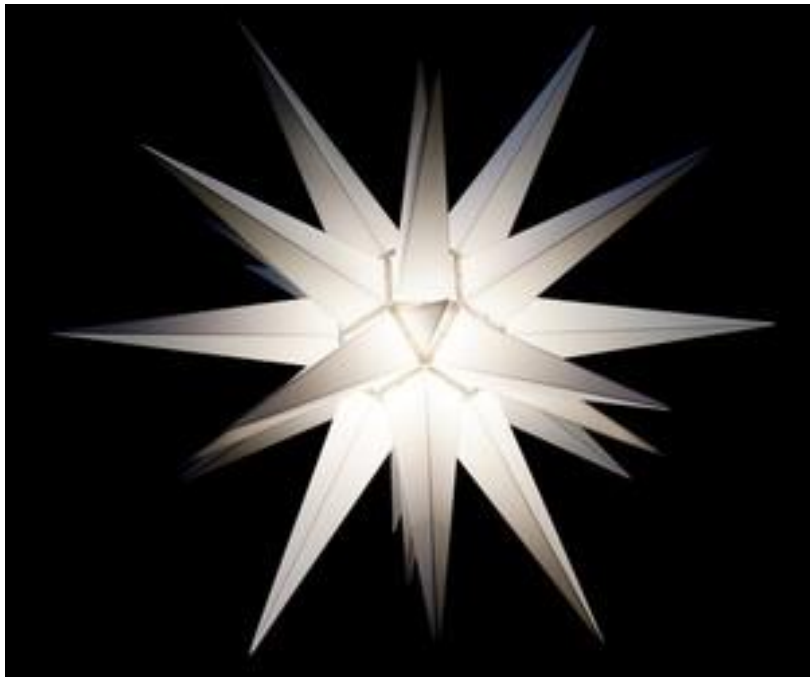


W elcome to W orship

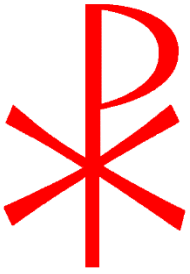
St. Luke's Evangelical

Lutheran Church



CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25, 2022



Disciples and Ministers: *All the People*
Interim Pastor: *Rob Johnson*
NWOS Bishop: *Daniel Beaudoin*
ELCA Presiding Bishop: *Elizabeth Eaton*
Companion Church: *Mwanawotta, Tanzania*
Web Page: <http://www.stlukesnb.org>
eMail: StLukesNB@gmail.com
[Pastor Rob's phone: 419-913-7506](tel:419-913-7506)

*Whether this is your first time with us or you have been here your whole life, **WELCOME** to the place where we stand together before God as equals. If you are new here and seeking a church home, please contact the church office at 419-257-3253 and leave a message.*

Assisting in Worship

Pianists: *Janet Goldner and Linda Ross*
Scripture Reader: *Janet Goldner*
Prayer Leader: *Janet Goldner*
Acolyte: *Easton Wymer*
Ushers: *Bryant Matthes and Matt Matthes*
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

To the Glory of God

January Altar Candles: *Pam & Rick Van Mooy*
January Bulletins: *Pam & Rick Van Mooy*
January Newsletter: *Pam & Rick Van Mooy*



The Altar Flowers today are given by *Tiffany & Tom Mika* in celebration and honor of *Dwight Patterson's* birthday on January 5.

Order of Worship

Christmas Day - December 25, 2022
Moravian Feast of Love

God is glad you have joined us for worship today. At the symbol ✠ assembly members may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked upon us at baptism.

Pandemic update: we will continue monitoring the CDC and following their guidelines.

**please stand as you feel comfortable. We are grateful that you are here, regardless if you are standing or sitting.*

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

BASED ON PSALM 98

Leader: Sing to God something brand new!

ALL: For God has done wonderful things!

Leader: God has not forgotten to love us all!

ALL: Even the ends of the earth have heard!

Leader: Make a joyful noise!

ALL: Break forth in song!

Leader: With strings and horns,

ALL: sing praise to the Holy One!

Leader: With the roaring sea and everything in it!

ALL: With all the land and everything in it!

Leader: The floods clap their hands.

ALL: The hills sing for joy.

Leader: Thank God! God is coming to set everything right:

ALL: Justice for everyone, everything fair.

Leader: Sing to God something brand new!

ALL: For God has done wonderful things!

HYMN #487

WHAT FEAST OF LOVE

GREETING AND PRAYER

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

ALL: and also with you.

The people share a sign of peace.

Prayer Leader: Let us pray,

Prayer Leader: Holy God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, at the birth of time your Word brought light into the world, and throughout the ages, you proclaim newness of life. For your wondrous Word, we thank you, O God. **ALL: we thank you, O God.**

Prayer Leader: In the fullness of time, your Word became flesh, to shine in our world's darkness, to speak peace to all people, and to welcome us as members of your family. For your loving Word, we adore you, O God. **ALL: we adore you, O God.**

Prayer Leader: Grant us now the gift of your Spirit, that held, nourished, and protected by your Word, we may live as your children, bearing your goodness throughout the world. For your powerful Word, we praise you, O God. **ALL: we praise you, O God.**

Prayer Leader: All glory to you, holy God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

THE PROPHETIC READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

Reader: How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices; together they shout for joy, for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth; shout together for joy, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted the chosen people, and has redeemed Jerusalem.

The holy arm of the Lord is bared before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

SERVING OF THE MEAL

What Feast of Love

BLESSING

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus, our guest be. Bless these gifts bestowed by Thee. Amen.

EATING OF THE MEAL

HYMN #290

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

THE GOSPEL READING

LUKE 2:15-20

Reader: 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."

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

HYMN #300

THE FIRST NOEL

PRAYER

Prayer Leader: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life,

ALL: Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

ALL: Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

ALL: Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

ALL: Blessed are you in the hopes and dreams of the prophets.

ALL: Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

ALL: Blessed are you for your Son, Jesus, the Word made flesh.

HYMN #270

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

BENEDICTION

Leader: Now, may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace and believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The God of all grace ✠ bless you now and forever. **ALL: Amen.**

POSTLUDE

TODAY'S WORSHIP COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS

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"What Feast of Love" TEXT: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939 © 1993 Delores Dufner, admin. OCP Publications Music: English ballad, 16th cent.

"Go Tell It on the Mountain" TEXT: African American spiritual, refrain, John W. Work, Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

"The First Noel" TEXT: English traditional Music: English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1815



Please help to keep our Prayer List up-to-date by notifying the church office of any changes, additions or deletions.

WE GIVE THANKS: for birth of Jesus and the message of peace on earth. Thanks be to God!

MEMBERS: Harry & Julie Friess, Cheryl & John Kruse, Fred Husing, Shirley Heilman, Larry Slaughterbeck, Bob Kelley, Caroline Lieser, Eloise Matthes, Marilyn Ziegler, Bertha & Jim Carter, Barb Williams, Jack Sterling, Gloria Hoffsis, Rex McCarty.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Patty Webb, Cheryl, Ryan Bullock, Isabella Miller, A.J., Frank Strausbaugh, Bill Bankey, Mike Gorsline, Mavery Breece, Caroline, Mike Lerma, Ethan, Tom Szor, Beth Johnson, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, Deanna Griffith, Laura, Michael Sullivan, Cindy, Sally Eggleston, Catherine Pritts, Ja-nét Moske.

MILITARY: For all those who are in training and who are serving in the military & their families; the chaplains (*especially those in combat zones*); grieving families and friends of those who died while serving.

COMPANION CHURCH: **Mwanawotta Lutheran Church**, of the Dodoma Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

WIDER CHURCH PRAYERS: all ministries of the ELCA (**E**vangelical **L**utheran **C**hurch in **A**merica), our presiding **Bishop Elizabeth Eaton**, all our bishops, pastors, leaders, of the congregations of the NWOS (**N**orth**w**estern **O**hio **S**ynod), **Bishop Daniel Beaudoin**, and our 15 Central Conference congregations.

Traces of Light

“The light shines in the darkness.” We know the darkness—even in the merriment of Christmas we need not travel too far to see it. When the prophet Isaiah proclaimed words echoed in our reading, he did not need to go into too much detail as to what the darkness was. This was the darkness of the battlefield, of war and captivity. Our daily headlines remind us of today’s darkness, which Henri Nouwen says “is so visible and tangible . . . that it is often difficult to believe that there is much to think, speak, or write about other than our brokenness” (*Life of the Beloved*, New York: Crossroad, 1992, p. 69).

But it is into this brokenness that the life and light of the world descends, not to terrify or shame it, but to create it anew. From the beginning this Word was active in creation, speaking obliquely to every culture and era, until the particular time of incarnation. God risks vulnerability in order to reach out to the wounded, and places in creation’s trust the caretaking of a fragile grace. Will the world receive him?

The rest of the story will painfully answer this question. Events at Gethsemane, Gabbatha, and Golgotha will dramatically declare our rejection of the life and light of the world. But the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it. We wrestle with the paradox that the world did not recognize its own light by which it sees, or its own life from which it has life, or the Word that gives it meaning. Yet we also treasure the wonder by which we have been granted eyes to see and ears to hear. At Christmas we perceive the light in infancy, but, grace upon grace, he is a trace of joy given for us.

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[Church Office Hours M-F 9-1](#)