

Welcome & Announcements**Christmas Proclamation**

Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image; long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant; twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and Miriam danced in freedom; eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as king, in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome; the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months of growth in the

womb of his mother— now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

Text: Traditional, adapt. Brian T. Johnson. From sundaysandseasons.com.

Special Music (2pm)

Go Tell it on the Mountain Glory Ringers

The First Noel

Angels We Have Heard on High

Confession & Forgiveness

We celebrate You and praise You,
God of new beginnings and surprising
opportunities

**Because You never cease to make Yourself
available to us.**

We appreciate You and thank You,
God of unquenchable life and irrepressible grace

**Because You continue to offer us the
resources of Your Spirit.**

We love You and embrace You,
God of unfailing compassion and constant
companionship

**Because You walk beside us and transform us
into agents of love.**

Forgive us, O Lord,

**When we seek to keep You to ourselves
and shut others from Your influence.**

Forgive us, O Christ,
**When we wallow in our own weakness
and take advantage of the weakness of others.**
Forgive us, O Spirit,
**When we deny Your friendship
and withhold Your compassion from others.**

(Silent Confession)

Heal us, restore and empower us, O God, we
pray
**For the sake of Your kingdom which has
broken into our world. Amen.**

Hear the Good News – your sins are forgiven;
you are set free to love and serve the Lord +in
the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the
Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn *O Come All Ye Faithful* LBW 45

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*

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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.**

Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from Isaiah.

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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Titus 2:11-14

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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear LBW 54 vs. 1 & 4

1 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.

4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
 by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
 shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
 its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
 which now the angels sing.

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The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 2nd chapter.

Glory to you O Lord.

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.

Special Music *You're Here* Tisha Wilson (5pm)

2008 9t One Songs, Ariose Music, Curb Songs. CCLI #11575839

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.**

Sermon

Hymn *Joy to the World* LBW 39

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

 Let earth receive her king;
 let ev'ry heart prepare him room
 and heav'n and nature sing,
 and heav'n and nature sing,
 and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

 Let all their songs employ,
 while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 repeat the sounding joy,
 repeat the sounding joy,
 repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
 nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
 far as the curse is found,
 far as the curse is found,
 far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace
 and makes the nations prove
 the glories of his righteousness
 and wonders of his love,
 and wonders of his love,
 and wonders, wonders of his love.

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The Prayers

**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, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.

Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.

Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.

Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.

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.

Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Offertory

Let us prayerfully discern our offering to God, for the sake of the word.

Hymn *In the Bleak Midwinter* ELW 294

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man I would do my part;
yet what I can give him— give my heart.

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Let us pray. Holy God, your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around

**these signs of your love come among us,
warm us to extend your care among the
hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we
pray. Amen.**

Words of Institution

Holy is our God who in these latter days, leaned toward the earth and spoke to us by a Son, Jesus the Beloved. Born of our sister Mary and the Holy Spirit, guarded by our brother Joseph with fatherly care, Jesus came among us as a helpless babe, cradled beside the beasts and warmed by their breath – human, as we are, in need of human love.

Kings bowed down before him, bringing gifts and emperors were troubled by his reign – this Child in whom all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

This Word became flesh and Jesus dwelt among us, and as a servant, emptied himself of might upon the cross, and as the risen Anointed One is enthroned at God's right hand to bring mercy and justice to all the earth at the end of days.

This same Lord Jesus, in the night in which he was handed over, 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.

Now gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

Together, in our homes, in the pew, wherever we find ourselves, we are seated at the Lord's Table. Receive the Body and Blood of Christ given for you. **Amen.**

Hymns during Communion

Away in a Manger LBW 67

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.

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

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O Little Town of Bethlehem LBW 41

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!

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Blessing after Communion

Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace from now unto everlasting life. **Amen.**

John 1:1 & following

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

Candle Lighting *Silent Night* LBW 65

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.

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Benediction

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.**

Closing Hymn *Go Tell It On the Mountain* LBW 70

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

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Dismissal

Unto you a child is born. Go and share the Good News. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Calendar This Week

Wednesday: Christmas Eve Services at Grace:
2 p.m. & 5 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service at Trinity –
7:30 p.m.

Thursday: Merry Christmas!

Office Closed Thursday & Friday!
Pastor on vacation through Jan. 1

Saturday: No Worship at Trinity!

**Sunday: Lessons & Carols led by Praise Team at
Grace – 9 a.m.**

**Tuesday, December 30: Items for newsletter
are due!**

**Wednesday & Thursday, December 31 &
January 1 – Office Closed!**

**Pastor will be on vacation Christmas Day -
New Year's Day; Pr. Ernesto Medina is
available for pastoral emergencies 402-541-
9454.**

Grace Lutheran Poinsettia Garden

- ❖ In Memory of Dee Jensen and Rick Bremmer from Family
- ❖ In Memory of Veiona (Vi) Fiala from Dan Fiala & Family
- ❖ In Memory of Julia Brown from Dan Fiala & Family
- ❖ In Memory of Joseph & Bertha Fiala from Dan Fiala & Family
- ❖ In Memory of Olaf & Mary Hukki, Margaret Hukki from Priscilla Hukki
- ❖ Wishing everyone love & peace this Christmas from Linda Lofgren
- ❖ In Memory of Judy Lutz from Keith Lutz & Family
- ❖ In Memory of Lawrence & Eunice Lutz, Julius & Lucille Reimers from Keith Lutz & Family
- ❖ In Memory of Delbert & Marion Holtz, Les Ott from Mary Lou Meier & Family
- ❖ In Loving Memory of Robert, Jeannette, Ronny & Jessica Johansen from Terry & Nancy Petersen Family
- ❖ In Loving Memory of Pete, Edna, Edna Mae, Kenny, Kyle, Jeanine Petersen from Terry & Nancy Petersen Family
- ❖ In Memory of Cap & Caroline Sellentin from Ray & Janet Sellentin and Family
- ❖ In Memory of Walt & Jokie Kindschuh from Ray & Janet Sellentin and Family
- ❖ In Memory of Loved Ones from Claire Smidt

 **In Memory of Marvin Ericson from Christy & Dan Steffen**

 **In Memory of Loved Ones from Lynn & Carole Stofferahn**

 **In Memory of Mary Ann Wilson (Bob's mom) from Bob & Tisha Wilson**

 **In Memory of Mildred Bruhn (Tisha's grandmother) from Bob & Tisha Wilson**

Christmas Eve Bulletins
In Memory of Marvin & Irene Von Seggern
from Roxanne Von Seggern

In Our Prayers this Week:

Janet Sellentin	Kelsy Sherwood
Debra Meyer	Dan Fiala
Dave Goudie	Steve Blocher
Shirley Flock	Julie Bruning
Barb Teutsch	Jordan Howell
Rachel Robbins	Paula French
Garry Hansen	Rick & Susan Hicks
Donna Peterson	Korbin Hardenbrook
Holly Frye	Eric & Kelli Sherwood
Micah Sherwood	Nancy & Jack Nemec
Kay Marik, friend of Dan Fiala	
Patty Sass, sister of Nancy Petersen	
Allen Maresh, son of Jerry Maresh	
Jerry Maresh, husband of Ruth Maresh	
Diane Leffler, friend of Laura Wagner	

Kim Wagner, brother of Laura Wagner
Jon Luebert, nephew of Liz Luebert
Todd Schantz, nephew of Merna Recker
Jakson, grandson of Connie & Roger Paus
Jane Easterly, Robin Schroeder's mother
Zain Dabo, great-nephew of Clair Smidt
Rob Wilson, son of Bob & Tisha Wilson
Quentin Pagels, grandson of Susan Pagels
Sally Benson, friend of Sam Linder
Stacey Krieger, granddaughter of Claire Smidt
Carol Becker Eilerts, sister of Beverly Hansen
Jim Bothmer, friend of Jim & Kathi Sherwood
Deb Daberkow Baker, friend of Laura Wagner
Mary Johansen, sister-in-law of Nancy Petersen
Brian Jorgensen, Mary Thomas's brother-in-law
Linda Tuttle, sister-in-law of Art & Shari Hickman
Marilyn Bruhn, Tisha Wilson's mom
Nate Thiele, friend of Roger & Mary Vander Pol
Zach Parker, step-grandson of Judy Mutzenberger
Mikaela Flores, great niece of Terry & Nancy Petersen
Ronnie & Joy Colsden, cousins of Rick & Susan Hicks
Jean Dahlgren, Shelly Welding & Scott Dahlgren's mother
Betty Mahannah, Willis Mahannah's mom
For the Recipients of the Prayer Squares given by
Grace and Trinity