

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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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 on organ

WELCOME

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." 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.

(Please stand as you are able)

CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE (from the back)

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!

C: He is the Light no darkness can overcome.

P: At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

C: With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven."

P: In Christ, God's Word is made flesh and lives among us.

C: With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION (Chanted in 7:30 service)

Pastor/Cantor: 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**

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*

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

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.**

Please be seated

SPECIAL MUSIC

“On Christmas Night”

Chime Choir

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.**

Psalm 96 (*Reading responsively (5:00); Chanting responsively (7:30)*) **ELW#96**

¹Sing to the LORD a new song; | sing to the LORD, all the earth.

²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; | proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**

³Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations | and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.

⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised, | more to be feared | than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols; | but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence; | power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples, | ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name; | bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD.**

⁹Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness; | tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.

¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: “The | LORD is king! | The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peo- | ples with equity.”**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad; | let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O LORD, | for you come to | judge the earth.**

¹³You will judge the | world with righteousness | and the peoples | with your truth.

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

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

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 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 **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

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!"

P: The gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

“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!"

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (5:00)**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!
- 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!
- 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*

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

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

WA: Rejoicing in the good news of Christ's birth and dwelling in hope, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

WA: Holy God, from you comes all grace and righteousness. Bind your church together during this Christmas season, that we bear witness to the truth of the gospel throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

WA: Holy God, all creation reveals your splendor and majesty. Guide us in caring for the earth and all it contains, and bring about favorable weather during this time of travel. Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

WA: Holy God, in the midst of chaos, your Son was born for us. Instill in politicians, military leaders, and civil servants a desire for justice and peace. Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

WA: Holy God, you care for your children in this and every place. Grant relief to those in fear, shelter to the homeless, community to the isolated, joy to expectant parents, relief to those who yearn for children, and healing to the sick especially, **Bob Lyvers, Dick Johnson, Verl Price, Lorene Solace Bruce, Beverly, Donna Euler, Katy Lartz, Kelli Huneke, Jane Parks, Dave Offermann, Scott Bonnet, Thomas Lance, Robin Cross, Michael, Leta Toekle, Connie, Carol Stubbs.** Love, comfort and hope of Resurrection for the family and friends of **Carl Zielke.** Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

WA: Holy God, protect those who travel, comfort those who are alone, accompany those who celebrate, and make your presence known among those who gather around word and sacrament. Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

WA: Holy God, your Son became incarnate to provide salvation for all. Lead us by the example of the faithful departed as we await the blessed hope of the life to come. Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Hear the prayers of your people, glorious God, for the sake of the one who took on our nature and form to redeem the whole world, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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

(5:00 and 7:30 Service)

"Bethlehem Town"

Good Shepherd Choir

OFFERING PRAYER *(after acolyte presents offering at altar)***Please stand**

A: 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 (chanted in 7:30 service)

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:

Refrain of Angels We Have Heard on High**ELW#289**

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

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 — 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**

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!

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.

Refrain

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*

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.

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.

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.

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.

COMMUNION BLESSING**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

THE CANDLE LIGHTING

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".

CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY *(Please stand as you are able)*

P: Glory to God in the highest,

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

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: 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, accompanied by Brianna Andrews on Flute (5:00) and Jon Kurth on guitar (7:30). Congregation joins in English following German verse)

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 the Lord God, who has called you out of darkness to be servants of light, grant you the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ Child. In the name of Almighty God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

[extinguish the candles]

SENDING HYMN:**“Joy to the World”****ELW#267**

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> |
|--|---|

DISMISSAL (from back of sanctuary)

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Karen Niemeier

~ **Serving During Worship** ~

5:00 pm Service

Pastor	Pastor Miho Yasukawa		
Choir & Chimes Director	Janis Kurth		
Organist & Pianists	Karen Niemeier, Tena Rackow, Marion Fahr		
Ensemble Orchestra:	Wayne Kurth		
Flute	Brianna Andrews		
Acolyte	Kayla Runkle	Assisting Minister	Denny Luke
Lector	Shirley Fox	Worship Assistant	Denny Luke
Communion Ushers	Gene and Vivian Hesselbacher		
Communion Assistants	Shirley Fox, Austin Andrews		
Greeters	Gary and Cynthia Boeke, Donna Gullickson, Dale Gullickson		
Ushers	Paul and Shirley Fox, Gene and Vivian Hesselbacher		

7:30 pm Service

Pastor	Pastor Miho Yasukawa		
Choir & Chimes Director	Janis Kurth		
Organist & Pianists	Karen Niemeier, Tena Rackow, Marion Fahr		
Ensemble Orchestra:	Wayne Kurth		
Guitar	Jon Kurth		
Cantor	Terry Hart		
Acolyte	Hanna Brinker	Assisting Minister	Wayne Kurth
Lector	Marybeth Brinker	Worship Assistant	Wayne Kurth
Communion Ushers	Chris and Angie Brinker		
Communion Assistants	Jay and Michelle Andrews		
Greeters	Sheridan and Marybeth Brinker, Jerry and Beth Martin		
Ushers	Donna Gullickson, Dale Gullickson, Chris and Angie Brinker		

Poinsettias

In memory of Marge Wenzel given by Lee Wenzel

In memory of Ruth Watson and Earl Watson, Virgil Diddens and the Birth of the Baby Jesus given by Curt, Sue Diddens and family

In memory of parents and grandparents given by Karen Niemeier

In memory of Scott Lloyd and Lloyd and Violet Ferris by Mary Lloyd

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

In memory of Norma and Erwin Schafer and Jon's calf Boomer given by Gary, Coralyn and Jonathan Hudik

In memory of Charles Chatfield and Michael Wuchter give by Miho Yasukawa

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

In memory of Seth, Margaret, Lowell Raymer and MaryAnn given by Lisa, Bari and families

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 Lloyd and Virginia Doyle and William Wybourn given by Jan and Steve Wybourn

In memory of Loved Ones given by the Gullicksons

In memory of Troy's Grandparents, Brother and Anthony Decker give by the Keenes



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