



Nativity of Our Lord

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2021

Welcome

You are always welcome and wanted at the church
on Welcome Avenue, where we

**GROW IN FAITH, GO IN GRACE AND
SERVE THE LORD.**

CHRISTMAS WELCOME

GATHERING

DIALOGUE

P: In the beginning was the Word,

C: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

(John 1:1)

P: The Word became flesh and lived among us,

C: and we have seen Christ's glory.

(John 1:14)

P: In the Word was life,

C: and the life was the light of the people.

(John 1:4)

P: A light shines in the darkness,

C: and the darkness cannot overcome it.

(John 1:5)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: God of grace and truth,

C: in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in the darkness. We confess that we have not always welcomed the light or trusted the good news of great joy. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the fullness of your love, trusting in the grace of Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord. Your sins are forgiven in Jesus' name. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

C: Amen.

GREETING AND PEACE

P: The grace and peace of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

GATHERING HYMN "O Come All Ye Faithful"

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!**

**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*

PRAYER

P: Let us pray. God of all ages,

C: heavenly angels spoke to earthly shepherds and eternity entered time in the child of Bethlehem. Through the telling of the Christmas story, let our temporal lives be caught up in the eternal in that same child, that we might join shepherds and all the heavenly host in praising the coming of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (NRSV)

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise.

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. 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. 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.

HYMN “Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming”

**Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung,
It came, a flow'r so bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.**

**Isaiah had foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,
When half-spent was the night.**

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (4:30 PM ONLY)

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL IN WORD & MUSIC LUKE 2:1-20 (NRSV)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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.

HYMN “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

**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.**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

HYMN “Angels We Have Heard on High”

**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.**

When 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.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

HYMN “What Child is This”

**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!**

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HYMN “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”**

HOMILY “Where is Jesus?” Pastor Pamela Stalheim Lane

HYMN “Holy Child Within the Manger”

**Holy Child within the manger, long ago yet ever near;
Come as friend to ev’ry stranger, come as hope for ev’ry fear.
As you lived to heal the broken, greet the outcast, free the bound,
As you taught us love unspoken, teach us now where you are found.**

**Once again we tell the story – how your love for us was shown,
When the image of your glory wore an image like our own.
Come enlighten with your wisdom, come and fill us with your grace.
May the fire of your compassion kindle ev’ry land and race.**

**Holy Child within the manger, lead us ever in your way,
So we see in ev’ry stranger how you come to us today.
In our lives and in our living give us strength to live as you,
That our hearts might be forgiving and our spirits strong and true.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: Joining our voices with the angels, and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world and all who are in need,
. . . Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend our prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

OFFERING

Offering is a part of our worship because it allows us to respond to God's love and care in our lives by supporting God's mission at this church with our time, our talents and our financial treasures.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Gracious God,

C: you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth. Grant that we may share the gifts which you have given us to bring hope and blessing to others in the name of Jesus, the baby born in Bethlehem who is our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Sing to the tune of "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence")

**Holy, holy, Lord most holy,
God of pow'r and God of might:
Heav'n and earth reveal your glory.
Hail, hosanna, Lord of light!
Blessed be the coming Savior.
Hail, hosanna, Lord of Light!**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

LAMB OF GOD *(Sing to the tune of "I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve")*

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
You suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
Eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.**

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray. O Wondrous God, we thank you for Jesus, God with us, who comes to us in these gifts of bread and wine.

C: As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING

P: Glory to God in the highest

C: and peace to God's people on earth.

P: Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

C: Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

P: Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

C: Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as Word made flesh.

P: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

ANTHEM "Nativity Carol"

HYMN **“Silent Night”**

**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 your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

BLESSING

P: May the light of Christ shine brightly in and through you. May the song of the angels inspire you, filling your heart with wonder and peace. May the love of God bless you and all of creation, filling you and all the world with joy.

C: Amen.

HYMN **“Joy to the World”**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

DISMISSAL

L: Having received God’s blessing, we joyfully proclaim the mission we share:

C: Go in grace, grow in faith, serve the Lord. Thanks be to God. Amen!

WELCOME!

We are glad that you are here tonight to celebrate Christ's birth and you are welcome to return! Our goal, as you will hear when you are sent out, our mission is to: "Grow in Faith, Grow in Grace and Serve the Lord." If you are looking for a church home, we would love to have you join us. Sign the Green Contact sheet so that we can connect with you.

GROW IN FAITH BY WORSHIPPING

We worship services every Sunday at 9:30 AM in the sanctuary, in the parking lot via radio (104.9FM) and online: <http://www.faithlilacway.org/online-worship>

GROWING IN FAITH BY LEARNING

10:30 AM: Classes are held on Sunday mornings following worship.

Adult classes are hybrid – join us in the library or online!

Sunday school meets down the hall in room 218

In January the Adult classes will focus on contemplative practices.

January 9: *Creativity* – We will explore how a wide range of activities including playing music, singing, drawing, coloring, writing, and knitting.

January 16: *Activism* – In the spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr., we will look at how engaging in society through public actions can be spiritual and contemplative

January 23: *Movement* – An active body is good for your spirit. We will focus on physically active contemplative practices like yoga, dancing, walking, and exercise.

GROW IN GRACE AND SERVE THE LORD!

Volunteer or change an address or phone number by filling out our green contact sheet.

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Thank You

TO ALL WHO HAVE GIVEN POINSETTIAS TO HELP BEAUTIFY THE SANCTUARY FOR CHRISTMAS

The Aanerud Family in memory of Ralph, Viola, Debbie, Ed, Scott, Jessica and loving oldest brother Larry Aanerud.
Lois Anderson in memory of husband, Allen Anderson.
David Bjorkquist in memory of Eleanor Bjorkquist, and in honor of Anne Ng, Brenda Eckes, Carol Swenson, Dan Bjorkquist, and Brian Bjorkquist.
Tim & Cindy Brausen in memory of Emmett Nelson, Jim Brausen, Mary Brausen Weinhagen and in honor of Doris Nelson, children, and grandchildren.
Debbie Bren in memory of Joshua Luoma: forever gone, deeply missed, but never forgotten.
Carol Brown in memory of Dawn Brown.
David & Linda Fernelius in memory of parents, Bob and Lee and Margaret and Bill.
Sandy Hanneman in memory of wonderful parents, Russ and Gloria Voeltz.
Lynn Hillestad in memory of parents, Ralph and Vernice Robinson, loving grandparents, family, and friends.
Kim & Chris Ipsen in memory of George and Jane Bork, Jay Ipsen, and in honor of Nancy, Taylor, and Alex Ipsen.
Grace Lawson in honor of loving family.
Mary O'Neill in memory of Keith O'Neill Sr. and Keith O'Neill Jr.
Janet Osmundson in memory and honor of family and friends.
LeAnn Plinske, Marilee Doherty, and Debbie Hanson in memory of Eileen and Forrest Melville.
Betty Schmidt and Vicky, Carla, and Connie in memory of Donald Schmidt and Scott Schmidt.
Benjamin & Daniel Stalheim Lane in memory of Grandpa Bob Lane and Grandma and Grandpa Marilyn and Ardell Stalheim.
Tim & Gina Swanson in memory of Linda Swanson and in honor of Samantha, Casey, Jessica, and Victoria.
Brenda and Tommy Thompson in honor of mothers, Floy Thompson and Sharon Andreason.
Cori Vallis in honor of beautiful family for love and support and celebrating friends.

Families are welcome to take your poinsettias home after church.



WORSHIP LEADERS

Ushers

3:00 Steve Ferkingstad & Rick Anderson

4:30 Bahneman & Thompson Families

10:30 Lydia Foster & Merideth Foster

Lighting

4:30 Kim Weilage

10:30 Tiber Family

Lectors

4:30 Dave Fernelius

10:30 Colleen Foster

Anthem

Members of FLW Chancel Choir

Thank you to all of our musicians, alter guild members, and volunteers who worked together to make this a beautiful worship service celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

CHURCH STAFF

Ministers for Christ

Pastor

Intern Pastor

Comm. Coord./Admin. Asst.

Choir Director

Organist/Accompanist

Custodian

You, Child of God

Pamela Stalheim Lane

Vicar Kyle Anderson

Rachael Lange

Anne Ng

Ann Marie Skoglund-Anderson

George West



**FAITH-LILAC WAY
LUTHERAN CHURCH**