



**December 31, 2023
9:00 AM**

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

*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.*



*Welcome to Worship! All words will be displayed on the screen.
Kids, don't forget your Praise Packs! Children's Bulletins are available in the Praise Packs!*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS



PRELUDE

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

Mendelssohn

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

C: **Amen.**

P: Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: *God of life ,*

C: **you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen**

P: *Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.*

C: **Amen**



OPENING HYMN

"What Child is This"

#296 verses 1 & 3



READING

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

R: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Refrain: "Go, Tell it on the Mountain that Jesus Christ is Born"



HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." ³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty- four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ



SERMON

Pastor Monte



SERMON HYMN

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

#272, verses 1,2 & 4

† NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

† PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Give us light for the journey, O God. C: Our times are in Your hands.

PEACE

*P: The peace of the Lord be with you always C: And also with you.
Please greet one another with the words, "Peace be with you."*



OFFERING

*Pew Pads are located at the far end of each pew.
Please fill them out and pass them, noting those seated around you.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*“In the Bleak Midwinter”
Todd Beutin, Vocal Solo*

Rosetti, Holst, arr. Tim J. Spencer

Children are invited to gather at the back during the anthem and help bring forward the offering.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Open your hearts.

C: We open them to God and to one another.

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

† LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

*Today communion will be at the altar rail. You may either stand or kneel. If you wish to have the
Pastor bring communion to your pew, please notify an Usher.
All are Welcome!*



COMMUNION HYMN

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

#288



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.



BENEDICTION



CLOSING HYMN

“Love Has Come”

#292, all verses

P: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Live this good news!

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World”

John Behnke

+ THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ASSISTED DURING WORSHIP TODAY! +

CHANCEL FLOWERS are given in memory of Michael Ziller, from all his family.

ETERNAL FLAME for the month of December is given by **Pat Erdmann**
In Thanksgiving for the blessings of 2023, and to wish everyone a blessed New Year.

You can now **GIVE ONLINE**, by scanning the QR code:



Thank you for all the ways you contribute to the life and ministry of the church!

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Monday, January 1	Church Office Closed
Wednesday, January 3	1:00 pm Worship 6:00 pm Confirmation (L)
Friday, January 5	Church Office Closed 6:30 pm Epiphany Party
Sunday, January 7	9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Education Hour

Church
ANNOUNCEMENTS

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR ANXIETY CLASS THIS WEEK

We will begin again next Sunday.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Pick up your offering envelopes over on the table. We only ordered them for people who specifically requested them. If you would like envelopes and don't see them, please call the church office.

NURSERY

Staffed Nursery Returns January 7!

ANNUAL MEETING

Please plan to stay for the annual meeting directly after worship on January 21, and then enjoy a chili cook-off afterwards. The cook-off is a fundraiser for the National Youth Gathering. Get your favorite recipes ready! Sign-ups will begin next week.

WINTER CARNIVAL







Popcorn! Games! Prizes! Our annual Winter Carnival will take place January 27 from 11AM - 1PM. Games are geared toward Preschool - 5th grade, but all are welcome including friends and extended family too! Sign up at the welcome center or online at www.slchurch.org/sign-ups.

We love children at St. Luke's, and welcome babies and young children and all their exuberance into worship! To make it easier for parents, we have "busy bags" available by the entrance, as well as "praise packs" that help encourage children's engagement in worship. We also have a cry room available in the back of the sanctuary with changing facilities and rocking chairs as well as a staffed nursery for children ages 0-3. We know it takes a lot of work to get to church and worship with young ones; we're glad you're here!

Let the little children come to me ...
it is to such as these that the
kingdom of God belongs.
Mark 10:14, NRSV



****PRAISE PACK ICONS****

-  Light your candle when the candles are lit at the front of the church & hold it up high. At the end of the service turn your candle off.
-  Take out the cross & hold it tight during times of prayer.
-  Use the ribbon stick to move to the music
-  Look at the booklet on the clipboard to follow along with today's reading(s), or follow along on the screen
-  While listening to the sermon, color the picture(s) & do the activity sheets on your clipboards. Can you make any connections between your sheets & the sermon?
-  Put "I Give myself to God" Paper in the offering plate as your offering.