

When they saw
**THAT THE STAR
HAD STOPPED,**
THEY WERE OVERWHELMED WITH



MATTHEW 2:10, NRSV

Glory Enough for Everyone

To maintain the machinery of empire, people must be counted; not to be valued as individuals, but to assess tribute. It is the census. Lists of family members, and decisions about them, must be made. As your life, family, and records are audited, so also is your future decided. What sacrifice will be required for the glory of Rome?

If he has listened to Mary's song (Luke 1:46-55), Joseph, as the state-recognized head of the household, can safely allow himself and his family to be among the counted. He would know that Imperial Rome's time is short, that God brings down the "powerful from their thrones" and "sends the rich away empty." Although in temporary bondage, God's people will receive the promises made to Abraham for the sake of his descendants. If Joseph has listened to Mary (Luke 1:32-33) he knows that this son will sit on David's throne, and cannot be removed. He may not understand how and when these things will come to pass, only that they will. Why not be counted?

Shepherds, however, cannot expect to be counted. While the rest of the world is engaged in the games of empire, they watched their flocks, unnoticed by census-takers. But they were not unnoticed by God. Beyond the view of the watchful eye of Caesar, God was doing a new thing, forging true peace to upset the sham *pax* of imperial domination, a new kingdom whose only army is that of angels singing, rank upon rank, of God's saving work. It all begins with the unforeseen birth of a child and the wonder of a mother. We, like shepherds, stand in awe at God's gracious surprise. There is glory enough for all.

Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve
Tuesday, December 24, 2018, 10:00 pm

Introduction to the day

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.

If hearing assistance is needed, please ask an usher for a personal PA receiver.

The ushers also have large print copies of tonight's worship folder available.

If it will be difficult for you to stand along with the congregation during any part of the worship service, please feel free to remain seated.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Brass Quartet in Narthex

Thank you to our brass quartet for enriching our worship on this special night: Austin Muthyala and Patrick Score, trumpet; Drew Kilpela and Dan Parrish, trombone.

PRELUDE

“Once in Royal David's City”

arr. Alice Jordan

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

The assembly stands.

OPENING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW #283

GREETING

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

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW #289

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: 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!

A reading from Isaiah.

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

³You 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.

⁴For 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.

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

⁶For 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.

⁷His 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 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.

A reading from Titus.

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,
¹²training us to renounce 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

CHORAL ANTHEM

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

(Paulus)

Chancel Choir

Aaron Woodman, oboe

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

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.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

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 the inn.

⁸In 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!”

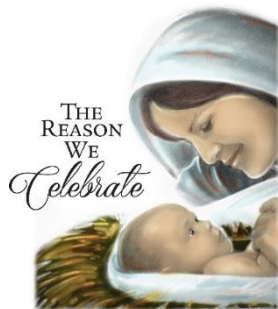
¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, 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.]

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW #270

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Prayers of intercession are prayed.

To each petition, the assembly responds:

Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers, and the assembly responds:

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

"Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child"

(arr. Hayes)

Chancel Choir

Tammy Heilman, soloist

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God with us:

You came as a baby to a manger.

You slept on straw and greeted shepherds.

You come again in bread and wine.

Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things.

And then, through these gifts, help

us to bless the lives of others in

the strength of your holy name.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

To the tune of "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

The Lord be with you,

And with you, his servant.

O, Come let us lift our hearts unto the Lord.

With hearts uplifted thanks to Him we render:

With joy we come before Him, in gratefulness implore Him,

With thankful hearts adore Him Evermore!

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

To the tune of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord!
God of hosts, by all adored!
Heav'n and earth cannot contain
All the glory of your name!
Hail, hosanna, God most high!
Blest is He who now draws nigh
in the name of God the King!
Hallelujahs glad we sing:
Hail, hosanna! Praises due
be forever, Lord, to you!**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom
and teach us to pray.

**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 COMMUNION

Joy to the world! The Lord is come.
Let every heart receive your Savior.

The assembly is seated

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond:

Amen.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

“Meditation”

Aaron Woodman, oboe

Bach/Gounod

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

What Child Is This

ELW #296

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

ELW #271

The assembly stands.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
Strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES



The Fire Marshall has asked that children age 6 and under do not hold candles independently.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DURING CANDLE LIGHTING

The assembly stands

We will sing the German text first, followed by the 3 verses in English.

Silent Night, Holy Night! *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!*

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry
you into new and abundant life.

Amen

May the Word that Joseph cradled in his
arms enfold you with love and strength.

Amen

May the Word that angels proclaimed in
song bring harmony to our world.

Amen

And the blessing of almighty God, the
Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be
upon you and remain with you always.

Amen

CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the World

ELW #267

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!

Peace to God's people on earth!

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World”

arr. Raymond Haan

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*She wrapped him
in cloths and placed
him in a manger...*

LUKE 2:7, NIV



Welcome, one and all, to
Christmas Eve worship!
May you be touched
tonight not only by the
sweetness of the Babe of
Bethlehem but by the
profound love of God the
Father and the miracle-
working power of the Holy
Spirit.

Sunday Education hour resumes on January 12th

9:00 am

Sunday Worship

10:00 am

Pastor Ellen Schoepf

prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org

Secretary Katie Love

klove@faithlutheranokemos.org

Director of Music

Debra Borton-McDonough

Organist/Pianist

Bruce Williams

Serving Faith Tonight

Acolyte

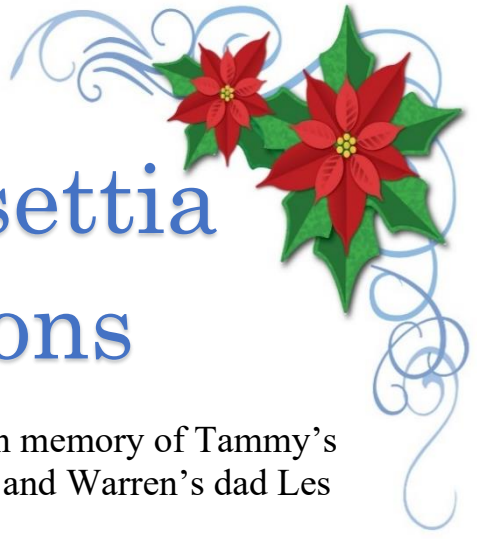
Altar Care Karen Whitmyer, Heidi Bowers & Brielle Bowers

Greeters Natalie & Jack Dingleline

Lay Assistant Kim O'Brien

Reader Heidi Nussdorfer

Ushers Jim & Peggy Crum



2019 Poinsettia Dedications

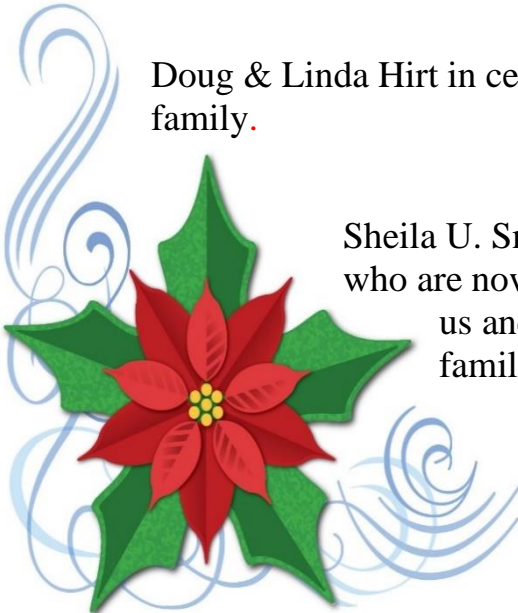
Warren & Tammy Heilman in memory of Tammy's parents, Gene & Ida Joachim and Warren's dad Les Heilman.

Bob & Connie Nelson in memory of Chery White (Connie's sister) and in honor of our grandchildren.

Lee & Linda Gerard in celebration of family birthdays and Christmas.

Doug & Linda Hirt in celebration of our Faith family.

Sheila U. Smith in memory of family who are now shining stars looking at us and in celebration of our family and our pets.



Dorothy Rush in memory of Leo Rush, Steven Rush and Marsha Rush Schoepf.

Gordon & Judy Tuthill in memory of our grandparents and in celebration of our 50th wedding anniversary.

Bruce Williams in memory of Gladys & Stanley Williams.

The Kopf family in memory of William & Hilda Kopf, Richard & Jane Kemmler, Hannes & Eleanor Tietje and Sandra Fox.

Mabel Anglin in memory of Fred & Ella Schroeder and Aris Anglin.

Annie Mayer in celebration of Maggie, Rob, Allison and Tim Mayer.

You may take your poinsettia(s) home following the 10 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service. Merry Christmas!





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



- To make disciples for Jesus Christ. . .
 - . . . we **Gather** in faith for worship, prayer,
study and fellowship
 - . . . we **Equip** the people of God with a faith
that works in real life
 - . . . we **Serve** the world in the name of Jesus Christ
-



Faith Lutheran Church's Welcoming Statement:

We, at Faith Lutheran Church, welcome you as a child of God. As Paul said in his letter to the Galatians, “for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.” (Galatians 3:26)
We strive to be a place where everyone is welcomed and affirmed.

No matter your age, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, marital status, faith background, political leanings, or mental or physical ability - you are welcome as you are. As children of God, we are all one in Christ Jesus and rely on the unconditional nature of God’s love and grace to be our help and guide.

Email address

faith@faithlutheranokemos.org

Websites

Faith Lutheran Church ≈ www.faithlutheranokemos.org
North/West Lower Michigan Synod ≈ www.mittensynod.org
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ≈ www.elca.org

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You also can find the audio available on Faith’s website under worship
Sermons

<http://faithlutheranokemos.org/sermons/>