



**CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY WORSHIP  
DECEMBER 24, 2023 at 4:00 P.M.  
ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Rev. Monte Peterson, Pastor  
Heather May, Youth & Family Minister  
Carol Peterson, Music Director  
Becky Cunningham, Office Manager

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, gay, filthy rich, or dirt poor. We welcome you if you can sing like Andrea Bocelli or if, like our pastor, you struggle to carry a tune. You're welcome here if you're "just browsing," just woke up, or just got out of jail.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, or junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems or if you don't like "organized religion." Sometimes we don't like it either, and we're not always very organized!

We welcome those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or came because grandma is in town and wanted to go to church.

We welcome you if you could use a prayer right now, if you had religion shoved down your throat as a kid, or if you got lost in traffic and wound up here by mistake. Our welcome won't be perfect, because we're not perfect, but we believe that Jesus loves and welcomes all, so we try to do that too. We're glad you're here, and we hope you experience God's love tonight.

*Members of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, in response to Christ's love,  
Reach out in service to each other, the community, and the world.*



**PRELUDE**

*“Do You Hear What I Hear”  
“Go, Tell it on the Mountain”*

*Gloria Shayne and Noel Regna  
Spiritual, arr. John W. Work, Jr.*

**WELCOME**

*Pastor Monte*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*P: Tonight, we are excited!*

**C: O come, let us adore Him!**

*P: Tonight, we are expectant!*

**C: O come, let us adore Him!**

*P: Tonight, we are joyful!*

**C: O come, let us adore Him!**

*P: Unto us, a child is born, unto us a son is given.*

**C: O come, let us adore Him!**

*P: And the government shall be upon His shoulders. And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

**C: O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

**CONGREGATIONAL CAROL**

*“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

*#283, all verses*

**GREETING**

*P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God sent from heaven above, be with you all.*

**C: And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*P: God of love,*

**C: Just as you were born in Bethlehem so very long ago, be born in our hearts today. And help us see you in our families, our neighbors, and even our enemies. Through your son Jesus Christ, in whom we pray and we live, Amen.**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING:**

**CANDLE LITURGY**

**SONG**

*“Love Has Come”*

*#292, Verse 1*

**CHRISTMAS GOSPEL, PART 1** *Luke 2:1-7*  
**ANTHEM** *"Child of the Poor"* *Scott Soper & William Dix*  
**CHRISTMAS GOSPEL, PART 2** *Luke 2:18-14*  
**CAROL** *"Angels We Have Heard on High"* *#289 All Verses*  
**CHRISTMAS GOSPEL, PART 3** *Luke 2:15-20*  
**CAROL** *"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"* *#270 All Verses*

**SERMON** *Pastor Monte*

**OFFERING** *Please fill out the Pew Pads as they are passed by the worshipers at the far end of each pew. As you pass the pad back, please note those seated around you and greet them after the service.*

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** *"Hey Mary"* *Malcolm & Sam Gordon*  
*Congregation join in last verse*

*Hey people there's an angel in your house.  
Said, listen have I got some news for you.  
You seem to think you're nothing much but  
heaven's coming close enough to touch yeah,  
Hey people, God is coming here through you.*

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

*P: God of mercy,*      **C: Hear our prayer.**

## **PEACE**

*P: The peace of the Lord be with you always*      **C: And also with you**

*Please greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and the words, "Peace be with you."*

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**DISTRIBUTION MUSIC** *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"* *#279, all verses*  
*"O Holy Night" – Matt Peterson, vocal solo*  
*"A Hallelujah Christmas"* *L. Cohen and Cloverton*

## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

*P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

**C: Amen.**

*P: God our redeemer,*

**C: 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.**

## **LIGHTING OF CANDLES**

**Reading:**

*John 1:1-5*

**Congregational Carol:**

*“Silent Night”*

*#281 All Verses*

*You are invited to hold up your candle on Verse 3*

## **BENEDICTION**

**CAROL**

*“Joy to the World”*

*#267, verses 1,2 and 4*

**THE DISMISSAL**

*“The Work of Christmas”*

*Poem by Howard Thurman*

*P: When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,*

**C: when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,**

*P: the work of Christmas begins:*

**C: to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,**

*P: to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,*

**C: to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among the people,**

**All: to make music in the heart. Amen.**

Candles for the **ETERNAL LIGHT** are given by **Pat Erdmann** to wish everyone a joyous Christmas.

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**CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP IN PERSON & ONLINE 10:00 A.M. TOMORROW**

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All **CONTRIBUTIONS** to be credited to your 2023 giving statement, **that are mailed in**, must be received in the church office by Thursday, December 28. Contributions will be still accepted in the offering basket on Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.

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The **POINSETTIA PLANTS** providing additional beauty to the chancel are given to the glory of God by:

- + *Jim Carlsen, in loving memory of his son, James J. Carlsen, who would have been 43 on December 7<sup>th</sup>.*
- + *Dave and Vicki Jensen, in loving memory of Anna Solkup and Anna Adamek.*
- + *Ken and Janet Orlikowski, in loving memory of Ed and Shirley Orlikowski.*
- + *Carol Peterson, in thanksgiving for our children and grandchildren.*
- + *Beth Koehler, in thanksgiving for her mother and father, Dick and Carole Koehler.*
- + *Travis, Robin, Brinlee and Raelynn Gross, in loving memory of their grandparents, Carl Ginter, Lillian Pfeffer, Laverne and Gilbert Wendorf, Joan and Al Gross, and Edith Betlinski.*
- + *Nan Hoene, in loving memory of Jeanne and Robert Jones, William Hoene, and Nina Jones.*
- + *Rudy and Jan Miller, in thanksgiving for the many blessings our family has received from God.*
- + *Rob and Karen Kegel, in loving memory of Don and Carol Palecek, and John and Ruth Kegel.*
- + *Betty Gelhar, in loving memory of her husband, Jay.*
- + *Karen Olson, in thanksgiving for a life filled with happiness.*

- + *Andrew & Andrea Clark, in thanksgiving for family and friends.*
- + *Mike and Sally Miller, in honor of kids, Luke and Jenna, and Mike's parents Dennis and Suzanne Miller.*
- + *Mary Van Ryzin in loving memory of passed family members.*
- + *Carol Van Ryzin, in loving memory of Doug Van Ryzin, Virginia Fehlhaber, and Allan Marcus.*
- + *Thomas and Marilyn Neuens, in thanksgiving for St. Luke Church.*
- + *Lori Wagner, in loving memory of Jazel and John Wagner.*
- + *Dick and Beth Krause, in loving memory of Becky Krause.*
- + *Nathan Keller, in thanksgiving for the joy of Christ in our lives, and the love of our families.*
- + *Todd, Diane, and Carly Beutin, in loving memory of Richard and Sally Hernday and Clayton Beutin.*
- + *Dan and Sandy Hutchinson in loving memory of Doraine Schindler.*
- + *Mark and Julie Ohlert in loving memory of Jack and Priscilla Krogh, and Cletus and Marjorie Ohlert.*
- + *Dennis and Suzanne Miller, in thanksgiving for friends and family.*
- + *Paula Schwartz, in thanksgiving for 25 years of marriage, and life long memories.*

“We are all meant to be mothers of God...for God is always needing to be born.”

--Meister Eckhart

“O holy child of Bethlehem descend to us, we pray.  
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.”

--Phillips Brooks, “*O Little Town of Bethlehem*”