GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Artwork by Anna Patters**on**

Welcome to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

We would like everyone to fill out the Friendship Pad at the end of the pews and pass it along for all to fill out. Please also mark the names of all in the family who are receiving Communion. If you are visiting, please include your address and phone number . We are delighted to have you.

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

An AED (defibrillator) is located on the wall in the Fellowship Hall in case of an emergency. The device is designed to deliver calm, clear voice instructions precisely timed to the responder's actions, guiding the responder every step of the way. When the door is open an alarm goes off to alert others that there is an emergency.

Amid our broken world we proclaim that the Prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

PRELUDE

(A time for prayer and reflection)

Karen Niemeier

COMMUNITY CONCERNS & CELEBRATION

GATHERING SONG I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

ELW# 271

- I am so glad each Christmas Eve, the night of Jesus' birth!Then like the sun the star shone forth, and angels sang on earth.
- The little child in Bethlehem, he was a king indeed!For he came down from heav'n above to help a world in need.
- 3 He dwells again in heaven's realm, the Son of God today; and still he loves his little ones and hears them when they pray.

- 4 I am so glad each Christmas Eve! His praises then I sing; he opens now for ev'ry child the palace of the king.
- 5 And so I love each Christmas Eve, and I love Jesus too; and that he loves me ev'ry day I know so well is true.

Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832-1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881-1959 Text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Rise Up Shepherd and Follow"

Solo Krista Keene Piano Terry Hart

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

L: A reading from Isaiah.

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.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming(Verses 1 &2)

ELW#272

ELW# 289

- 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.

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

L: A reading from Titus.

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He 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: Word of God, word of life. C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN Angels We Have Heard on High(verses 1 & 3)

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

Refrain Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:1-7

L: A reading from Luke. 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.

HYMN

Away in a Manger (verses 1 & 2)

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.
- 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

Please stand

GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:8-20

P: A reading from Luke. 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"O Holy Night"

Chime Choir Piano Tena Rackow

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

ELW# 276

- 1 Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all. Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing: Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
- 2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow: Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

THE NICENE CREED Please Stand

A: God has made us his people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith in the word 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 PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition: WA: Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.

WA: As heaven and earth rejoice, let us pray for the needs of the church and all the world *A brief silence*.

WA: Your great compassion, O God, has increased our joy. Give us gratitude each day for your light and the bread of life. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

WA: Because of your generosity, the trees clap their hands, the deep waters teem with varied creatures, and the stars burn with distant fire. Make us grateful for all that you call us to nurture and protect. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

WA: Because you know our need for order, you give us nations, cities, and neighborhoods. Help us to welcome the expertise of leaders, to uphold their good direction, and to oppose what harms the vulnerable. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

WA: Because you are a God of healing and renewal, you make whole what is broken. We beg your mercy on all who find this time of year a burden. Strengthen the grieving and comfort those who struggle with addictions. We pray especially for *Bob Lyvers*, *Steve Fahr*, *Dick and Rene Johnson*, *Ethel Lobdell*, *Gene Hesselbacher*, *Sheridan Brinker*, *Fern Harnish*, *Lois Paulsen*, *Verl Price*, *Jane Boop*, *Marilyn*, *Greg Lloyd*, *Donna Euler*, *Robin Cross*, *Connor Stadermann*, *Jaden*, *Jon Forsythe*, *Brooke*, *Meghan*, *Sylvia*, *Diane*, *Darren*, *Myron Coaty*, *Deb Lindeman Harder*, *Graham Russell*, *Tim Coleman*, *Cindy Tessendorf*, *Larry Larson*, *and Jim Watson*.

Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.

- **WA**: By the power of the Holy Spirit, you have given us to each other to encourage and challenge. Give us hearts that remember your Christmas gifts beyond this night. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**
- **WA:** We give thanks for those before us who witnessed to your presence, taught us to pray, and strengthened us in the truth, and all with whom we share the feast of eternal life. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**
 - P: Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: And also with you.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Sussex Carol

Choir

Flute Brianna Andrews Piano Karen Niemeier

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

C: 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.

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.

PREFACE

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

HOLY HOLY HOLY

Tune: Picardy (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!

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught 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 —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 (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.



LAMB OF GOD

Tune: JEG ER SÅ GLAD (ELW#271)

- 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.
- 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

O 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:

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

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

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

COMMUNION HYMN

What Child Is This

ELW#296

 \boldsymbol{a}

2 Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?

the silent Word is pleading.

the babe, the son of Mary!

Good Christian, fear; for sinners here

Nails, spear shall pierce him through,

the cross be borne for me, for you;

hail, hail the Word made flesh,

- 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!
- 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,

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; the babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray. Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING

Candle Lighting Instructions: The users receive the light from the pastor and pass it to the person nearest the aisle in each pew. PLEASE TIP ONLY UNLIT CANDLES TO RECEIVE THE FLAME FROM THOSE ALREADY LIT. To extinguish the candle hold hand behind the flame and blow it gently out. The candles are to be extinguished after the Christmas Blessing. What Child Is This

GOSPEL OF INCARNATION: John 1:1-14

L: A reading from John. ¹In 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. There 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.

HYMN OF LIGHT Silent Night, Holy Night!: Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!

ELW# 281

(First verse will be sung in German by Willie Kayser and Terry Hart)

GERMAN

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schlaeft, einsam wacht nur das traute, hochheilige Paar. Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar, schlaf in himmlischer Ruh, schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

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

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

P: God the Creator who delights in you, Jesus the Savior who is born for you, and the lifegiving Spirit who shines on you, + bless you and keep you in hope and peace.

C: Amen.

The candles are extinguished.

SENDING SONG 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!

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. Refrain
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain
- 3 Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born; and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the good news. C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Karen Niemeier

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Pastor: Pastor Miho Yasukawa

Pianists: Tena Rackow, Sarah Baker Organist: Karen Niemeier

Choir Dir. /accomp: Janis Kurth / Tena Rackow

Lector: Janis Kurth Acolyte: Jared Runkle and Jacob Runkle

Assisting Minister: Jay Andrews Worship Assistant: Kayla Runkle

Greeters: Bob Schlachter, Marybeth Brinker, and Paul and Shirley Fox

Ushers: Bill and Jean Engel, Jerry and Beth Martin

<u>Communion Usher</u>: Jerry and Beth Martin
<u>Communion Asst</u>: Shirley Fox and Cora Hudik
<u>Sound System</u>: Wayne Kurth

Elevator Operator: Anna and Kristy Patterson

Musicians

Choir

Janis Kurth, Michelle Andrews, Sue Diddens, Sharon Schlachter, Tena Rackow, Brianna Andrews, Krista Keene, Karen Niemeier, Wayne Kurth, Cora Hudik, Terry Hart, and Jay Andrews.

Chimes

Janis Kurth, Karen Niemeier, Michelle Andrews, Brianna Andrews, Wayne Kurth, Kristy Patterson, Dale Gullickson, Jay Andrews, and Terry Hart

Brass

Wayne Kurth (trombone), Billie Jo Runkle (trumpet), Kayla Runkle (clarinet)

Come and Join us for Worship Christmas Day Service—December 25th at 9:30am Carols from around the world.

Do you know history of your favorite Christmas carols? We will hear the stories of carols in our hymnal and sing!

Blue Christmas Service--December 30th at 9:30am

Not all Christmas is jolly and cheerful, we experience loss and darkness. Blue Christmas service offers quiet and reflective moments with scripture readings, songs and communion. Come and taste God's comfort and love.

Poinsettias

In memory of family given by Karen Niemeier

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

In memory of loved ones given by Paul and Shirley Fox

In memory of the Friends and Family given by Kristy, Anna and Taylor Patterson

In memory of Joyce and Oscar Tessendorf and Phylis and Cletus Martin given by Jerry, Beth, and Alexis Martin and Carly and Andy Martin

In memory of loved ones given by Wayne and Janis Kurth

In memory of Hulone Scheider given by Delbert Scheider

In memory of family members given by The Gary Hudik's Family

In memory of Joey, Anthony and Grandparents given by The Keene Family

In memory of Suzie Gordon given by Virgil Gordon

In memory of Janell Gordon given by Tim Gordon

In memory of William and Laura Derr, given by The William and Laura Derr Family

In memory of Carol, Laura, Vitor Wethelle, and Fran Petersen given by Miho Yasukewa

In memory of Ruth and Earl Watson, Virgil Diddens and loved ones, given by Sue and Curt Diddens

In memory of loved ones given by The Gullickson Family.



Thank you to all who contributed flowers for our Christmas services. You may take them home after the Christmas Eve Service

