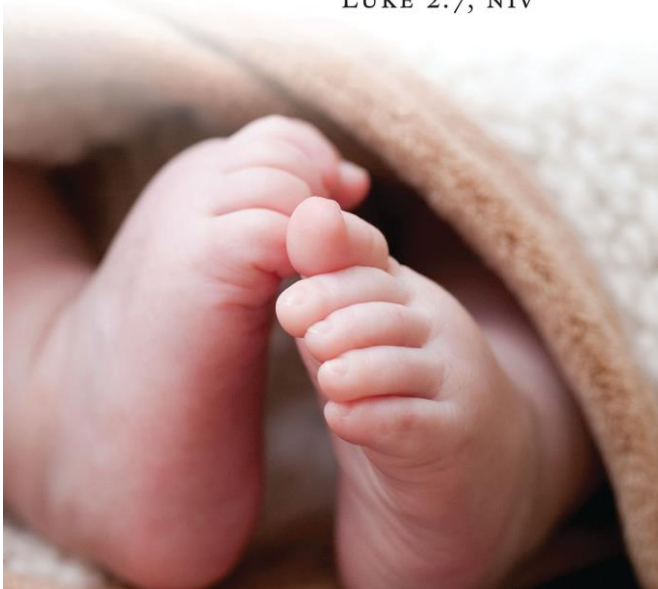


*She wrapped him  
in cloths and placed  
him in a manger...*

LUKE 2:7, NIV



**December 24, 2021**  
**The Nativity of Our Lord**

4:30, 7:00, 9:00 pm –Communion

*St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church*  
*310 West Main Street*  
*Saxonburg, PA*  
*[www.stlks.com](http://www.stlks.com)*

Rev. Brian Shirey

## **PRESERVICE MUSIC / LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **PRELUDE**

- 4:30 pm     *O Come Little Children* – Arr. M. Burkhardt  
              *Still, Still, Still* – a lullaby for the Christ Child  
              – P. Manz  
              *Divinum Mysterium* – Arr. A. Fedak  
              Karen Krenitsky, organ
- 7:00 pm     *Christmas Concerto Op. 6 No. 8: Pastorale*  
              -- Arcangelo Corelli  
              Madison Crytzer, flute
- 9:00 pm     *Of the Father's Love Begotten* -- Wilbur Held  
              Cortney Christoforetti, organ

#### **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;  
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;  
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      O Come, All Ye Faithful (ELW 283)**

**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 heav'n above:  
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!" [Refrain]**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; [Refrain]**

## **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.**

L: 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.

C: **Amen.**

## **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 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**

L: A reading from the Isaiah. 9<sup>th</sup> chapter.

<sup>2</sup> The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness  
a light has dawned.

<sup>3</sup> You have enlarged the nation  
and increased their joy;  
they rejoice before you

as people rejoice at the harvest,  
as warriors rejoice  
when dividing the plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For as in the day of Midian's defeat,  
you have shattered  
the yoke that burdens them,  
the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor.

<sup>5</sup> Every warrior's boot used in battle  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be destined for burning,  
will be fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.  
The zeal of the LORD Almighty  
will accomplish this.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

- 4:30 pm      *O Holy Night* -- A. Adam  
Rachel Steiner, vocalist
- 7:00 pm      *Ding, Dong Merrily on High*  
-- Traditional 16th century carol  
Madison Crytzer, flute
- 9:00 pm      *Sonata in A Minor, Movement 1*  
-- Benedetto Marcello  
Evan Weston, String Bass

## **SECOND READING: Titus 2: 11-14**

L:      A reading from Titus, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. <sup>12</sup> It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

L:      The Word of the Lord.

**C:      Thanks be to God.**

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

### **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.**

## **GOSPEL: Luke 2: 1-20**

**L:** The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup> In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

**L:** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **GOSPEL RESPONSE Away in a Manger**

**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.**

## **SERMON**

## **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.**



Refrain:

**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? [Refrain]**

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

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**L:** Lord, in your mercy.

**C:** **Hear our prayer.**

**PEACE** (Peace with a smile and a wave.)

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C:** **And also with you.**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

4:30 pm      *Gesu Bambino* -- P. Yon  
Rachel Steiner, vocalist

7:00 pm      *Good Christian Friends Rejoice*  
-- Traditional 14th century carol  
Madison Crytzer, flute

9:00 pm      *Angels We Have Heard on High* -- Mark Hayes  
Cortney Christoforetti, piano

## 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**

(Please follow the instructions by the Pastor.)

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

**C:     Amen**

## COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## 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.**

## 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**

4:30 pm Dave Fugate, guitar

7:00 pm Jonus Fair, guitar

9:00 pm Evan Weston, guitar

### **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, Holy 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 Al-le-lu-ia!  
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.**

## **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.**

*Candles may be extinguished.*

## **HYMN Joy to the World (ELW 267)**

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns;  
Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.**

## **DISMISSAL**

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

**C. Thanks be to God!**

## **POSTLUDE**

4:30 pm     *Joy to the World* -- Marc Chagan  
Karen Krenitsky, organ

7:00 pm     *Joy to the World* -- Arr. Buryl Red  
Cortney Christoforetti, organ

9:00 pm     *Joy to the World* -- Arr. Buryl Red  
Cortney Christoforetti, organ