



ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

OUR MISSION:

TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL
TO MAKE DISCIPLES
TO EMBODY CHRIST'S LOVE

INTRODUCTION

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person.

Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us.

Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine.

Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

Thanks be to God!



JANUARY 4, 2026
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP 9:00 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15AM
WORSHIP SERVICE & YOUTUBE AT 10:00 AM



CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST

A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT



Attendance on Sunday December 28th was **73** (includes youtube viewers).

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

10:00AM

JANUARY 4, 2026

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dale Sherrill

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, **☩** one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace. **C: Amen.**
P: Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin. (silence for reflection) Reconciling God,
C: we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.
P: God's grace upon grace flows over you. **☩ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad! C: Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

vs. 1, 3

ELW #283

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

WORD

P: Let us hear the good news that comes to us this season and respond with hearts and voices filled with wonder, joy, and praise.

THE FIRST LESSON

Matthew 1:18-23

The Angel tells Joseph of Mary's conception, and who the child will be.

CAROL

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

vs. 1, 2

ELW #275

THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:1-5

Joseph and Mary journey to Bethlehem from which shall come the promised ruler of Israel.

CAROL

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

vs. 1, 2

ELW #279

THE THIRD LESSON

Luke 2:6-7

The long-awaited child is born.

CAROL

"Away in a Manger"

ELW #277

THE FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-14

The angel tells of good news of great joy. The heavens resound with praise.

CAROL

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

vs. 1, 2

ELW #270

THE FIFTH LESSON	Luke 2:15-16 <i>Everything on this night is just as it had been told by the angels.</i>	CAROL "Silent Night, Holy Night"	vs. 1,2,3	ELW #281
THE SIXTH LESSON	Luke 2:17– 19 <i>With the promise fulfilled others are told of the good news.</i>	CAROL "Go Tell It on the Mountain"	vs.1	ELW #290
THE SEVENTH LESSON	Luke 2:20 <i>Hearts and minds filled with the good news break forth in praise.</i>	CAROL "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"	vs. 1	ELW #288
THE EIGHTH LESSON	Matthew 2:1-2, 9b-11 <i>Those who come to him find joy in the King of Kings.</i>	CAROL "Joy to the World"	vs. 1,2	ELW #267
THE NINTH LESSON	John 1:1-14 <i>In Him, the Word of God, is light for all to receive, believe in His name, to become children of God.</i>	CAROL "What Child Is This?"	vs. 1,2	ELW #296
INTERCESSORY PRAYER: A: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.... Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.				
THE OFFERING AND RESPONSE	"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"		vs. 1	ELW #282
OFFERTORY 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				
THE LORD'S PRAYER	C: Our Father, who art in Heaven....			ELW p. 134
<u>SENDING</u>				
THE BLESSING	P: The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, ☩ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy. Together let us proclaim our mission: to proclaim the Gospel, to make Disciples and to embody Christ's Love. C: Amen.			
CAROL	"Angels We Have Heard on High"		v. 1,3	ELW #289
DISMISSAL	P: Glory to God in the highest! C: And peace to God's people on earth! P: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace. C: Thanks be to God.			
POSTLUDE				

MATTHEW 1:18-23 (LESSON 1)

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

LUKE 2:1-5 (LESSON 2)

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So, Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem, of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

LUKE 2:6-7 (LESSON 3)

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in clothes and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

LUKE 2: 8-14 (LESSON 4)

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

LUKE 2: 15-16 (LESSON 5)

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the manger.

LUKE 2:17-19 (LESSON 6)

When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

LUKE 2: 20 (LESSON 7)

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

MATTHEW 2:1-2, 9-11 (LESSON 8)

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

JOHN 1:1-14 (LESSON 9)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Assisting in Worship

Presiding: Dale Sherrill
Organist: Emily Schuttenberg
Lay Readers: Carol Schaefer
Acolyte:
Communion Assistants:

Ushers: Deb Crawford
Crucifer:
Assisting Minister: Carol Schaefer
Greeters:
Council: