

**CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP
DECEMBER 25, WILL BE AT 10 A.M.**

This service of lessons and carols bring Christmas Day to life. Join us in singing some of our favorite carols, and share Holy Communion. (There is no sermon.)

Sunday, December 25th and January 1st there will be **only one service** at 10 a.m. There will be no Education Hour. Sunday School will resume on January 8th.

Large Print Edition of the order of worship, the lessons, and the hymns for today are available. If you would like copies for worship, please ask an usher.

2017 Offering Envelopes are ready to be picked up in the Narthex on tables. They are in alphabetical order. If you don't see your envelopes stop in the church office and see Katrina.

Our SUPER HERO SUNDAY SCHOOLERS are making Blessing Bags for people in need this Holiday season! Want to help? Please consider donating travel size items: Washcloths, Toothbrushes, Deodorant, Soap, Lotion, Shampoo, Conditioner, Kleenex, Wipes. Our Sunday school team will begin putting the bags together soon and they will be donated to the Salvation Army! Thank you so much for your continued help in our community service projects! ~ Education committee

2016 Donations

In order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2016, **checks must be mailed to the church by no later than December 31.** Checks must be **written, postmarked, and mailed in 2016** to qualify for a 2016 deduction. All other contributions will not qualify for this year, even if the check was actually written in 2016. Please keep this in mind when making your year-end donations.

Interim Senior Pastor:	Erick Thompson
Associate Pastor:	Jennifer Rose
Visitation Pastor:	Stan Satre
Sacristan:	3:00- Mark & Susan Hermes
Acolytes:	3:00-Callie & Hailey Knudson 5:00- Emily Werner
Ushers:	3:00- LeRoy & Joan Anderson, Gordy & Sandy Kvern 5:00- Wade & Michelle Vogl, David & Lorri Holt
Adult Choir Director:	Erik Vigesaa
Hosanna Handbells Director:	Linda Mellon
Children's Choir Helper:	Maddy Trosvig
Baby Jesus:	3:00 – Kolby, daughter of Cole & Miranda Obowa 5:00 –August, son of Zach & Susie Ouren
Organist:	Keith Melberg
P.A.	3:00-Bud Mellon 5:00- LeAnne Jaenisch



**Christmas Eve - 3 & 5 p.m.
December 24, 2016**

PRELUDE
CHRISTMAS GREETING

PROCESSIONAL CAROL

What Child Is This
(Please remain seated until verse 3)

ELW 296

- 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: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

***SILENCE FOR MEDITATION**

***CHRISTMAS VERSICLE**

PASTOR: God of Creation, shaper of seas and stars of planets and of people.
PEOPLE: **God is here with us.**
PASTOR: God is born in Bethlehem, gurgling, crying, laid in a manger.
PEOPLE: **God is here with us.**
PASTOR: God, breath of the universe flickering, dancing in the candle flame.
PEOPLE: **God is here with us.**
PASTOR: God, Immanuel, among us, within us
ALL: **We bring ourselves and our dreams for we want to be here with you.**

ANTHEM (3:00 p.m.) **Breath of Heaven** arr. Eithun
Hosanna Handbells

(5:00 p.m.) **Noel** arr. Tomlin, Cash, Redman
Children's Choir

A GREAT LIGHT HAS SHINED ON THOSE WAITING IN DARKNESS Isaiah 9:2-7

SOME IDEAS FOR YOUR FAMILY CHRISTMAS

TABLE PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

*With joy and gladness we feast upon your love, O God.
You have come among us in Jesus, your Son, and your presence now graces this table.
May Christ dwell in us so that we might bear his love to all the world, for he is Lord forever and ever.
Amen.*

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

Have one of the children (perhaps the youngest child/grandchild who can read?) read the Christmas Gospel from Luke 2:1-20 before opening presents or before the meal.

BLESSING OF CHRISTMAS GIFTS

(Use this prayer before you open Christmas presents)

*Blessed be your name, O God, you are the source of every blessing. From your hand, we receive the good gifts of life, health, and salvation.
As we give and receive these presents, bless us with hearts thankful for the birth of your Son.
May our opening of these gifts lead us to share our love, faith, and goods with the poor and needy. In Jesus name, Amen.*

CHRISTMAS PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

(Use this prayer when your children go to bed on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day night. You can either sing it to the tune of *Away in a Manger*, or say it as a prayer)

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven to live with you there. Amen.*

(excerpts from Come Lord Jesus by Susan Briehl, ©
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***CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

***LORDS PRAYER**

C: 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.

***CAROL** *Silent Night, Holy Night!* ELW 281

THE PASSING OF THE LIGHT

The pastors will light their candles; the ushers will light their candles from the pastors' candles. The ushers will then light the candle of the worshiper in each pew nearest to the aisle. **[Tip only the unlit candle when lighting your candle from your neighbor.]**

- 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.

***CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

(Please extinguish your candles and place them in the baskets in the narthex.)

POSTLUDE

*Denotes when to stand

ANTHEM (5:00 p.m.) *O Holy Night* arr. Clausen
Adult Choir

CAROL *Away in a Manger* ELW 277
(Children, please come forward on verse 2)

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his 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.
- 2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

CHILDREN'S EVENT Pastor Erick & Pastor Jennifer
(Children will return during the verse 3)

- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.
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***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* ELW 276 (v.1 & 2)

- 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!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt.

***READING OF THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL** Luke 2:1-20
(Congregation responds after Gospel is announced: **Glory to you, O Lord.**)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom

he favors!" 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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

(Congregation responds after Gospel is read: **Praise to you, O Christ**)

SERMON

Pastor Erick

CHRISTMAS HYMN

The First Noel

ELW 300 (v. 1 & 2)

- 1 The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

- 2 They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

(3:00)

Gloria Hodie
Hosanna Handbells

arr. Turner/McChesney

The Christmas Offering will be divided amongst our benevolences.

(Children are welcome to come forward for a children's offering, which will be collected in a basket up front.)

BLESSING OF THE FAMILY OF GOD

* The ushers will direct you to come forward to receive a family blessing. If you're here alone this evening, we'll give a blessing for you and your loved ones, wherever they may be.

CAROLS DURING THE BLESSING OF THE FAMILY OF GOD

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279

- 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 blessings 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.
- 4 O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

- 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 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: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW 289

- 1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the glad-some tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?

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: Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.