



In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

*Our Saviour Lutheran Church
Candlelight Service of Holy Communion
December 24, 2023, 7:00 P.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



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

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

The Gathering

Prelude Music

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve, *Beth Dana (organ)*
The Snow Lay on the Ground, *Julie Huetteman (piano) & Beth Dana (organ)*
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly, *Julie Huetteman (piano)*
Still, Still, Still, *Abigail Black & Conner Schroeder (vocal duet)*
Away in a Manger, *Zoe Thompson (vocal), Michaela Thompson (Cello)*
The Wexford Carol, *Abigail Black (vocal solo)*
The Bells of Christmas, *Julie Huetteman (piano)*
O Little Town of Bethlehem, *Beth Dana (organ)*
The Sleep of the Child Jesus, *Julie Huetteman (piano) & Beth Dana (organ)*

Candlelight Service for Christmas Eve

Scripture, Carols, and Communion

This service is a variation on a service of light -- an opposite of a tenebrae service. Each candle symbolizes a character in the narrative: Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, the Angels, the Shepherds, the Kings. Candles will be lighted as the story is told. In the liturgy, the congregation reads the C parts.

Welcome

PR Rejoice, for God is with us -- Emmanuel.
C **In the darkness of our world shines God's holy light.**

PR Now there is reason to hope, to love, to laugh, to live.
C **God is truly with us. We are not alone. Glory to God in the Highest!
And God's peace to *all* people on Earth! Thanks be to God!**

Opening Prayer

PR Gracious God,
C **With joy and thanksgiving we gather as your people.
We have come to hear again the timeless story of Christ's birth.
In the excitement of this night, quiet our hearts
that we may know the peace and fullness of this holy time.
Shine, O Light, in the darkness of our world.
Sing, O angels, in the stillness of our hearts,
"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those God favors."
This we pray in the name of the Child of Bethlehem. Amen.**

(All lights are dimmed. Turn off the lights in the narthex. Bring down all lights in the sanctuary. Darkness except for the altar candles, the Christmas Tree, the Advent Wreath candles and the lights for Michael and the musicians.)

PR Life is much richer when shared with others. So it is with worship. We have met together to share the many blessings of the season. When we worship and meet the God of Christmas, we experience what the season is meant to be.

The Word

Reading - The Prophecy of the Messiah

RT Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

⁶ 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. ⁷ 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.

Congregational Carol: ELW 272: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

(The lighting of the Christ Candle: PR)

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

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Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4

Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

RT John 1:1-2, 4-5

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

C Everlasting Savior, Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God with us, Emmanuel.

Reading - The Coming of Jesus Is Announced to Mary and Joseph

PR Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

PR Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Congregational Carol: ELW 268, verses 1-3: *From Heaven Above*

(As the congregation sings, the Gabriel candle and the Mary and Joseph candles are lit. PR)



- 1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come to bear good
- 2 "To you this night is born a child of Mar - y,
- 3 "This is the Christ, God's Son most high, who hears your

Insert additional stanzas as desired.

- 12 Ah, dear - est Je - sus, ho - ly child, pre - pare a
- 13 My heart for ve - ry joy now leaps; my voice no
- 14 "Glo - ry to God in high - est heav'n, who un - to



news to ev - 'ry home! Glad tid - ings of great joy I
cho - sen vir - gin mild; this new - born child of low - ly
sad and bit - ter cry, who will him - self your Sav - ior

bed, soft, un - de - filed, a qui - et cham - ber in my
long - er si - lence keeps; I too must sing with joy - ful
us the Son has giv'n." With an - gels sing in pi - ous



bring to all the world, and glad - ly sing:
birth shall be the joy of all the earth.
be and from all sin will set you free."

heart, that you and I may nev - er part.
tongue the sweet - est an - cient cra - dle - song:
mirth a glad new year to all the earth!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: VOM HIMMEL HOCH, attr. Martin Luther; V. Schumann, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1539
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Reading - The Preparations for the Birth of Jesus

KG Luke 2:1-5

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.

Vocal Solo (first verse) by Abigail Black; Congregation joins on verse 2

Congregational Carol: ELW 269, verse 2: *Once in Royal David's City*

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem-ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand-ing by,
where a moth-er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel-ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;
Mar - y was that moth-er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low-ly, lived on earth our Sav-ior ho-ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

Reading - Jesus is Born

KG Luke 2:6-7

⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ 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.

Congregational Carol: ELW 269, verses 3 & 4: *Once in Royal David's City*

(As the congregation sings, the Baby Jesus candle is lit. PR The House Lights go up one notch.)

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,

where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;

Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

Reading - Jesus' Birth is Announced to the Shepherds

KG Luke 2:8-14

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!”

Congregational Carol: ELW 289: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

(While the congregation sings, the angel candles are lit. PR The House Lights go up a notch.)

**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.**

Reading - The Shepherds Find the Baby Jesus

KG Luke 2:15-18

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.

Congregational Carol: ELW 300, verses 1 & 2: *The First Noel*

(While the congregation sings, the shepherd candles are lit. PR The House Lights go up a notch.)

**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.**

Reading - The Wise Men Bring Their Gifts to Jesus

KG Matthew 2:1-11

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

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

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

Congregational Carol: ELW 300, verses 3 & 5: *The First Noel*

(While the congregation sings, the king candles are lit. PR The House Lights go up a full.)

**And by the light of that same star,
three wise men came from county far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.**

**Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee
and offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.**

PR And so it came to pass that the word of the birth of the Christ Child spread throughout the region. People rejoiced that the promise had been kept, and they believed. There were some who could not understand the power of deliverance through love, and they wondered how this tiny child could indeed be the promised miracle, Savior and king, the Prince of Peace.

Vocal Solo by Conner Schroeder- *Oh Holy Night*

Confession and Forgiveness

PR Let us pray. Merciful God,
C **we confess that often we find darkness more comfortable than light.
We confess that we find your good news frightening and unsettling,
especially when we consider its demands as well as its promises.
We confess that Christmas has become more to us than the birthday of the
Christ, partly because we do not want a Christ-Child in our lives or in our world.
Forgive us, break us, bend us, remake us.
Give us the courage to lay ourselves open to the wonder and healing of your
coming.
Be born again into our world, be born again into our hearts and lives.
Hear now our silent and personal confessions as we prepare ourselves for your
nativity.**

PR The true light that enlightens all has come into the world.
That light shines on in the darkness, and the darkness has never been able to put it out.
This is the good news: God has heard our confession. God has forgiven our sin.
C **Thanks be to God!**

Words of Institution

PR May it be well with you.

C **And also with you.**

PR Life is a gift and we are to celebrate it.

C **May we rejoice in the beauty of this special time.**

PR We celebrate tonight God-with-us beyond our words, beyond our images, for we know God is beyond those things. But tonight we find joy in the image of God coming to us in the form of the Christ Child.

We sense God's presence in creation and in the immensity of our universe, in the incredible display of life on this planet, and in our consciousness of something far greater than ourselves.

As God's Children we rejoice in the birth of Jesus. In him we see the fullness of possibility to make God visible in our lives.

Like all of us he grew in wisdom as he aged. He questioned. He searched for meaning. He shaped his convictions.

He experienced love and came to know love's connectedness with God. He stood firmly in his own religious tradition and preached good news to all people dreaming of a better humanity.

We rejoice that he taught us not to imagine a manipulative, intervening God, but one who is as close as breath and as soft as a whisper, yet as powerful in the focus of our lives, as were the mighty warriors the Old Testament but drawing us toward the good.

We rejoice that Jesus led people to discover the sacred in the ordinary, in the lowly, in everyday life, in human yearnings to be better people, and in being neighbor to one another.

Bread and wine, the fruit of vine and earth.
He gave us these to keep us connected to the story:

We remember the night before he died, according to our tradition, when he shared a meal with his friends.

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.

We break bread as Jesus did remembering the call to love generously and faithfully, whatever the cost.

We pour out wine remembering our responsibility to be bearers of forgiveness, tolerance, and understanding.

May these ordinary things be blessed. For they represent both the ordinary and the extraordinary as Jesus calls us to follow him.

C The mystery hidden for the ages is revealed for us in this meal.

PR Come, behold and receive your God.

Please be seated.

Distribution

All are welcome and all are invited to join at the Lord's table. Pastor Randy will commune the assistants first, then all who choose to commune in their seats (using the individually sealed elements available near the sanctuary doors) and those communing online, and lastly all who want to come to the altar. ALL Are Welcome!

Congregational Carol: ELW 277: *Away in the Manger*

**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.**

**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.**

**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
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

Congregational Carol: ELW 296: *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!**

**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!**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!**

Congregational Carol: ELW 283, verses 1 & 2: *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,
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!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

Please stand as you are able.

Prayer after Communion

PR Let us pray,

C **We are filled with joy for we have heard good news of great joy.
We are filled with love for we have tasted the sign of God's great love.
We are filled with hope for the angels still sing in our world
and there is a Light for us to follow.
We give you thanks, O God, that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life,
you give us food for our journey.
As you led the magi by a star, as you brought the holy family home again,
guide us on the way unfolding before us.
Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim
good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(Bring House Lights back down. Off.)

Candle Lighting

(Pastor Randy takes a large candle, lights it from the Christ Candle, which symbolizes Christ, the light of the world.)

A reading from John 1.

(Pastor Randy lights the candle from the Christ Candle and then passes it to the ushers' candles, then reads the following while the congregation lights their candles from the ushers.)

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

⁶ There was a group sent from God, who was known as the church. ⁷ They came as witnesses to testify to the light, so that all might believe through them. ⁸ They themselves were not the light, but they came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

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

¹⁴ 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.

The Lord's Prayer

PR Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.**

Congregational Carol: ELW 281: *Silent Night, Holy 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.**

Please extinguish your candle when the Pastor extinguishes his.

(Bring the House Lights back up.)

PR As we go from this place, we take the joy of the promise of God's salvation with us; we sing the praise of the angel's song, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to all." Go tell the story from ages past, the promised Holy Child has come at last. For unto us is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Closing Prayer and Benediction

PR Let us pray. Almighty God and Creator of light, a child is born for us and a son is given to us. Your eternal Word leaped down from heaven in the silent watches of the night, and now your Church is filled with wonder and light at the nearness of our God. Open our hearts to receive his life and increase our vision with the rising of the dawn, that our lives may be filled with his glory and his peace; who lives and reigns forever and ever.

C **Amen.**

PR God the Creator who delights in you,
Jesus the Savior who is born for you,
and the lifegiving Spirit who shines on you,
+ bless you and keep you in hope and peace.
C Amen.

Congregational Carol: ELW 270: *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!"**

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

**Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

PR Go in peace. Christ is with you.
C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Angels We Have Heard on High (setting by Timothy Albrecht, 1992 Augsburg Fortress)

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I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve, setting by Aaron David Miller, 2007 Augsburg Fortress; *The Snow Lay on the Ground*, setting by Lani Smith, 2007 Lorenz Publishing Co.; *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*, setting by Mark Sedio, 2003 Augsburg Fortress; *Still, Still, Still*, setting by Matt Astle, 2015; *Away in a Manger*, Text: North American, 19th cent.; *The Wexford Carol*, setting by David Downes, 2006 Liffey Publishing LTD; *The Bells of Christmas*, setting by Jerry van der Pol, 2017 Augsburg Fortress; *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, setting by Robert A. Hobby, 2000 MorningStar Music Publisher of St. Louis; *The Sleep of the Child Jesus* setting by Lani Smith, 2007 Lorenz Publishing Co.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming, Arrangement by Andrew Jacob, 2023 Augsburg Fortress; *From Heaven Above*, Arrangement by John Ferguson, 1997 Augsburg Fortress; *Once in Royal David's City*, Arrangement by Edmund Shay, 1993 MorningStar Music Publishers; *Angels We Have Heard on High*, setting by Robert A. Hobby, 200 Birnamwood Publications; *The First Noel*, setting by Michael Burkhardt, 2016 Birnamwood Publications; *O Holy Night*, English Words by John S. Dwight, Music by Adolphe Adam, 1985 Hal Leonard Music Publishing; *Away in the Manger*, setting by Michael Burkhardt, 1995 MorningStar Music Publications; *What Child is This*, setting by William C. Dix, English ballad, 16th cent.; *O Come All Ye Faithfull*, setting by John Ferguson, 2015 Augsburg Fortress; *Silent Night, Holy Night*, setting by Wilbur Held, 1992 Hope Publishing Co.; *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*, setting by Robert A. Hobby, 2007 Birnamwood Publications

Offering

Please feel free to place your offering in the offering plate by the sanctuary door, send your regular tithe 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. (Ted Heise is available to answer any questions about the Vanco Online giving option if you wish to contact him. His email address is theise@panix.com)



Our sanctuary is served by a hearing loop. Wearers of hearing aids should turn their aids to the setting marked T, or T-coil, or Telephone.

Worship Assistants: Beth Dana, Julie Huetteman, Michaela Thompson, Zoe Thompson, Abigail Black, Conner Schroeder (Musicians/Vocal), Kathy Grogan & River Thompson (Readers), **Dick Rahdert & (Communion Assistant)**, Jesse Grogan (Usher & Lighting Technician), Michael Williams (A/V & Livestream Specialist), Julie Huetteman (Assistant to Mr. Williams)

Poinsettia Providers: Marcia Daehler, Vera and Bud Weiser, Jesse and Kathy Grogan, Mike and Beth Dana, Pastor Randy and Missy Schroeder, John and Vicki Mills, Mark and Sue Hermodson, Jim Westman and Sandy Monroe, Ron and Ruth Bahr

Thanks to all who provided poinsettias for the altar area!

Adult Forum

Adult Forum begins in the Fellowship Hall at 10:20 am in person and on zoom. We conclude at 11:05 am. We welcome ideas for topics and guest speakers. Please contact Missy Schroeder at missy@osluth.org or Mark Hermodson at hermodson@comcast.net if you have any suggestions.

December 2023/January 2024 Schedule:

December 24th- No Adult Forum Merry Christmas

December 31st- No Adult Forum Happy New Year

January 7: Servant Sunday, no Adult Forum

January 14: Wernle Youth & Family Treatment Center

January 21: Pastor Randy - Why we value the lectionary

January 28: Congregational Meeting, no Adult Forum

Centering Prayer Group

Join us every Monday morning for Centering Prayer at OSLC in the fellowship hall and online via zoom from 9:00 – 9:30 am. The zoom link will be sent out on Fridays with the worship zoom link.

No Centering Prayer on December 25th and January 1st.

Luncheon Divina- Praying with Scripture

Join us every Wednesday at noon via zoom for Lectio Divina. The zoom link will be sent on Fridays with the worship zoom link.

No Luncheon Lectio on December 27th and January 3rd.

Sunday School

Sunday School is from 10:20 am to 11:05 am. We have classes for children ages 2-5 in the Nursery with Crystal. Elementary school age class for children in grades K-5th and confirmation class for children grades 6th -8th. Everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall for coffee hour beginning around 10:00 am and the teachers will gather the students at 10:20 to take them to their classrooms. If you have any questions or would like more information, contact Missy Schroeder at missy@osluth.org or at 260-402-4477.

No Sunday School on December 24th and 31st.

Confirmation

All Students in the 6th grade or above are invited to attend Confirmation Classes.

Confirmation Class will meet on Sunday mornings at 10:20 am until 11:05 am, in the Jr.& Sr. Class room upstairs. Pastor Randy will lead the Confirmation and hopes you will join him.

No Confirmation on December 24th, December 31st, & January 7th.

Souper Bowl of Caring



Beginning January 7th, the youth of OSLC will begin collecting change for the Souper Bowl of Caring. We will once again use the proceeds to purchase items to make To-Go-Meals for the warming station at LUM. Bring your change to fill our pots!

Women, Wine (or whatever your preferred beverage) & Feminine Spirituality

Sunday, January 21st from 2:00-4:00 pm at Wildcat Creek Winery. (You do not need to be 21 to go to the winery and they sell soft drinks along with wine.) This month we will be reading [Women's Christmas Retreat, In the Light of a New Constellation](#) by Jan Richardson. You can click on the link to down load the PDF or contact Missy to have the PDF emailed to you. To request the PDF by email or if you have any questions please email Missy at missy@osluth.org.

Wernle Youth & Family Treatment Center

On January 14th Chris Parker from Wernle Youth & Family Treatment Center will be our Adult Forum speaker. If you are not familiar with Wernle and the services they provide, I invite you to take a look at their website and see all the good they do for youth and families. <https://www.wernle.org/> An email will be sent out the week after Christmas that will have information on how OSLC can help.

Roller Skating Fun

January 28th at Great United Skates in Lafayette at 11:45 am. We will order pizza for lunch at the rink (lunch is on OSLC) and if we have at least 10 skaters the price for admission and skate rental is \$6.00 per person. Please RSVP by January 25th. You can RSVP by clicking on the link [Roller Skating Fun](#) or on the sign up sheet in the Narthex. For questions or more information email Missy at missy@osluth.org.

OSLC Congregational Retreats: Honoring the Past, Experiencing the Present and Discerning the Future

The OSLC Council was on retreat on Sept 30th to reflect on where OSLC has been, to look at where we are presently, and to begin discerning and dreaming with God for the future. The council found the retreat to be moving and meaningful. So much so, they wish to invite you on the same retreat. We (the Council) value your participation as OSLC prayerfully discerns where the Spirit is leading us. Pr. Randy, Missy and a couple council members will guide this future retreat on Jan 20th. This retreat will be held at the Ross House @ Ross Hills Park from 9:00am - 3:00pm. Lunch and snacks are provided. If you are interested in attending this retreat, click on the link to sign up. [OSLC Congregational Retreats: Honoring the Past, Experiencing the Present and Discerning the Future](#). We will have hard copies of the sign-up sheet in the narthex on Sunday as well. Space is limited to 10 people per retreat. We hope you will consider this opportunity because we value your wisdom, gifts, and partnership as we begin this discernment process.



**Love cooking for others,
especially college students?**

Use code to sign up,
email plm@plm.org, or
call 765-743-2398 for
more information



Tuesday Dinners

6-7:30pm @ PLM

About Our Nave

Against the north wall is the Tree of Life, designed by the late liturgical designer Charles Pohlmann and constructed in 1996 by then-OSLC member Ted Marshall. The processional cross was given to OSLC in memory of Jennie Dana. Many of our paraments were designed and hand-woven by OSLC member Bea Stromberg. The west wall is lined with seven wood carvings depicting the life of Christ commissioned from the late Nigerian carver Lamidi Fakeye. At the center of the nave stands a marble baptismal font, a gift from members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. The prints of paintings on the east wall are by nationally known liturgical artist He Qi. The center piece is given by the Church Council in honor of Sam Rasmy for his long-time service as Financial Secretary of OSLC. The Last Supper, by Guatemalan artist Angelina Quic Ixtamer, was purchased by the 2014 Guatemala Mission Team. The OSLC logo was redesigned in 2022 with elements reflecting the unique architecture of the sanctuary, the 2019 addition of the south stained-glass window, our affiliation with the ELCA, and the eternal presence of our Lord and Saviour.

References to the Tree of Life are found in both the Old and New Testaments. It has both literal and symbolic meaning for Christians: it is the literal tree of life in Genesis, and in Revelation it represents everlasting life granted to those who display fruits of the spirit and of righteousness aligned with God's principles.

Our Saviour's Vision, Mission, and Values (October 4, 2018)

Vision	<i>God calls us to be a community of discipleship for all, making Christ's love real in our daily lives.</i>
Mission	<i>Grow in faith and Christian calling Love and serve God and neighbor Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ</i>
Values	<i>Centered in liturgical worship Outreach to campus and partnership with Purdue Lutheran Ministry Education and mentoring for all ages Responsible stewardship of resources Care, compassion and service in the local and global community</i>