

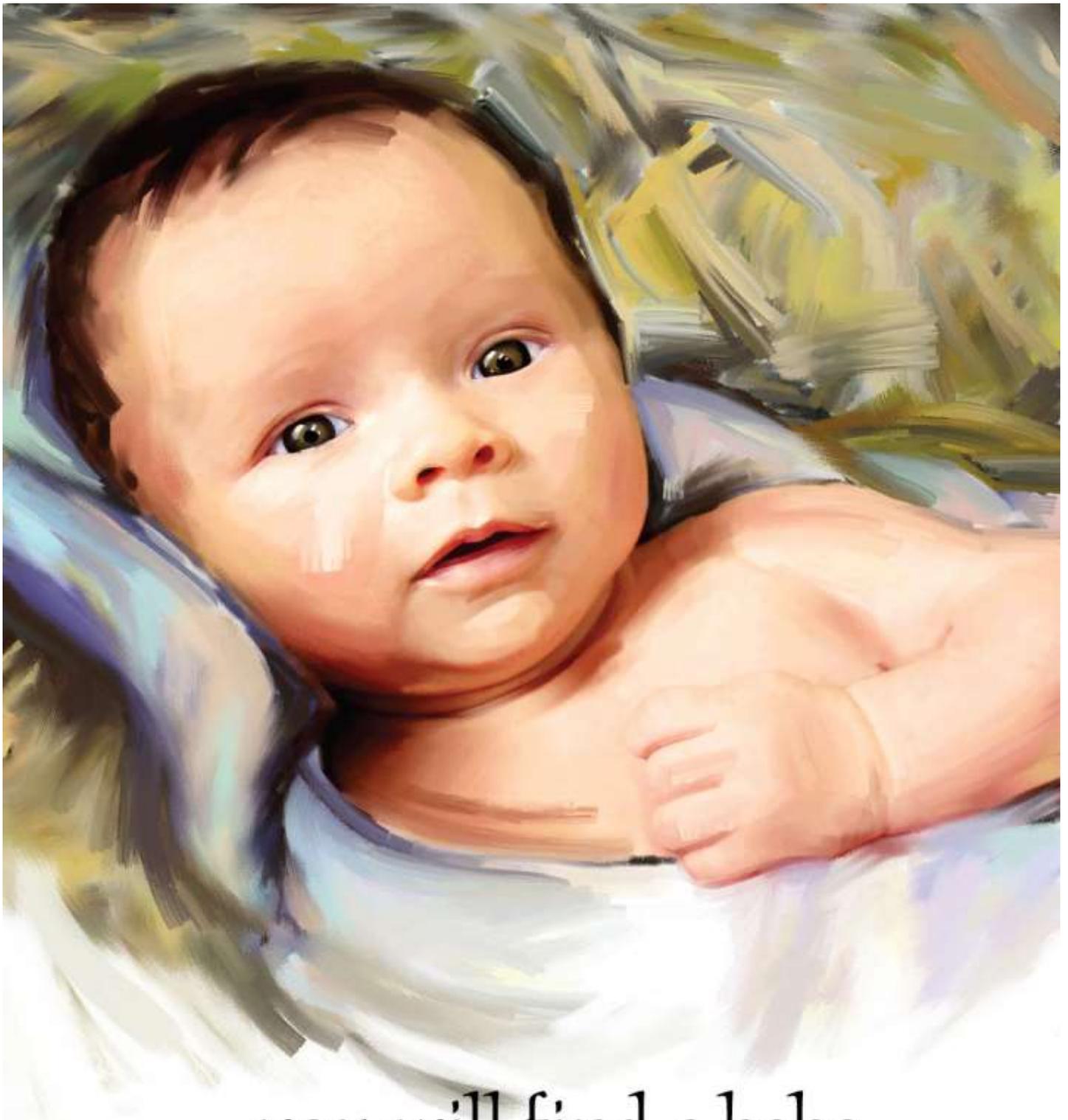
The Nativity of our Lord

Christmas Eve

DECEMBER 24, 2018 4:00 p.m.

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
LITTLETON, COLORADO





...you will find a babe
wrapped in swaddling cloths
and lying in a manger.

Luke 2:12, NRSV

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Nativity of our Lord

Christmas Eve

DECEMBER 24, 2018

3:40 pm—A WREATH OF CAROLS

4:00 pm—DRAMA—HOLY EUCHARIST & CANDLELIGHTING

A Wreath of Carols

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

LSB 368

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, Adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

WHAT CHILD IS THIS

LSB 370



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!

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!



THE FIRST NOEL

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

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

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

LSB 361

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.

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.

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;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

AWAY IN A MANGER

LSB 364

Away in a manger, no crib for a 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.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

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!

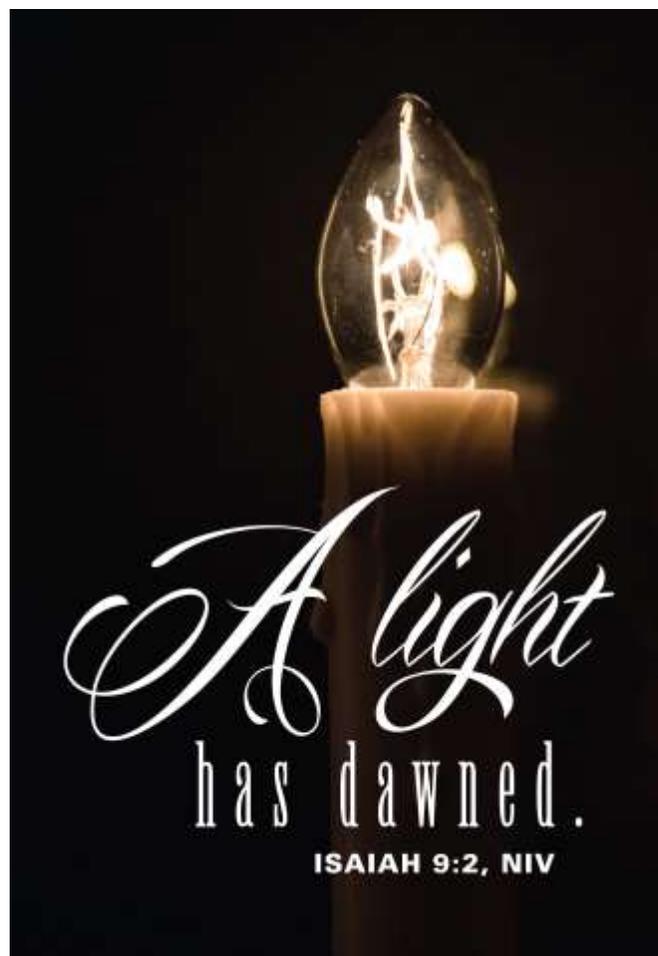
Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, Heard the story, Tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow, Praises voicing, Greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

LSB 366

It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heav'n's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.

For lo! The days have come to pass by prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years came Christ as was foretold,
His word of peace shall to the earth God's ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear the song the angels sing.



Prelude

O Come Little Children

Diane Bish

Pastoral Greeting

PASTOR LARSON

THE INVOCATION AND RESPONSORIAL

Pastor In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

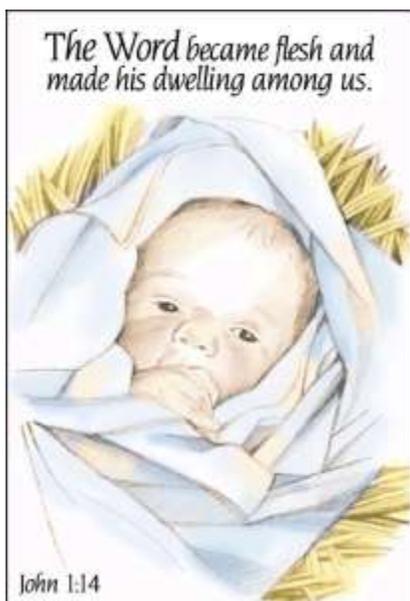
People Amen.

Pastor The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

People those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

Pastor When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman,

People born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law.



Kids' Christmas Program

December 24, 2018
4:00 PM

“Together at Christmas”

*And they went with haste
and found Mary
and Joseph,
and the baby
lying in a manger.*



The Opening Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379

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!**

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

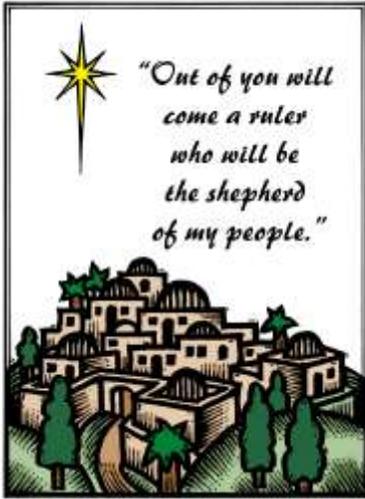
Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God In the highest: **Refrain**

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**

From Buying Presents to Being Present

I love working on our Christmas present wish lists!

I'm almost done with mine. I hope I get a red scooter. I put it on my list three times, just to make sure.



I want a New Galaxy Style Nintendo.

That's too expensive. You'll never get that! Unless ... you ask Grandma. She always says yes!

Speaking of Grandma, what are we going to get her this year?

How about a "World's Best Grandma" mug like this one?

We got her that last year. How about one of those pretty necklaces to hold her glasses so she doesn't keep losing them?

How are you doing with your Christmas lists?

Well, we all know what we want, but now we have to figure out the presents we want to give.

And Grandma is a tough one. We don't know what to give her.

Well, I think you already know what she really wants.

I know. Grandma always says she just wants to spend time with us.

That's what she looks forward to the most.

But don't you think we should give her something else? After all, it's Christmas. Won't she want a nice surprise?

Christmas isn't all about the presents we give and receive. It's about "presence." You know—being together.

You mean like getting together for Christmas dinner?

More than that. Christmas celebrates the gift of God's presence with us. And that gift came as quite a surprise to some!

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.

And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"

But Mary was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.

And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High." (Luke 1:26-32)

An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel,” which means, God with us. (Matthew 1:20-23)

“Immanuel! God-With-Us.” So, God likes to spend time with us too. Just like Grandma. Yes, and his presence changed our lives forever.

He emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:7-9)

I know Jesus’ death paid the price for our sins.

Sin separated us from God, but now, all who believe in Jesus are forgiven and welcomed as a part of God’s family.

To all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12)

Grandma says being with family gives her lots of comfort and joy. That’s what Jesus’ presence gives us!

That’s right, and Jesus lets us share his gifts with others.

So, when we’re “present” with people, we can help them experience Jesus’ presence. I guess being together at Christmas is a pretty good present after all.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. (Romans 12:15)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

Song: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Verse 1: Lilly Brinkman, Espen Erling, Grace Redden, Annaliese Tunheim, Jonas Tunheim, Ben Williams

Verse 2: Lexi Anderson, Kayden Erling, Esther Langness, Ruth Redden, Carter Stone, Anna Wishon

Verse 3: All 12

From Sending Cards to Sending Peace

Ugh. My tongue hurts. I can’t lick another envelope.

Why do we have to send so many cards?

There are people on our list that I don’t even know!

Yeah, like this one: Debbie Brown. Who’s that?

Isn’t she our neighbor down the street? I heard Mom say Mrs. Brown has been going through a rough time.

Are the cards ready to be mailed?

Yes. This is the last one. It's for Mrs. Brown.

Oh, yes. Debbie will appreciate our card. But what she really needs right now is some peace.

Then we gave her the perfect card! It says "Wishing you joy and peace this Christmas." I think it's going to take more than a card to bring her real peace.

That's right, and the prophet Isaiah told us exactly how God would bring true peace to our world.

Yes! The child Isaiah talked about is Jesus. He's the Prince of Peace!

And much like our world today, Jesus was born in a time—and a town—where there was not much peace.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (Luke 2:1-7)

Wow. God's people had waited so long for a Savior, but they didn't even have room for him when he finally came.

Yes, but remember, God was about to tell some shepherds where to find Jesus. They became the first messengers of Jesus' birth.

That gives me an idea! Since we know Jesus is our Savior and our Prince of Peace, we can be messengers in our own town!

Yeah. I wonder if Mrs. Brown knows Jesus. We can visit her and tell her all about him.

Even if she does know Jesus, we can pray with her and remind her of his promises.

What a wonderful idea. Come on. We can go to her house together and share the peace of Jesus.

Song: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Verse 1: Sunday School Kids in Grades 4 and Younger

Verse 2: Lexi Anderson, Nevaeh Cooper, Kayden Erling, Esther Langness, Ruth Redden

Verse 3: Lilly Brinkman, Espen Erling, Grace Redden, Carter Stone, Annaliese Tunheim, Anna Wishon

From Sharing Cookies to Sharing Joy

Well, the last batch of Christmas cookies is in the oven.

Of all our Christian traditions, baking cookies together is my favorite.

Which ones are we going to take to the Community Cookie Exchange this year?

It has to be the peppermint snowballs. They're the best!

Good choice. It's our family's specialty. The recipe has been passed down for generations.

My friend's grandma makes peppermint snowballs, but ours are so much better.

It's our secret ingredient that makes the difference.

I like that we can share our best cookies with so many people.

The Cookie Exchange rules say we have to share the recipe too. I wish we could keep our secret ingredient a secret.

Why? Don't you want to share the joy?

That reminds me—we have more than cookies to share this Christmas. We know the secret to true and lasting joy. It's Jesus.

Right! And God doesn't want us to keep Jesus a secret.

God didn't keep Jesus' birth a secret. He shared the joy that night!

Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. Shout for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Isaiah 12:5-6)

There were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

And this will be a sign for you: you will find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Song: "Away in a Manger"

Verse 1: Sunday School Kids in Grades 4 and Younger

Verse 2: Lexi Anderson, Esther Langness, Annaliese Tunheim, Ben Williams, Anna Wishon

Verse 3: Nevaeh Cooper, Jenna Kabelman, Grace Redden, Carter Stone, Jonas Tunheim

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.

And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (Luke 2:8-19)

When the shepherds heard the news, they couldn't wait to find the baby. And, they couldn't wait to share their joy with everyone in town.

God first got a small batch of shepherds together to share the joy of Jesus. Now, he has mixed together a whole family of believers to share the message.

The Community Cookie Exchange will be filled with people. What a great place to share the joy of Jesus.

We can start conversations asking people what their families like to do together at Christmas.

Yeah, then we can share our own traditions, like going to church and reading the Christmas story from the Bible.

Like creating cookie recipes, we can be creative in how we share the good news.

The cookies are in the containers, but we can't contain our joy in Jesus. Let's go share!

Song: "Joy to the World!"

Verse 1: Lexi Anderson, Eli Faulk, Ruth Redden, Jonas Tunheim, Ben Williams, Anna Wishon

Verse 2: Nevaeh Cooper, Jenna Kabelman, Esther Langness, Grace Redden, Owen Stasny, Annaliese Tunheim

From Wrapping Presents to Wrapping Someone in Love

Look at all these presents we have to wrap. It's going to take all day.

It won't take that long if we all work together.

I like using lots of tape so it takes longer to get to the present!

I like wrapping small presents in big boxes so nobody can guess what's really inside. Remember how Mom and Dad wrapped our present last year?

Oh yeah. It was a tiny box, wrapped in red and gold paper.

They said it was a gift for all of us. We sure didn't think it would be much of a gift since the box was so small.

But it wasn't so small, was it?

It was really big!

Tickets to a Broncos game for the whole family!

We never would have guessed it. It was the best gift ever!

Well, not quite. I know of a much better gift. It's one we've all received, and it came with some interesting wrapping too.

You're talking about Jesus, right? He was wrapped in swaddling clothes and placed in a manger.

He was God's gift of love—big enough to embrace the whole world!

Better than Broncos tickets, Jesus came so that we can have a place with him in heaven for eternity.

After Jesus died on the cross, he rose from the dead and promised to come back. That's when he'll raise all the dead, and all who believe in him will live forever. Now that's love!

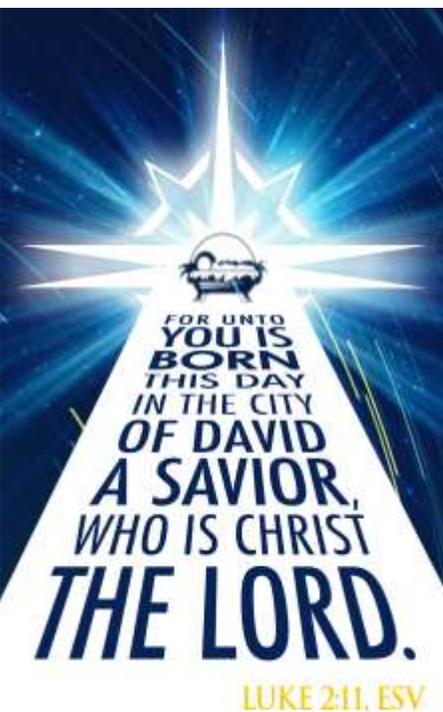
You know, it's not just these presents we have to wrap. The Bible tells us to wrap people in love in the name of Jesus.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (1 John 4:11)

This gift is for a classmate. I drew his name in the gift exchange. But a better gift would be standing up for him when he is being bullied.

This is a gift for the toy drive. But we can do more, like visit a shelter and read kids Christmas books that tell them about Jesus' love.

Imagine the impact we could make if, together at Christmas, the whole family of God shared the love of Jesus with someone.



The family would grow! And more people would be blessed by the big gift that came in such a small package.

I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named ... that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have the strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:14-19)

Song: "Gloria Medley"

Refrain Verse 1: Lexi Anderson, Nevaeh Cooper, Jenna Kabelman, Grace Redden, Ruth Redden, Owen Stasny, Ben Williams, Anna Wishon

Refrain Verse 2: Lilly Brinkman, Kayden Erling, Esther Langness

Refrain Verse 3: All

Readers

Lexi Anderson, Jacob Brown, Josh Federico, Camryn Goff, Gabe Gutierrez, Reese Hitztaler, Jenna Kabelman, Olivia Marks, Carter Murray, Nolan Pierce, Tyrus Pierce, Hannah Schmitt, Holly Schmitt, Erik Schwerin, Owen Stasny, Jonas Tunheim, and Cody Urbach.

Small Group Vocalists

Lexi Anderson, Lilly Brinkman, Nevaeh Cooper, Espen Erling, Kayden Erling, Eli Faulk, Jenna Kabelman, Esther Langness, Grace Redden, Ruth Redden, Owen Stasny, Carter Stone, Annaliese Tunheim, Jonas Tunheim, Ben Williams, and Anna Wishon.

Mary: Grace Redden; **Joseph:** Owen Stasny

Shepherds: Ernie Auten, George Auten, Walter Auten, Jacob Brown, Eli Faulk, Matthew Faulk, Caleb Gilbert, Finley Ginkel, Brynden Hein, Warwick Hein, Jamie Kabelman, Jonnie Kabelman, Tobin Lawrenz, Luke Redden, Carter Stone, Ben Williams, and Jacob Williams.

Angels: Lexi Anderson, Zoe Brown, Grace Elliott, Teagan Elliott, Tenley Erling, Emma Ginkel, Olivia Marks, Annaliese Tunheim, Abby Williams, and Anna Wishon

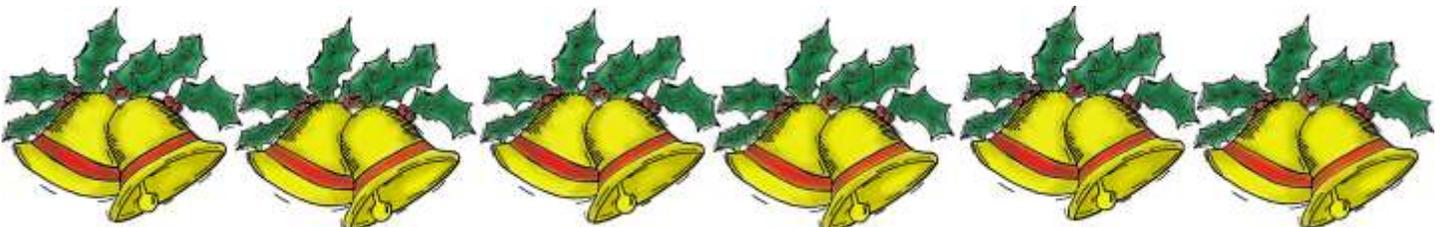
Program Director: Kathy Johnson

Music Director: Mike Zehnder

Sunday School Staff: Kathy Johnson, Director; Mike Reimnitz and Lori Rolling, Teachers, Pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten; Joyce Reimnitz, Teacher, Grades 1 and 2; Brooke Boeding and Lois Wolf, Teachers, Grades 3 and 4; Collin Brinkman, Teacher, Grades 5 and 6; Jeff Dunker, Kim Langness, and Bill Redden, Teachers, Grades 7 and 8; Billy Dollar, Judy Finnessy, and Marilyn Loptien, Assistants, Grades 7 and 8; Amy Boeding, Larry Boeding, and Dave Zeller, Teachers, Youth; Vicki Redden, Secretary/Treasurer.

We'd like to extend a special **thank you** to the following individuals who helped prepare for the service: Jan Burmeister and Lisa Riebling, who made new costumes and angel wings for the program. Brooke Boeding, who created the poster for the program. Sherry Hitztaler and Ann Kaneko, who washed and ironed costumes. Christina Cook, Sherry Hitztaler, Katie Johnson, Kiersten Johnson, and Krissy Schwerin for helping coordinate and direct the many details of the program. Bob Johnson for directing sound for the program. Thank you to all of you!

The Sunday school kids, parents, and staff have worked many hours to prepare for this service. We thank them for their devotion and commitment to share the story of Jesus' birth with our congregation!



The Prayer of the Church

Pastor Let us pray for the Church around the world and all people in their various needs. That the coming of the Word in the flesh might open the eyes of all who are blinded by this world's sin and folly, let us pray to the Lord,

People O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

Pastor That the grace and mercy God has offered in giving His Son might turn the hearts of many to true repentance, joy, and hope, let us pray to the Lord,

People O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

Pastor That the Church here and around the world might find a renewed sense of purpose as we join the Christmas angels and the hosts of heaven in praising the name of our gracious God, let us pray to the Lord,

People O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

Pastor That an awareness of how much God loves us and what He has been willing to do for us since the beginning of time would bring comfort to all who face this bright new day through tears of pain or sadness, (*especially ...*), let us pray to the Lord.

People O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

Pastor That God, outside of time and space, would so move the leaders of this world that they use every opportunity to reflect His care for the nations and areas they serve, let us pray to the Lord,

People O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

Pastor Into Your almighty and gracious hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

The Sharing of the Peace

Pastor The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People And also with you.

*You may now greet one another in the name of the Lord using
...Peace be with you*

THE OFFERING

MUSIC MINISTRY

Veni Emmanuel

arr. John Purifoy
Esther Langness, flute

The Offertory Prayer

Pastor God of glory,

People receive these gifts and the offering of our lives. As Jesus was lifted up from the earth, draw us to your heart in the midst of this world, that all creation may be brought from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light, and from death to life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with "Amen!", a word of affirmation and belief.



SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

The Preface

Pastor The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

The Sanctus *(Sung to the tune: Angels We Have Heard on High)*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God by high-est hosts a - dored,
Sing ho - san - na, saints a - bove, with the an - gels sing God's love.

Heav'n and earth Your glo - ry sing: With them we our prais - es bring,
Bless-ed He, the com - ing One, God the Fa - ther's on - ly Son.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

The Words of Consecration

Pastor 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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.

O Lamb of God

Dix



O Lamb of God, who takes a - way The whole world's
sin, now hear us pray: Have mer - cy on us,
grant us peace, From all our sins give us re-lease.



CONGREGATIONAL CAROLS

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child
O Sing of Christ
On Christmas Night All Christians Sing
Christmas Organ Music

LSB 374
LSB 362
LSB 377

The Communion Benediction

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

People Amen.

The Post Communion Prayer

Pastor We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Amen.



The Lighting of the Candles

Candles are lit from the center aisle; please pass the light to one another being careful to hold the candle upright as not to burn yourself with the wax. Let Christ's light be shared! The candles may remain lit through the end of the service.

Silent Night, Holy Night!

LSB 363

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.

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.

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light

Radiant beams from thy holy face,

With the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

The Benediction

Pastor May Almighty God, by whose mercy our Savior the Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of His blessing.

People Amen.

Pastor May He whose second coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

People Amen.

Pastor May you, who rejoice in the first advent of our Redeemer, at His second advent receive, by His great mercy, unending life.

People Amen.

Pastor And the blessing of the Almighty God, the Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.

People Amen.

Congregational Concerns

Pastor Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

Postlude *Carillon on "O Come, All Ye Shepherds"*

Gordon Young





Silent Night,

Holy Night

Serving in Worship

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD - CHRISTMAS EVE
4:00 PM

OFFICIANT & CELEBRANT	The Reverend John R. Larson, PASTOR
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES	Michael Zehnder
ELDER	Michael Lawrenz
ACOLYTE	Hannah Schmitt
GREETERS	Members of the Congregation
USHERS	Members of the Congregation
ALTAR GUILD	Gloria Mielke, Dawn Munson, Charmaine Rohde, Barbara Williams