

*St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church
310 West Main Street
Saxonburg, PA
www.stlks.com*

10:00 p.m.

December 24, 2015
The Nativity of Our Lord



PRESERVICE

*Gesu, Bambino – Douglas Wagner
In the Bleak Midwinter
Away in a Manger/ Still, Still, Still- arr. Lloyd Larson
A Virgin Most Pure
O Come, All Ye Faithful – arr. Lloyd Larson
Go Tell it On the Mountain
Silent Night! Holy Night! – arr. Lloyd Larson
On Christmas Night*

PRELUDE *Impressions on an Advent Carol – Susan Ullom*

Proclamation

*Many ages after God created the heavens and the earth,
When man and woman were formed in God's own image;
Long after the great flood,
When God set the rainbow in the clouds as a sign of the covenant;
Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;
Thirteen centuries after Moses led God's people to freedom:
Eleven centuries from the time of Ruth and the judges;
A thousand years from the anointing of David as king;*

*In the sixty-fifth week as Daniel's prophecy takes note;
In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
The seven hundred and fifty-second year from the founding of the
city of Rome;
The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;
In the sixth age of the world, all earth being at peace,
Jesus Christ, eternal God, Son of the eternal Father,
Willing to hallow the world by his coming in mercy,
Was born of the virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea.
Today is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.*

CAROL *Joy to the World (ELW 267)*

APOSTOLIC GREETING

L: 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

L: Let us pray:

C: **O Lord our God, with Mary and Joseph, angels and
shepherds, and the animals in the stable, we gather around
your Son, born for us. As we celebrate Christ's birth into the
world, may we receive the Christ child into our hearts with
gratitude and song. Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing!* (ELW 270)

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

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.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2–7

A reading from the ninth chapter of Isaiah.

- ²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.
- ³You 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.
- ⁴For 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.
- ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- ⁶For 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.

⁷His 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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM *Journey of the Kings – Sharon Elery Rogers*

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11–14

A reading from second chapter of Titus.

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,
¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the
present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,
¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the
glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He 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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL RESPONSE *O Come, All Ye Faithful (ELW 283) vs. 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.**

**O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

GOSPEL

P: The holy gospel according to Saint Luke, the second chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Luke 2:8–20

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

GOSPEL RESPONSE *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (ELW 283)

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God in the highest:

Refrain

O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yes, Lord, we greet thee; born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

(refrain)

SERMON

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Lord, in your mercy.

C: **Hear our prayer.**

EXCHANGING THE PEACE OF OUR LORD

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Peace, Peace – Rick and Sylvia Powell

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

C: We celebrate this night, O Father, the greatest gift the world has known – the gift of your own Son. Wrapped in flesh, your gift represents life, light and love. He is a gift beyond measure, a treasure beyond value. What can we offer you, O God, except ourselves? Accept these gifts we bring as tokens of our love and of our lives. Amen

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

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:

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy,

and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and
ascension,

and the promise of his coming again,

we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,

not as we ought but as we are able;

we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving

and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,

and these your own gifts of bread and wine,

so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ

may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,

and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,

may be formed to live as your holy people

and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C: Amen, amen, amen.

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The bread of God comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. Come, eat, and live.

C: Amen

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

As Lutheran Christians, we believe Christ is truly present within our gathering and the taking of bread and wine is for forgiveness, life and salvation. On behalf of Christ, we invite all who are baptized and believe in Jesus Christ to join us in His Holy Supper. Children who have not made their first communion may be brought forward to the Altar for a blessing.

By intinction, the taking of the host of bread and dipping into the cup of wine, we celebrate Holy Communion this night with high praise and thankful hearts for God's gift of life, salvation given to us in his blessed Son, Jesus Christ. If you are allergic to bread or wine, you may fully participate by taking either one or the other. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

COMMUNION SONG

LAMB OF GOD (ELW setting 3, pg. 146)

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	ELW 279
<i>It Came Upon the Midnight Clear</i>	ELW 282
<i>Infant Holy, Infant Lowly</i>	ELW 276

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray.

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation,
and in this meal we have feasted on your grace.

May your Word take flesh in us,
that we may be your holy people,
revealing your glory made known to us
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

GOSPEL PROCESSION

The Holy Gospel is read in the midst of the people on this holy night with everyone facing the Cross. This ancient custom in the Church symbolizes Christ's coming to earth at the first Christmas through the miracle of His Incarnation and His coming to us now through Word and Sacrament.

CHOIR *Of Our Father's Love Begotten*

THE READING: John 1:1–5, 10–14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴ 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.

CHOIR *Of Our Father's Love Begotten*

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Parents of young children, please share their candles. As the flame is passed, please keep the lighted candle in the upright position and the unlit candle tipped into the flame until lit.

CAROLS **What Child Is This?**

**What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds' watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!**

**Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of
Mary!**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, Raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!**

Silent Night

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.

(Repeat verse 1 in German)

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,
 Alles schlaft, einsam wacht,
Nur das traute hochheilige Parr,
 Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
 Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

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.

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

HYMN Angels We Have Heard on High (ELW 289)

**Angels We have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.**

Gloria, in excelsis Deo,

Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains
prolong?**

**What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly
song.**

Gloria, in excelsis Deo,

Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn
King.**

Gloria, in excelsis Deo,

Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

DISMISSAL

P: Let us leave this holy gathering still praising our Lord and
Savior.

C. Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE *Good Christian Men, Rejoice*

WELCOME!

*May the full meaning of Christmas be real to us all ... now and
always. The presence of all who have come to celebrate Christmas
adds to the joy of worshipping the Lord on this glorious night.
Welcome, friends!*

Musicians:

Callie Drennen	Violin
Maria Savannah	Bassoon
Marilyn Merbach	Guitar
Chris Savannah	Guitar
Ellen Dodge	Organ

A special thank you to the Generations Choir and bell choir for all their hard work tonight and throughout the year!

THIS EVENING'S WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM INCLUDES:

ACOLYTES	Beth Martin, Adam Hartzell
ALTAR GUILD	Jenny Hartzell
CHILD. SERMON	Pastor Keller
GREETERS	Doris Herceg
LECTOR/ASST. MIN.	Larry Martin
USHERS	Jim Drennen
OFFER. COUNTERS	Donna Shipe and David Fugate

CHURCH STAFF

Reverend Roger G. Keller	Pastor	724-352-2333
Pastor Keller's Cell		724-713-0549
Pastor Keller's Home		724-360-2786
Jeannine Sanford, AiM	Assoc. Min. of Pastoral Care & Visitation	724-594-5533
Chris Savannah	Choir Director	724-282-8044
	Office Manager	724-352-2333
Cortney Christoforetti	Organist	724-352-2333
Marge Kollinger	Parish Coordinator Milestone Ministry	724-352-2333
Linda Heade	Sexton	724-352-3413
Bonnie Ekas	Prayer Chain	724-352-1391

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Peace on Earth Comes from the Light of Heaven, Jesus Christ!



The staff of St. Luke's extends
the best Christmas wishes to you!
May this blessed season be filled with
peace, joy and the renewal of all our lives!