



ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

OUR MISSION:

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

Introduction

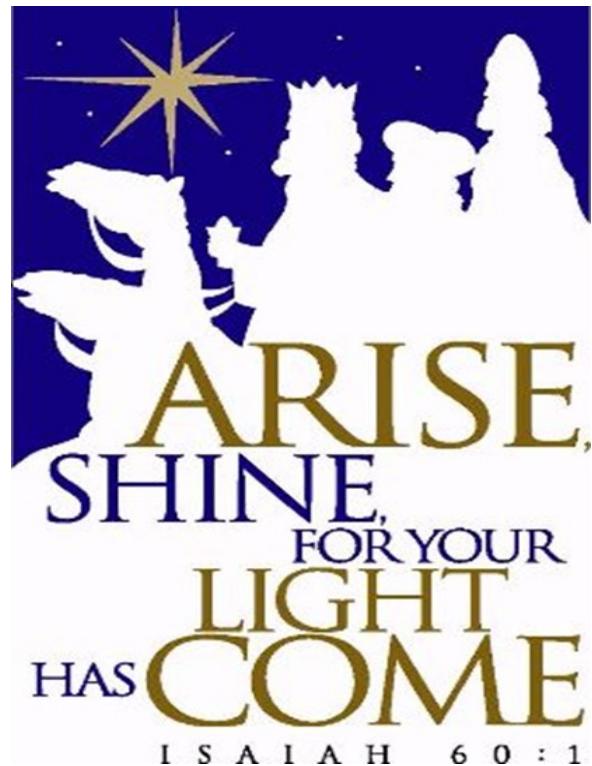
In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice.

Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds.

Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

Thanks be to God!

**The Nativity of our Lord
December 24, 2025 at 8:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight
A Service of Word and Sacrament**



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

8:00 p.m.

December 24, 2025

*Please stand if able

Please turn off all electronic devices

Symbols: P: Pastor, A: Assisting Minister, C: Congregation

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

We welcome all to this celebration of Christ's birth into the world and in our hearts!

Please join us for worship and service throughout the year.

GATHERING

On this long winter evening, we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. The prophet Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the Prince of Peace is born among us. God comes to us as fully divine and fully human so that we may bask in and be bearers of divine light to all the world.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Quentin Surace

PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES BY ACOLYTES

***PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST**

P: Unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image. Several thousand years after the flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant. Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt. Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as king; in the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel. In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome. The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; the whole world being at peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, and nine months having passed since his conception, was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary. This evening is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (as we sing the Gathering Hymn)

***GATHERING HYMN**

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

ELW #270

***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

P: Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: 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 only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

The congregation is seated.

WORD

FIRST and SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7 & Psalm 96

Kermit Nash

A: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

The congregation remains seated.

HYMN

“Away In A Manger”

ELW # 278

THIRD LESSON

Titus 2:11-14

Kermit Nash

A: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

The congregation stands.

***HYMN**

“The First Noel”

vs.1-2

ELW #300

***THE GOSPEL**

Pastor Quentin Surace

Gospel Intro and Response

P: The HOLY GOSPEL according to St. Luke the 2nd Chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1-14

Pastor Quentin Surace

Gospel Response

P: The GOSPEL of the Lord. **C. Praise to you, O Christ.**

***HYMN**

“The First Noel”

vs. 3, 4, 5

ELW #300

The congregation is seated.

THE SERMON

Pastor Quentin Surace

HYMN OF THE DAY

“God Rest You Merry Gentlemen”

vs. 1-2, 3 & 5

CCLI #39441

***NICENE CREED**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: Empowered by the news of Christ’s birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need. **A brief silence.** Gathering God, Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

P: With the joy of Christ’s birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your Boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **C: Amen.**

MEAL

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Mary Did You Know?”

Tiffany Caudill & Carol Schaefer

The congregation is seated.

***PRESENTATION OF GIFTS**

***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 GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor Quentin Surace

***THE PROPER DIALOGUE**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.***THE PROPER PREFACE FOR CHRISTMAS**

P: 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.

***SANCTUS**

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***EUCARISTIC PRAYER III (LEFT COLUMN ONLY)**

ELW p.110

THE LORD'S PRAYER*INVITATION TO COMMUNION****COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION A Note on our Communion Practices**

We welcome all who commune in their home congregations to the Lord's Table believing that Christ is present in and through the elements and we receive them for the forgiveness of sin. An usher will direct you to the center aisle for you to come to the front to receive communion. Communion is by prepackaged elements that you will receive from the pastor and assistant. You will return to your seats by the outer aisle and then are invited to take the elements. If you are not able to come forward, please notify an usher by raising your hand, or by standing, and communion will be brought to you. After receiving the elements, all who wish, may go to the altar for prayer. You may also come forward for a blessing.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN**"O Holy Night"****Emily Schuttenberg*****POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

C: Amen.

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, **+** bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

C: Amen.

The congregation is seated.

***CANDLE LIGHTING**

During the CANDLE LIGHTING, ushers will light the candles of those nearest the center aisle. Please pass on the light by holding your burning candle UPRIGHT allowing the next person to light his/hers from yours.

As candles are being lit, we will hum the melody. When all candles are lit, we begin singing "Silent Night" and raise candles according to the instructions throughout the song.

HYMN*"Silent Night, Holy Night"****ELW #281**

After Verse 1 (CANDLES ARE RAISED)

After Verse 2 (CANDLES ARE LOWERED)

After Verse 3 (CANDLES ARE EXTINGUISHED)

READING OF JOHN 1:1-14*Pastor Quentin Surace****SENDING*****BENEDICTION**

P: May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life. C: Amen.

P: May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength. C: Amen.

P: May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world. C: Amen.

P: And the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Together let us proclaim our mission:

C: To proclaim the Gospel. To make disciples. To embody God's love. Amen.

SENDING HYMN*"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!"****ELW #385*****DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly. C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Isaiah 9:2-7

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. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. His authority shall grow continually, 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.

Psalm 96

O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples. For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts. Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth. Say among the nations, "The LORD is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity." Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

Titus 2:11-14

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.

Luke 2:1-20

In those days, a decree went out from Emperor 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 for them in the inn. In that 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!"

Assisting in Worship

Preaching: Pastor Quentin Surace
Announcements: Pastor Quentin Surace
Lay Reader: Kermit Nash
Crucifer:
Assisting Minister: Carol Schaefer

Acolytes:
Ushers:
Greeter: Linda Hewitt
Communion:



Mandy Groce '14

ministry-to-children.com

Special donations given to St. Mark's Preschool:

~In memory of Melanie Stewart Cranford by Jim and Marlene Stewart

She will not grow elderly, as we that are left behind. Age shall not weary her nor the years bend her.

At the going down of the sun and in its return in the morning we always remember our dear daughter

Melanie Stewart Cranford (1973-2023).

~In honor of Hilka Cox and in memory of Ron Cox by David Cox



The Poinsettias are Given to the Glory of God

In Honor of

Jeff Arndt by Linda Hewitt
Johnny Arndt by Linda Hewitt
Libby Brown (Mother) by Susan Williams
Marcheta Campbell by Cheryl Brown
Aaron & Jennifer Carpenter & Family by Tim & Judy Carpenter
Ashley & Sherri Carpenter & Family by Tim & Judy Carpenter
Tim & Judy Carpenter by Aaron & Jenn Carpenter
Quentin Caudill by Jean Cloninger
Marlene Epps by Terry & Tamarah Hefner
All of our Family by Terry & Tamarah Hefner
Carolyn Sherrill by Randy Sherrill
Wesley Shook & Christopher Thomas by Patty Little
Ted & Janice Sigmon by Marcheta Campell
St. Mark's Gifts from the Heart Participants & Volunteers by Ken & Nobia Summer
St. Mark's Lutheran Church by Quentin & Raye Surace
Our Family—Sara, Travis, Allison & Jessica Williams by Tony & Susan Williams
Tony Williams (Husband) by Susan Williams

In memory of

Eula Albert (Grandmama) by Cheryl Brown
Maxine Amos (my dear friend) by Tamarah Hefner
Gary Arndt by Denise Arndt
Dorothy Austin by Patricia Walling
Kyle Austin by Patricia Walling
Ed Brown (Daddy) by Cheryl Brown
Harley Brown by Libby Brown & Family
Harley Brown (Father) by Susan Williams
Helen Brown (Moma) by Cheryl Brown
Jim & Betty Carpenter by Tim & Judy Carpenter
Robert & Cora Belle Carpenter by Ken & Dotty Isenhour
Glenn Cloninger Jr by Jean Cloninger
Jerry Craig (my Husband) by Judy Craig
Jamon Deal (our Son) by Steve & Kay Deal
Clyde & Shirley Fisher by Denise Arndt
McDonald & Thelma Ford by Nicky & Evelyn Setzer
Rachel & Glenn Heavner by Patty Little
Celia Hollar by Elaine Simmons
Locke & Elizabeth Isenhour by Ken & Dotty Isenhour
George & Jannie Kenniston by Tim & Deborah Sherrill
Gene & Mabel Medlin by Tim & Judy Carpenter
George & Josephine Setzer by Nicky & Evelyn Setzer
Josephine & George Setzer Sr by George Setzer Jr
Joyce Setzer by George Setzer Jr
J. B. Sherrill by Randy Sherrill
J. B. Sherrill by Tim & Deborah Sherrill
Clyde & Rena Sigmon by Marcheta Campbell
Coyte & Macie Sigmon by Marcheta Campbell

