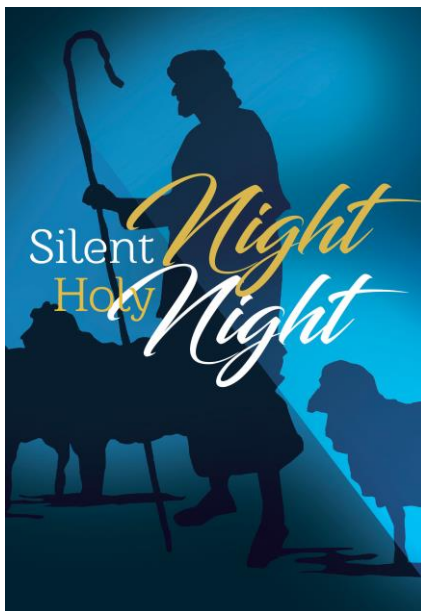


The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

An ELCA, Reconciling in Christ, Rejoicing Spirits, and handicap friendly congregation

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Christmas Eve
December 24, 2024
10:00 pm

The Holy Spirit Empowers Us for Ministry in Daily Life

Gathered by God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we invite and welcome all people to join us on our journey
to become more faithful ministers of Jesus Christ
in our homes, our communities, and the world.

We welcome all who worship with us today.

Visitors are invited to sign the guest register located in the lobby.
If you are interested in joining our family of faith,
please talk with one of our Pastors or call the church office.

Children are welcome and celebrated!

The “Children’s Ministry” table and basket in the lobby
contains a variety of items for children’s use during worship.
Stop by to borrow a book or pick up some coloring sheets and crayons.

Please silence all communication devices.

Our services are live streamed and recorded. In-person attendance implies consent
to be included in the live streamed and recorded worship service.

HOLY COMMUNION

All who believe in the presence of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion are welcome to receive the Sacrament. To facilitate flow, the ushers invite people to come forward starting with the back rows and working forward. You should come forward using the center aisle to receive the elements in a continuous style from pastor and worship assistant. Afterward you may choose to kneel or stand at the altar rail for a brief moment of prayer or return to your seat up the side aisle, depositing your empty cup in the receptacle on your way. Gluten free wafers are available. Our wine is grape juice so that all may freely receive.

Children may receive the sacrament if they have completed instruction with a pastor.

Children who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. Communion kits are available at the usher stands for those who prefer to remain in their seats, and they will be communed along with our Zoom worshippers at the beginning of distribution.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Gathering Music

In dulci jubilo

J. S. Bach

Carol Sing

Joy to the World

ELW 267

Verse 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.**

Verse 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.**

○ Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

Verse 1:

**○ come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
○ come ye, ○ come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels:**

Refrain

**○ come, let us adore him, ○ come, let us adore him,
○ come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

Verse 4:

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain***

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

ELW 282

Verse 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.**

Verse 4:

**For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling 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.**

Away in a Manger

ELW 277

Verse 1:

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

Verse 3:

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279

Verse 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.**

Verse 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!**

Gathering Music

Veni, Come, O Lord
Adult Choir

Wagner

Who Comes This Night
Jon Satrom, soloist

Stevens/Grusin

Larry Killingsworth, guitar; Megan McCormick, flute

Welcome and Announcements

We rise in body or spirit.

Proclamation of the Birth of Christ

A Reading from Isaiah 9.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them has light shined.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests on his shoulders; and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

We come with the angels to proclaim:
Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace.

We come in wonder and awe.
With Mary and Joseph, we are amazed a baby boy is born to save us.

Today, Christ is born for you!
O come let us adore him, Christ the newborn king!



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed;
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

Greeting

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

Angel's Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High

Verse 1:

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

Refrain: **Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Verse 3:

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.** Refrain

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.
Loving God, this is a holy night.
We come longing to hear your story of new life and hope.
Speak your words of truth and power.
May the gift of your love be born anew among us.
Cast out our fears, that we may rejoice in your power and your goodness.
Amen

The assembly is seated.

Musical Offering

The Child Lay in the Cloth and Hay
Adult Choir

Schalk

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching and song.

Reading - Titus 2:11-14

Translation: NRSV-UE

A reading from Titus.

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

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

We rise in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.

The Good News from Luke, the 2nd chapter.

Open our hearts, Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

All went to their own towns to be registered.

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.

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

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.

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them,

and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

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:

to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,

who is the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child

wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

And suddenly there was with the angel

a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

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.”

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
be born in us today!

The assembly is seated.

Sermon

Pr. Shari Duminy

We rise in body or spirit.

Sermon Carol

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW 270

Verse 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!"**

Verse 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**

Christmas Affirmation

I believe in God whose light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never smother it.

I believe that on a night like this night in Bethlehem
there was born a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.

I believe in the Word who has become incarnate, our very flesh and blood,
yet full of grace and truth.

I believe in the blessed appearing of the salvation of our God,
that is for the happiness of all people.

I believe in his name as Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of peace;
**Of the increase of his rule and of his unique peace, there will be no end.
The zeal of the God of hosts will do this.
This I surely believe!**

Prayers of the People

Invitation to prayer:

Filled with good news of great joy,
let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

After each petition:

God of miracle and manger
receive our prayer.

Pastor's closing prayer:

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all,
through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

Peace

The angels sang to shepherds:

“Glory to God in the highest heavens and peace to God’s people on earth.”

Let us greet one another with this heaven-sent peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace by saying,
“Peace be with you.”*

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

During the Musical Offering, the gifts will be brought forward. You may remain seated. If you wish you may leave your offering in the additional offering plates located on the tables in the back of the sanctuary as you leave.

Musical Offering

The Work of Christmas
Adult Choir

Forrest

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

We offer these gifts to you, Holy God,
rejoicing that your grace has appeared in Jesus Christ.

May your love for all people, and your zeal for justice and peace,
transform this offering into Christ's presence this Christmas season and always.

Amen

We rise in body or spirit.

Great Thanksgiving

This is the feast of the Christmas Child –
a place where heaven and earth coincide,
and eternity once more condenses into time
as God is seen and known
in the simple and the small,
in story and song,
and in bread and wine.

So come –
whether you are drawn by joy or driven by need,
whether you walk with confident step, or stumble on faltering feet,
whether you understand the meaning, or can only wonder at the mystery –
come and gaze on the face of God
for all are welcome in the stable.

May the God of holy nights be with you!

And also with you.

People of God, this is the night God transformed our lives.

This is the night we offer our hearts to God.

Children of Bethlehem, lift your voices in joy to God.

Our voices join with all who celebrate the Birth this night.

The story of the Christmas Child

is the story of Jesus –

joyfully accepting the restriction of flesh and entering the constraint of time

to show how life and love

fully lived and freely offered

transcend their limitations:

It is the story of Jesus –

seated at a table with his friends breaking bread

and pouring wine

to show how life and love

fully lived and freely offered

change the world.

It is the story of Jesus –

accepting a kiss and carrying a cross

to show how life and love

fully lived and freely shared

count no cost.

It is the story of Jesus –

confined in a tomb but rising with the dawn

to show how life and love

fully lived and freely shared

defy and defeat even death.

It is the story of Emmanuel –

God, now and always

with us and for us.

Words of Institution

Word in Meal

As we celebrate the birth of that grace which is ours, as we sing carols of the Babe in the manger, we also speak of that mystery we call faith:

**Christ was born, that we might have life with you.
Christ came, that we might find our way back to you.
Christ became one of us, so we might become more like him.**

So, as we take this bread and wine –
in remembrance of that life and love –
we give thanks for the healing and hope
which spring from the coming, living, dying and rising
of the Christmas Child.

And as we follow the example of Jesus send down your Holy Spirit on us,
and on these gifts of bread and wine, that the story of the Christmas Child –
of life fully lived and freely shared – may continue on in us and through us,
until the world is transformed

Lord's Prayer

God in Community, Holy in One,
touch us once again with your wonder, even as we pray, saying:

**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 the table

Emmanuel who came to us in the Christmas Child,
and who comes to us still through the living,
loving and sharing of others, offers these signs of his Presence.

The assembly is seated.

Distribution of communion

The body of Christ given for you.
The blood of Christ shed for you.

Communion Carol

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

ELW 276

Verse 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!**

Verse 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 Carol

Love Has Come

ELW 292

Verse 1:

**Love has come—a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**

Verse 2:

**Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.**

Verse 3:

**Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!**

We rise in body or spirit.

Prayer after communion

Let us pray.

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

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*Please light your individual candles at this time by tilting unlit candle into lit candle.
After all have received the light, the Gospel is read.*

Gospel – John 1:1-14

A reading from John.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Carol

Silent Night, Holy Night!

ELW 281

Larry Killingsworth, guitar

**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.**

Verse 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.**

Verse 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!**

Verse 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.**

Blessing

The starlight and song, story and supper,
which called us home now compel us to go out.

**May we who have knelt at the manger
always have room to hold within ourselves
the Christmas Child.**

May we who have gazed on the face of God
learn to live fully, and to share freely all that we have and are.
So may Emmanuel – God with us and for us –
be once again incarnated in the world.

Please extinguish candles & hold them upright until wax dries.

Dismissal

We have celebrated this wonderful gift of God this day.
As we go, may we share the good news with all we meet!
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Glory to God in the highest!

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED in observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays Wednesday December 25, Thursday December 26, and Friday December 27 and will be closed on January 1, 2025.

Sunday, December 29, 2024
A Service of Lessons and Carols

10:00 AM - one worship service in person or on Zoom
(No Family Service, Sunday School, Catechism or Nursery Care)
11:00 AM – Hot breakfast in the Fellowship Center

YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS

All contributions that you wish to have applied to 2024 must be in the church office **no later than Monday, December 30th at noon**. One-time **electronic contributions** should be entered by 12/26 to allow for processing time (1-3 business days) for it to appear on your 2024 statement. If you are mailing your donations, please mail them in enough time to arrive in the church office by the cutoff date and time. Any contributions that are brought to church after 12/30 will be applied to 2025. Please contact [Terri Hinderliter](#) or call the church office if you have any questions.



If you are not receiving our emailed weekly Holy Happenings, or if you would like to receive our weekly Holy Happenings by mail, please call the church office. If your address, phone number or email address has changed, please let the office know. We would love to stay connected with you.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

will be held Sunday, February 9, 2025.

Please plan to attend this meeting as we consider the budget for 2025, elect members to the Congregation Council and Synod Assembly Delegates and hear updates on our mission and ministries.

Please join in supporting our church's ministries using your preferred method of giving:



venmo

- Enroll in our on-line giving program, Simply Giving (recommended);
- Mail your offering check to the church;
- Text your offering to 610-981-1312;
- Download our mobile app for recurring or one-time gifts;
- Establish automatic contributions to the church using your bank's bill pay service.

Additional information is located in the Stewardship section of the church's website at: lchsemmaus.org.

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WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Shari Duminy, Senior Pastor
Pastor Tami K. Reichley, Associate Pastor
Pastor Cindy Camp, Associate Pastor
Deacon Melanie Werley, Director of Liturgy
Karin Kahler, Director, Faith Formation for Children
Nancy Pfeffer, Interim Choir Director

WORSHIP HELPERS

Assisting Minister

Deb Smith

Reader

Rebecca Cachiguango

Communion Assistants

Angie Niland, Tom Bradley

Greeter

Marian Harrison

Production/Technology Team

Al Bauernschmidt, Chuck Coe, Glenn Hinderliter, Jeff Gross, Eric Kahler,
Craig Kauffman, Bill Keane, Paige Mathieu, Tom Moessner, Bob Neitz, Bill Newill,
Kristen Newill, Carol Osenbach, John Osenbach, Chris Pirrotta, Ev Reggie,
Diana Sorrentino, Bob Stevens, and Jimmy Lee Werley

Altar Care

Cindy Clark, Terri Hinderliter, Carol Osenbach, Barb Roba, Deb Stevens,
Lynda Swartz, Julie Timmcke, Jennifer Wetzel