

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

December 24, 2025, 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM

St. John's Lutheran Church

***Bulletins are subject to change based on the Pastors' discretion**

A very blessed Christmas to all who have come to worship the Christ Child! This evening's liturgy is adapted from the Special Eucharist from which the word Christmas is derived. It is the Christ Mass, the incarnation of our Lord and Savior in a manger in Bethlehem, in the Word proclaimed, and in our hearts as He accompanies us into the world. May God bless our worship!

Prelude

*What Child is This
March of the Three Kings
Bell Choir*

Announcements

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Christ Candle

The Christmas Proclamation

L: Unto us a child is born. Unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be on his shoulders; and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. O sing unto the Lord a new song; for He has done marvelous things. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.

C: Amen.

Hymn:

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

ELW # 283

Prayer of the Day:

L: 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.

C: Amen.

First Reading: First Reading: Isaiah 9: 2-7

² 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. ³ You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴ 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. ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ 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. Great will be his authority, 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.

Special Music

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

Senior Choir

Second Reading: Titus 2: 11-14

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

Gospel Acclamation

"Alleluia, Lord to Whom Shall We Go"

pg. 151

Gospel: Luke 2: 1-14 [15-20]

Glory to you, O Lord/Praise to you, O Christ.

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ 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 in the guest room. ⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And 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!" [¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and 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, just as it had been told them.]

Message

Pastor Mark Oehlert

The Offering Hymn

I am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

ELW # 271

The Offering Prayer:

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Prayers of the Church: **P:** God of grace...

C: Hear our prayer

The Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

page 112

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.

Communion Distribution *ELW# 276 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*
 ELW #277 Away In A Manger
 ELW # 296 What Child is This?

Post Communion Prayer

P: On this night, O God, you gave us Christ, your Son to save us. As you sent the One foretold, send us now to share the good news with all people. Inspire us to show the wonders of your love, and the joy that fills us, in everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

C: Amen

The Candlelight Ceremony

Lighting of the Candles

When lighting candles, please tip the unlit candle to the flame on the upright lit candle.

Hymn

Silent Night, Holy Night

ELW # 281

Christmas Prayer:

L: Almighty God, empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, who took on our human nature to Light the world with your love. Brighten our weary hearts with peace. Send us out, reflecting the light of your grace, to tell the story of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy

Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Benediction

P: May the light of Christ shine on you with grace and mercy and fill you with hope and joy. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you with endless peace and love this Christmas and always. **C:**

Amen

Closing Hymn:

Joy To The World

ELW # 267

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Swiss Noel

Louis Claude Daquin

Volunteers for Dec 24 Christmas Eve service:

Ushers for December: 4 pm Bill Roe Family; 7 pm Lee & Chris Ellickson Family

Greeters: 4 pm; 7 pm

Readers: 4 pm Linda DeBuhr; 7 pm Linda Halvorson

Comm. Asst: 4 pm Russ & Mary Jo Meyer Family; 7 pm Chris Stuckmon, Vickie Larson, Ron Dahlstrom

Comm. Prep: 4 pm Altar Guild; 7 pm Altar Guild

We are pleased to host Pastor Mark Oehlert, Peosta, IA.

Volunteers for Dec 28 service:

Ushers for December: 8:30 am John Bauercamper, Jens Kallevang, Randy Hesse 10:30 am:

Greeters: 8:30 am Cindy Barness 10:30 am:

Readers: 8:30 am Mary Jackson; 10:30 am Jill Kistler

We are pleased to host Charis Combs-Lay, Oelwein, IA.

Today's **radio broadcast** is merrily made possible by generous funds. Thank you for your generous and continued support of this important outreach ministry.

Join us Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. on **KNEI 103.5 FM** to listen to the service.

Note: When sponsoring a broadcast, you have the opportunity to select a hymn of your choice for that service.

CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTRY: will be held on Christmas Day night at 5:00 pm at the West Paint Creek Synod Church (1351 Elon Dr Waukon, IA 52172). The lessons and carols service will include special music by local musicians and will include a cookies and coffee reception in the newly remodeled church basement. All are encouraged to attend. A free will offering will be taken.

Thank You for sharing your poinsettia with us during this Christmas season. You are welcome to take your poinsettia home following the Christmas Eve service.

Given In Loving Memory of:

My sister Jan Helgeson by Dennis & Linda DeBuhr
Our Loved Ones gone too soon by Steve & Natasha Wilkes & Family
Our Loved Ones by Cindy & Dave Wuebker
Nathan & Julie Bieber by James Bieber & Family
Sue Bieber by James Bieber & Family
Victor & Jean Stuckman by the Stuckman Family
My father Joe by Vickie Larson
Harold & Margaret Halverson by Russ & Mary Jo Meyer & Families
Eric Halverson by Russ & Mary Jo Meyer & Families
Victor & Nora by Ed & Karen Stamper
Irene & A.V. Palmer & Christopher Mirich by Jill, Richard and Evonne Kistler & Family
Our Loved Ones by Jon & Gloria Payne
My sister Janna Seabrooke by Wayne & Nona Sawyer
Bill & Virginia Roe by Bill & Becky Roe Family
Loved Ones by Greg & Ann Hagensick Family
Sherry Henning by Mike & Brandi Neuzil Family
Dean & Barb Russell by Mike & Brandi Neuzil Family
Ruth Palmer & Eric Palmer by Lee & Chris Ellickson Family
Bob & Agnes Anderson and Grandma Palma by the Randy & Lori Hesse Family

Given in Honor of:

Duane, Noah, Jenny, Daren & Dawson by Jane Dietrich
Bev Haas by Anonymous
Thankful for Greg & Marlene Palmer by Lee & Chris Ellickson Family
David & Mary Lou Sorum's 57th wedding anniversary by the Family

Given by:

Chris Engstrom & Irv Fosaaen

