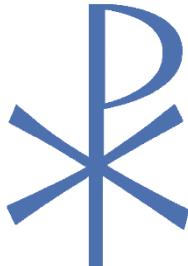


Welcome to Worship
St. Luke's Evangelical
Lutheran Church



December 24, 2025



Disciples and Ministers: *All the People*
Pastor: *SAM Paul Brooks*
NWOS Bishop: *Daniel Beaudoin*
ELCA Presiding Bishop: *Yehiel Curry*
Companion Church: *Mwanawotta, Tanzania*
Web Page: <http://www.stlukesnb.org>
eMail: 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.*

Christmas Poinsettias

Bob Kelley and Family Peace on Earth
..... Merry Christmas
..... remembering all those who are not with us this Christmas
Arica & Matt Matthes & Family .. in memory in Matt's dad, Carl Matthes
Beth & Clay McCartney in memory of Skip McCartney
..... in memory of Helen & Gail Claybaugh
Tiffany & Tom Mika wishing many blessings to all this holiday season
Ruth & Dwight Patterson in memory of Martha Patterson
..... and David Bowers and to the Glory of God
Dee & John Stewart in memory of Bill Stewart and Grandma Betty
..... and in honor of the Stewart Family
..... in Memory of Jim Heinze and in honor of the Heinze Family
..... in memory of Terry Wymer and in honor of the Wymer Family
Carol Williams in joyful celebration of the birth of Jesus

Order of Worship

Christmas Eve - December 24, 2025

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.*

PRELUDE MUSIC

WELCOME AND PRAYER REQUESTS

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.**

*CHRISTMAS EVE PROCLAMATION

Leader: Lord of love you are here!

ALL: Hosannah in the highest!

Leader: Guide our worship this evening as we center our hearts, minds, and soul on you!

ALL: Hosannah in the highest!

Leader: Fill our hearts with your Hope, Faith, Joy, and Peace.

ALL: So we can be your hands and feet in this world.

Leader: Let us pray,

ALL: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us and given your only begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the salvation you have granted to us through Jesus, the Word made flesh, the child of Mary, the Light of the world, our Immanuel. Send the Spirit of your Son into our hearts, that as your beloved

children we may welcome our Savior who comes to us in his body and blood. Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN #289**

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

***CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS**

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity,  one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation. Our Savior came to bring light into the darkness of our lives. Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sins, praying for the light.

Please take a moment for silent confession.

Leader: Reconciling God,

ALL: we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear.

We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

Leader: Hear the good news and rejoice! We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In  Jesus Christ we are forgiven and redeemed. **ALL: Amen.**

*** CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

THIS IS THE FEAST



This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. For the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

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.

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 61:1-3

Reader: The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, ² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

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

SECOND READING

(responsively)

ISAIAH 9:2-7

Reader: 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.

ALL: You 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.

Reader: For 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.

ALL: For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

Reader: For 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.

ALL: His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

Reader: 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.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man - u-el shall come to you, O Is - ra-el.

*GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-20

Leader: 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.**

Leader: 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!”

¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

THE MESSAGE

*HYMN OF THE DAY #277

AWAY IN A MANGER

*THE NICENE' CREED

ALL: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God

from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE INTRODUCTION**

Prayer Leader: On this blessed Christmas Eve, we gather as a family of faith, united in love and gratitude. As we reflect on the miracle of Christ's birth, let us lift our hearts and voices in prayer for our world, our community, and those in need.

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Prayer Leader: Hear us O God, **ALL: Your mercy is great.**

We pray for Ruth, Steve, Karen, Lisa, Bertha, Eloise, Rose Marie, Mike, Nancy, John, Becky, JoLynn, Emily, Carl, Jim, Kolton, Ron, Cheryl, John, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Barb, Diana, Nina, Sean, Judy, Christina, Mike, Riley, Dennis, Anita, Amy, Nickie, Eli, Mr. Doherty, Ron, Chase, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Michael, Cindy, John, Gary, Paul, Sue, Betty, David, LuAnn, Colene, Eva, Eric, Lisa, Don, Ashley, Mary, Pat, Gordon, Ellery, Ari, and Josh.

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

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

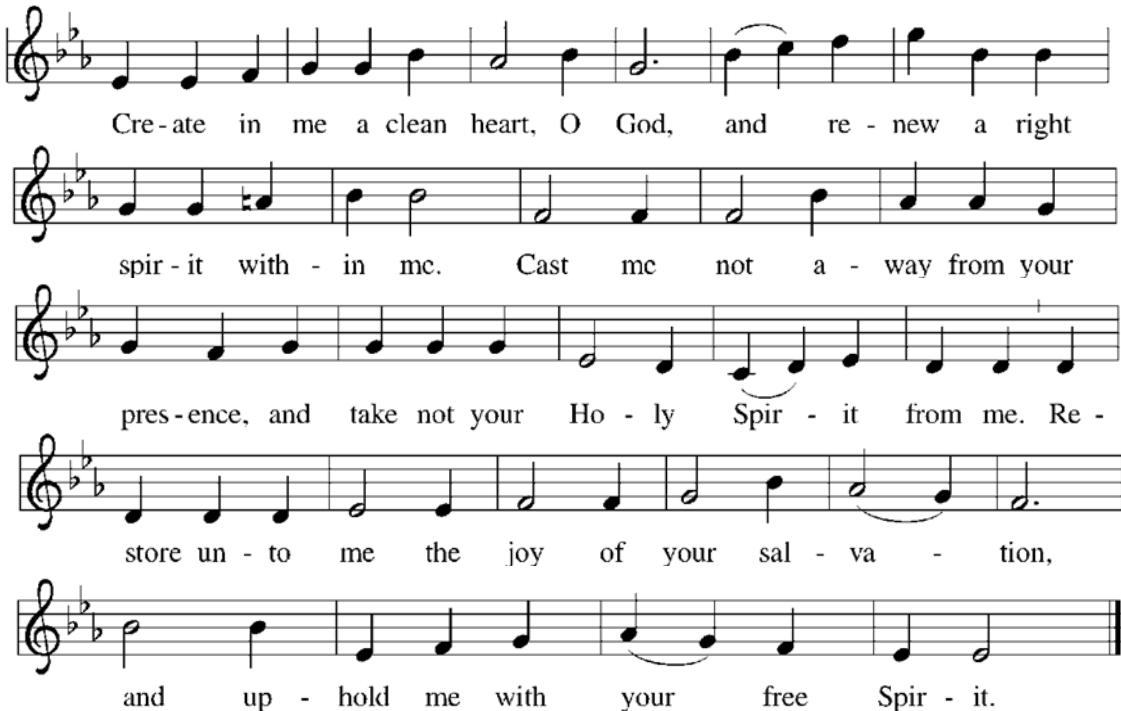
INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

Leader: 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 #188

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

*OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

ALL: Lord our God, though we do not bring gold, frankincense, and myrrh today, we bring these gifts, along with our lives, and the fruit of our labors. Accept these offerings as our response to the faithful blessings of your love and graciousness, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

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

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

Leader: 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.

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

*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.

*THE 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**

***THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Leader: A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

DISTRIBUTION

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Please join with me in prayer.

ALL: Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. Amen.

*HYMN AFTER COMMUNION #313

O LORD Now LET YOUR SERVANT

(VERSE 1)



1 O Lord, now let your servant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,



for I have seen the glo - rv of your re - deem - ing grace:



a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - lv hill.



the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.

*THE SHARING OF THE LIGHT

Leader: 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.	

*BLESSING

Leader: God bless you and keep you, ✕ Jesus grant you grace and truth,
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN #267

JOY TO THE WORLD!

*DISMISSAL

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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"*What Child Is This?*" Sheet Music from 8notes.com © 2018 Red Balloon Technology Ltd.

"*Angels We Have Heard on High*" Text: French carol; tr. H.F. Hemy, *The crown of Jesus Music*, 1854 Music: French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958

"*Away in a Manger*" TEXT: North American, 19th cent. MUSIC: James R. Murray, 1841-1905

"*Create in Me a Clean Heart*" Music: J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739 PUBLIC DOMAIN

"*O Lord, Now Let Your Servant*" TEXT: Ernest E. Ryden, 1886-1981, alt., based on the Nunc dimittis Music: Finnish folk tune; arr. hymnal version TEXT © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress (#313)

"*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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Assisting in Worship

Organist: *Janet Goldner*

Clarinetist: *Olivia Matthes*

Worship Leader: *Paul Brooks*

Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: *Carl Lieser*

Ushers: *JoLynn & Don Stewart*

Videographer: *Beth Williams*



To the Glory of God

December Altar Candles and Newsletters: *Carol Williams*

December Bulletins: [available for sign up](#)

The North Baltimore Food Pantry

The requested donations for **DECEMBER** are mac & cheese, pastas, and pasta sauces. Please give joyously and generously so that no one goes without. Thank you.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



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 celebration of the birth of Jesus. Thanks be to God!

MEMBERS: Ruth McKee, Steve Pritts, Karen Krauss, Lisa Claybaugh, Bertha Carter, Eloise Matthes, Rose Marie Hosley, Mike Wheeler, Nancy Wymer, John Stewart, JoLynn Stewart, Emily Meyerson, Carl Lieser, Jim Wymer, Kolton Williams, Ron Bean, Cheryl & John Kruse, Shirley Heilman, Larry Slaughterbeck, Bob Kelley, Caroline Lieser, Marilyn Ziegler, Barb Williams.

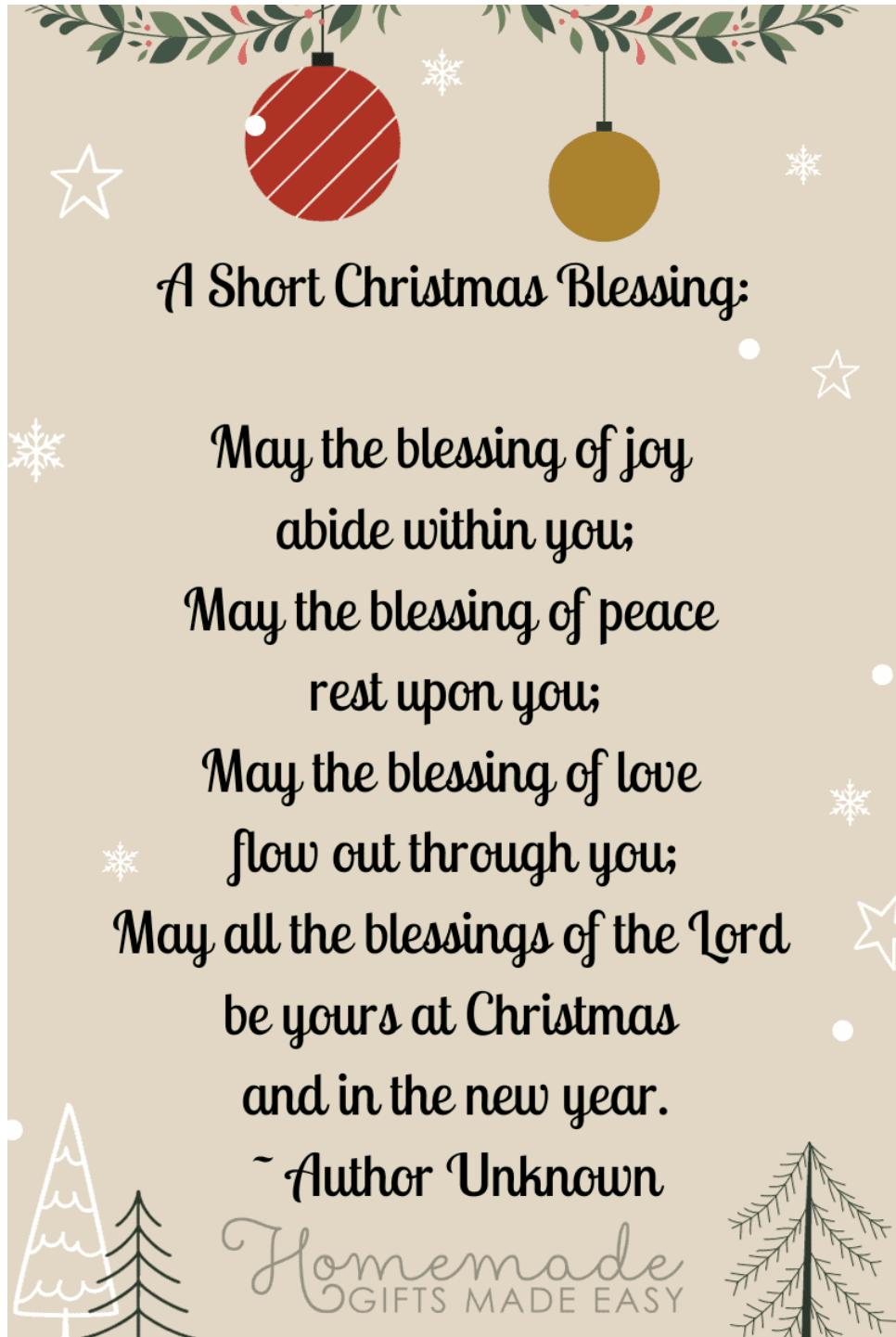
FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Diana, Nina, Sean Mills, Judy Sowards, Christina Webb, Mike, Riley Guy, Dennis Bauer, Anita Roberts, Amy Stewart, Nickie Whitman, Jo Mineo, Eli Swartz, Mr. Doherty, Ron Stewart, Chase, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, Michael Sullivan, 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.

WIDER CHURCH PRAYERS: all ministries of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), our presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry, 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.

Please keep praying!¹⁷



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.



In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

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StLukesNB@gmail.com

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