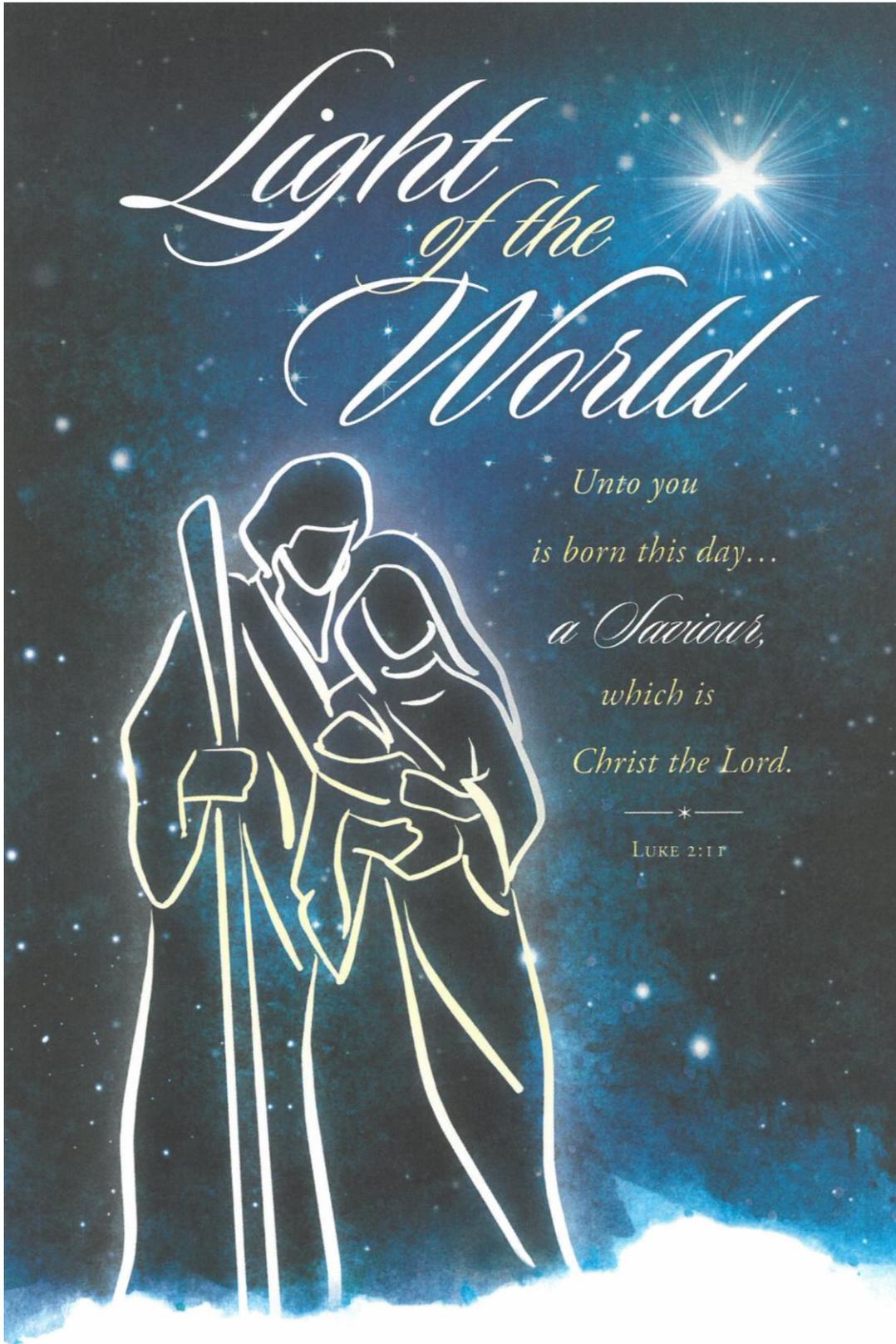


ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago



Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve

December 24, 2021



ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany

◆ Immanuel

◆ Lunder

◆ Silver Lake

◆ Winnebago

Ministers

Pastors

(#590-2737 – cell; email pastorbill@wctatel.net)

(#590-0727 – cell; email baldwins@wctatel.net)

web page - <http://www.wctatel.net/web/oneinchrist>

Every member of the Parish

Bill Peters

Randy Baldwin

Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve

December 24, 2021

Yet in thy dark streets shineth “THE EVERLASTING LIGHT”

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION & CANDLELIGHT

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Songs are printed in bold italics

(Congregational speaking parts are printed in bold.)

Prelude/Ringing of the Bells
Welcome and Announcements

PREPARING FOR THE LIGHT

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Hallelujah – Christmas”

Tina Henely

YOUR LIGHT HAS COME

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 60:1-3

SONG

“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.

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!

REFLECTING ON LIGHT AND DARKNESS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: God is light; and in Him there is no darkness at all.

C: If we claim to have a relationship with God yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.

P: But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have community with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son purifies us from every sin.

C: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

P: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us for all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Jesus died on the cross to take away our sin. We receive God's gift of forgiveness through faith in Jesus, the Light of the world.

C: Jesus lights the way for you and me.

P: May the Holy Spirit keep us in this faith, now and forever, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

WE WORSHIP AND PRAISE GOD

SONG

"Joy to the World"

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive its 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.

GREETING

P: Good news of great joy, light and life, grace and peace be with you all.

C: And also with you.

SHARING THE PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

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 and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

GOD'S CREATION LIGHT

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:1-4,14; 8:12

SONG

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

*Angles, form the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story; Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king.*

*All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore our voices raising to the eternal three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king.*

GOD'S PROMISED LIGHT

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:5-14

SPECIAL MUSIC

"He Shall Reign Forevermore"

Brittany Nyhus

GOD'S PROPHETS POINT TO THE LIGHT

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:2-3, 6

SONG

"Beautiful Savior"

*Beautiful Savior, King of creation
Son of God, and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, Truly I'd serve thee
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.*

THE LIGHT IS ANNOUNCED

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-38

SPECIAL MUSIC

"There's A New Kid n Town"

Vicki Thompson & Dale Gerdes

THE LIGHT DAWNS

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-7

SONG

"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 sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
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*

WITNESSES TO HIS LIGHT

Luke 2:8-20

SCRIPTURE READING

SONG

“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”

*Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come, ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him born the king of angels:
Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing all ye citizens of heav’n above!
Glory to God, glory in the highest:
Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

“Light of the World”

SONG

JESUS LIGHTENS OUR WAY

“I’m So Glad Each Christmas Eve”

*I am so glad each Christmas Eve, the night of Jesus’ birth!
Then like the sun the star shone forth, and angels sang on earth.*

*He dwells again in heaven’s realm, the Son of God today,
And still he loves his little ones and hears them when they pray.*

*I am so glad each Christmas Eve! His praises then I sing;
He opens now for ev’ry child the palace of the king.*

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Let us pray:

May Christ be born in our minds
and be at the heart of our every thought.

May the image of Christ be born in our eyes
and be at the heart of all we see.

May the music of Christ be born in our ears
and be at the heart of all we hear.

May the words of Christ be born on our lips
and be at the heart of every word we speak.

May the love of Christ be born in our hearts
and be at the heart of our relationships.

May Christ be born in all of us, young and old
and be at the heart of all we do. Amen

CELEBRATING THE INCARNATED LIGHT **HOLY COMMUNION**

SONG

“Angels We Have Heard on High”
*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in rely, Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND LORD'S PRAYER

SONG

“Angels We Have Heard on High”
*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!*

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*All who gather here in worship and praise and believe in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ are invited to come to the table.
Come, share in this meal that unites all who believe in Christ, and be forgiven by the grace of God.
We will use a continuous walk-through style. You will be handed the bread and please dip it in the cup. Then
return to your seat. We will have one blessing at the very end.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

Inga Nelson

SONGS DURING DISTRIBUTION

<i>"What Child Is This"</i>	# 40
<i>"The First Noel"</i>	# 56
<i>"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"</i>	# 55

COMMUNION BLESSING

SONG

“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!”*

WE SHINE THE LIGHT FOR OTHERS

LITANY OF LIGHT

Jesus, Lord, at your birth, love's pure light beams radiant from your holy face.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

By your birth in Bethlehem, you brought to light the glory of heaven.

Open our lives with the brightness of your hope.

By your birth in Bethlehem, you brought to light the Father's love.

Guide our lives with the light of your truth.

By your birth in Bethlehem, you brought to light God's saving grace.

Kindle in our hearts the brightness of your joy.

By your birth in Bethlehem, you brought to light the way of peace.

Fill our lives with light from on high.

The flame will be distributed.

Please tip the unlighted candle to receive the flame.

SPECIAL MUSIC *"Silent Night" Emily Charlson & Molly Sandquist*

SONG *(Sing last verse accapella)* **"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.

BENEDICTION

P: As the light of these candles illumines our face, may the Light of the world shine from our lives. Once, it was a star shining on a babe in the manger at Bethlehem. Now, it is the love that flows from our hearts and hands in the name of Christ.

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

C: Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is discord, union;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

P: You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after light a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

You are the Light of Christ in the World!
Go. Let the Light shine.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

SONG

“Go Tell It On The Mountain”

Refrain

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

*While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.*

Refrain

*The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth.*

Refrain

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

Refrain

Ring the Bells

Postlude *(Extinguish candles. Beware of dripping wax.)*

✠ **THANKSGIVING** ✠

God invites us to respond to His grace

OFFERING

Please place your gifts in box, send them to the parish office, or use [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) (electronic giving).

Have a Blessed Christmas!

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

10:30 am Saturday, December 25th

At Winnebago Lutheran, Lake Mills

“Rejoice”

Celebrated with Holy Communion



Our Lord: Christmas Eve

December 24, 2021

Unplanned, but Filled with Peace

Although many of us spend a great deal of time and energy preparing for Christmas, most of us have learned that things don't always go according to plan. Whether due to a sick parent, a gift that cannot be found, or an unexpected guest, pivots of one kind or another often need to be made as Christmas draws near.

This reality directly relates to the Christmas story. In more than one way, the birth of Jesus did not go the way Mary and Joseph likely planned. Yet perhaps this is part of the point: after all, there is nothing routine about God coming to us as a baby. Similarly, it is nothing short of incredible that this one would come to dwell among us in order to show us God's love, set us free from sin, and make possible a life that is whole and abundant.

On this Christmas Eve, we are reminded that nothing can separate us from the love of God made known to us in Jesus, Emmanuel. The birth of Jesus reveals that God has come not for perfect people or those who think they have it all figured out, but rather for people whose lives are messy and noisy, who do not always feel filled with hope, who have worked long hours, who feel the ever-present tension between the already and the not yet. The promise that endures is that the light of Jesus has come into the world for the sake of the *whole* world, and nothing can overcome it. This promise sustains us through the unexpected and sometimes surprising events that come our way. May the goodness of this truth fill us with both wonder and peace.