for your support.

SPAGHETTI DINNER – JANUARY 27

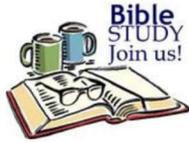
Saturday, January 27 is the date for Pastor Matt's Spaghetti Dinner. More information to follow.



RESTARTING JANUARY 9

All are welcome to join us for an evening of Ping Pong at the church on Tuesday nights at 6:30pm restarting after the Christmas Holidays, January 9.

Please call the church 215-355-2529 if you want to give it a try. (It helps to know how many tables to set up).



**THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY, 7:00 PM via ZOOM-
RESTARTING THURSDAY, JANUARY 4**

Bible Study will resume on Thursday, January 4, 2024. The study is on the book **Bonhoeffer** by John W. Matthews. From the Theology for Life Series, it is a brief overview of the life and writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Meeting ID: 896 3251 8358 Passcode: 011905

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89632518358?pwd=Smg5dm1Ba0VZamZjNG1YMko2MlVvdz09>

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT &
CHRISTMAS EVE – DECEMBER 24**

- 9:00 am Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
- 10:30 am Fellowship Time: Open
- 7:30 pm Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

- 7:30 pm A.A. Open Meeting

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

- 7:30 P.M. A.A. Step Meeting



SUNDAY, DECEMBER, 31

- 9:00 a.m. First Sunday of Christmas
A Service of Lessons & Carols
No Holy Communion
- 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time: Open