

Isaiah 52:7-10 (LSB)

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. 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.

Hebrews 1:1-6 (LSB)

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.”

Matthew 1:1-17 (LG-ESV)

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. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Candle Light Service and Christmas Day Service



**St. Andrew Lutheran
West Fargo
December 24 & 25, 2022**

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH

A member of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod &

the Red River Lutheran School Association

Our Mission is Learning, Living and Sharing Christ through God’s Word

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December 24 & 25, 2022 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service & Day-A

Just who is this Jesus? **JESUS is THE CHRIST, TRUE GOD AND TRUE MAN, OUR SAVIOR, LORD AND KING!** Christmas Eve is the beginning of the celebration of the most important relationship which is now gifted to us. In the person of Jesus, God and humanity are reconciled in a perfect-harmonious-intimate union. Now is the “dwelling of God with man.” He invites us to have this same union with Him, His Father and His Holy Spirit, so that His Spirit dwells in us. His Father is now our Father and He is our brother. Together we can follow Him and come kneel at His table and be invited to His Holy Communion. His work also brings us back into relationship with others. He does it by His Word, calling us and others to repentance, and giving forgiveness, yes, grace and mercy. We who were once not His people are declared His people like Rahab and Ruth. We, who are ruled by harsh darkness like Tamar are now ruled by the Christ, the compassionate, gentle and good King. He gives us His LIGHT so that we become His LIGHT in this world ruled by darkness.

SPECIAL NOTES FOR WORSHIP

YOUR WORSHIP FOLDER contains all four Christmas Services. 3:30pm, 5:30pm, and 8pm are the same. The 10am Christmas Day Service is a special communion service. If you will not be with us for the other services, use this folder for your own devotion time. If you do not plan to keep a copy of this service, please return it to the usher when you leave. The upcoming announcements are found in the back section.

PLEASE CONSIDER THE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE INCOMPLETE! Its full conclusion is when we celebrate the coming of our Lord at 10am on Christmas Day through Word and Sacrament. The Good News of our Lord's birth certainly continues beyond this evening!

Nativity of our Lord - Christmas Day - A

December 25, 2022

Introit

For to us a child is born, to us a | son is given;*
and the government shall be upon his | shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,*
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.
Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has donemarvelous things!*
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva-|tion for him.
The Lord has made known his sal-|vation;*
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the|nations.
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of
| Israel.*

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, | all the earth;*

break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!

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.

For to us a child is born, to us a | son is given;*

and the government shall be upon his | shoulder,

and his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,*

Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Gradual

To us a child is born, to us a son is | given;*

and the government shall be upon his | shoulder.

And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, | Mighty God,*

Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.

Sing to the Lord a | new song,*

for he has done | marvelous things!

Verse

Alleluia. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. Alleluia.

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This Column is for tomorrow

December 25, 2022-10am

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OPPORTUNITIES THRU CHURCH ACTIVITIES (Dec 25-Jan 1)

Sun/Dec 25 **Christmas Day**
 Festive Christmas Worship w/Holy Communion, 10am

Mon/Dec 26 Office Closed

Tues/Dec 27 Office OPEN-change

Wed/Dec 28 No Confirmation

Thu/Dec 29 Office CLOSED-change

Fri/Dec 30 Office CLOSED-change

Sat/Dec 31 Hall Reserved

Sun/Jan 1 **1st Sunday after Christmas**
 Worship w/Holy Communion, 10am

NOTE: Office hours change for week

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE FOR NEXT WEEK: (1/1)

ELDERS: Emmett Wilson

AV: Wade Trzpuć/Bret Livingston

USHERS: *Curtis Fickes
 Al Hall, Naomi Hall

ACOLYTES: Nathaniel Maynard

MUSICIANS: Susan Jahnke

ALTAR GUILD Donna & Ernie Feland and Robert & Karen Cataldi

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS this week:

Robert Sherrill, Christina Overland, Cybil Johnson, Madeline Cossette, Amy Deng, Paul Klemz, Tom Moltzan, Bai Pyne, Alex Spacek, Bently Williams, Vi Abraham, Margaret Burkhardtsmeier, Greg Else, Julie Glanzer, Gary Lura, Gerald Ramberg, TessAnna Rossow, Caleb Rossow

ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS this week:

Ernie & Donna Feland, Maggie & Jeremiah Livingston, Craig & Rose Abraham, Art & Kari Weidner

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION

"How Long..." is a special Christmas presentation of The Lutheran Hour® featuring the music of Erin Bode, and an original story revealing an ancient set of poems inspired by the book of Isaiah called the "O Antiphons.

Go to: https://media.lhm.org/envoy/mp3s/LH90CS_special.mp3

VISITORS and GUESTS OF THE CONGREGATION: We welcome you to this joyous celebration of God's love as seen in the birth of Jesus Christ, our King. If you are a guest and/or have some spiritual concerns, please speak with our pastor before communing. If communing, fill out the communion registration in the pew rack in front of you or in your worship folder.

THE CANDLES-You will receive them during the offering. PLEASE DO NOT TIP A LIGHTED CANDLE! Only tip your unlighted as the light is passed to you.

YOUR OFFERING-In thanks for the Lord's blessings and mercy, you may bring your offering up to the front to lay it in the manger. You will be ushered up the center aisle in two rows. Place your offering in the manger and pick up your candle as you return to your seat. A child may enjoy putting the offering in the cradle. Please return to your seat down the side aisles.

_____THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE_____

THE PRELUDE:

THE BELL, THE PEACE, EXPLANATION OF OFFERING, and GREETING ONE ANOTHER

**THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN "Let All Together Praise Our God"
 Lighting of the Advent Wreath, Altar & Christ Candles**

Tune: LW #44/LSB #389

1. Let all together praise our God Before his glorious throne:
 Today He opens heav'n again To give us His own Son,
 To give us His own Son.
2. The Father sends Him from His throne To be an infant small
 And lie here poorly manged now In this cold, dismal stall,
 In this cold, dismal stall.
4. He undertakes a great exchange Puts on our human frame,
 And in return gives us His realm His glory, and His name,
 His glory, and His name.
7. Your grace in lowliness revealed, Lord Jesus we adore
 And praise to God the Father yield And Spirit evermore;
 We praise You ever more.

THE INVOCATION

P: In the Name of the Father and the Son + and the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN!

A DEVOTION No King. King. No King. King Jesus! Matthew 1:17

THE CONFESSION

P: Lord God, You sought us out. You desired to bring Your blessed reign among us and to be in communion with You and also with one another. You made this communion happen in the most intimate way of all. You came to earth in person...in the flesh.

C: **"When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive full rights as sons." (Gal. 4:4-5)**

P: On Christmas You came and restored Your union with humanity.

C: **You "became flesh and made your dwelling among us." (Jn. 1:14)**

P: Lord God, by creating us as human beings, You made us unique among all living creatures being your representatives, having dominion over the earth, giving us the ability to communicate and love according to Your will found in Your Word. In doing so You brought about true community.

C: **"And God saw all that He had made, and it was very good," including man and woman in communion with one another. (Gen. 1:31)**

P: And yet, we lost that dominion and communion with You and with others by sinning, by doing the very thing You told us not to do.

C: **And so we became "slaves to sin." (Jn. 8:34)**

P: You are a God of abundant kindness ... of immediate forgiveness. Come now. Come quickly. Save Your people.

C: **Forgive us. We have not always praised You with word and action. We have not always called upon You in trouble.**

P: Indeed, we have acted as if You are not alive or do not exist. We have treated others the same way. We have acted as though we were alone in life and death. We have let others down, and so we have let You down.

C: **Forgive us. We repent of our hardness of heart.**

P: You are a God of intimate kindness ... of immediate forgiveness. Come now. Come quickly. Save Your people.

BY THE NUMBERS

	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>YTD</u>
General Fund Income:	\$ 35,120	\$ 406,869
General Fund Expenses:	\$ 29,405	\$ 391,695
Net	\$ 5,715	\$ 15,174
Mortgage Fund Income:	\$ 9,231	\$ 38,240
One-Time Liability Acct. Transfer	\$ 1,454	\$ 1,454
Subsidy-General Fund/FFT:	\$ 1,000	\$ 26,600
Mortgage Loan Payments:	\$ 6,386	\$ 70,246
Net	\$ 5,299	\$ -3,952

Attendance Last Sunday: 72 + 61 = 133

**OUR FINANCES –****LET'S FINISH STRONG!**

We've completely turned around our financial situation in a short amount of time. On 8/31/22, we were still facing an open balance of \$12,000+ for the 2021 shortfall, and a 2022 YTD deficit of over \$47,500. The situation was dire. Through the months of September, October, and November we received 3 large donations, each in excess of \$10,000. Those 3 donations really helped St. Andrew to reverse course financially. By 11/30/22, the 2021 shortfall has been cleared, and we are now reporting 2022 operations at more than \$15,000 "in the black" (revenues exceed expenses). That's a positive swing of nearly \$75,000. **We are so thankful for the generosity of those three donors!!** The Board of Financial Management met on Sunday, Dec 18th to review our current financials. We are happy to announce that all "frozen expenditures" (some going back as far as May 2022) have been approved for payment. We will be cutting checks to Grace Lutheran School to fully honor our 2022 commitment and to the ND District LCMS to honor our 10% mission budget for 2022. Our December donations have been better than average so far, but let's keep our "foot on the gas" through the end of the year, so we can finish 2022 with no shortfall. Wouldn't it be nice to enter 2023 without the burden of clearing a shortfall from the prior year? That's a feat we haven't been able to achieve for at least five years. We can do it!

COMMUNICATING CHRIST OVER THE AIR:

OUR WEB SITE includes podcasts of sermons, links to livestreams and electronic forms of our newsletters, bulletins and other information www.standrewlcms.org

"THE LUTHERAN HOUR" Sundays on KFGO AM 790 at 7:30am and on KFNW AM 1200 at 8am. Upcoming topics are posted on the LLL bulletin board. www.lutheranhour.org.

"CHRIST THE WAY" a radio program featuring ND District LCMS Pastors on KSJB 600AM at 7:30am on Sundays.

OUR SYNOD'S RADIO STATION: www.kfuo.org

DAILY DEVOTIONS by Pastor Klaus at www.lhm.org/dailydevotions.asp

MEN NETWORK: www.lhmmen.com

ISSUES, ETC: Current events from a Lutheran view. www.issuesetc.org

MAIN STREET LIVING NORTH TV PROGRAM January 1st: Rev. Daniel Voth, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, ND, presents the message: "Our Exodus" based on Matthew 2:13-23. Lutheran Hour seasonal program: "The Other Wiseman" - Another Magi, making his journey to the Christ child, encounters others and shows kindness along the way. MAIN STREET LIVING" is a locally produced TV program that includes a 30 minute worship service led by participating pastors of the ND and MN North Districts of our LCMS, along with a 30 minute Lutheran Hour program. Programs are broadcast at 9am Central time on FOX station KVRR Channel 15.1, AND 10am Central on WDAY & affiliate Xtra Channels: WDAY Xtra Channel 6.3, and archived on www.mainstreetliving.com (then click on "North").

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT Christmas Day John 1:5 - "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Through all of our hardships, all of our sorrows, all of our pains and loneliness, Jesus' light shines in the darkness, and we are not overcome. In the face of our sin, in the midst of our pettiness, against all our pride, Jesus' light shines and illuminates our hearts and changes us, day by day, into a greater reflection of His likeness.

ABSOLUTION:

P: Hear the Good News! God's reign and love is at hand. In baptism, He declares you His child!

C: The Savior has come!

P: In this season of Christmas we know there is hope.

C: The Messiah has come to set us free.

P: The Lamb of God, Jesus the Messiah, has come to destroy sin, death, and the power of the devil in the world

C: in our lives and in my life.

P: Know that through His coming your sins are forgiven. You are free from the power of Satan. Death has been destroyed for you, and by Jesus you have the power to forgive those who sin against you. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen! Indeed! The Christ Child, King Jesus has come! Amen!

THE OLD TESTAMENT prophecy of God's people restored under the Shepherd King.

Micah 5:2-5a

A HYMN OF RESPONSE "From Heaven Came the Angels Bright"

Tune: LW #52:2,4-6

2. To Bethlehem, King David's town, As Micah saw, comes great renown;
Your Lord Christ is incarnate there To save you all from sin and care.

4. God came to share Himself with you; Your sin and death He overthrew.
The foe may send His fiery dart, Your friend, God's Son, will shield your heart.

5. He never will abandon you. Trust King Immanuel, the True.
Yield not to any evil might. Walk in the Christ child's saving light.

6. Then in the end you will prevail; God's friends and brothers cannot fail.
In praise to God then raise your voice, Prepare forever to rejoice.

THE PROPHECY FULFILLED

Matthew 1:18-21

HYMN OF RESPONSE

"What Child Is This?"

Tune: LW #61:1-2

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!

HE IS WITH US **Matthew 1:22-23**

HE WAS WITH GOD AND IS GOD **John 1:1-2, 14**

THIS UNION OF GOD AND MAN PLEASED GOD **Colossians 1:19**

HYMN OF RESPONSE **"A Great and Mighty Wonder"**
Tune LW #51:1-2

1. A great and mighty wonder, A full and holy cure:
The virgin bears the infant With virgin honor pure!

REFRAIN:

**Repeat the hymn again: "To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!"**

2. The Word becomes incarnate And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems To shepherds from the sky.

REFRAIN:

GOD WORKS HIS PURPOSE THROUGH HUMANITY
Matthew 1:24-25

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

HYMN OF RESPONSE **"I Am So Glad"**
Tune: LW #56:1, 2, 4

1. I am so glad when Christmas comes, The night of Jesus' birth,
When Beth-l'hem's star shone as the sun And angels sang with mirth.

2. The little Child in Bethlehem, The King of heav'nly grace,
Came down from His exalted throne To save our fallen race.

VISITORS, if you do not have a church home, you are welcome to consider us. Please let us know by noting your wishes on the Friendship Register, telling a member or the pastor as you leave, so that we may help you and give the information you need.

Merry CHRISTmas!

We thank the Lord for all those who blessed our worship with music, including our musicians:

The Jubilate Choir directed by Susan Jahnke
Keyboardists: Susan Jahnke, Jodi Pierce and Richard Thompson
Vocal Soloist: Adam Ratz

+ + +

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 25 **10am Christmas Day Festival Communion Service**
with both individual and common cup offered

No Sunday School

January 1 **10am Service Only - Worship & Holy Communion**
(No Bible Class or Sunday School).

The Rev. David Fleming will be preaching. He is the Executive Director of Spiritual Care for DOXOLOGY & Associate Pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church-Grand Rapids, MI.

He's authored preaching resources for CPH, Concordia Pulpit Resources, and the Northern Illinois District. He's spoken at the Good Shepherd Institute; pastoral conferences in the Oklahoma, Michigan, Central Illinois, and Northern Illinois Districts; and at several Doxology events. He's written on pastoral care for children of divorce and for the lonely. He's also explored the use of faithful art and the use of story in serving souls.

Pastor Fleming was a graduate assistant in Pastoral Ministry at Concordia Theological Seminary and has served as a pastor in the LCMS since 1987. He and Jo, his wife, have three adult children and three granddaughters.

He will be leading the Lent Preparation for pastors January 2-4, and we will have the blessing of God's Word through Him. Please keep him and the pastors in your prayers.

January 4 **Confirmation and Choir Schedules resume**

January 8 **Sunday Worship at 8am & 10:45am**

Sunday School and Bibles Classes resume as well.

No Midweek worship until Lent.

THE RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Joy to the World"

Tune: LW #53/LSB #387

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its 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.
2. 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.
3. No more let sin and sorrow 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.
4. 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.

THE POSTLUDE

“This is our chief article, and this is our true, genuine, Christian faith, apart from which no other faith exists: that Christ is true God and man. And this faith alone saves. Whoever desires to have a different faith is welcome to have it and see where it will get him. If reason will not believe that it was possible for God to become man, then it may disbelieve it. But we Christians believe it because God’s Word says so; and to faith nothing is impossible. Reason may be offended at it to whatever extent it please. But so it must be: whoever expects to be redeemed and saved from the devil’s power, from sins, and from death must believe that Christ is true God, through whom the world was made, also true man, born of Mary. This faith alone saves—none other, however it may be called.”

—Martin Luther—

4. I too would sing my Savior’s praise, My joy, my crown, my Lord;
For He has made me His own child by Water and the Word.

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS - The Preliminaries

St. Luke 2:1-5

HYMN OF RESPONSE

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Tune: LW #60:1-3/LSB #361

1. O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, The angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing To God the King, And peace to all the earth!
3. How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessing of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still The dear Christ enters in.

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS-Our Lord is Born

St. Luke 2:6-7

A HYMN OF RESPONSE

"Away in a Manger"

Tune: LSB #364/#365:1, 3

1. Away in a manger no crib for a 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.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with thee there.

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS-

The Angel Appears to Shepherds

St. Luke 2:8-9

A HYMN OF RESPONSE

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Tune: LW #62:1-3/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, good-will to all, From heav'n's all gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear 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 blessed 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, Comes swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of him the angels sing.

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS-Lord's Birth is Announced St. Luke 2:10-12

3:30 & 5:30 CHOIR-Jubilate

"For He is Born Today"

Words & Music: Jay Althouse

8pm-A HYMN OF RESPONSE

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

Tune: LW #50/LSB #367:1-2

1. Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story; Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

REFRAIN:

**Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king.**

2. Shepherds in the fields abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the infant light.

REFRAIN

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS- The Praise of the Angels

St. Luke 2:13-14

HYMN OF RESPONSE

"Hark! The Herald Angels"

Tune: LW #49:1-3/LSB #380

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."

3. 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.

STAND

THE CANDLELIGHT PRAYERS

P: O Almighty God, You have made this most holy night to shine with the
brightness of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the true light of the World. Grant
us to know now the true meaning and mystery of His coming and birth,
so we may also have the fullness of His eternal joys in heaven, where He
now lives and reigns with You, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.

C: AMEN! GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!

P: Remember us in Your kingdom and help us to pray....

ALL:

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!**

P: "You are the light of the world....Let your light so shine before men, that
they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in
heaven."
[Matthew 5:14,16]

THE BLESSING

P: The grace of the new born King, Jesus + Christ, who came for our
salvation, and the love of God the Heavenly Father, and the fellowship of
the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C: AMEN! CHRIST IS BORN FOR US, ALLELUIA!

*Candles are extinguished and lights brightened. Please place
your candles in the box in the narthex as you are ushered out.*

RESPONSE #3

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Tune: LSB #393

1. Infant holy, infant lowly, For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing, Bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
2. Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story, Tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, Praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT AND SONG

THE CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY

The pastor lights his candle from the altar candle, which symbolizes CHRIST THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

- P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness - on them has light shined. Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

[Isaiah 9:2 and 60:1]

Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world; whoever follows me shall not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. [John 8:12]

The pastor gives light to the ushers at the front of the altar. They, in turn give light to the first worshipers in each row, who will pass it on to the others in that row. DO NOT TILT A LIGHTED CANDLE!!!

THE CANDLELIGHT SONG

"Silent Night"

Tune: LW #68/LSB #363

1. 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.
2. 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!

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!"

3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun 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!"

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS-The Shepherds Go to See St. Luke 2:15-16

HYMN OF RESPONSE

"Once in Royal David's City"

Tune: LW #581:1,4/LSB #376

1. Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed;
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
4. Not in that poor lowly stable With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven, Set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars His children crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS-The Shepherds Share the Gospel

St. Luke 2:17-20

A HYMN OF RESPONSE

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Tune: LW #55:1, 3/LSB #368

1. 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.
3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord the newborn king.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

THE OLD TESTAMENT FORETELLS OF OTHER FOREIGNERS COMING TO JESUS

Isaiah 11:10

THE NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

Matthew 2:1-6

HYMN OF RESPONSE

"Lo, How a Rose Is Blooming"

Tune: LSB #359

1. Lo, how a rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming As prophets long have sung,
It came, a flow'ret bright, Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.

2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, The rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, She bore to us a Savior,
When half-spent was the night.

3. This flow'r, whose fragrance tender With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor The darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God, From sin and death He saves us
And lightens ev'ry load.

THE TRUE KING IS WORSHIPED

Matthew 2:7-11

OUR OFFERINGS AND SONGS OF RESPONSE

Our gifts and songs acknowledge with joy the birth of Him who is our Savior. Through them, we signify the giving of ourselves fully and our trust. Through these gifts we and others will continue to hear the joy of Jesus. You will be ushered up the center aisle in two rows. Place your offering in the manger and pick up your candle as you return to your seat. A child may enjoy putting the offering in the cradle. Please return to your seat down the side aisles. We listen & sing as the offerings are brought up:

3:30 & 5:30 CHOIR-Jubilate

"Follow the Star"

Words & Music: Sally K. Albretch

8pm-Soloist- Adam Ratz

"Do You Hear What I Hear?"

RESPONSE #1

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

LW #41/LSB #379

*1. Oh, come all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels:

REFRAIN:

**Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, 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 fleshing 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:

RESPONSE #2

"As with Gladness Men of Old"

Tune: LSB #397

*1. As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led by Thee.

2. As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to Thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

3. As they offered gifts most rare At Thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.

4. Holy Jesus, ev'ry day Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

5. In the heav'nly country bright Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing Alleluias to our King.