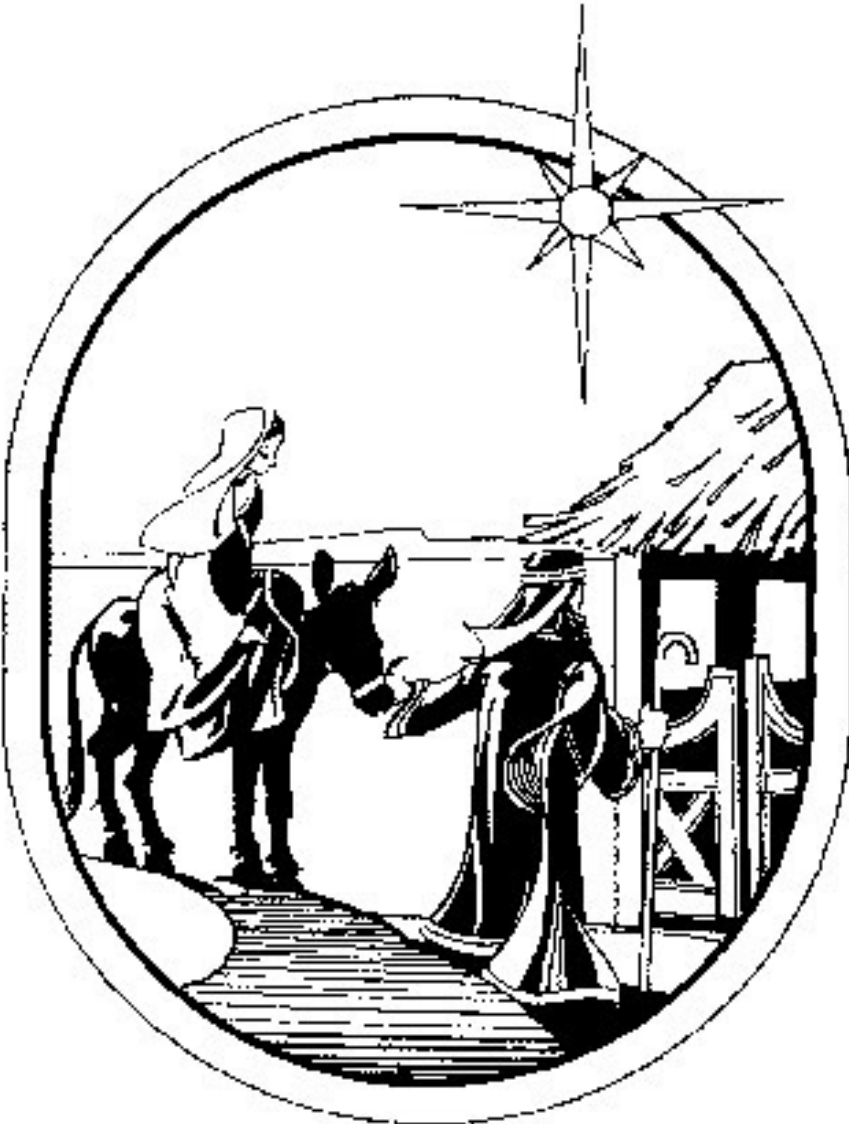


**ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR LUTHERAN CHURCH**



**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2021  
4:00PM & 9:00 PM**

*In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.*

*ELW is the cranberry red Evangelical Lutheran Book of Worship*

*~Please quiet your hearts, your minds and your cell phones ~*

**PRELUDE** - (4:00) "In Quiet Joy" arr. Marcel Dupre  
(9:00) "O Come, All Ye Faithful" arr. Anna Laura Page      Handbells

**WELCOME**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

**HYMN - ELW #257 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"**

*O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

**L:**      On the eve of our Christmas celebration, Jesus' birthday, we light all of the candles of the Advent wreath. First, we light the candle for **HOPE** because Jesus is our hope. Second, we light the candle for **PEACE** because Jesus is our hope and peace. Third, we light the candle for **JOY** because Jesus brings joy. Fourth, we light the candle for **LOVE** because Jesus is love. Finally, we light the **CHRIST** candle. Jesus is born. Jesus has come. Jesus is our salvation.

A reading from Galatians:

*"But when the time had fully come, God sent God's Son, born of a woman, born under law." Galatians 4:4*

Let us pray:

**C:**      **Great God of love and light, we thank you now for the light of that special star over two thousand years ago that guided humble shepherds and learned wise men to the holy babe. Lead us now, by the light of your love, that we also may follow you to new life in him. In celebration of the birthday of our King and our Savior, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen**

*2 - Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** *(Please stand, as able)*

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who sends the word with angels,  
who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

**C:** **Amen.**

**P:** In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

**P:** Holy God,

**C:** **we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition.  
We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.  
We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.  
We have not put on love in harmony with you.  
Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.  
Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed,  
may reflect your love born among us. Amen.**

**P:** I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us  
in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. † In Christ your sins are forgiven  
and you are clothed in peace.

**C:** **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN: ELW #283 “O Come All Ye Faithful”**

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

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!

2 The highest, most holy,  
light of light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father  
now in flesh appearing! Refrain

*3 - Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others*

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

### **GREETING**

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

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

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**C:** **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.**

### **(4:00) CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

#### **FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7**

*This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!*

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>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.

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

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>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.

**L:** The Word of the Lord

**C:** Thanks be to God

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

*The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity.*

*Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.*

<sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He 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.

**L:** The Word of the Lord

**C:** Thanks be to God

## **GOSPEL: LUKE:1-20**

*God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.*

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to Luke

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

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph 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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time

came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And 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 the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

<sup>15</sup>When 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.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**MESSAGE - “A Time to Ponder”**

*Rev. Brian Hooper*

**HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #289 “Angels We Have Heard on High”**

1	Angels we have heard on high,	2	Shepherds, why this jubilee?
	sweetly singing o'er the plains,		Why your joyous strains prolong?
	and the mountains in reply,		What the gladsome tidings be
	echoing their joyous strains.		which inspire your heav'nly song? <i>Refrain</i>

*Refrain*

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. *Refrain*

**6 - Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others**

## **APOSTLES' 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.**

## **CHRISTMAS PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**L:** Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

**L:** Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life. Merciful God,

**C:** **receive our prayer.**

**L:** Love whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come. Maintain healthy cycles of wake and sleep for all creatures. Where light pollution disrupts natural rhythms, encourage new practices. Merciful God,

**C:** **receive our prayer.**

**L:** Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand. Direct those in power who make decisions on behalf of others, that they nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy. Merciful God,

**C:** **receive our prayer.**

*7 - Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others*

- L:** Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night. Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult. Merciful God,
- C:** **receive our prayer.**
- L:** Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents. Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind. Merciful God,
- C:** **receive our prayer.**
- L:** God's ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us. We give you thanks for Mary, John the baptizer, Elizabeth his mother, Joseph the dreamer, and all who point toward your love. Merciful God,
- C:** **receive our prayer.**
- L:** Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C:** **Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

- L:** Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior.
- C:** **Amen.**



### EUCCHARIST PRAYER

- P:** We are the body of Christ.
- C:** **His Spirit is with us.**
- P:** Let us lift up our hearts.
- C:** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C:** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION “In the night”...

### THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven  
hallowed be Thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power,  
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### COMMUNION

*Prepare your elements by opening the two separate parts, wafer and wine (if you need assistance, please wave to an usher). The Pastor will recite the words of institution and consecrate the elements. Partaking of the elements will occur **after** the Lord’s Prayer is spoken. The Pastor will lead the assembly with the words: *The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P:** We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus’ name we pray.

**C:** Amen.

### CANDLE LIGHTING

*(Pastor will light a candle from the altar candles. Ushers will then light worshippers’ candles nearest the aisle in each pew. **Please dip only the unlit candle when lighting your candle from your neighbor.** Parents – Please exercise the utmost care with candles.)*

(9:00): “Night of Silence” - *Kantor* *Choir*  
*(Please join in signing Silent Night with the choir after the anthem)*



**HYMN: ELW #281 “Silent Night”**

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!
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.

**A CHRISTMAS BENEDICTION**

**P:** The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

**C:** **Amen.**

*Please extinguish candles, and deposit in boxes in the Gathering Area as you leave.*

**SENDING HYMN: ELW #267 “Joy to the World”**

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
let earth receive her King;  
Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room  
and heav’n and nature sing,  
and heav’n and nature sing,  
and heav’n, and heav’n, and nature sing.
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.

## DISMISSAL

**L:** Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** “From Heaven Above” - by J. S. Bach BWV 606

*From sundaysandseasons.com*

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Rev. Brian Hooper, Pastor - 262-271-8913 Tabitha Moldenhauer, Music Director Mark Bruetzmann, Saturday Musician Bonnie Zimmermann, Ministry Assistant Office phone - 414-421-3543 Jim Hennessy, Church Maintenance
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***Join us for Worship at St. Stephen the Martyr  
Tomorrow, December 25, Christmas Day worship at 9:30 AM  
(No Worship service on Sunday December 26)***

***THANK YOU FOR SERVING IN THE WORSHIP!***

Reader: (4:00) Norah Hooper & Ben Hooper  
(9:00) Bonnie Zimmermann

Ushers: (4:00): Dennis Lucchesi, Nancy Mineau and Patti Nelson  
(9:00): Bob DeFrank, Bob Lieske, Bob Rasmussen and Doug Winter

***The Eternal Candle is given by  
Dennis Lucchesi in honor of Dennis & Geri's 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary***

***Christmas Poinsettias given by***

<i>Bonnie Court</i>	<i>In memory of Parents and In honor of Children and Grandchildren</i>
<i>Shirley Devecka</i>	<i>In memory of Family</i>
<i>Gordy &amp; Diane Flohr</i>	<i>In honor of Family</i>
<i>Ruth Hoppe</i>	<i>In memory of Ralph Hoppe</i>
<i>The Kelroy Family</i>	<i>In memory of Our Grandparents</i>
<i>Dick &amp; Betty Kroll</i>	<i>In honor of Family and Friends</i>
<i>Greg &amp; Billie Jo Kunesh</i>	<i>In honor of CherishAnn &amp; Joey Pearson</i>
<i>Bob &amp; Shirley Lieske</i>	<i>In memory of Family</i>
<i>Nancy Mineau</i>	<i>In honor of Jesus' birth</i>
<i>Faith O'Connell</i>	<i>In honor of Grandchildren</i>
<i>Larry &amp; Sandy Petricek</i>	<i>In memory of Frank Petricek (Larry's brother)</i>
<i>Eric &amp; Denise Sanders</i>	<i>In honor of the birth of our Savior</i>
<i>Dave &amp; RaeAnn Simley</i>	<i>In memory of Our Parents</i>
<i>Julie Starks</i>	<i>In memory of Paul G. Eklund</i>
<i>Diane &amp; Eric Sundquist</i>	<i>In memory of Our Parents</i>
<i>Marion Walton</i>	<i>In memory of Family Members, Friends, and Colleagues</i>
<i>Sandy Wesolowski &amp; Family</i>	<i>In memory of Iola Sawicki</i>
<i>Kipp &amp; Bonnie Zimmermann</i>	<i>In memory of Loved Ones</i>

