



First Lutheran Church



Lead Pastor: Joe Skogmo | Associate Pastor: Matthew Engum | Music Director: Karen Bimberg

December 24 · 7:00pm · THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



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.

GATHERING MUSIC

INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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**

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: **Refrain**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Merciful God, **C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out our offenses. Release us from the guilt and shame we carry, and renew a right spirit within us. Teach us your ways, and uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P/C: 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. In your Holy Name we pray. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Sing Emmanuel! Christ Is Born *Jubilate Choir*
From Sing Christmas - Joel Raney & Mary McDonald

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing *ELW #270 v. 1 & 2*

1. 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!"

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

2. 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! **Refrain**

GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-14

P: The Holy Gospel According to Luke, the 2nd chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar 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 in the guest room.

Now in that same 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!"

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

SERMON

Pr. Joe Skogmo

HYMN OF THE DAY

Joy to the World

ELW #267 vs. 1-3

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

SHARING OF PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

NOISY OFFERING

December: FLC Agape Fund

OFFERING



OFFERTORY HYMN*What Child is This*

vs. 3 ELW 296

3. 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!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Loving God, **C: receive this offering for the building up of your kingdom: the proclamation of your word and the loving of our neighbor. Amen.**

COMMUNION**Words of Institution****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.

Distribution**Post Communion Blessing****Post Communion Prayer**

C: Gracious God, at this table you have nourished our body and soul with food and drink. As you have been food and drink for us, transform us to be food and drink for one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION**CANDLELIGHT HYMN***Silent Night, Holy Night*

ELW #281

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.
4. *Hum Verse*

SENDING

P: Go in peace and serve the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE*O How Joyfully (German Carol) - arr. Bill Galliford*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

QUILTERS. The quilters will NOT meet on December 31.

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT . Youth in grades 6-8 are invited to attend the Winter Youth Retreat at Luther Crest on February 7-9. Watch for more information in January!

FARGO FORCE GAME. Join us on January 17 @ 7pm for some frozen family fun at the Fargo Force game! Ticket are \$12 per person, pay on the FLC webpage or in the office. This is an all ages event— all are welcome!

HIGH SCHOOL HANG OUT. There will be NO Hang Out in December.

FLC OFFICE CLOSED. The church office will be closed on December 25-27 and January 1. Happy Holidays!

Christmas Break

Wednesday/ December 25 – January 1
NO OASIS MEAL / WORSHIP SERVICE/
WEDNESDAY SCHOOL & CONFIRMATION

Sunday / December 22 – January 5
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

VISITORS	GIVE ONLINE	TEXT TO GIVE
<p style="text-align: center;">Thanks for joining us! Want to know more about FLC ?</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">Thank you for your support of FLC's missions & ministries.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">218-228-3228</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Text your donation amount to the number listed above & follow instructions that are texted to you</p>

Prayers for God's People

Brent Blake, Bill Wegschied, Cole Woltjer, Joyce Gilbertson, Jake Netland, Ryder Schmidt, Doreen Tollefson

Prayers of comfort for the families of Lorraine Tyberg, Pat Bollig, Dory Pearson, and LeAnn Hanson.