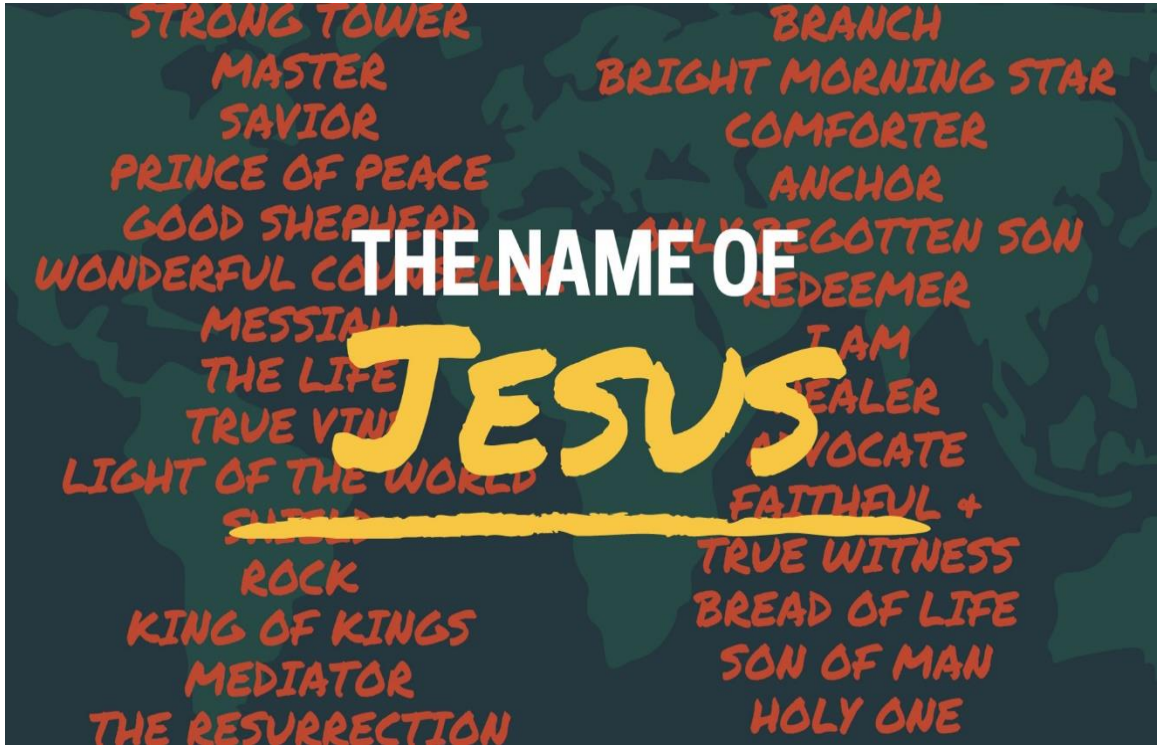


The Lutheran Church of the Covenant
"Reaching Out, Reflecting Christ, Renewing Lives"



Name of Jesus
January 1, 2023



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



We welcome you to worship here at the Lutheran Church of the Covenant! Here are a few notes to make you feel more at home as we praise this God of new life together!

- Bulletins and Communion (wheat or gluten-free wafers, wine or grape juice options) are available to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary.
- Portions marked with * are when we invite you to stand as you are able to do so.
- We encourage you to participate throughout the worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns!
- There will not be a separate time for an offering, so a basket is placed in the back for those who wish to support our local ministry as well as the wider church.
- We will commune from our respective seats, where the presiding minister will invite you to open your respective cups with the Communion elements. We believe this meal is for everyone who wishes to partake, regardless of church affiliation or lack thereof. This tangible gift of God's love is meant for the world to enjoy!

Our Worship Leaders & Staff

Ministers
Presiding Minister
Organist
Lector
Parish Administrator
Custodian

All People
The Rev. Bradley Ross
Robin Crawford
Ted Lockmiller
Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
Vince Besednjak

*The Lutheran Church of the Covenant
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Website: covenantmaplehts.org*

Name of Jesus

From the beginning, through baptism, we are called Christian. We are “Christ-ened” at the font. Bearing Christ’s name, we share the same Father and are invited to address this parent intimately: Abba! And Jesus continues to live as our precious sibling and Lord, leading and walking beside us throughout this life. Today, we pray that the mind of Christ, whose name we bear, would be our own. It is a good way to begin, again, another year. Thanks be to God!

Prelude *Prelude on “Coventry Carol”* (Bliss)

Welcome & Greetings

*Thanksgiving for Baptism

We praise God for the gift of baptism that forever unites us through God’s love with one another, and names us “child of God” forever.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, fountain of living water,
source of mercy, tender and mighty,
you are clothed with majesty and splendor.
Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through water,
satisfying the thirst of all living things,
sustaining life in our communities we call home,
nourishing and delighting us.
We bless you for all the gifts of water surrounding us.
Your love flows through the water of baptism
joined to your life-giving Word:
your well of mercy and cleansing flood,
your sea of deliverance from death into life,
your healing river washing any sin away,

your living water springing up to eternal life.

O God, you are the Ocean, sustaining this earth.

O God, you are the River, saving us from death.

O God, you are the Fountain, granting us health and well-being.

Continue to shower us all with new life.

Fill us with your love.

Clothe us, and all your precious children, with your never-ending grace.

Embolden us to do justice.

Bless us to love mercy.

O God, guide us to walk humbly with you,
whom we thank and praise, through Jesus Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen!

*Gathering Hymn *Once in Royal David's City*

ELW #269

*Greeting

The grace of our newborn Savior, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all! **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise *Good Christian Friends Rejoice*

ELW #288

Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, you blessed your Son with the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our hope and new life. Plant in every heart the never-ending love of the Savior of the whole world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen!**

God commanded Aaron to say these words, known as the Aaronic benediction, in blessing the people of Israel. We too are marked with God's name and God's blessing as we are sent from our assemblies into the world.

²²The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²³Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them,

²⁴The LORD bless you and keep you;

²⁵the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;

²⁶the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

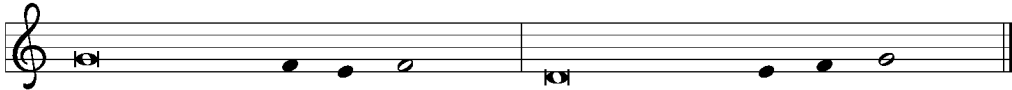
²⁷So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

Word of God, word of new life! **Thanks be to God!**

Psalm

Psalm 8

The bold verses are sung by the congregation using the tone below:



Antiphon: *How majestic is your name in all the earth!* (Ps. 8:1)

¹O | LORD our Lord,
how majestic is your name in | all the earth!—

²**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of in- | fants and children;**

you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe | and avenger.

³When I consider your heavens, the work | of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set | in their courses,

⁴**what are mere mortals that you should be mind- | ful of them,
human beings that you should | care for them?** *Antiphon*

⁵Yet you have made them little less | than divine;
with glory and hon- | or you crown them.

⁶**You have made them rule over the works | of your hands;
you have put all things un- | der their feet:**

⁷all | flocks and cattle,
even the wild beasts | of the field,

**⁸the birds of the air, the fish ¹ of the sea,
and whatever passes along the paths ¹ of the sea.**

⁹O ¹LORD our Lord,
how majestic is your name in ¹ all the earth! *Antiphon*

Second Lesson

Philippians 2:5-11

This early Christian hymn points to Christ's self-emptying obedience on the cross as cause for his exaltation by God and worthy of praise by the entire cosmos.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Word of God, word of new life!

Thanks be to God!

*Gospel Acclamation *Away in a Manger*

ELW #278

*Gospel

Luke 2:15-21

Eight days after his birth, Jesus is circumcised according to Jewish law and given the name announced by the angel before his conception.

The Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord!

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.

²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

This is the holy Gospel of our newborn Savior!

Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *Love Has Come*

ELW# 292

*Nicene Creed

**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.**

*Prayers of Intercession

United with the great cloud of witnesses throughout the ages, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, guide your whole church, including our Covenant family, to proclaim Jesus as our Lord of new life. Fill us with wonder of such good and wondrous news. May we treasure your words, that we reveal your glory to the world with humility and hope. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your name, O God, is majestic in all the earth. You set the moon and stars in their courses. You are mindful of every work of your hand: flocks and cattle, birds and fish, seas and fields. Make us wise stewards of your creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bless the nations with your grace and peace. Inspire and uphold treaties, cease-fires, and international agreements that seek to calm strife between nations. Shield all those who work to protect vulnerable populations from exploitation or danger. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We cry, “Abba! Father!” as we seek your loving care in times of need. Heal those wounded by hurtful words. Console all who are weighed down by depression and anxiety. Nourish any who feel unloved, misunderstood, or rejected. Heal the sick. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Reveal yourself to us in the fullness of time, O God. Give us gratitude for what has been and hope for what is to come. Grace us with your presence during transitions: new jobs or schools, new homes, new diagnoses, or new relationships. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With thanksgiving, we remember all the saints who proclaimed the name of Jesus in life and who now rest in glory. Show us our inheritance as adopted heirs of eternal life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the company of your saints we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your eternal mercy and love; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen!**

*Sharing of the Peace

The peace of our newborn Savior be with you always!
And also with you.

Music Interlude *Angels We Have Heard* (Gerhke)

*Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**What Feast of Love (Verses 1 & 3)*

ELW# 467



1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban - quet come from heav - en?
3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim - son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!

**Thanksgiving at the Table*

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life,
at the birth of time, your word brought light into the world.
In the fullness of time,
you sent your Word, born of Mary,
to shine in our humanity,
making us your precious children forever.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his birth and life among us,
his death and resurrection,
we await his coming again
when all things will be restored to wholeness.

Holy Spirit, bless us and this bread and cup,
that, held and nourished by you,
we may live as disciples proclaiming hope and new life,
shining with the light of the Messiah.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
both now and forever.

Amen!

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

*Invitation to Communion

Glory to God in the highest!
Come to this joyful table of peace.

Thanks be to God!

Communion

Music Interlude *Once in Royal David's City* (Page)

*Prayer after Communion

God our redeemer,
you have fed us at this table
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.
As you have gathered us in joy,
send us forth as messengers of your peace.
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen!**

*Blessing

Grace from God's own heart,
peace from the ✚ Child in the manger,
and strength from the Spirit of life,
be blessings for you today and forever.
Amen!

*Sending Hymn *Angels We Have Heard On High*

ELW #289

*Dismissal

Christ is born! So, go in peace!
Rejoice in our Savior!
Thanks be to God!

Postlude *Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella* (Martin)

Praying Together

... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating: Gayle Agg, Sheena Cameron, Joan Clarke, Gary Edler, Barbara Fossa, Carolyn Frajter, Ken Frajter, Donna Franz, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Clare Hanusz, Alex Hohenstein, Dylan King, Jason Lanese, Sara Mendes, Debbie Morris, Phyllis Nemeth, Gary Smith, Arlene Stoltz, Marie Storms, Tom Susanek, Phyllis Welker, Maud Wright, Wilma Dancy, Bill Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Kim (Novak) Leonhardt, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Bill Wilkens, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family.

General Fund receipts for week ending 12/18/2022: \$1917.

To the glory of God and in loving memory of Phyllis Treichel, memorials were given by: Phillip & Lynda Duncan, Altar Guild and Peggy Smith



FAREWELL AND GODSPEED

It is with saddened hearts that we remind you our beloved organist, Robin Crawford, will be retiring following the worship on January 29. For years, she has not only been our musical leader, but for the Lutheran Church of the Master as well. And so, the Sunday before, January 22, we will join our siblings in Christ for

a joint-worship at Master (860 Northfield Rd., Bedford) at 10am, with a luncheon to follow the worship, so that we may best honor our talented and gifted sister in Christ. Although we will miss her dearly, we wish her and John our deepest blessings of relaxation and new life. From all of us at the Lutheran Church of the Covenant, we thank you, Robin!

Reminder: Worship Change for Sunday, January 22

Time: 10am

Place: Lutheran Church of the Master

There will not be a worship at Covenant this day!

From our worship resource, Sundays & Seasons:

What's in a Name?

All names are powerful, but Jesus' name is the most powerful of all. We use names as a concise way to convey complex meanings: being able to call someone by name means you know something important about that person, and being called by name means you are known. On this day we celebrate the privilege and the power of calling God by name, as well as how deeply we know God and are known by God, through Jesus.

Our texts for today affirm the power of the name we're given at baptism: child of God. The name of God is described in active terms: being blessed and claimed in the name of God *does* something to us. It ennobles and empowers us in ways we do not deserve and did nothing to earn (Ps. 8, Num. 6:27). The name of Jesus itself is described as being a powerful actor in our world and in our lives: "at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:10-11).

Our gospel reading from Luke finds the holy family in the midst of the ongoing extraordinary events of Jesus' birth. When the shepherds leave and the angels return to heaven, we can see a shift toward the ordinary. Luke records that Mary and Joseph made sure that Jesus went through the usual rites of passage for a Jewish boy; years pass between these milestones, unrecorded. But in his ordinary, everyday life, Jesus carried an extraordinary name. We carry the name of Jesus and the mark of his cross not only in extraordinary times, but in our ordinary, everyday lives. It's a name that is active and powerful in us and through us each day.

Name of Jesus

For the earliest Christians, Sunday, the day of the resurrection, was both the first day of the week and the eighth day, a new time, a day somehow outside of normal time. The practice of celebrating a church festival for a full eight days goes back to the sixth century. In the past, this eighth day of Christmas commemorated also Jesus' circumcision, his entry into observant Judaism. Since this eighth day is January 1, the beginning of the secular calendar, an emphasis on the name of Jesus is appropriate: we begin another year in Jesus' name, under his name, through his name.

Names of Jesus

D C P R I N C E O F P E A C E L Z
 R L T S Z U U O F J L M C I K I S
 E O L O D Q M F J R O M W E I O S
 H R K N M M M Y E D R X G F N N E
 P D V O V F W M B R D C Q I G O N
 E O Z F W L E I K O O X P L O F S
 H F F T O E J C X L F P N F F J U
 S A Y H D U V H Z E L C M O K U O
 D L S E D N K R U L O S E D I D E
 O L R M I A D I D P R Y S A N A T
 O D R O X M H S O H D B S E G H H
 G R I S K M H T G C S B I R S R G
 Q N W T I I G V F U N I A B A V I
 E N U H C G O H O L Y C H I L D R
 D R O I V A S N N R K T Z P H C R
 K J G G D O G F O B M A L I F Q U
 O G H H Y Y O V S Q Y T Q B X V O

Son of the Most High
 Holy Child
 Lion of Judah
 Messiah
 Good Shepherd
 Christ

Our Righteousness
 Lord of Lords
 Redeemer
 Lord of All
 Lamb of God
 Savior

Son of God
 Bread of Life
 Immanuel
 Prince of Peace
 King of Kings
 Lord