

*St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
310 West Main Street  
Saxonburg, PA  
724-352-2333  
Stlks.com*

## **Sunday, December 25, 2016**

**Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Day**

10:30 am

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**     *While By My Sheep – arr Mark Hayes*

*(When the music of the prelude begins, please lower your voice;  
but, after worship raise your voice with joy!)*

### **GREETING**

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

**C: And also with you.**

### **CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION**

L: Who are these angels who come to earth,

**C: bearing the news of the Christ child's birth?**

L: Who are these shepherds who run to see,

**C: and worship the babe on bended knee?**

L: Who is this child, so small, so slight,

**C: of whom the angels sang that night?**

L: Who is this king, a manger his throne,

**C: who humbles himself to make us his own?**

L: Who is this God who sends a Son

**C: into our midst, the promised one?**

## GATHERING SONG

*The First Noel* (ELW 300)

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you,

C: **and also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 52: 7-10

L: A reading from chapter 52 of Isaiah

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

<sup>8</sup> Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the LORD to Zion.

<sup>9</sup> Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the LORD has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 2

<sup>1</sup> Why do the nations conspire,  
and the peoples plot in vain?

<sup>2</sup> **The kings of the earth set themselves,  
and the rulers take counsel together,  
against the LORD and his anointed, saying,**

<sup>3</sup> “Let us burst their bonds asunder,  
and cast their cords from us.”

<sup>4</sup> **He who sits in the heavens laughs;  
the LORD has them in derision.**

<sup>5</sup> Then he will speak to them in his wrath,  
and terrify them in his fury, saying,

<sup>6</sup> **“I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill.”**

<sup>7</sup> I will tell of the decree of the LORD:

He said to me, “You are my son;  
today I have begotten you.

<sup>8</sup> **Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,  
and the ends of the earth your possession.**

<sup>9</sup> You shall break them with a rod of iron,  
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

<sup>10</sup> **Now therefore, O kings, be wise;  
be warned, O rulers of the earth.**

<sup>11</sup> Serve the LORD with fear,  
with trembling <sup>12</sup> kiss his feet, <sup>[a]</sup>

or he will be angry, and you will perish in the way;  
for his wrath is quickly kindled.

<sup>12</sup> **Happy are all who take refuge in him.**

## SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-6

L: A reading from chapter one of Hebrews.

<sup>1</sup> Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup> He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his

powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son;

today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be his Father,

and he will be my Son”?

<sup>6</sup> And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Go Tell It on the Mountain (ELW 290) refrain only*

**Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev’rywhere;**

**Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

## **GOSPEL: John 1:1-18**

L: The holy gospel according to Saint John, chapter one.

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

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify

to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

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

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Go Tell It on the Mountain (ELW 290) refrain only*

**Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Go Tell It on the Mountain (ELW 290)*

## **CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**L: Lord, in your mercy,  
C: hear our prayer.**

## **EXCHANGING THE PEACE OF OUR LORD**

## **OFFERING**

## **OFFERTORY**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**L: Let us pray.  
Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came  
among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have  
blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the  
trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the  
coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
C: Amen.**

## PREFACE

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: 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'n 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

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup

we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**



All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever.

**C:     Amen.**

## **LORD’S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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**

**L:     Taste and see that the Lord is good.**

**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 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. If you are allergic to bread or wine, you may participate fully by taking either one or the other. Children who have not made their first communion may be brought forward to the Altar for a blessing.*

## COMMUNION SONG



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## COMMUNION HYMNS

*O Little Town of Bethlehem (ELW 279)*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: 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.

## BLESSING

L: May the God who comes from heaven above  
be born in your hearts and lives this day and always.

C: Amen.

## SENDING SONG

*Joy to the World (ELW 267)*

## DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE** *Brightest and Best – arr Mark Hayes*

**PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK** *Numbers 6:22-27, Psalm 8, Galatians 3:23-29, Luke 2:21*

***WELCOME!***

*Please complete the pew card before you leave worship this day.*

*Pastor Keller would be happy to visit with you at the time and place of your choosing to answer questions about membership.*

*Simply call the church office at 724-352-2333 to make an appointment.*

Attendance on Sunday December 18, 2016

8:15	34	
9:30	8	St. Luke's Lutheran Church
10:45	51	310 West Main Street
Nursery	0	Saxonburg PA 16056 724-352-2333
Kings Kidz	<u>2</u>	stlukechurch@consolidated.net
Total	95	

**THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM INCLUDES:**

ACOLYTES	Evan Weston and Eli Keller
ALTAR GUILD	David and Stefanie Fennell
BREAD BAKER	Al Kobert
GREETERS	Sue Smith
LECTOR/ASST. MIN	Jeannine Sanford
USHERS	Ron Boltz and Tim Markwell
OFFER. COUNTERS	Jeff Hartzell and Bill Gordon

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