

*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, 4:00 pm  
Holy Communion

## **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 today'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.*

*There is a nursery available during the worship service for those who wish to use it. It is located at the end of the hall beyond the coat racks.*

## **PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

**"Christmas Potpourri"**

arr. Bill Wolaver

*We cordially greet all who have come to worship today.*

## **PRELUDE**

*The pre-service music signals the beginning of the worship service. Silence during the pre-service music enables worshippers to prepare for worship through quiet meditation.*

**"Once in Royal David's City"**

arr. Alice Jordan

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## GATHERING

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*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.*

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## WORD

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*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.

<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.

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.

<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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

***Go Tell It on the Mountain***

*The assembly is seated*

***ELW #290***

## **CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

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

*The children are invited to come forward for the Christmas story as told from the Spark Story Bible.*

*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.*

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## MEAL

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*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## OFFERING

"Minuet Noel"

arr. Shafferman

Emily Brown and Ryan Thompson, duet

## OFFERING PRAYER

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.

## **CONGREGATIONAL SONG**

*Away in a Manger*

***ELW #277***

## **CONGREGATIONAL SONG**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

***ELW #279***

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.*

*The assembly stands*

## 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 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  
 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, ✠ 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

*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 12<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am

Sunday Worship

10:00 am

Pastor

Ellen Schoepf

[prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org)

Secretary

Katie Love

[klove@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:klove@faithlutheranokemos.org)

Director of Music

Debra Borton-McDonough

Organist/Pianist

Bruce Williams

### Serving Faith Today

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Acolyte

Altar Care

Greeters

Lay Assistant

Reader

Usher

Nursery

Karen Whitmyer, Heidi Bowers & Brielle Bowers

Gail & Lowell Barricklow

Mike Eschelbach

Emily Brown

Ken Schoepf

Jennifer Coe

# 2019 Poinsettia Dedications



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

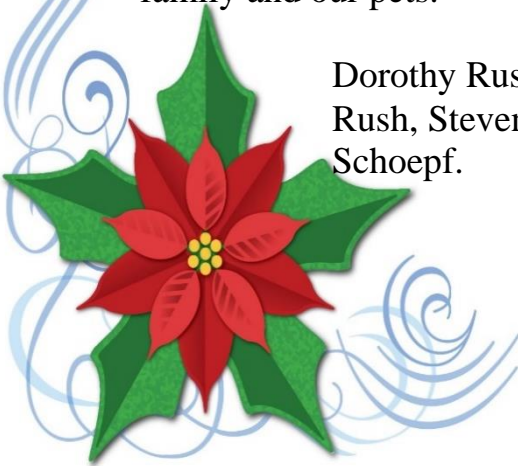
Bob & Connie Nelson in memory of Chery White (Connie's sister) and in honor of our grandchildren.

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 50<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Merry Christmas from all of us at Faith Lutheran.**

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





# 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](http://www.faithlutheranokemos.org)  
North/West Lower Michigan Synod ≈ [www.mittensynod.org](http://www.mittensynod.org)  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ≈ [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

### Facebook

[facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos](https://facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos)

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

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