Pelcome to Porship

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church



December 24, 2023



Disciples and Ministers: All the People

Pastor:

NWOS Bishop: Daniel Beaudoin

ELCA Presiding Bishop: *Elizabeth Eaton* Companion Church: *Mwanawotta, Tanzania*

Web Page: http://www.stlukesnb.org

eMail: <u>StLukesNB@gmail.com</u> Church Phone: 419-257-3253

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

Organist: Janet Goldner

Worship Leader: SAM Bob Fett

Scripture Reader and Prayer Leader: Carl Lieser

Acolyte: Easton Wymer

Ushers: JoLynn & Don Stewart Videographer: Beth Williams

To the Glory of God

December Candles: Carol Williams
December Bulletins: Carol Williams

December Newsletter: <u>available for sign-up</u>

The flowers Christmas brings family & friends together; it helps us appreciate love in our lives we can often take for granted. May the true meaning of Christmas fill your heart with blessings! Merry Christmas!



Bob Kelley & family



Order of Worship

Christmas Eve - December 24, 2023

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

*please stand, sit, or kneel as you feel comfortable.

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

GOD GATHERS US

PRELUDE MUSIC

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

ALL: For unto us a child is born! Unto us a Savior if given!

Leader: We give thanks for the birth of Christ into our world.

ALL: We give thanks for the ever-present love of God.

<u>Leader</u>: Christ Jesus is the source of our salvation, our Savior!

ALL: We lift our hearts in celebration! Christ the Savior is born!

Leader: Let us worship God.

*GATHERING HYMN #283

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

*ADVENT PROCLAMATION

<u>Leader</u>: These are the days of expectation, the days of watching and waiting. God has promised us a Savior who will change our lives and make us new. In anticipation and preparation for this night, we lit the four Advent candles of hope, peace, joy, and love. Tonight, we light the Christ Candle, to honor the long-expected birth of Jesus.

*ADVENT RESPONSE



*AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

<u>Leader</u>: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation. Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin. Our Savior came to bring light into the darkness of our lives. We now confess our sins, praying for the light.

Please take a moment for silent confession.

Leader: God of life,

ALL: you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage.

Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

<u>Leader</u>: Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In + Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God. **ALL: Amen.**

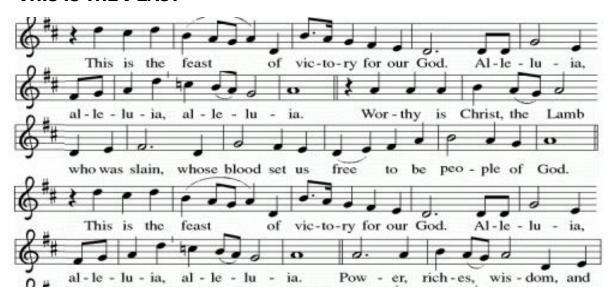
***KYRE HYMN #151**



*CONFESSION RESPONSE

<u>Leader</u>: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **ALL: and also with you.**

*THIS IS THE FEAST





*Prayer of the Day

Leader: Let us pray,

ALL: 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

GOD SPEAKS TO US

PROPHETIC READING

ISAIAH 9:2-7

<u>Reader</u>: 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. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For 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. ⁷His 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.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. ALL: Thanks be to God.

PSALM READING

(responsively)

PSALM 96

Reader: Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

ALL: Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.

<u>Reader</u>: Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

ALL: For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.

<u>Reader</u>: As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

ALL: Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.

<u>Reader</u>: Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

ALL: Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.

<u>Reader</u>: Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

ALL: Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."

<u>Reader</u>: Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

ALL: Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.

<u>Reader</u>: You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. ALL: Thanks be to God.

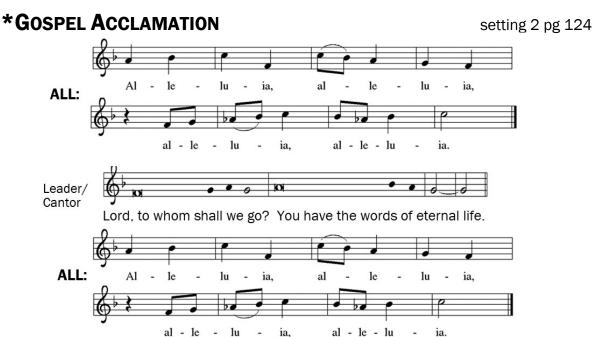
DISCIPLESHIP READING

TITUS 2:11-14

Reader: The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God

and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. ALL: Thanks be to God.



*GOSPEL READING

LUKE 2:1-14

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

<u>Leader</u>: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the Gospel of Luke chapter 2. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<u>Leader</u>: In 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.

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

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!"

Leader: The gospel of the Lord. ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

THE MESSAGE

*HYMN OF THE DAY #279

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

*THE APOSTLES' CREED

All: I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the live everlasting. Amen

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE INTRODUCTION

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

*Prayer Song Hymn #473

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY





*Prayers of the People

<u>Prayer Leader</u>: Hear us, O God. **ALL: your mercy is great.**

We pray for Emily, Carl, Jim, Pat, Rick, Kolton, Ron, Jim, Cheryl, John, Fred, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Bertha, Barb, Chase, Bob, Cali, Howard, Emelyn, Isabella, Kevin, Shirley, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Deanna, Laura, Michael, Cindy, John, Gary, Paul, Sue, Teresa, Doug, Betty, David, LuAnn, Colene, Eva, Braxton, Eric, Lisa, Chris, Arlene, Logan, Don, Ashley, Beth, Holly, Tessa, Riker, Kelly, Al, Pat, Dan, and Cooper.

*THE PRAYER OUR LORD TAUGHT US

All: 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



*REPEAT PRAYER SONG HYMN #473

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

<u>Leader</u>: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Please share God's peace using the "peace sign."

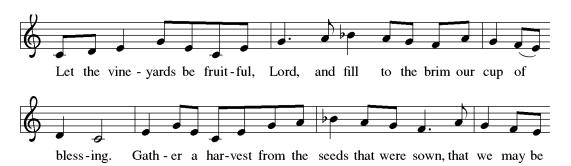
INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

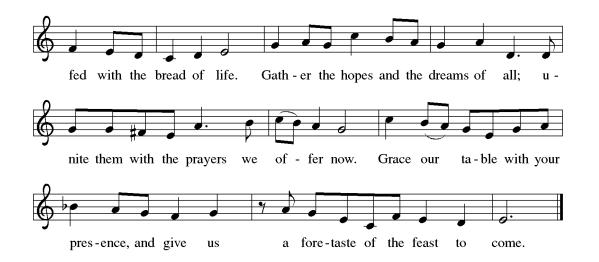
<u>Leader</u>: With HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE, AND LIGHT in our hearts we present our tithes, and offerings to God for all of the blessings we have received.

OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #182

LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITEUL





***OFFERING PRAYER**

Leader: Let us pray.

ALL: God of grace, we rejoice in your most wonderful gift, Jesus Christ our Lord. Bless now these gifts we present to you. Use them for your work in this church and your work to the ends of the earth. In Jesus' name we pray Amen.

GOD NOURISHES US

*THE TABLE PRAYER

SETTING 2 HYMNAL PAGE 129

<u>Leader</u>: God of all creation, all you have made is good.

ALL: God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from our abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. Amen.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

<u>Leader</u>: Children of God, lift up your hearts. **ALL: Our hearts rejoice in the one who became one to us!**

<u>Leader</u>: We have beheld his glory, **ALL**: the glory of the Father's only begotten Son.

<u>Leader</u>: Holy are you, God of all creation! **ALL: Holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, who became servant to save us.**

<u>Leader</u>: Therefore, we celebrate his birth, his life, his death, and his resurrection. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life.

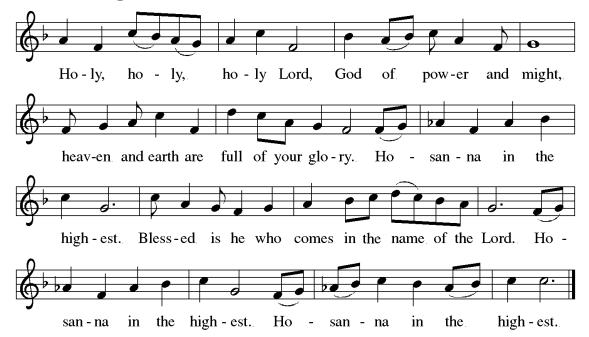
ALL: Born in the shadows of night, Christ is our light.

Dying on the cross, Christ is our life.

Rising from the tomb, Christ is our hope.

Returning to us once more, Christ is our promise.

<u>Leader</u>: And so, with all creatures and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and sing:



***THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

<u>Leader</u>: In the night he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, gave it to his disciples, saying

ALL: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

<u>Leader</u>: Again, after supper, Jesus took a cup, gave thanks; and gave it for all to drink, saying

ALL: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.

<u>Leader</u>: For as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. In this meal, righteousness and light meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

DISTRIBUTION

*HYMN AFTER COMMUNION #313

Verse 1



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

<u>Leader</u>: God, who is rich in mercy, loves us even when we are dead to sin.

ALL: God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GOD SENDS US

THE SHARING OF THE LIGHT

<u>Leader</u>: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

ALL: The Word has become flesh and lives among us, and we now see Christ's glory.

Leader: To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

ALL: The Word is life, and the life is the light of all people. Amen.

(Please tilt your unlit candle into the already lit candle.)

HYMN DURING CANDLE LIGHTING #281

"SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT"

- 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.

BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

<u>Leader</u>: Peace be with you. **ALL: and also with you.**

SENDING HYMN #267

JOY TO THE WORLD!

DISMISSAL

<u>Leader:</u> Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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"Kyrie" Text: Dinah Reindorf, b.c. 1927 Music: 1987 Dinah Reindorf, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893 Music: St. Louis , Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

"Holy, Holy, Holy" TEXT: Argentine traditional Music: Argentine traditional

"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful" Text: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Text ©1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress and music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress

"O Lord, Now Let Your Servant" Text: Ernest E. Ryden, 1886-1981, alt., based on the Nunc dimittis Music: Finnihsh folk tune; arr. hymnal version Text© 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

"Silent Night, Holy Night" Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1846; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787-1863

"Joy to the World" Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent; arr, Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

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Christmas Poinsettias

Jill Guy, and Jan & Rick Stine	. in memory of Donald, Joanne, and
	Jo Lynn Shaffer
Kasey, Josh, Grace, & Hannah Hagem	yerin memory of RJ
Lois & Russ Heilman	to the Glory of God
Bob Kelley and Familykind	thoughts & Christmas wishes to all
may the i	reason for the season fill your heart
	pray for peace this holiday season
Karen & Lynn Krauss	in memory of Mary Krauss
	in honor of Rose Marie Hosley
	in memory of Gene Hosley
Caroline & Carl Lieser in memory of	Caroline's mom, Maureen Doherty
in memory of Carl's mom	•
in honor of Caroline's dad, Peter Dol	• •
Arica & Matt Matthesin n	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Tiffany Mika in honor of family a	•
Ruth & Dwight Patterson	
daug	
Tracey & Steve Pritts	Merry Christmas to all

MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
BLESSINGS FOR THE
NEW YEAR



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 the birth of Jesus and the promise of his glorious return. Thanks be to God!

MEMBERS: Emily Meyerson, Carl Lieser, Jim Wymer, Pat Wheeler, Rick Van Mooy, Kolton Williams, Ron Bean, Cheryl & John Kruse, Fred Husing, Shirley Heilman, Larry Slaughterbeck, Bob Kelley, Caroline Lieser, Marilyn Ziegler, Bertha Carter, Barb Williams.

<u>FAMILY AND FRIENDS</u>: Chase, Bob, Cali, Howard Till, Emelyn, Isabella, Keven Bickle, Shirley Hollowell, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, Deanna Griffith, Laura, Michael Sullivan, Cindy.

<u>MILITARY</u>: 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.

<u>COMPANION CHURCH</u>: Mwanawotta Lutheran Church, of the Dodoma Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

<u>WIDER CHURCH PRAYERS</u>: all ministries of the ELCA (<u>E</u>vangelical <u>L</u>utheran <u>C</u>hurch in <u>A</u>merica), our presiding <u>Bishop Elizabeth Eaton</u>, all our bishops, pastors, and leaders of the congregations of the <u>NWOS</u> (<u>Northwestern Ohio Synod</u>), <u>Bishop Daniel Beaudoin</u>, and our 15 Central Conference congregations.

<u>THE WORLD</u>: for peace in our country and around the world. For the end of violence against one another. For world leaders to seek guidance from you.

Hope Born in a World of Humbugs

Dressed up with presents, lights, TV specials, extra concerts, parties, and spending money, there is a sense that Christmas is the time to feel good, do good, and perhaps live a little better than the rest of the year. Even the most cynical get swept up in the idea that the world and their lives shine a little brighter. It is a sugar-coated holiday rush only to be met days later by an emotional crash. Yet these signs point to a deep-seated hope that is lodged in the hearts and minds of those moving into this season. There is a longing and fervent hope that God will enter in and counter the challenges and humbugs of our days and world. And to this longing and fervent hope we look to one who claims us from marginal lives and engages us in a central story of hope and promise.

Wrapped in every breath, song, and action is God's direct connection with the earth and her peoples. This night counters voices and theologies that view God as distant and unengaged with humanity and the world. From old, the promise of God drawing near has been uttered; in the gospel we witness the birth of God's yearning presence through a teenage girl; throughout we are invited to join the song of creation, hope, and salvation. Tonight we pulse with the exhilaration of Mary and the shepherds, and those who have lived at the margins, as we experience and proclaim, that "God dwells with us." While people may often talk of the "magic" of Christmas, it is our call to speak to the *incarnation* of Christmas. As people come together to hear a familiar story and sing familiar hymns, the blessing and challenge is to witness again to God's promise and promise-keeping with vitality and to join the chorus of joy in what God has done and continues to do in being made real among us.

Into the lights and presents, the music and gatherings, even the wars, poverty, little empires, and tumult of the world, God meets and claims us in that spirit of hope. God calls us to dream and live into a new reality as we encounter this babe at Bethlehem and find this Christ-child born in our lives again. Christmas speaks to our greatest longing, and turns the "humbugs" to carols of joy.



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