

W elcome to W orship  
St. Luke's E vangelical  
Lutheran C hurch

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December 8, 2024



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: [StLukesNB@gmail.com](mailto:StLukesNB@gmail.com)  
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 Paul Brooks*

Scripture Reader and Prayer Leader: *JoLynn Stewart*

Ushers: *Jace McCartney, Guy McCartney*

Videographer: *Beth Williams*



## To the Glory of God

December Altar Candles: *Carol Williams*

December Bulletins: *Laura & Tony Damon*

December Newsletter: *Laura & Tony Damon*

**The Sacrament of Baptism** – The white rose buds celebrate the baptism of Maylee Jane Stewart, daughter of Lauren and Zachary Stewart; and Cooper William Stewart and Bennett Lawrence Stewart, sons of Jordan Baker and Owen Stewart.

# Order of Worship

Second Sunday of Advent, December 8, 2024

*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.*

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

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

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## WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

### PRELUDE WITH SILENT MEDITATIVE PRAYER

*Use your breath as a form of prayer as you listen to the music. When you breathe in, pray, "Forgiving God." When you exhale, pray, "help me to forgive."*

### THE GREETING

Leader: 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.**

### \*ADVENT PROCLAMATION

Leader: 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. Today we light the candle of peace. In a world where peace often seems difficult to find, we know that we have been given the Prince of Peace, and he dwells with in us. Let us light the candle of peace, praying for God's peace in our hearts and in the hearts of all of God's children.

### \*GATHERING HYMN #451

WE ARE BAPTIZED IN CHRIST JESUS

### PRESENTATION FOR BAPTISM

Leader: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Leader: Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Maylee Jane Stewart, Cooper William Stewart, Bennett Lawrence Stewart, baptized into Christ?

Parents: I do.

Leader: As you bring Maylee, Cooper, and Bennett, to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with them among God's faithful people, bring them to the Word of God and the Holy Supper, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer, so that they may, in time, learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Leader: Do you promise to help Maylee, Cooper, and Bennett grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: I do.

Leader: Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Maylee, Cooper, and Bennett in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: I do.

Leader: Will the congregation please rise. People of God, do you promise to support Maylee, Cooper, and Bennett and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

ALL: We do.

## **\*PROFESSION OF FAITH**

Leader: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**Parents and Sponsors: I renounce them.**

Leader: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**ALL: 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 to the dead.**

**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.**

Leader: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**ALL: 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 life everlasting.**

## **\*THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Leader: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **ALL: Amen.**

## **BAPTISM**

Leader: Maylee Jane Stewart, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: Cooper William Stewart, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: Bennett Lawrence Stewart, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Maylee, Cooper, and Bennett with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen.

Leader: Maylee Jane Stewart, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Leader: Cooper William Stewart, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Leader: Bennett Lawrence Stewart, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

## **WELCOME**

Leader: Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life. Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Leader: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**ALL: Maylee, Cooper, and Bennett, you belong to Christ in whom you have been baptized. We welcome you into the body of Christ and invite you to join in the mission God gives us. As we give witness to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we invite you to proclaim with us the promise of eternal life.**

## \*SHARING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**ALL: and also with you.**

*Please feel free to shake hands as you share God's peace.*

Leader: Let the peace of Christ reign among us.

## \*GLORY TO GOD



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - Iv King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther. we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are

seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

*Refrain*

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 For you a - lone are the Ho-ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

*Refrain*

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Let us join our hearts and voices together in the Prayer of the Day.

**ALL: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**



## FIRST READING

MALACHI 3:1-4

Reader: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

## PSALM READING

*(responsively)*

Luke 1:68-79

Reader: Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free.

**ALL: You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David.**

Reader: Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies, <sup>71</sup>from the hands of all who hate us,

**ALL: to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.**

Reader: This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham: <sup>74</sup>to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**ALL: free to worship you without fear, holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

Reader: And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

**ALL: to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.**

Reader: In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**ALL: to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

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

## SECOND READING

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

Reader: I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

## \*GOSPEL READING

LUKE 3:1-6

*John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.*

Leader: There is good news for us today and it comes from the gospel according to Luke chapter 3. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

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

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

## THE MESSAGE

**HYMN OF THE DAY #242** AWAKE! AWAKE, AND GREET THE NEW MORN

## \*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE INTRODUCTION

Prayer Leader: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God’s presence.

## \*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer Leader: Lord, in your mercy, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

We pray for Suzanne, Becky, JoLynn, Emily, Carl, Jim, Rick, Kolton, Ron, Cheryl, John, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Bertha, Barb, Riley, Kelli, Mr. Doherty, Kristen, Jennifer, Ron, Chase, Bob, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Deanna, Laura, Michael, Cindy, John, Gary, Paul, Sue, Betty, David, LuAnn, Colene, Eva, Eric, Lisa, Chris, Arlene, Bob, Don, Ashley, Pat, and Gordon.

## INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

Leader: As we present our tithes and offerings today, we remember that everything we have comes from God. Let us give with gratitude for all we have received remembering the greatest gift of all, Christ Jesus.

## OFFERTORY

### \*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #186

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

### \*OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray together.

**ALL: Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

### \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you. **ALL: And also with you.**

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

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: 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, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choir of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

## \***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

SETTING 3 HYMNAL PAGE 144



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## \***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Leader: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Leader: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

In the unity of the Holy Spirit, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us saying,

### **\*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**

### **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Leader: God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

### **DISTRIBUTION**

## \*TABLE BLESSING

Leader: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **ALL: Amen**

## \*HYMN AFTER COMMUNION #207

THANKFUL HEARTS AND VOICES RAISE

## \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

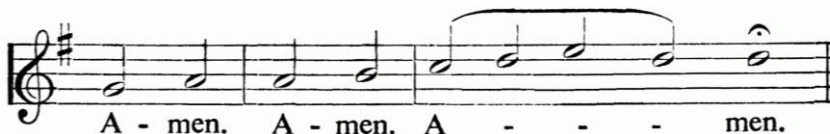
Leader: Please join with me in prayer,

**ALL: Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.**

## \*BLESSING

Leader: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever. In the name of the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit.

## \*THE AMEN



## \*SENDING HYMN #279

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

## \*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. Share the good news. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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*As we leave worship each week, we remember the poor around the world by placing loose offerings in the "hunger bowls" on the Information Table in the Narthex. These gifts are then forwarded to the ELCA World Hunger Program.*

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*Christmas Eve* *December 24,*  
*Worship* *2024*

Set every peak and valley.

*Humming with the Word*

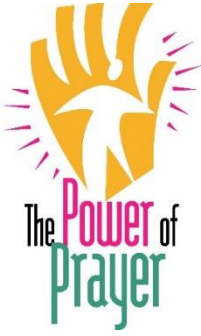
the Lord is coming!  
(ELW248)

**St. John's Lutheran  
Church in McComb**  
7:00 p.m.

**St. Luke's Lutheran  
in North Baltimore**  
9:30 p.m.

50 years | WCA World Hunger





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 Advent Peace. Thanks be to God!

**MEMBERS:** Becky Bean, JoLynn Stewart, Emily Meyerson, Carl Lieser, Jim Wymer, Rick Van Mooy, Kolton Williams, Ron Bean, Cheryl & John Kruse, Shirley Heilman, Larry Slaughterbeck, Bob Kelley, Caroline Lieser, Marilyn Ziegler,

Bertha Carter, Barb Williams.

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** Dana, Eli Swartz, Riley Guy, Kelli Sterling, Mr. Doherty, Kristen, Jennifer Dochod, Ron Stewart, Chase, Bob, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, Deanna Griffith, Laura, Michael Sullivan, Cindy.

**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 (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), our presiding **Bishop Elizabeth Eaton**, all our bishops, pastors, and leaders of the congregations of the NWOS (Northwestern Ohio Synod), **Bishop Daniel Beaudoin**, and our 15 Central Conference congregations.

**THE WORLD:** 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.

**A.S.A.P.**  
*always say a prayer*

**North Baltimore Food Pantry December** requested donations include: peanut butter, jellies and jams. Without our help, some families in our community will go without. Please give generously.

## Sermon Notes

Write 3 teachings or ideas you heard in today's sermon:

1.

2.

3.

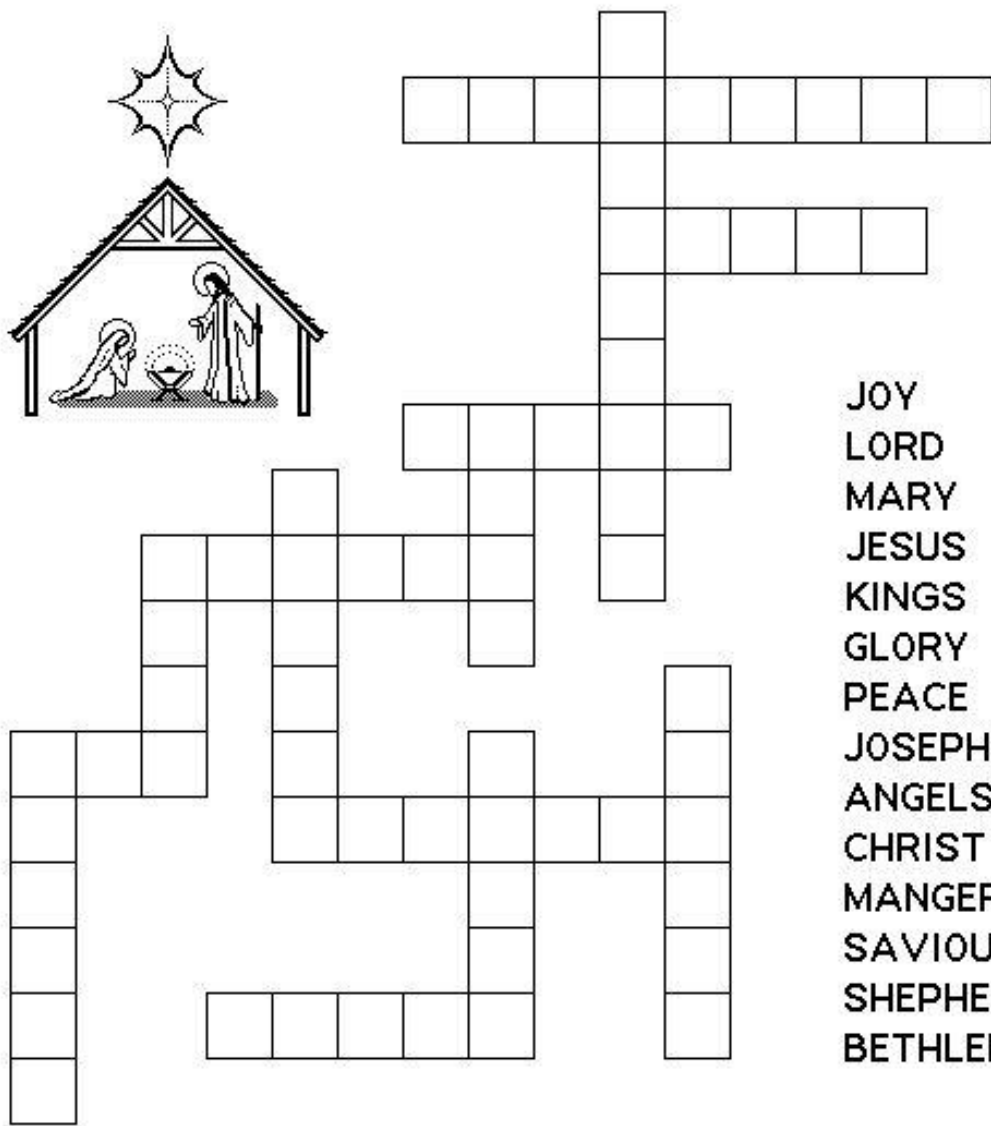
Something I might do to put this sermon into practice.

Write a brief prayer relating to the sermon.

# Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.

Each word is only used once.



JOY  
LORD  
MARY  
JESUS  
KINGS  
GLORY  
PEACE  
JOSEPH  
ANGELS  
CHRIST  
MANGER  
SAVIOUR  
SHEPHERDS  
BETHLEHEM

## Your Kingdom Come on Earth



Luke sets the preaching of John the Baptist clearly in the midst of the political and religious environment of his day. We are told the names of the emperor, governor, and other political rulers of the day. They are the ones who are supposed to care for the welfare of the citizens of their territories. Although John gave his message while he was in the wilderness, it was intended to have

its impact in the farms, villages, and cities where the ordinary and the powerful live out their daily lives. John is not satisfied with the way things are, and his words help prepare us for the coming of one who will turn the world upside down. John's words tell us to examine our own lives and the world around us. We should not be complacent in the face of injustice, but instead seek forgiveness and strive for lives that bear fruit according to God's vision for the world.

We all have the potential to "over-spiritualize" the Bible and our faith, so that they become disconnected from the real needs of the world around us. This potential can be even greater in the days around Christmas, as we may seek to justify over-spending on gifts, excessive eating and drinking, or simply desire to escape from the difficulties of ordinary life for a time. John provides a warning about ignoring the truth about our sinfulness and the brokenness in the world. But John also repeats the promise that God ultimately will not settle for the way things are in the world, and that God's salvation will be made known in the one who is to come: Jesus.

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