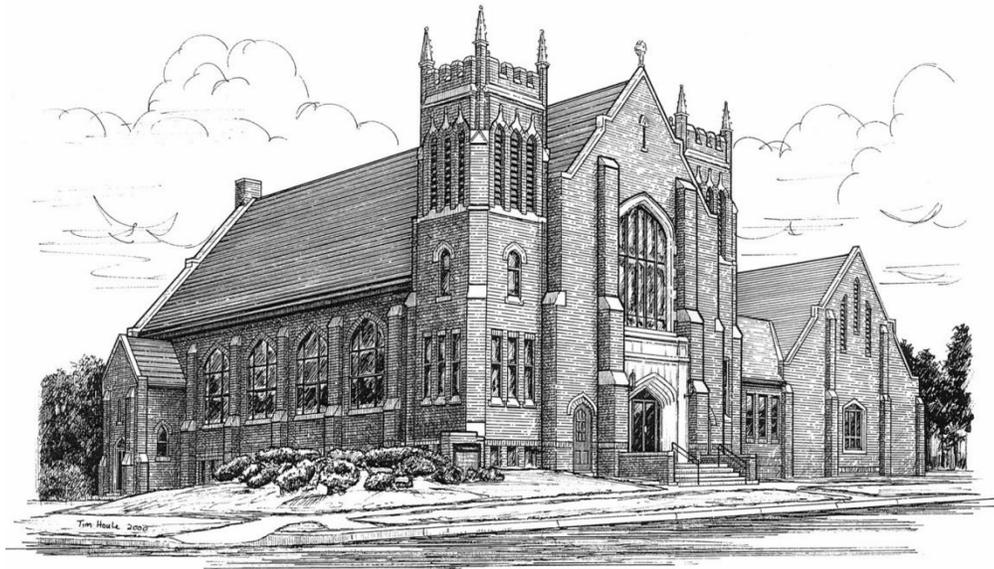


FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod
420 North Washington Street
Papillion, Nebraska 68046
402-339-3668
Preschool 402-339-1178



December 24, 2020

3:00, 5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m.

Mission statement: Sharing and living a changeless Gospel with a changing world.

(John 8:58, Hebrews 13:8)

“Lord, what would You do through me to accomplish Your will here at First Lutheran Church?”

Senior Pastor Karl P. Ziegler

Associate Pastor Joshua D. Mork

Director of Christian Education Mr. David Ricke

Director of Christian Education Mr. Brady Laib

Preschool Director Mrs. Mindy Irvine

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
FAMILY CHRISTMAS CAROL FESTIVAL**

“Jesus, Son of Joseph”

December 24, 2020

3:00, 5:00, 7:00 and 9:00 PM

WELCOME. WE ARE GLAD THAT YOU ARE HERE!

In Jesus’ genealogy, we recognize Joseph, the head of Jesus’ earthly family. At the time of Jesus’ birth, Joseph was caring, not wanting to shame his fiancée Mary, and he was obedient, naming her son Jesus. “Jesus” means “He Saves,” and He is Joseph’s Savior, the Savior of all the unknown people in and out of His family tree, and our Savior. God remembers all people, well-known or not, and He has forgiven and forgotten all our sins, their penalty paid by Joseph’s “adopted” son Jesus, our Immanuel God.



PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

+ PREPARATION +

HYMN “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

LSB 379

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: *Refrain*

*ref O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!*

2 Highest, most holy,
Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;

Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest: *Refrain*

4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv’n!
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Text: Public domain

OPENING SENTENCES *Isaiah 9:2*

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness

People: **have seen a great light;**

Pastor: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness,

People: **on them has light shined!**

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Titus 2:11-14*

Pastor: As we gather together this Christmas Eve, we confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: Tonight we celebrate “the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works.” Because of this Savior born for us, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

INTROIT

I will tell of | the decree:*

The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have be- | gotten you."

The earth is the LORD's and the full- | ness thereof,*

the world and those who | dwell therein.

Who shall ascend the hill | of the LORD?*

And who shall stand in his | holy place?

He who has clean hands and a | pure heart,*

who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear de- | ceitfully.

He will receive blessing | from the LORD*

and righteousness from the God of his sal- | vation.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

I will tell of | the decree:*

The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have be- | gotten you."

HYMN OF PRAISE *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*

LSB 380

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

*ref Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

2 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 Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain*

3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!

Text: Public domain

Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth. *Refrain*

SALUATION AND COLLECT

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray:

O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light.

People: **Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven;**

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 7:10-14

(Immanuel-God with us!)

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN *"See amid the Winter's Snow"*

LSB 373

1 See amid the winter's snow,
Born for us on earth below,
See, the gentle Lamb appears,
Promised from eternal years. *Refrain*

ref Hail, O ever-blessèd morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem:
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

2 Lo, within a stable lies
He who built the starry skies,

Text: Public domain

He who, throned in height sublime,
Sits amid the cherubim. *Refrain*

3 Sacred Infant, all divine,
What a tender love was Thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this! *Refrain*

4 Teach, O teach us, holy Child,
By Thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble Thee
In Thy sweet humility. *Refrain*

EPISTLE 1 John 4:7-16

(God shows His love by sending His only Son.)

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among

us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN “*Of the Father’s Love Begotten*”

LSB 384

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Of the Father’s love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore. | Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore. |
| 2 Oh, that birth forever blessèd,
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world’s Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore. | 4 O ye heights of heav’n, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing.
Pow’rs, dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev’ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore. |
| 3 This is He whom seers in old time
Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the long-expected; | ^ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore. Amen. |

Text: Public domain

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-25

(The birth of Jesus Christ)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN "O Sing of Christ"

LSB 362

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known
The kindness of the Lord,
Eternal Word made flesh and bone
So we could be restored.
Upon our frail humanity
God's finger chose to trace
The fullness of His deity,
The icon of His grace.</p> <p>2 What Adam lost, none could reclaim,
And Paradise was barred
Until the second Adam came
To mend what sin had marred.
For when the time was full and right
God sent His only Son;
He came to us as life and light
And our redemption won.</p> | <p>3 He came to that which was His own,
But He was not received;
Yet still through Him God's glory shone,
And some His name believed.
To these He gave the right to be
The heirs of heav'n above,
Born not of human ancestry
But born of God in love.</p> <p>4 Lord Jesus Christ, You deigned to dwell
Among us here on earth
As God with us, Emmanuel,
To bring this holy birth.
Though rich, You willingly became
One with our poverty,
That we might share Your wealth and name
For all eternity!</p> |
|--|--|

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SERMON "Jesus, Son of Joseph"

Matthew 1:16

Pastor Mork

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

1 God loves me dearly,
Grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me. *Refrain*

3 He sent forth Jesus,
My dear Redeemer,
He sent forth Jesus
And set me free. *Refrain*

ref Therefore I'll say again:
God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.

4 Jesus, my Savior,
Himself did offer;
Jesus, my Savior,
Paid all I owed. *Refrain*

2 I was in slav'ry,
Sin, death, and darkness;
God's love was working
To make me free. *Refrain*

5 Now I will praise You,
O Love Eternal;
Now I will praise You
All my life long. *Refrain*

Text: Public domain

+ PRAYERS +

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church throughout the world and for all people of the world. Mighty and loving God our Father, hear our prayer for the whole Church gathered this night around the manger of our Savior, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Give us true unity of faith and singleness of love. Bless especially all servants of Your Church that they may rightly proclaim Your Word. To all Your people, give ears of faith to hear that their lives reflect Your saving Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: May the good news of the Savior descend upon all people of the entire world, granting the miracle of repentance and faith in the hearts and minds of all. Bring true peace among nations and people. Guide leaders to promote justice and peace. Bless all who work even through this night to defend and protect us. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Gather each of our families into that love which tonight we view in the Holy Family. Give tender courage to all fathers, loving endurance to all mothers, and trusting obedience to all children. Grant to all who are single or all who are lonely an awareness of Your great love for each of them. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Visit with Your mercy all who are afflicted with illness, all who suffer injury, and all who fear death. Give calmness in their silent suffering, and give faith to know and look to Your love that gives healing and life. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: In the silence of this night, we remember all who have gone before us with the sign of faith. Bring us with them into Your nearer presence in paradise. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. *Numbers 6:24–26*

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMNS

Please note that during the singing of the closing hymns individual candles will be lit. Once our closing hymn has been concluded, please extinguish your candles, and after the service has concluded return them to the containers in the narthex.

HYMNS

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

LSB 366

1 It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,
From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

3 All you, beneath your heavy load,
By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way
With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour,
Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace;
Of Him the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav’nly music floats
O’er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov’ring wing,
And ever o’er its babel sounds
The blessèd angels sing.

4 For lo, the days have come to pass
By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years
Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth
God’s ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear
The song the angels sing.

Text: Public domain

“What Child Is This”

LSB 370

1 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!

2 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!

3 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!

Text: Public domain

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,
Heav'nly 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 Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

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EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES AND SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE



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THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS

Matthew 1:1–16

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of **David**, the son of **Abraham**.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by **Tamar**, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by **Rahab**, and Boaz the father of Obed by **Ruth**, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the **wife of Uriah**, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of **Joseph** the husband of **Mary**, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

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Those serving the Lord and us:

Preacher: Reverend Joshua Mork

Liturgist: Reverend Karl P. Ziegler (3:00, 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.)

Accompanist: Mrs. Jo Stricklett (3:00 & 5:00 p.m.)

Organist: Mrs. Katie Prelerson (7:00 & 9:00 p.m.)

**Elders: Mr. Joe Griffith (3:00 p.m.), Mr. Eric Grelson (5:00 p.m.), Mr. Mark Lohmeyer (7:00 p.m.),
Mr. Dale Seiber (9:00 p.m.)**

**Acolytes: Tyler Evert & Cherish Hoaglund (5:00 p.m.), Jalena Roth & Audrey Elmer (7:00 p.m.),
Acolyte at 9:00 p.m. – Abby Nemec**

Luke: 2:12 – “And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” Truly, as St. Paul said, He who was rich for our sakes became poor. The King who must be laid in a manger, had no crib for His bed! There in the manger is the very picture of self-giving generosity.