

On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.

Our Saviour Lutheran Church
300 West Fowler Ave., West Lafayette
743-2931 www.osluth.org
Pastor Randy Schroeder
Intern Candice Hinkle

Purdue Lutheran Ministry
330 West Fowler Ave., West Lafayette
743-2398 www.plm.org

December 26, 2021, 9:00 A.M.

All are welcome here
All people of faith, All people of doubt
All people of any origin, race, ability, sexual orientation or gender expression
All people who seek a compassionate community

All are welcome here
Welcome to worship, Welcome to pray
Welcome to learn, Welcome to give thanks
Welcome to serve God and neighbors

All are welcome here
All are redeemed by a gracious God



The Gathering

(Please read this before worship begins.)

This is an invitation and not an expectation. As a called and ordained pastor of the ELCA, my responsibilities are to share the Word and Sacraments, so they are available to you, the Body of Christ. If you wish to participate; you are welcomed and loved. If you believe Holy Communion should take place only in church or only in the live presence of a person ordained in Word and Sacrament, you are welcomed and loved even if you are not participating in online Communion. If you are visiting today, not knowing what to do, know through God you are welcomed and loved. This decision is personal and spiritual and only you can make it. I feel called to give you the option.

I cannot say what Communion is any better than Luther, so I'll let him say it. In the Small Catechism Luther writes the following, and more in The Sacrament of the Altar.

What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine, for us Christians to eat and to drink, instituted by Christ Himself.

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

This is shown by the words: "Given and shed for you for the remission of sins." In the Sacrament, forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given to us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

It is not the eating and drinking that do these things, but these words: "Given and shed for you for the remission of sins." These words are, along with the bodily eating and drinking, the main thing in the Sacrament. Anyone who believes these words has what they say: that is, the forgiveness of sins.

- As we travel this wilderness of COVID-19, it is right and proper for us to participate in the Eucharist as we are gathered as the church in person, as well as live streaming. Holy Communion takes place in the assembly of the Body of Christ.
- Online Communion is new territory for us as we navigate our new context. After reading Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, after much prayer and discernment, I believe this technology should be used in such manners to share God's grace, love, forgiveness and acceptance.
- As we assemble in person or live stream, when confessions are heard and forgiven, as the Word is proclaimed, it is proper for Communion to take place as we are then sent out as the Body of Christ for the world. I ask you to only commune as the live Word is spoken and not commune to the recording of this service.
- Please use bread and wine or a gluten free option and grape juice. Please prepare a plate and cup prior to service to have and share. If you have one and not the other, know that God is fully present in both elements and only one is necessary.

- God is the One working through the spoken Word in the mystery of communion. We don't fully know how, rather we know Jesus said, "Take, eat; this is My body," ... "Take this and drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." God is the source of love infused into us through the Spirit as we partake of the Eucharist. We don't understand it fully; we fully believe Christ is there fulfilling His promises of forgiveness, life and salvation.

Remember: All Are Welcome – Hospitality fills God's Table – Everywhere!

Pastor Randy

The Gathering

Prelude Music

Angels from the Realms of Glory arr. David M Cherwien
Chorale Prelude on "In dulci jubilo" Johann Michael Bach (1648-94)
God, Rest You Merry arr. Wilbur Held

Call to Worship (~ written by Tim Graves, and posted on his blog [LiturgyBits: Little bits for worship](https://liturgybits.wordpress.com/). <https://liturgybits.wordpress.com/>)

P We waited.
 C **And imagined a savior.**
 P We imagined power.
 C **One like the world but stronger and on our side.**
 P We imagined a king on a white horse wielding a sword.
 C **We got a baby born in a stable among the livestock.**
 P We imagined the work done for us
 through the destruction of our enemies.
 C **We receive a baby who will teach us our calling
 to seek reconciliation and to love expansively.**
 P Praise be to God for the unexpected babe of Bethlehem.
 C **Praise to the wisdom of love. Amen!**

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
 who sends the word with angels,
 who is made flesh among all peoples,
 and who breathes peace on all the earth.
 C **Amen.**

P In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy God,
 C **we confess our sin before you.
 We replace compassion with competition.
 We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.
 We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.
 We have not put on love in harmony with you.
 Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.
 Swaddle our hearts with your peace,
 that all we do, in word or deed,
 may reflect your love born among us.
 Amen.**

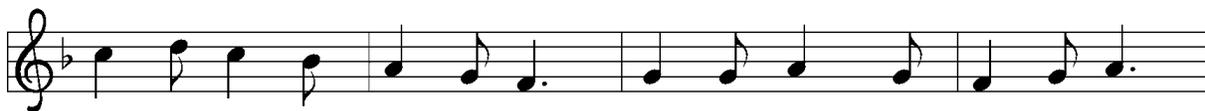
P I bring you good news of great joy for all people:
 God has come among us
 in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord.
 + In Christ your sins are forgiven
 and you are clothed in peace.

C **Amen.**

Gathering Song: ELW (red) 288: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
 Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God
 And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise: ELW (red) 289: *Angels We Have Heard on High*



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



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

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
Music: GLORIA, French carol

Prayer of the Day

IC Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The Word

L A reading from the book of 1 Samuel.

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Having dedicated her son Samuel to God's service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband Elkanah come to the temple to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.

¹⁸Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home.

²⁶Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

L The word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148

**¹Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!
²Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!
³Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!
⁴Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!
⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for he commanded and they were created.
⁶He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.
⁷Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
⁸fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!
⁹Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
¹⁰Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!
¹¹Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
¹²Young men and women alike,
old and young together!
¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.
¹⁴He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the LORD!**

L A reading from the book of Colossians.

Colossians 3:12-17

Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with new garments upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.

¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

Gospel Acclamation

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Luke 2:41-52

Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.

⁴¹Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

P The Gospel of our Lord.
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Pastor Randy Schroeder

Hymn of the Day: ELW (red), hymn 276: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

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

Apostles' Creed

C 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

A Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A You come to us in gatherings of your church across the globe. Unite us with those who celebrate your birth even when they are weighed down by grief, loss, poverty, hunger, or injustice. Merciful God,
C **receive our prayer.**

A You come to us in the diverse splendor of the universe. Grant us the humility to trust our place in the network of creation, that we live in service to you and the natural world. Merciful God,
C **receive our prayer.**

A You come to us through relationships of many kinds: families, friendships, communities, and nations. Guide us in these relationships, that we recognize the Christ child in one another and show your love to those most vulnerable. Merciful God,
C **receive our prayer.**

A You come to us through people whom the world forgets. Poor shepherds and an imprisoned Paul announced your good news. Send your Spirit to all who are imprisoned, struggling with addiction, unwell, or in any need this day, especially Candy, Jason, Fil, Shirley & Eric, Rosalie, Jeff, Denise, Barb, Janet, Donna, Helmut & Carol, Kim, Victoria, Jennifer, Jeanette, Suzanne, Mike, Kari & Terry, Shelby, Cheryl, Eric M, Joan, Judy, Jill Y, Mary Jane, Mike G, Callie & baby, and Deb. Merciful God,
C **receive our prayer.**

A You come to us in acts of justice and forgiveness. Open our hearts to forgive one another, without permitting injustice. Supply us with the wisdom to be clothed with love, binding all things together in perfect harmony. Merciful God,
C **receive our prayer.**

A You come to us through those who have died yet live with you forever. We give thanks for Stephen, deacon and martyr, who gave his life to tell the story of your love. Merciful God,
C **receive our prayer.**

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

Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

The Meal

This is an invitation and not an expectation. As a called and ordained pastor of the ELCA, my responsibilities are to share the Word and Sacraments, so they are available to you, the Body of Christ. If you wish to participate; you are welcomed and loved. If you believe Holy Communion should take place only in church or only in the live presence of a person ordained in Word and Sacrament, you are welcomed and loved even if you are not participating in online Communion. This decision is personal and spiritual and only you can make it. I feel called to give you the option.

- Please have your wine and bread ready for the Meal. It would be best to use grape juice or wine and a small portion of bread or gluten free option for the Eucharist.
- Please participate by lifting the bread and the wine as the pastor lifts the bread and wine.
- If everyone in the family is healthy please take the time to commune each other; presenting the bread first and saying, “the Body of Christ given for you” and then the wine/juice saying, “the Blood of Christ shed for you.” If you’re not feeling well, please commune yourself as you are able.
- The elements (bread and juice or wine) should be consumed in their entirety or returned to the earth as once they are consecrated they are the Body and Blood of Christ. Please do not throw Jesus in the trash or down the drain.

As we prepare to receive Holy Communion, please read the following:

For today’s distribution of Holy Communion, after the Invitation to the Table, the presiding pastor will invite the worship assistants (lector, assisting minister, Intern Candice, ushers) to commune behind the altar. The presiding pastor will then commune those worshiping via Zoom and those in the sanctuary who wish to commune in their pews. Then the presiding pastor will commune those who wish to come up to the altar while the Lamb of God is played. Thank you for your patience as we acknowledge the awkwardness of experiencing something different in worship. God is with us in this meal. God is also with us as we experiment with new worship practices.

Offering

Please feel free to send your regular tithes in the mail, drop it off to the church office or if you have not checked out our website and the "Your Offering Made Easy" tab, this could be your opportunity. (John Mills is available to answer any questions about the Vanco Online giving option if you wish to contact him. His email address is john_r_mills@icloud.com)



Offering Prayer

- A Gracious God,
your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth.
As we offer ourselves and these your gifts,
prepare us to receive the grace and truth
you offer at this table
and renew in us the song of your salvation,
in Jesus Christ our Savior.
- C **Amen.**

The 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, 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

P All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

C 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

P So come to this table, which now extends into our homes, you who have faith and you who would like to have faith; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed; come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

Communion Hymn: ELW (red), hymn 292: *Love Has Come*



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen,
keep and unite us, now and for ever.

C Amen.

Prayer after Communion

A We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus,
God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine.
As we have shared this feast of love,
strengthen us to share your love with all the world.
In Jesus' name we pray.

C Amen.

The Sending

Sending Hymn: ELW (red), hymn 275: *Angels from the Realms of Glory*



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

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

Blessing (~ in *Prayers for Christmas*, posted on the Christian Aid website. <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>)

P Let the love that shaped earth and heaven
dwell within us this Christmas.
Let the love that created humanity
dwell within us this Christmas.
Let the love that overcomes suffering and hatred
dwell within us this Christmas.
Let the love that causes you to rejoice with loved ones
dwell within us this Christmas.
Let the love that forgives and renews
dwell within us this Christmas.
Let the love that brings reconciliation after separation

dwell within us this Christmas.
 Let the love that brings the blessing of peace
 dwell within us this Christmas.
 And may we share that peace
 with all people near and far.

C Amen.

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stick around; the zoom meeting will continue with a virtual “Coffee Hour.” All are welcome.

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Pastor Randy will be on vacation December 27-January 2. Intern Candice is on call. You may contact Intern Candice via this email: interncandice@gmail.com

Worship Assistants Today: Beth Dana (Musician), Missy Schroeder (Assisting Minister & Lector), Dale Buettner (Usher), Mark Hermodson, (Cantor), Mike Williams (A/V & Livestream Specialist), Carlee Schroeder (Assistant to Mr. Williams)

OSLC’s Annual Meeting will be held virtually and in-person on January 23 at 1 P.M. Reports are due to Sandra by January 10. Please send via email if possible. Thanks!