

Lutheran Church of the Cross
1004 E Highland Acres Rd.
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Website: www.churchofthecross.org

Office Hours: 8a-4p Monday—Thursday; 8-noon pm Friday

Summer Hours: Mon– Fri. 9:00am–1:00pm

Staff:

Lisa Ahlness, Pastor

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Gerri Sarsten, Organist

Joel & Jan Gilbertson, Worship Team Accompanists

2020 Church Council Members

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“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”



Christmas Eve Worship

December 24, 2020

4:30pm Music Prelude

5:00pm Service

Lutheran Church of the Cross

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
The Nativity of our Lord—Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2020 4:30pm Prelude/5:00pm Service
“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

MUSICAL WELCOME

Organ Prelude

Organ/Piano Duet

“A Christmas Allelujah”

“Noel”

“Mary, Did You Know?” Joel Crane, Paul Gurholt, Robin Johnson, Amanda Sagsveen

“The Most Wonderful Night of the Year”

“Glory Hallelujah”

“Breath of Heaven”

“Emmanuel Hallowed Manger Ground”

“All is Well”

“I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve”

Robin Johnson

Robin Johnson, Geri Sarsten

River Worship Team

Deb Carpenter, Brandi Ellison, Robin Johnson, Coley Ugland

River Worship Team

ALL

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: Jesus is the light of the world.

All: The light no darkness can overcome.

Leader: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

All: We have beheld Christ’s glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

Leader: In Him was life.

All: And the life was the light of all people.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

GREETINGS OF PEACE

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: 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. **Amen.**

~ **Given by Paul Gurholt and family**

In memory of Marcia Gurholt

~ **Given by Richard, Ken Ron, Pam Ottenbacher**

In memory of Ed & Ella Ottenbacher

~ **Given by David & Kathy Drovdal**

In honor of our family

~ **Given by Gladys Bain & family**

In memory of Robert Bain

~ **Given by Shirley Grondahl**

In memory of C.R. Grondahl

~ **Given by Art & Donna Dohrmann**

In memory of Richard & Edna Dohrmann, Evelyn & Don Reimer

~ **Given by Steve & Cheryl Neu**

In memory of my mom; Evelyn and Steve’s Dad; Melvin. In honor of our children and grandchildren

Thank you to those that decorated
the sanctuary this Christmas season with the beautiful
poinsettias.





~ **Given by John & Janet Doerner**
In memory of Patricia Reiten Juffer

~ **Given by Roger & Cherie Krueger**
*In memory of Patricia Krueger and Diane Krueger,
 In honor of our children; Jessica and John and their families*

~ **Given by Roger & Mavis Pommerer**
In honor of all our men and women serving in the military

~ **Given by Bruce & Peggy Hetland**
In memory of Brad James Hetland

~ **Given by Linda Kramer**
In memory of Jim Kramer

~ **Given by Early & Marlene Larson**
In memory of Gorden Larson

~ **Given by Arlene, Robin, Collete, Elizabeth and Heather Hoglund**
In loving memory of Bob Hoglund

~ **Given by Sally & Terry Grenz**
In memory of Jim Grenz, Delyghte Haid

OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Love from the beginning, Word made flesh, Breath of heaven. *Amen.*

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another,

Leader: God of goodness and lovingkindness,

All: We confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and down-trodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Leader: Dear people of God, hear the good news of peace and salvation: Christ the Savior is born! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace. Rejoice in this love and share it with the world. *Amen.*

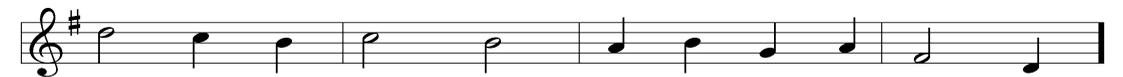
GATHERING SONG "O Come, All Ye Faithful"



1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! Oh,
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, oh, come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:



Refrain
 Oh, come, let us a - dore him, oh, come, let us a - dore him,



oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

FIRST READING Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.

³ You 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.

⁴ For 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.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For 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.

⁷ His 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.

Leader: The word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God



- ~ **Given by Ken & Karen Will**
In memory of our parents; Edmore & Mildred Will, Alfred & Emma Sunde
- ~ **Given by Lisa Ahlness and Van Vechten Crane**
In memory of Hans Ahlness, Paul Ahlness, Richard & Mary Crane
- ~ **Given by Lee & Ruth Jensen**
In honor of our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren
- ~ **Given by Agnes Christianson & family**
In memory of Conrad Christianson
- ~ **Given by John, Mark Erickstad and families**
In memory of Ralph & Lois Erickstad
- ~ **Given by Roger & Esther Anderson**
- ~ **Given by Mike & Tracy Geiermann**
In honor of those hurting and alone. You are loved and a child of God.
- ~ **Given by Janie Hague**
In memory of my mom, Paulette Hague. You are missed dearly.
- ~ **Given by Nancy Dockter**
In memory of my family members in heaven and in honor of my loving supportive family here on earth.
- ~ **Given by Verlaine & Larry Jahner**
In honor of our grandchildren: Violet & Hazel Jahner, Sawyer & Aeris Steiger





Thank you to everyone who
purchased poinsettias to decorate the
sanctuary this Christmas season!

- ~ **Given by Mike, Kim, Nate, Grace Humann**
In memory of Gerald & Darleen McLaughlin, Ray and Loretta Humann
- ~ **Given by the Harris Family; Tom, Kari, Kay, Kolt**
*In memory of Ron Vernon, the Espeliens, the Dreveckys, the Ryans,
the Harrises*
- ~ **Given by Art Wheeler**
In memory of Florence Wheeler
- ~ **Given by Jerry & Patty Hanson**
In memory of Scott Kennedy and Barb Hanson
- ~ **Given by John & Jean Kraft**
In honor of our family
- ~ **Given by Kay & Jim Miller**
*In memory of family
In honor of Terra & Mike Miller Bowley, Krisi, Tim, Brandon Kunz*
- ~ **Given by Norlyn & Patsy Schmidt**
In memory of Lois Schmidt & Pearl Unverzagt
- ~ **Given by Donna Belisle**
In memory of Gene Belisle

RESPONSIVE READING PSALM 96

¹O sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

²**Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.**

³Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples.

⁴**For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods.**

⁵For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.

⁶**Honor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts.**

⁹Worship the LORD in holy splendor;
tremble before him, all the earth.

¹⁰**Say among the nations, "The LORD is king!
The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.
He will judge the peoples with equity."**

¹¹Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

¹²**let the field exult, and everything in it.
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy**

¹³before the LORD; for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.

O Holy Night

Adolphe Charles Adams

B \flat Eb B \flat

O Ho-ly Night! The stars are bright-ly shi - ning, It is the night of our
Led by the light of faith se - rene-ly beam - ing, With glow-ing hearts by His
Tru - ly He taught us love for one a - noth - er, His law is love and His

F 7 B \flat B \flat Eb B \flat

dear Sav-iour's birth. Long lay the world in sin and er - ror pin -
cra - dle we stand. O - ver the world a star is sweet-ly gleam -
gos - pel is peace. Chains He shall break, the slave, is our broth -

B \flat ⁷ Dm A Dm F 7

ning. Till He ap - peared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the
ing, Now come the wise - men from O - ri - ent land. The King of kings lay
er, And in His name all op - pres - sion shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in

B \flat F 7 B \flat Gm

wea - ry world re - joi - ces, For yon - der breaks a new and glor - ious morn. Fall
thus in low - ly man - ger; In all our tri - als born to be our friend. He
grate - ful chor - us raise we, With all our hearts we praise His ho - ly name. Christ

Dm Cm Gm B \flat

— on your knees! Oh, hear the an - gel voi - ces! O night
— knows our need, our weak - ness is no strang - er! Be - hold
— is the Lord! Oh, praise His name for - ev - er! His pow'r

F B \flat Eb B \flat F 7 B \flat F

— di - vine, O night when Christ was born; O night,
— your King! Be - fore him low - ly bend! Be - hold
— and glo - ry ev - er - more pro - claim! His pow'r

B \flat Eb 4 B \flat F 7 B \flat

— O Ho - ly Night, O night di - vine!
— your King! Be - fore Him low - ly bend!
— and glo - ry ev - er - more pro - claim!

Have a Blessed Christmas

Faith and Care: Sue Erickson, Myrtice Behan

Altar Guild: Cherie Krueger, Ruth Jensen, Donna Belisle, Pam Hanson

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Please contact Connie in the church office 223.1001, if you have a prayer request, or if you will be entering the hospital and would like a pastoral visit. *(We encourage you to take this list home and pray for these people.)*

For those struggling with health issues: Maxine Hill, Reece Fischer, Tracy Martinson, Earl and Marlene Larson, Ann Hillesland, Roger Bakke, Erwin and Linda Marson, son in law and daughter of Hattie Martinson; Quinton and Arlene Wolff, parents of Wayne Wolff; Nick Irwin, cousin to Patty Hanson; Bonnie Spies; Robin Johnson's sister, Lois Dolan, Kevan Sorenson, Kristina Neuharth, Lori Dvorak, Mary Weinberg, mother of Terry Grenz; Al Samuelson, JoRae Sarsten; mother of Kraig, Pastor Jackie Bloom, JoDee Sayler, Bernice Walton, Nancy Dockter, Dennis Dohrmann; brother to Art, Ken Will, Dale Heaton; Gary Heaton's uncle, Deb Carpenter, Kim Schultz, Christian Helfridge; grandson of Wood's friend, Jean Schafer; daughter of Bernice Walton, LaVonne Hultin, Roger Pommerer, Megan & her baby; a granddaughter of Patty Hanson's friend, Lakin; Art Dohrmann's niece, LorRaine Riveland, Linda Kramer, Gary Hultin, Jeff & Barb Thomas, Stuart Hanson, Lois Hanson, John Behan, Kathryn Wilson; granddaughter of Wilson's, Kay Miller, Robin Willoughby Irene Rauscher

For those dealing with the death of a loved one—the families and friends of: Tekla Bekkdahl, Gerald "Stork" Nordquist, father of JoDee Sayler, Bryce Hill, Ray Staiger; father to Stacey Krumwiede, Severin Splide; father to John Splide, Ray Humann; father to Mike Humann, Vivian Dahl

Future Happenings

**Deadline to submit reports for Annual Meeting Jan. 3
Annual Meeting January 24**

POSTLUDE SONG

“Joy to the World”

Joy To The World

Isaac Watts Handel

Chords: D, A/D, G/D, D, Em/G, D/A, A7, D, D/F#

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns; Let
 3. No more let sings and sor - rows grow, nor
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and

5 earth re - ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry
 men their songs em - ploy; While field and
 thorns in - fest the ground; He comes to
 makes the na - tions prove the glo - ries

9 heart pre - pare Him room. And and na - ture
 floods, rocks, hills and plains, re - peat the sound - ing
 make His bless - ings flow far as the curse is
 of His righ - eous - ness. And won - ders of His

13 sing, and heav'n and na - ture sing. And
 joy, re - peat the sound - ing joy. Re -
 found, far as the curse is found. Far
 love, and won - ders of His love. And

16 heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 -peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 as, far as, the curse is found.
 won - ders, won - ders of His love.

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POSTLUDE SONG “Celebrate Jesus the King” River Worship Team

SECOND READING Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to re-nounce 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.

Leader: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “All Hail King Jesus” Please Stand

GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
 and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Leader: The Gospel of Our Lord **All: Praise to You, O Christ**

CHRISTMAS SERMON

Pastor Lisa

SONG OF THE DAY "Angels We Have Heard on High" A gift from the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

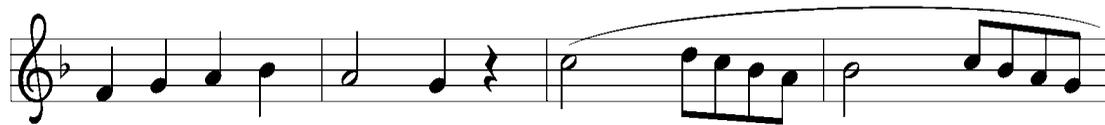


and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

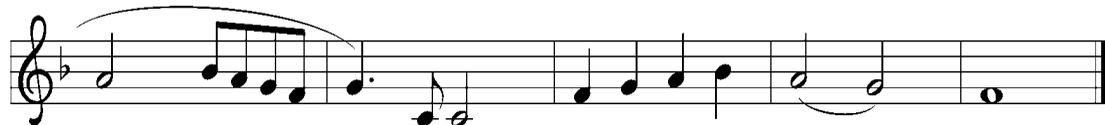
Refrain



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Silent Night

Franz Gruber



Si - lent night, Ho - ly night!
Si - lent night, Ho - ly night!
Si - lent night, Ho - ly night!



All is calm, all is bright.
Shep - herds of God at the sight.
Son of love's pure light.



Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child,
Glo - ries stream from Thy Ho - ly face.
Ra - diant beams from Thy Ho - ly face.



Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild,
Heav'n - ly hosts sing Al - le - lu - ia,
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,



Sleep in heav - en - ly peace,
Christ the Sav - ior is born!
Je - sus Lord, at Thy birth.



Sle - ep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ the Sav - ior is born.
Je - sus Lord, at Thy birth.

DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

All: Thanks be to God.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His grace. *Amen*

All: We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us from your very self with the body and blood of Christ. Through this mystery, send us forth to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen

BENEDICTION

Holden “Final Blessing”

Leader: This is the true light which has come into the world! This is the savior! Let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

SENDING SONG

“Silent Night”

NICENE CREED

Please Stand

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 “Your Little Ones Dear Lord” (vs. 1)

Each petition will end with, “Lord in your mercy,”

Please respond with, “Hear our prayer.”

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Please stand

All: Gracious God, you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth. Nourish us at your banquet table, that with all who welcome your birth we may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

Pastor: 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Spoken

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen

INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER

Pastor: The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine.

Come meet Christ in this meal. All Are Welcome

COMMUNION SONG "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Refrain
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915