

First Sunday of Christmas

December 28, 2025

9 am



**Saint John Lutheran Church
Fairfield, Pennsylvania**

**Rev. Wayne Gallipo, Interim Pastor
Carol Garman, Organist/Music Director**

✠ The First Sunday of Christmas ✠
December 28, 2025
A Service of Lessons, Carols and Communion
St. John Lutheran Church ~ Fairfield, PA

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, Love from the beginning, Word made flesh, Breath of heaven. **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another, trusting in God's endless mercy and love.

~ Silence for reflection.

P: Merciful God, we **confess that we are not perfect. We have said and done things we regret. We have tried to earn your redeeming grace, while denying it to others. We have resisted your call to be your voice in the world. Forgive us, loving God. Give us your righteousness, the strength to put aside our failures, and the courage to try again. Amen.**

P: People of God, hear the good news: Christ the Savior is born! You are loved and forgiven in the name of Jesus, who has come among us. You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved, because God's love is given to you as the most precious gift of all. Rejoice in this love and share it with the world. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Joy to the World

ELW 267

A CHRISTMAS DIALOG

P: Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

C: By day and night he shines for all to see.

P: Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty,

C: That the world may see the justice and richness of God.

P: God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

C: So that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

P: Jesus is the light of the world.

C: Jesus is the light of our lives.

P: Sing to God a new song!

C: A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

PRAYER

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray...O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 63:7-9

⁷ I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.⁸ For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully”, and he became their savior⁹ in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel, but his presence that saved them; in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them, he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

*The Word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God***

HYMN

***O little Town of Bethlehem** (Vs. 1 & 3)*

ELW 279

SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:10-18

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹² saying, “I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”¹³ And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again, “Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested. *The Word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God***

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2:13-23

¹³ Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: ¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**MESSAGE****Pastor Wayne Gallipo**

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

P: It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

C: Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

P: In his light, draw all to the manger,

C: To gather in wonder with the shepherds.

P: In his light, draw all to the manger,

C: To kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

P: In his light, draw all to the manger,

C: To sing for joy with the angels.

P: In the brightness of his life,

C: Cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.

P: It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

C: In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you;

C: And also with you.

RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Emmanuel - God with us...

C: God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - *Spoken*

P: The Lord be with you; **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts; **C: We lift them unto the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God;

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

P: It is right and proper that we should....join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Lord most holy, God of power 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Sung to Away in A Manger)*

Our Father in heaven, all praise to Your name!
Your kingdom among us, Your presence proclaimed!
What You want to happen, grant that it be done
On earth as in heaven, now for everyone.

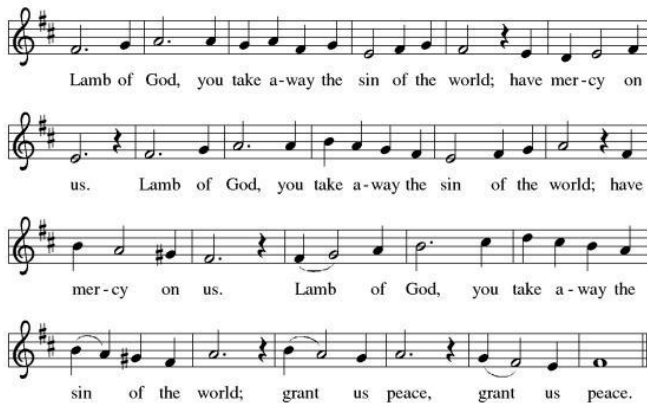
For bread that is needed, provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
Don't bring us to testing more than we can bear,
But save us from evil by Your loving care.

For Yours is the kingdom; o'er all things You reign.
And Yours is the power, all things You maintain.
To You be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.

THE INVITATION

P: Come to God's table of Grace, for all is ready – ALL are welcome.
Come, eat and drink of Emmanuel, the Word made flesh.

LAMB OF GOD



THE DISTRIBUTION *We practice “open communion” at St. John. ALL are invited to come forward as ushered to receive this life-giving sacrament. Those not receiving communion are invited to receive a blessing. As you are given the bread and wine an appropriate response is “Amen.” Please be respectful of this meditative time within our worship.*

COMMUNION HYMNS *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (vs. 1,2)* **ELW 282**
 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing **ELW 270**

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen you now and forever more. **Amen**

BLESSING

P: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

C: Praise God, all creatures here below!

P: You are the shepherds telling the story.

C: We tell it in the streets and across the land.

P: You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

C: We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.

P: You are the angels announcing peace.

C: We live with joy and go now in peace.

P: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *Go Tell it on the Mountain* **ELW 290**

DISMISSAL

P: Christ is born! Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

December 28, 2025 Announcements

Those for Whom We Pray- Linn W. & Family, Jack H., Roy, Bob, Deb B., Mike M., Steve M., Shirley A., Bill, Kelly, Mae, Patty, Dylan, Sam, Martha, Rosie, Ed, John, Craig, Judy, Bob, Charlie, Essie, Jim & Mary Lou, Nancy.

Flowers – The flowers today are given to the Glory of God by The Flower Fund.

Birthdays: Today 28th – Allison Crevier 31st – Terri Bollinger

Happening This Week at St. John

Today – 28 - 9 a.m. Service of Holy Communion; No Sunday School

Monday 29

Tuesday 30

Wednesday 31

Thursday NEW YEAR'S DAY – OFFICE CLOSED

Friday 2

Saturday 3

Attendance: December 21st - 61

	12-28-25	1-4-25
Acolyte	Volunteer	Volunteer
Lector	Linn Wichowski	Barb Booz
Communion Assistant	Uriah Jerrells	Volunteer
Usher	Linn Wichowski	Linn Wichowski
Flower Sponsor	Flower Fund	Flower Fund
Offering Counters	Dave & Barb Booz	Volunteer
Altar Guild	Linn Wichowski	Ruthie Fitzgerald
Bread Sponsor	Linn Wichowski	Volunteer
Bulletin Sponsor	Doug & Susie Kump	Volunteer

*Have a Blessed
New Year!*