

CHRISTMAS EVE ~ \* ~ DECEMBER 24, 2025



*Holy is  
His Name*

**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 250 \* 205 West Jefferson Street  
Cole Camp, MO 65325**

**"Being Transformed By God's Grace To Love And Serve."**

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ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE  
December 24, 2025



*+If it is uncomfortable for you to stand where indicated,  
please feel free to remain seated.*



Pre-Service Music

Lois Viebrock, Organist  
Jeannette VonHolten, Pianist

Special Music by the Choir

"This Peaceful Night"  
"Light of Light, King of Kings"

Welcome and Announcements

*please stand as you are able*

Opening Hymn                      "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"                      #288

1) Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice  
give heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now,  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!

2) Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice  
now ye hear of endless bliss;  
Jesus Christ was born for this;  
He has opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest forever more.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!

3) Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save;  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save  
Christ was born to save!

## Greeting

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## Lighting the Advent Wreath and Christ Candle

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.**

Tonight is the night for which we have all been waiting: Christ, our Savior, is born! And with that announcement, our Advent wreath is complete by lighting our Christ candle.

**“For unto us a child is born; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”**

In Jesus, God’s Word is made flesh and lives among us.

**With the shepherds and all who have said “yes” we will tell of the wonders that we have seen and heard.**

May the light of this wreath and the Christ Candle indicate our “yes” to be a part of the story, and to show forth your signs of peace and hope for the world.

**Bless us as we celebrate your arrival this night!**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... **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 Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Rejoice!*

*please be seated*

Processional Hymn "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

#283 vs 1 & 2

- 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*

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2

Children's Program

"Mary Said Yes"

*Following the program the children will return to sit with their families.*

Hymn

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

#270 vs 1

- 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!"



<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> 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: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" <sup>15</sup> 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." <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, <sup>19</sup> and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*please stand in body or spirit*

Hymn

"Angels We Have Heard On High

#289

1 Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.

3 Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.

*Refrain*

*Refrain*

Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo.

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

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song?

*Refrain*



Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your Mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Sharing The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*please be seated*

Offering

*Donated to Hope5one*



*please stand in body or spirit*

### Offertory Prayer

Let us pray.....God with us: You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. **Amen**

### The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### Eucharistic Prayer

#### The Lord's Prayer

Hear, O Lord, the prayer you taught us to pray..... **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.**

*please be seated*

### HOLY COMMUNION

By Stations

All who believe that Jesus is present in the Bread and the Wine  
and has the power to forgive are welcome to commune.

Red wine or white grape juice is available.

### Communion Hymns

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

#279

"What Child Is This?"

#296

"The First Noel"

#300

*please stand in body or spirit*

### Post-Communion Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

### Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.....On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### A Celebration Of The Light Of The World

*(When lighting the candle, dip the unlit candle to the lighted candle; then allow the next person to do the same from your lighted candle.)*

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!

**He is the Light no darkness can overcome.**

Come to us, Lord, on this holy night; let your light scatter the darkness.

**Come to us, Lord, and illumine your Church.**

The old has passed away; behold the new has come! Bring light at last to our world as you foretold through the prophets.

**You have come to us, and you call us out of darkness and into your marvelous light!**





- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!<br>Alles Schlaf; einsam wacht<br>nur das heilige Eltern paar,<br>das im Stalle zu Bethlehem war,<br>bei dem himmlischen kind,<br>bei dem himmlischen kind.    | 3 Silent night, holy night!<br>Shepherds quake at the sight;<br>glories stream from heaven afar,<br>heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!<br>Christ, the Savior, is born!<br>Christ, the Savior, is born!    |
| 2 Silent night, holy night!<br>All is calm, all is bright<br>round yon virgin mother and<br>child.<br>Holy Infant, so tender and mild,<br>sleep in heavenly peace,<br>sleep in heavenly peace | 4 Silent night, holy night!<br>Son of God, love's pure light<br>radiant beams from your holy face,<br>with the dawn of redeeming grace,<br>Jesus, Lord, at your birth,<br>Jesus, Lord, at your birth. |

### Blessing

May the Lord God, who has called you out of darkness to be servants of light, grant you the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ Child. In the name of Almighty God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  
*(extinguish candles)*



- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow  
Let earth receive her king; nor thorns infest the ground;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room he comes to make his blessings flow  
and heav'n and nature sing, far as the curse is found,  
and heav'n and nature sing, far as the curse is found,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing. far as, far as the curse is found.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! 4 He rules the world with truth  
Let all their songs employ, and grace  
while fields and floods, and makes the nations prove  
rocks, hills, and plains the glories of his righteousness  
repeat the sounding joy, and wonders of his love,  
repeat the sounding joy, and wonders of his love,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy. and wonders, wonders of his love

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ!

**Thanks be to God.**

*Let  
Heaven  
&  
Nature  
Sing!*

## **“Mary said Yes” - Cast of Characters**

Narrators: Logan Jackson, Jace Tinney, Lexi Goyette, Mason Randall, Miranda Gerken, Kelsey Viebrock, Fred Goosen, Hudson Kullman

Elizabeth: Lauren Jackson

Zechariah: Evan Randall

Mary: Charlotte Zeller

The Angel Gabriel: Lena Smith

Joseph: Jackson Decker

Shepherds: Finnley Decker, Macoy Tinney, Cooper Rice, Conway Kruep

Angels: Nora Mullins, Ainsley Kullman, Cooper Oelrichs, Mason Smith, Isaac Zeller, Scottlynn Decker

Wise Ones: Tucker Nash, Kyler Tinney, Noah Gerken

King Herod: Kale Kruep

Barnyard animals: Easton Oelrichs, Lydia Rodewald , Creed Jackson



~ \* ~ A SPECIAL THANK YOU ~ \* ~

Rev. Stephen Zeller, Pastor

Christmas Program Committee and Assistants, Emily Kullman and Anne Goosen

Children and Parents for their dedication to practices and the program.

Russ Oelrichs, sound & livestream

Todd Rusk, projection screen

Luther League for lighting the candles

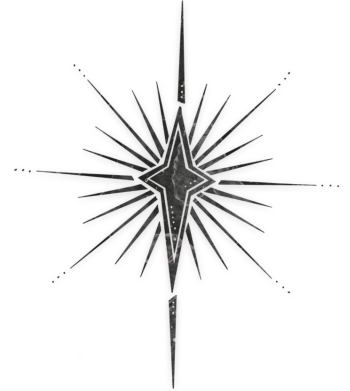
Lois Viebrock, organist

Jeannette VonHolten, pianist

Joyce Schlesselmann, choir director

St. Paul's Choir

Ushers, Altar Guild, Sexton and Custodian for all their hard work.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!