

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

4515 Dobie Road Okemos, MI 48864 517-349-0620

10:00 a.m. December 29, 2024 – Christmas I

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

Pastor	Bruce Thorsen
Administrative Assistant	Kalea Sanford
Music Director	Deb Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist	Bruce Williams
Sound Technicians	Cody Boyan & Raymond Herek
Church email	<u>faith@faithlutheranokemos.org</u>
Website	
Facebook Page	<u>facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos</u>

WIFI: Faith Lutheran; Password: LutheranFaith

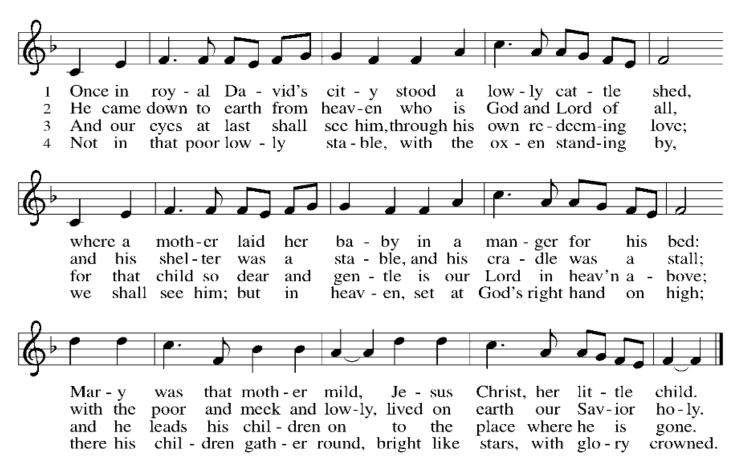
PRELUDE

"Wexford Carol" and "Hear the Glad Tidings"

arr. Olive Nelson Russell

The assembly stands.

GATHERING SONG – ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY (ELW 269)



Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895 Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

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DIALOGUE

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined. We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given. In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; 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.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 9:2-7, God promises a king

² 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.

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.

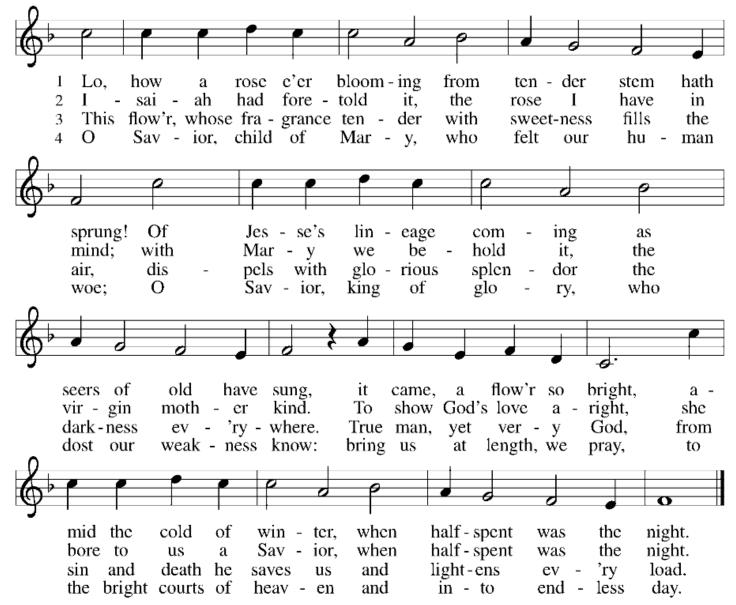
⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named

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.

CAROL - LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING (ELW 272)



Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4 Music: ES IST EIN ROS, Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1599

SECOND READING: MICAH 5:2-5a, the king will come from Bethlehem

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

CAROL - O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM (ELW 279), verses 1 & 4



Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

THIRD READING: LUKE 1:26-35, 38, the annunciation to Mary

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,

²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."
 ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.

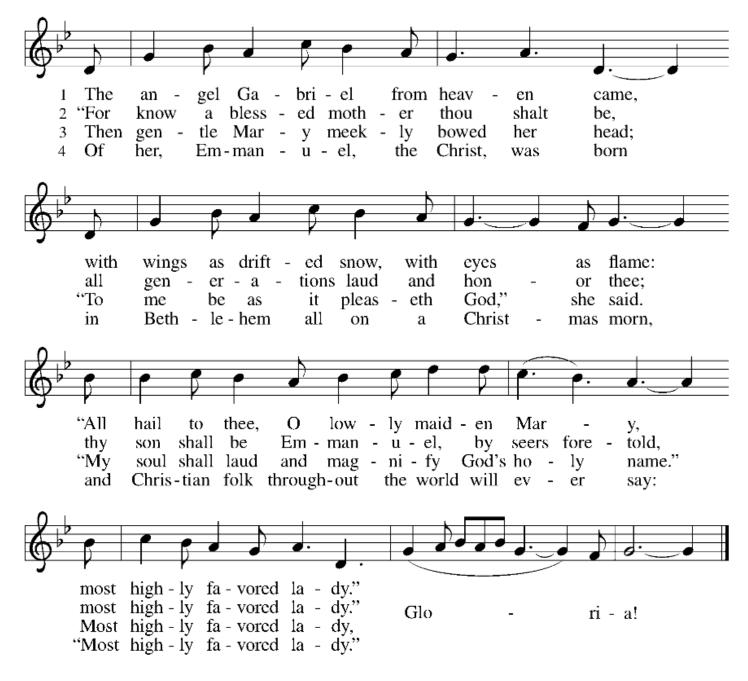
³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

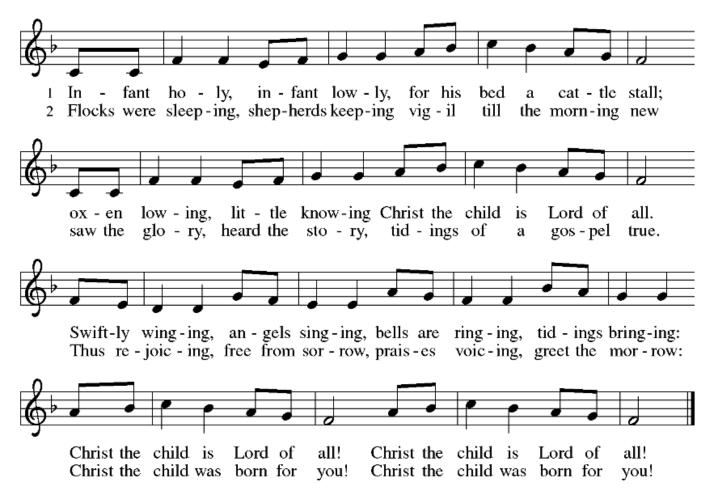
CAROL - THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME (ELW 265), verses 1 & 3



Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924 Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

FOURTH READING: LUKE 2:1-7, the Birth of Jesus

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.



CAROL – INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY (ELW 276)

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt. Music: W ZŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

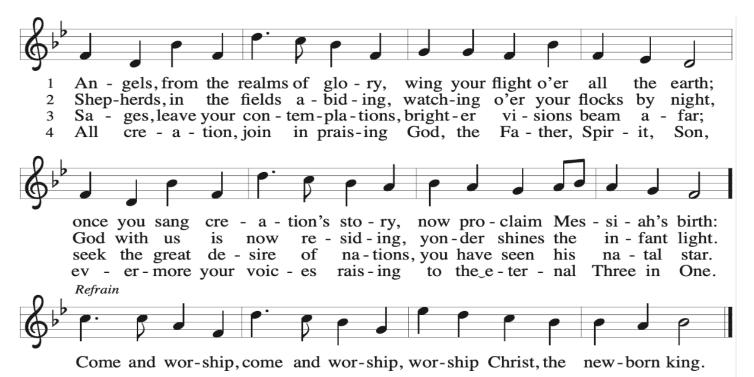
FIFTH READING: LUKE 2:8-16, the shepherds go to see the Savior

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.

CAROL- ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY (ELW 275), verses 1 & 2



Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

SIXTH READING: LUKE 2:21-36, Jesus receives his name

²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. ²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;
 ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,

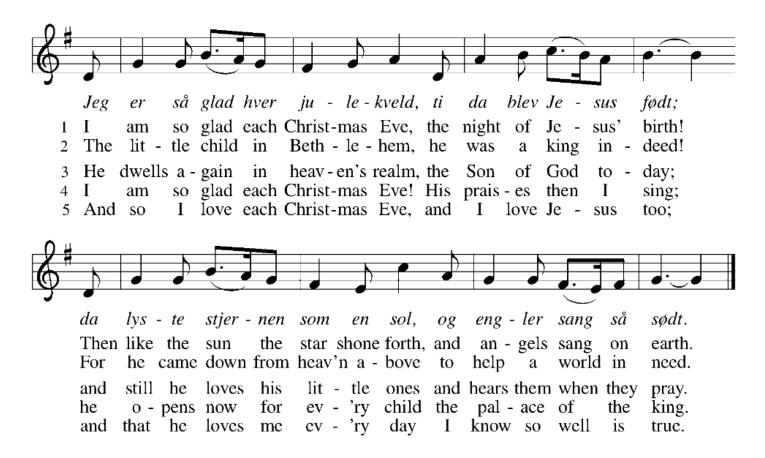
³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."
³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,

CAROL: I AM SO GLAD EACH CHRISTMAS EVE (ELW 271)

Verse 1 - Deb Borton-McDonough (in Norwegian) Verses 1-3 - Congregation



Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832–1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881–1959 Music: JEG ER SÅ GLAD, Peder Knudsen, 1819–1863 Text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House

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SEVENTH READING: MATTHEW 2:1-11, The magi follow the star

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

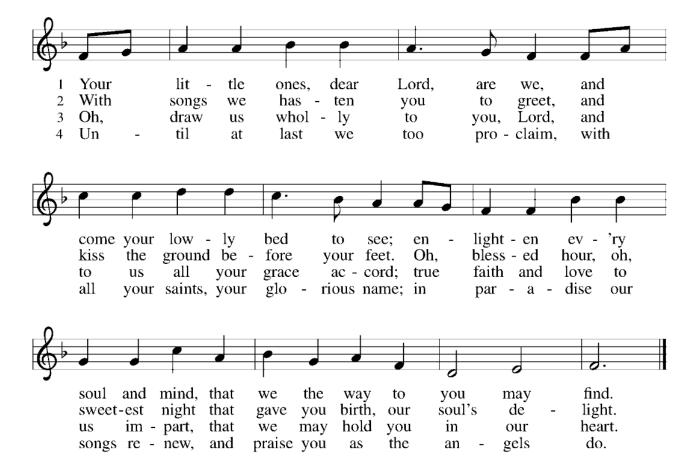
CAROL: WHAT CHILD IS THIS (ELW 296), verses 1 & 3



Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

EIGHTH READING: MATTHEW 2:13-18, The slaughter of the holy innocents

¹³Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." ¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."



CAROL, YOUR LITTLE ONES, DEAR LORD (ELW 286)

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694–1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845–1925, alt. Music: HER KOMMER DINE ARME SMÅ, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800

NINTH READING: JOHN 1:1-14, The mystery of the incarnation

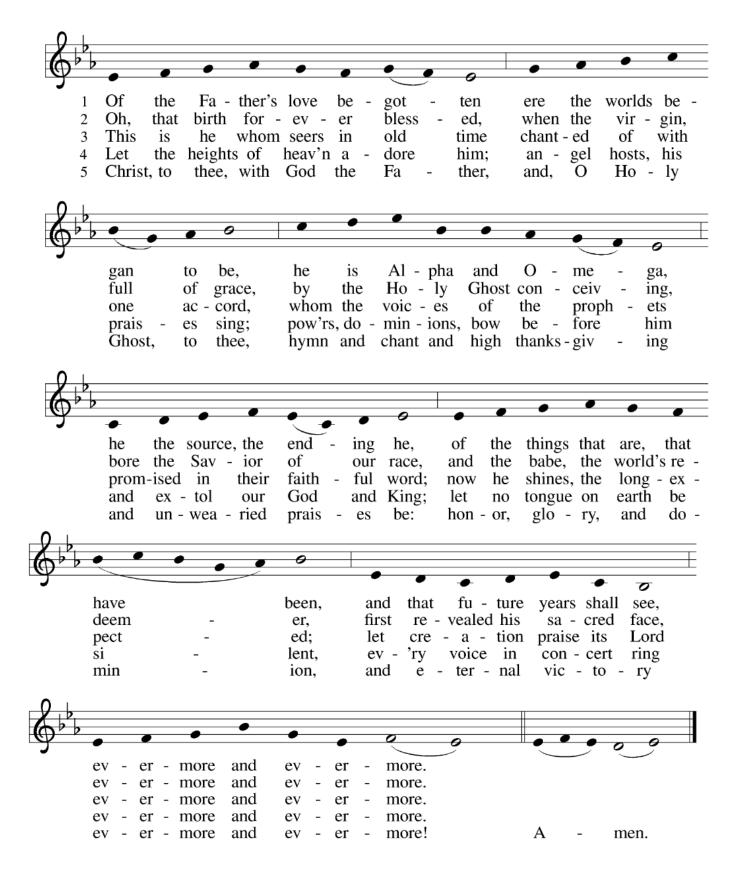
¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

CAROL – OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN (ELW 295), verses 1, 2, 5



Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; tr. composite Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER Glory to God in the highest, **and peace to God's people on earth.**

Blessed are you, Prince of peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice. Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity. Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh. Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

OFFERING

"Who Would Imagine a King?" Mervyn Warren and Hallerin Hilton Hill Deb Borton-McDonough, soloist

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

COMMUNION

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

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

"For Unto Us a Child is Born" "O Little Town of Bethlehem" arr. Bill Wollaver arr. Bill Wollaver

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

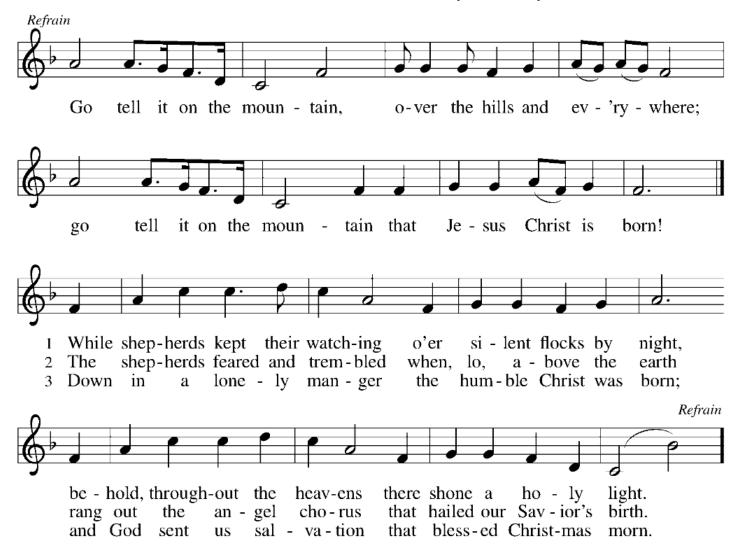
God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG - GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN (ELW 290)



Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt. Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

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DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

arr. Bill Wolaver

FAITH VOLUNTEERS

Reader: Elaine Harrison Lay Assistant: Ray Herek Ushers: Brenda Kopf Acolyte: Andrew Herek Greeter(s): Harold & Jan Sollenberger Altar Care: Elaine Harrison Counters: Jamie Royalty/Ramona Backman Coffee Hour: John & Ramona Backman

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

• Worship Service @10am – Lessons and Carols, Christmas I

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

• OFFICE IS CLOSED – NEW YEARS EVE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1

• OFFICE IS CLOSED- HAPPY NEW YEAR!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

• Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group @7pm in Fellowship Hall

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

• Take down decorations @9am

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

- Sunday School @9am in Sunday School/Youth Room
- Worship Service @10am

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NEW PASTOR

We are excited to announce Megan Floyd has accepted the Call to become the next Pastor of Faith Lutheran Church. Megan will be a great asset to our family.

Megan's ordination will be held at 2 pm on February 1st at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 1747 W Milham Ave, Portage, MI. Dinner will be served afterward. All are invited to attend.

Megan's first Sunday at FLC will be February 2nd .

SHARED PREGNANCY

Please help us support Shared Pregnancy, a local non-profit assisting new mothers and families, with collecting items of need. Two options for giving:

#1. Choose a tag from the tree located in the narthex, purchase the gift, and place it under the tree unwrapped. Please return tags.

#2. Your Monetary contribution will be pooled and used to purchase a larger gift from their "wish list". (Contribute using Vanco via Caring Committee or cash/ check in envelope marked with Caring Committee).

There is more information about their needs and mission on the CARE bulletin board. We will be collecting items and money until January 20th. Thank you for your support!

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Although the pantries we fill are small, keeping them filled on a daily basis is a big task and it takes a team to accomplish it! There are lots of roles associated with the pantry operations: fundraising and securing grants to purchase products, shopping for products for the pantries, filling the pantries with products, restocking the pantry cupboards, Pantry Steering Committee, and more! If you're interested in being part of the pantry team in 2025, please contact Gretchen Paige: (517) 655-4009.

Brenda Kopf received a \$250 grant from Thrivent to enable pantry workers to distribute individual serving food items for the Holiday Break School Bags. The grant enabled us to purchase many items to fill the bags. We were hoping to fill 28 bags, but we actually were able to fill 32 bags. The Pantry Box Brigade is distributing these items during the school break.

LUNCH BUNCH

We will need a host for Lunch Bunch in January. The date is Jan.16th. If you would like to host please reach out to Tammy Heilman. Thank you!

YOUTH CORNER

Any FLC youth interested in participating in the 2025 North/West Lower Michigan Synod Assembly? Every congregation in the NWLM Synod can send a youth member to the annual Synod Assembly, in addition to the adult member(s) we send. **This year the Synod Assembly is May 18 - 20, Sunday evening through Tuesday afternoon, in Mt. Pleasant.** At this years assembly there will be a bishops election...this is a really cool process for youth to participate in. Also at the assembly, members of the Synod's youth table will go over what an assembly is and how they plug into it, and encourage the young people throughout the Synod to get connected with each other. If you are interested, contact Pastor Dan at mittensynodgathering2024@gmail.com