

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

4:00

December 24, 2015
The Nativity of Our Lord

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

*Away in a Manger
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
While Shepherds Watched
While By My Sheep*

PRELUDE *The Coventry Carol with Away in a Manger-arr.
Cindy Berry*

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

PRESENTATION OF THE MANGER

*Children gather in the South Narthex with Pastor Keller for the
procession.*

PIANO SOLO *Bring a Torch! Jeanette Isabella – arr. Stan Pethel*

PRAYER

P: We pray,

**C: May Jesus be born in our hearts tonight. Teach us to love
others as he loves us. Because of His love, we sing songs of joy
with all Christians around the world this holy night. Amen.**

CAROL Away in a Manger

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus, laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
And fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

CHRISTMAS LITANY

Leader: God gives the special gift of life eternal, the Bethlehem Babe; born, crucified, and risen for us all.

People: O come, O come Emmanuel, free all peoples from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell your people save and given them victory o'er the grave.

Leader: Rejoice, rejoice. Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

People: God gives gifts of the Spirit to build faith and character for living life with hope, peace, joy and love.

Leader: Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine; love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.

People: God gives me to you and you to me; we are each other's gift of love for Christ.

Leader: With every act of love, God brings the kingdom come.

People: Let us bring the kingdom come, His will done on earth as it is in heaven.

Leader: O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye,
O come ye to Bethlehem.

People: Come and behold Him, born the King of angels.

Leader: (sing) O come let us adore Him,

People: (sing) O come let us adore Him,

All: (sing) O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

CAROL O Come, All Ye Faithful

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.

Refrain

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

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,

Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;

Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!

(refrain)

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God in the highest:

(refrain)

APOSTOLIC GREETING

**P: 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.

CAROL *Angels We Have Heard On High*

*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.*

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**

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.**

SOLO: *Of Our Father's Love Begotten*

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11–14

A reading from the 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.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Children come forward for a story reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL RESPONSE

The First Noel

**The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.**

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.**

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1–14 [15–20]

GOSPEL RESPONSE The First Noel

**And by the light of that same star
three wisemen came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.**

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.**

SERMON

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

EXCHANGING THE PEACE OF OUR LORD

OFFERTORY *In Bethlehem Town – Robert Lau*
Soloist: Krystle Ekas

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.

P: 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.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff ends with a whole note, and the fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

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

COMMUNION

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 on this day of celebration. 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

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

Lo' How a Rose e'er Blooming (instrumental)

The First Noel (ELW 300) vs 4 & 5

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (instrumental)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: Let us pray.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart,
and nourished us at your table with food and drink,
the body and blood of Christ.

Now send us forth to be your people in the world,
and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Parents of young children, please share their candle. As the flame is passed, please keep the lighted candle remaining 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!**

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.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

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.

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: The light shines in darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

P: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: In Him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

P: Baptized by water and the Spirit, we have been given the light. Let your light Shine.

C: Amen. Let our lights so shine that others will see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven.

(Matthew 5:16)

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.

SENDING SONG Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
Peace on earth and mercy mild; God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful all you nations rise; Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

Hail, the heav'n born Prince of Peace!

Hail the Son of righteousness!

**Light and Life to all he brings, Ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die;
Born to raise each child of earth, Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

DISMISSAL

P: Let us leave this holy gathering still praising our Savior & King.
C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Joy to the World – Martha Sherrill Kelsey*

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 worshiping the Lord on this glorious night. Welcome, friends!

THIS EVENING'S WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM INCLUDES:

ACOLYTES	Austin Heade, Darrah Lynch, Kenneth Miller
ALTAR GUILD	Shannon Miller
CHILD. SERMON	Pastor Keller
GREETERS	Dick and Sue Smith
LECTOR/ASST. MIN.	Don Amadee
USHERS	Gayle and John Gundlach
OFFER. COUNTERS	Donna Shipe and David Fugate

Tonight's Instrumentalists

Laura Gundlach, flute
Lisa Ryder, violin
Marilyn Merbach, guitar
Carol Amadee, guitar
Chris Savannah, guitar/piano



**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!**

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 Office Manager	724-282-8044 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!**