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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

118 E. Mason, Lena, Il 61048

Phone: (815) 369-5552

Email: GoodShepherdLena@outlook.com

Pastor Miranda: (815) 291-5793 & mirandaeh@hotmail.com

Website: www.GoodShepherdLena.org Facebook: "GSLCLenaIL"



Welcome to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church If you are visiting with us today, we want you to feel welcome and to know that 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: Children are always welcome at our worship services; however, if you desire, please feel free to use the nursery located out the north entrance of the sanctuary.

~ Calendar of Events ~

	0 001 0 11 0 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	
Friday, December 25 th	MERRY CHRISTMAS!	
Sunday, December 27 th	1 st Sunday of Christmas	
	Worship with Holy Communion and	9:30 am
	Special Sending Liturgy for Pastor Miranda	
	Fellowship with Sending Potluck	10:30 am
	(No Sunday School)	
	Chime Practice	5:00 pm
Wednesday, December 30 th	"Piece Corps" Quilting Group	8:00 am-11:30 am
Friday, January 1 st	HAPPY NEW YEAR!	
Sunday, January 3 rd	Epiphany of Our Lord Worship	9:30 am
	Sunday School	10:45 am

~ Serving During Worship ~

5:00 pm Service

Pastor Pastor Miranda Klosterboer

Choir & Chimes Director Janis Kurth

Organist & Pianists Karen Niemeier, Tena Rackow, Sarah Baker, Marion Fahr

Ensemble Orchestra: Jesse Klosterboer, Wayne Kurth

Acolyte Coltin Coonts, Krista Keene Assisting Minister Denny Luke Lector Sheila Keene Worship Assistant Denny Luke

Communion Ushers Gary and Cynthia Boeke
Communion Assistants Marybeth Brinker, Sheila Keene

Greeters Troy, Shelia and Krista Keene, Donna Gullickson, Dale Gullickson

Ushers Gary and Cynthia Boeke, Sheridan and Marybeth Brinker

Sound System Jay Andrew, Austin Andrew

Elevator Operator Kristy Patterson, Anna Patterson, Taylor Patterson

7:30 pm Service

Pastor Pastor Miranda Klosterboer

Choir & Chimes Director Janis Kurth

Organist & Pianists Karen Niemeier, Tena Rackow, Marion Fahr

Ensemble Orchestra: Jesse Klosterboer, Wayne Kurth

Acolyte Kayla Runkle, Ashlyn Brinker Assisting Minister Wayne Kurth Lector Shirley Fox Worship Assistant Colton Brinker

Communion Ushers Donna Gullickson, Dale Gullickson Communion Assistants Colton Brinker, Angie Brinker

Greeters Paul and Shirley Fox, Bill and Jean Engel

Ushers Donna Gullickson, Dale Gullickson, Troy and Cindy Doubler

Sound System Troy Doubler, Hanna Brinker

Elevator Operator Chris Brinker

ORDER OF WORSHIP –

PRELUDE WELCOME

Karen Niemeier on organ

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! We are filled with joy to be sharing the birth of our Savior with you on this most Holy night. Let the wonder of the Christmas miracle wash over your soul and fill you with excitement! We worship our Lord knowing that he comes to us bringing unconditional love and hope to a world that is sorely in need of it. Jesus loves you and, we at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, are blessed by your presence with us as gather for worship this Christmas Eve.

PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST (Please stand as you are able)

Pastor: Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in God's own image;

Long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant;

Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;

Thirteen centuries after Moses led God's people Israel out of Egypt to freedom;

Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges;

One thousand years from the anointing of David as king;

In the sixty-fifth week as Daniel's prophecy takes note;

In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;

The seven hundred and fifty-second year from the founding of the city of Rome;

The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;

The whole world being at peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God, Son of the eternal Father,

Desiring to sanctify the world by his coming in mercy,

Being conceived by the Holy Spirit, and nine months having passed since his conception, was born of the virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea.

Today, we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

ENTRANCE HYMN

"Oh, Come, All ye Faithful"

ELW#283

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*

CORPORATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: One of the blessings we have as children of God is that our Father loves us beyond measure. No matter what we have done or said in the past can ever separate us from the fullness of grace that is our Lord. As one family in faith, let us make our confession together:

C: Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

P: While our ways have steered us away from God, the Lord's path never deviates from maintaining a connection with his beloved children. On this most Holy of Nights, we receive the gift of a child who comes to bring peace and fulfillment to our lives. Through a child's innocent unconditional love, we are forgiven all of our sins. Every thought, word, and deed rooted in sin is wiped clean because our Heavenly Father refuses to let anything come between us....Receive the mercy and forgiveness of our Lord Jesus Christ, who loves you and claims you as his own this day and forevermore. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

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: To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: In him was life, and the life was a light to all people.

The Christ Candle and the Advent wreath candles are lighted.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"What Child is This"

Good Shepherd Chime Choir

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: 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.

HYMN It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (Verses 1 & 4) ELW#282

- 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 evercircling 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.

L: The 1st Reading is from 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. L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC Mark Fulfs

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

L: The 2nd Reading is from Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the 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: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand and turn to face the Bible as the Gospel is read from within the congregation)

GOSPEL PROCESSION Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Verse 1 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!"

P: The Nativity of Our Lord According to Luke, the 2nd Chapter (Luke 2:1–14)

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. 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!"

GOSPEL RESPONSE "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Verse 2 ELW #270

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

P: The Holy Gospel According to Luke 2: 15–20 The Shepherds Tell the Good News 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.

GOSPEL RESPONSE "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Verse 3 ELW #270

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Miranda Klosterboer

HYMN OF THE DAY "What Child is This"

ELW#296

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!

- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you; hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!
- 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

A: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

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

WA: Rejoicing with all the faithful, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. A brief silence.

WA: Let us pray for the church throughout the world; for those who proclaim the gospel; for this assembly; for those celebrating their first Christmas; for those whose joy is diminished by loneliness or loss; for those absent from us; and for those who are far from home, and for all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy, C: hear our prayer.

WA: For the earth, your beloved creation and our fragile home; for rivers and woods, mountains and valleys; for marshes and oceans, towns and cities; for shepherds, ranchers, and all who care for animals. Lord, in your mercy, C: hear our prayer.

WA: For those who govern and for all in authority; for those who work to bring lasting peace to the land of Jesus' birth; and for all who protect the lives of children. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

WA: For innkeepers and travelers; for those whose needs for food or shelter depend upon the generosity of others; and for all who are sick especially *Lee Wenzel*, *Bob Lyvers*, *Ellen Kyles*, *Donna Euler*, *Katy Lartz*, *Chris Harbach*, *Maryann Liebenstein*, *Jon Forsythe and Kelly Huneke*.

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

WA: With thanksgiving, we remember all who have died and those whose lives have inspired us to deeper faith, more passionate service, and stronger love. Lord, in your mercy, C: **hear our prayer.** Pastor: Pondering the mystery of your love, we offer our prayers in the name of Christ, the Word made flesh. **C: Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord 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. After the table is set, the offering is gathered & the anthem concludes, the acolyte walks out to the edge of the chancel steps to receive the offering from the ushers.

Special Music during Offering

(5:00 and 7:30 Service)

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Good Shepherd Choir

OFFERING PRAYER (after acolyte presents offering at altar)

Please stand

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.

CHRISTMAS LITANY FOR HOLY COMMUNION

- P: We come to worship and bow down, to give our thanks. We are Christmas people. As Jesus was born in a stable we are born again to everlasting life.
- C: We have come to worship Jesus.
- P: In this family meal we celebrate the gift God has given us.
- C: In the sharing of the bread and wine, we receive forgiveness of sins and God has given us this gift to share.
- P: God has given us this gift to share.
- C: We come to take part and be changed.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION/ LORD'S PRAYER

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 — you don't have to be a member to participate. All who share our belief that Jesus is present in his holy meal are welcome to receive the bread and cup. Children and adults who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a special blessing. You will be ushered down the center aisle and return to your pew by way of the side aisles. If you wish to commune and are unable to come forward or need other assistance, please let an usher know so that we can serve you. For Holy Communion this evening, you will first be offered the bread to eat and then an individual cup of wine to drink. Grape juice is available in the cups in the center ring of the distribution tray. You can then place your cup in the tray held by the acolyte before returning down the aisle to your pew.

COMMUNION HYMN "Angels We Have Heard on High" ELW #289

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

COMMUNION 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!
- 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; oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

A: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; ...for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen**.

CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY

P: And God said, "Let there be light; and there was light."

C: And God saw that the light was good.

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

C: Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shown.

P: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

C: The light no darkness can overcome.

P: Let this light so shine in us that others may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven.

C: Yes, let this light shine in us. Amen

Candle Lighting Instructions: The ushers receive the light from the Pastor and Assisting Minister 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".

Silent Night, Holy Night (Accompanied by Jesse Klosterboer on guitar) ELW#281

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Introduction sung by Willie Kayser in German:

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 (Congregation joins in singing verse one in English following German verse)

- 1 Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright round you 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: Jesus said, "You are the light of the world." Let your light so shine that people around you will be moved by the good things you do to glorify God in heaven.
- P: May your eyes always be open to see Christ's coming, and your heart open to welcome him. May your ears be ready to hear the good news of Jesus, and your voice ready to share it. May your hands be open to receive the gifts he brings, and ready to pass on his gifts of love to others. The generous God of love,... Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless your days and your deeds with peace. **C: Amen.**

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 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 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)

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you. C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Karen Niemeier

Poinsettias

In memory of Marge Wenzel given by Lee Wenzel
In memory of Ruth Watson and Earl Watson given by the Watson family
In memory of parents and grandparents given by Karen Niemeier
In memory of Mellissa Shumaker given by Neal and Cyndy Shumaker and Family
In memory of Lloyd and Violet Ferris and Scott Lloyd by Mary Lloyd
In memory of Catharina Clara and Nolda Wire given by Elegant Stalder and the

In memory of Catharine, Glenn, Ira and Nelda Wire given by Eleanor Stalder and family
In memory of William Derr Jr. given by the Derr family

In thanksgiving to our Lord Jesus Christ for the grace, joy and love poured out upon and through Good Shepherd Lutheran Church! Given by Jesse and Pastor Miranda Klosterboer

In memory of Norma and Erwin Schafer given by Coralyn Hudik

In memory of Sharon Lobdell and Denise Jordon given by Tony Jordan, Jackie Lobdell and families
In memory of loved ones given by the family of Wayne and Janis Kurth

In memory of Esther Kayser given by Wieland Kayser

The loved ones who came before us especially our family members given by Kristy, Anna and Taylor Patterson

In memory of Ralph and Virginia Mann, Wayne and Thelma Runkle, Lester Fack and William Haight Jr given by Lynn Haight.

Thank you to all who contributed flowers for our Christmas Services. Please take them home after the 7:30pm Christmas Eve Service so your family can enjoy them.