

**The Nativity of Our Lord -- Christmas Eve**  
**Service with CAROLS, COMMUNION and CANDLELIGHT**

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## **GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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*Artwork by  
Anna Patterson*

***Welcome to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church***  
***If you are visiting with us today, we are delighted to have you here. Please fill out***  
***the Friendship Pad on the end of the pew and pass it along for all to fill out.***

Nursery: Our nursery is located out the north entrance of the sanctuary. Please feel free to use the nursery anytime during the service.

## – ORDER OF WORSHIP –

**PRELUDE**

Karen Niemeier

**Announcements****ENTRANCE HYMN****Oh, Come, All ye Faithful****ELW#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:

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*

*Refrain*

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

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

**Christmas Dialog and Greeting**

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**C: We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

P: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**C: In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

P: May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**P:** Let us pray **C: 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 only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

*Please be seated*

**SPECIAL MUSIC***"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"***Choir Anthem**

L: A reading from Isaiah 9:2-7

**Cora Hudik**

<sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>You 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. <sup>4</sup>For 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. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For 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. <sup>7</sup>His 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.  
L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN****O Little Town of Bethlehem****ELW#279**

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!

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!

L: A reading from Titus 2:11-14

**Troy Keene**

<sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN****Hark! The Herald Angels Sing****ELW#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!"

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*

L: A reading from Luke 2:1-7

**Learning Committee**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.  
<sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph 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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And 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. L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN**

**Away in a Manger**

**ELW#277**

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.

L: A reading from Luke 2:8-20

**Alec Aurand**

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn:****Go, Tell It on the Mountain****ELW#290***Refrain*

Go tell it on the mountain,  
 over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
 go tell it on the mountain  
 that Jesus Christ is born!

3 Down in a lonely manger  
 the humble Christ was born;  
 and God sent us salvation  
 that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

1 While shepherds kept their watching  
 o'er silent flocks by night,  
 behold, throughout the heavens  
 there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE****SERMON****Pastor Miho Yasukawa****HYMN OF THE DAY****“What Child is This”****ELW#296**

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
 on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
 while shepherds watch are keeping?  
 This, this is Christ the king,  
 whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
 haste, haste to bring him laud,  
 the babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
 come, peasant, king, to own him.  
 The King of kings salvation brings;  
 let loving hearts enthrone him.  
 Raise, raise the song on high,  
 the virgin sings her lullaby;  
 joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
 the babe, the son of Mary!

**THE NICENE CREED** *Please Stand*

P: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith in words of the Nicene Creed.

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
 who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
 who has spoken through the prophets.  
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

*After each petition:* WA: Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

WA: This night the eternal Word of God is born in us. We pray for Christ's light of life to take flesh in the church, the creation, and all people of God. *A brief silence.*

WA: We bring to the manger our longing for the visible unity of the church of Jesus Christ, that undivided it proclaim the one whose birth brings good news of glad tidings to all people. Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

WA: We bring to the manger hope for the well-being of creation, that every valley be exalted and every rough place be made plain so that every living thing may flourish. Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

WA: We bring to the manger a vision of the reign of the Prince of Peace, that the nations, tribes, and peoples of this world will see and cherish in each other the very image of Christ, whose scepter is mercy and whose judgment is love. Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

WA: We bring to the manger concern for those who have no place to lay their heads this night and for those who dwell in the shadow of loneliness, despair, illness, or death especially, **Bob Lyvers, Dick Johnson, Ethel Lobdell, Tena Rackow, Paul Hardel, Verl Price, Donna Euler, Katy Lartz, Carol Stubbs, Kathy Baumgartner, Robin Cross, Millie Anderson, Connor Stadermann, Justin, Jon Forsythe, Elsie Meier, Linda, Dale, Meghan, Lucille Diddens, Jerilyn Strohecker, Cathy, Sharon, Sienna, Norman Knoll, Jill, Madilyn and Morgan Miller.** We come begging that the child for whom there was no room will open the doors of our hearts to the needs of our neighbors and ourselves.

Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

WA: We bring to the manger all people who, like the holy family, gather with children in the splendor of this most holy night, that the gift of faith be lavished on another generation. Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

WA: We bring to the manger the hopes and dreams of all the years, that with Mary and Joseph, angels and archangels, saints and martyrs, loved ones of every time and every place, our prayers and praises join in a common song uniting heaven and earth in a single peace. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Into your outstretched arms, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world. **C: Amen.**

## **SHARING THE PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Congregation may greet one another using these or similar words: Peace be with you.*

*Please be seated.*

## OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church locally and throughout the world, including those in need. We also offer up prayers to God as we offer ourselves (time, talents, gifts, and interests) to the Lord's service and dedicate our lives to God's work in the world. During this time, the table is set.*

**Special Music during Offering**

*"Christmas Bell Tidings"*

Chime Choir

## OFFERING PRAYER

*Please stand*

**P: Let us pray. C: 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.**

## DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY HOLY HOLY

(TUNE: PICARDY see ELW#490)

**Holy, holy, Lord most holy, God of pow'r and God of might:**

**heav'n and earth reveal your glory. Hail, hosanna, Lord of light!**

**Blessed be the coming Savior. Hail, hosanna, Lord of light!**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION/ LORD'S PRAYER

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*We practice open Communion here — Christ invites us to the table. All baptized Christians are welcome to partake the body and blood of Jesus Christ. If you wish to receive a blessing, you may come forward. Holy Communion will be celebrated by intinction you will dip the bread into the chalice. The gold chalices have wine; the chrome chalices have grape juice. You will be ushered down the center aisle and return to your pew by way of the side aisles. If you need assistance, please let an usher know.*



**COMMUNION HYMN**

1. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin  
of all the world away;  
you suffered death our lives to save:  
have mercy now, we pray.

2. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin  
of all the world away;  
you set us free from guilt and grave:  
have mercy now, we pray.

**(TUNE: JEG ER SÅ GLAD see ELW #271)**

3. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin  
of all the world away;  
eternal peace with God you made:  
give us your peace, we pray.

**COMMUNION HYMN****“The First Noel”****ELW#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.

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*

*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.

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. *Refrain*

*Refrain*

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*

**COMMUNION HYMN****“Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming****ELW#272**

1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming  
from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming  
as seers of old have sung,  
it came, a flow'r so bright,  
amid the cold of winter,  
when half-spent was the night.

2 Isaiah had foretold it,  
the rose I have in mind;  
with Mary we behold it,  
the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright,  
she bore to us a Savior,  
when half-spent was the night.



3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender  
with sweetness fill the air,  
dispels with glorious splendor  
the darkness everywhere.  
True man, yet very God,  
from sin and death he saves us  
and lightens ev'ry load.

4 O Savior, child of Mary,  
who felt our human woe;  
O Savior, king of glory,  
who dost our weakness know:  
bring us at length, we pray,  
to the bright courts of heaven  
and into endless day.

### POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

### THE CANDLE LIGHTING

*Candle Lighting Instructions: The ushers receive the light from the Pastor and pass it to the person nearest the aisle in each pew. The light is passed from person to person. PLEASE DO NOT TIP A LIGHTED CANDLE, lest hot wax spill. Please tip only unlit candles to receive the flame from those already lit. To extinguish the candle hold a hand behind the flame and blow it gently out. The candles are to be extinguished after the "Christmas Blessing".*

*(Please stand as you are able)*

### The Gospel of the Incarnation John 1:1-14

**Kayla Runkle**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And 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 PRAYERS

P: Glory to God in the highest,

**C: and peace to God's people on earth.**

L: Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

**C: Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**

L: Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.

**C: Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.**

L: Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.

**C: Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.**

L: Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

**C: Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.**

P: Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

**C: Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.**

### Hymn of Light

### Silent Night, Holy Night

ELW#281

(First verse will be sung in German by Willie Kayser,

**GERMAN:** 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.

### ENGLISH

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 your holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

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!

### CHRISTMAS BLESSING

P: 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. **C: Amen.**

*The candles are extinguished.*

### SENDING HYMN:

### “Joy to the World”

ELW#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.

3 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 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** (from back of sanctuary)

P: Glory to God in the highest!

P: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**C: Peace to God's people on earth!**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**Karen Niemeier**

**~ Serving During Worship ~**

Pastor	Pastor Miho Yasukawa
Choir & Chimes Director	Janis Kurth
Organist & Pianists	Karen Niemeier, Tena Rackow, Marion Fahr
Acolyte	Kayla Runkle
Worship Assistant	Sheila Keene
Communion Ushers	Paul Fox, Jerry Martin
Communion Assistants	Shirley Fox, Beth Martin, Cora Hudik
Sound	Wayne Kurth
Greeters	Dennis Luke, Terry Hart
Ushers	Paul and Shirley Fox, Jerry and Beth Martin Elevator Dennis Luke

**Poinsettias**



***In memory of Leland and Marge Wenzel given by Sharon and Bob Nichols and Brian and Jo Wenzel***

***In memory of the Birth of the Baby Jesus given by Curt, Sue Diddens and family***

***In memory of family and friends given by Karen Niemeier***

***In memory of sister Carol and daughter Marian given by Ellen Kyles***

***In memory of Scott Lloyd and Lloyd and Violet Ferris by Mary Lloyd (3 poinsettias)***

***In memory of Catharine, Glenn, Ira and Nelda Wire given by Eleanor Stalder***

***In memory of Mr & Mrs Erwin Schafer given by Gary, Coralyn and Jonathan Hudik***

***In memory of loved ones given by Wayne and Janis Kurth***

***In memory of Hulone Scheider given by Delbert Scheider***

***In memory of Barb Hart given by Terry Hart***

***In memory and honor of our grandparents remembered given by Kristy, Anna and Taylor Patterson***

***In memory of Seth, Margaret, Lowell Raymer and MaryAnn given by Lisa Wienand***

***In memory of Loved Ones given by Paul and Shirley Fox***

***In memory of Elwyn and Marian Brose given by Bari and Gerene Raymer***

***In memory of Janell Gordon given by Tim Gordon***

***In memory of Lucille Price given by Barb Price***

***In memory of loved Ones given by the Gullicksons***

***In memory and honor of Grandparents given by The Keenes***

***In memory of Leonard and Margaret Busjahn given by Mark Busjahn***

***In memory of Norma, Gladys, Dorothy, Ray, Joyce, and Lee given by Miho Yasukawa***

*Thank you to all who contributed flowers for our Christmas Services. Please take them home after the Christmas Eve Service.*