

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
7:30 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, 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

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!**

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.**

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 2:

**For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!**

Verse 1:

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

Verse 3:

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

Gathering Music

Who Comes This Night?
Lisa Walton, Eric Kahler

Stevens/Grusin

Welcome and Announcements

We rise on body or spirit.

Christmas Dialog

The night was dark.

A baby lay in a manger.

The night was still.

Angels sang to shepherds.

The night was expectant.

God's glory shone brightly.

On this holy night,

let us rejoice in the gift of love.

Gathering Carol

O, Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW Carol 284

Verse 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!**

Verse 3:

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God in the highest: Refrain

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

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.

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.

Holy One, open our hearts to receive the true gift of Christmas.

May the stillness of your peace wash over us.

May we encounter hope born anew.

We are here, waiting for you, ready to receive your gift of love.

Be with us now, as we come and adore the newborn child.

Amen

The assembly is seated.

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 on body or spirit to welcome the gospel.

Solo is sung while the light is distributed.

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.

Candle Lighting

Night of Silence
Eric Kahler, soloist

W&P 101

Gospel Carol

Silent Night, Holy Night

ELW 281

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!**

Gospel – Luke 2:1-20

Translation: NRSV-UE

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!

Gospel Carol

Silent Night, Holy Night

ELW 281

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.**

Please extinguish candles & hold them upright until wax dries.

The assembly is seated.

Sermon

Pr. Shari Duminy

We rise on body or spirit.

Carol

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW Hymn 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 the 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

Were You There on That Christmas Night?
Lisa Walton, soloist

Sleeth

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

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to all people on earth!

We give you thanks and praise, O God, for the promise of your saving love to all. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The chains of the oppressed are broken. For a child has been born for us – Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to all people on earth!

We give you thanks and praise for Jesus Christ, born to Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. As the angels proclaimed to the shepherds, Jesus is good news of great joy for all people – a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

Words of Institution

Word in Meal

We treasure these things and ponder them in our hearts as we share this holy meal in Jesus' name.

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to all people on earth!

We give you thanks and praise for the Holy Spirit, poured out for us in this heavenly banquet. The bread we take is a sharing in Christ's body.
The cup we bless is a sharing in Jesus' blood.
Fill us with faith, like your servant Mary.
Nourish us with hope, like the prophets of old.
Bless us with love, like adoring magi.
And send us forth with joy, like the shepherds,
sharing the good news we have received.

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to all people on earth!

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

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

The assembly is seated.

Distribution of communion

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

Communion Carol

Angels from the Realms of Glory

ELW 275

Verse 1:

**Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

Verse 2:

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

Verse 3:

**Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

Verse 4:

**All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

Communion Carol

Love Has Come

ELW 292



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Communion Carol

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 2:

**Still through the cloven skies they come
 with peaceful wings unfurled,
 and still their heav'nly music floats
 o'er all the weary world.**

**Above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.**

Verse 3:

**And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road
and 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.**

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.

Blessing

To you this night is born a savior who is Christ the Lord.
May the love of the Christ Child embrace you;
the joy of the Christ Child fill your heart.
May the peace of the Christ Child give you rest,
and the hope of the Christ Child guide you into the year ahead.
Amen

Sending Carol

Joy to the World

ELW Hymn 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 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.**

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.**

Dismissal

Joy to the world, the Lord has come!
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!

Sending Music

Divinum Mysterium

Rawsthorne

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

Craig Scott

Reader

Alyssa P.

Communion Assistants

Carol Walrod, Don Walrod

Usher

Brenda Truhe

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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

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.

