



*“The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in Thee tonight.”*

Phillips Brooks, ELW 279

**SAINT
ANDREW**
LUTHERAN CHURCH
150202 County Road NN
Wausau, WI 54401

*Christmas Eve
December 24, 2020
10:30 pm*

Welcome

Merry Christmas to all who come to worship the Christ child.

The liturgy this evening tells the story of the manger in lessons, responsive readings, and prayers. At the service's high point, we celebrate the gift of Immanuel—God with us—received through Holy Communion. All are welcome to partake in this gift of renewal, forgiveness and life.

An array of candles exemplify the Christ as "light of the world" (John 8:12), as the light is gradually spread during the service from the Advent Wreath to candles throughout the church, may your heart also be illumined to witness to the beauty and awe of this holy night.

*“Drop down, O heavens, from above,
and let the skies pour down righteousness.
Let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation.” Isaiah 45:8*

Assisting with Worship

Rev. Jenn Collins, *Pastor*
Rev. Justin Smoot, *Pastor*
Susan Paisar, *Layreader*
Herb Heyne, *Layreader*
Chris Kensmoe, *Layreader*
Cheryl Allen, *Layreader*
Joel Freiberg, *Pianist*
Jan Nelson, *Flute*
Joel Freiberg and Tina Spiegel, *Duet*
Jamie VanEyck, *Soloist*; Jonathan Pinto, *Accompanist*
Lucas Gajewski, *Soloist*

Stream Team

Travis Puig
Patrick Kieper
Bob Wiederhoeft
Joel Freiberg

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Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

**Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
 Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
 Come and behold him, born the king of angels;
 Oh come let us adore him, Oh come let us adore him,
 Oh come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
 Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
 Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!
 Oh come let us adore him, Oh come let us adore him,
 Oh come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

Beloved in Christ, we are gathered together this night to prepare our hearts for the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ; to reflect upon the mystery of that Incarnation by which we are redeemed, and to receive with joy the message of our salvation.

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.

Let us pray.
 Almighty God, you have given your only begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a human mother. Grant that we may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen

**What child is this, who, laid to rest,
 on Mary's lap is sleeping?
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
 while shepherds watch are keeping?
 This, this is Christ the king,
 whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
 haste, haste to bring him laud,
 the babe, the son of Mary!**

**Why lies he in such mean estate
 where ox and ass are feeding?
 Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
 the silent Word is pleading.
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
 the cross be borne for me, for you;
 hail, hail the Word made flesh,
 the babe, the son of Mary!**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
 come, peasant, king, to own him.
 The King of kings salvation brings;
 let loving hearts enthrone him.
 Raise, raise the song on high,
 the virgin sings her lullaby;
 joy, joy, for Christ is born,
 the babe, the son of Mary!**

Mary

First Reading

Luke 1:26-35

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words, and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called the Son of God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

The Lord himself will give you a sign.
Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son.

And they shall name him Emmanuel,
Which means, God is with us.

Isaiah 7:14

Let us pray.
Almighty God, you chose Mary to be the mother of your Son, making known your gracious regard for the poor and lowly. Grant us grace to receive your Word in humility, and so to be made one with your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen

Joseph

Special Music

Joseph's Lullaby

Second Reading

Matthew 1:18-21

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse.
And a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him.
The spirit of wisdom and understanding.

The spirit of counsel and might.
The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. *Isaiah 11:1-2*

Let us pray.
O God, who from the family of your servant David raised up Joseph to be the guardian of your incarnate Son and the partner of his mother, Mary: Give us grace to imitate his uprightness of life and his obedience to your commands; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

**O Little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!**

The Star

Third Reading

Matthew 2:1-2, 7-10

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Arise, shine, for your light has come.
And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth,
And thick darkness the peoples.

But the Lord will arise upon you,
And his glory will appear over you.

Isaiah 60:1-2

Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Hymn

The First Noel

**The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Refrain

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain***

**This star drew near to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain***

Shepherds and Angels

Fourth Reading

Luke 2:8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see -- I am bringing you good news of a great joy for all the people; to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings.

Lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings.

Lift it up, do not fear.

Say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

Isaiah 10:9

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have made yourself known in your Son, Jesus, redeemer of the world. We pray that his birth as a human child will set us free from the bondage of our sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Hymn

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

**Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!**

**Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!**

The Birth of Christ

Fifth Reading

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from the Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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 for them in the inn.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe. You have enriched our lives with every good and perfect gift; you have commanded us to show your splendor to our children and to praise you with lives of love, justice, and joy. Be with us this night, revealing to us signs of your saving grace and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Special Music

O Holy Night

Meditation

Hymn

Away in a Manger

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Prayers of Intercession

Peace

Offering

Meal

Offering Prayer

Gracious God,
you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth.
Nourish us at your banquet table, that with all who welcome your birth
we may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

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.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Distribution of Communion

The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine. Come meet Christ in this meal.

We invite you to open the top, clear, monogrammed seal of the Celebration cup and receive the host with the invitation, "This is the body of Christ, given for you."

We invite you to open the second, foil seal of the Celebration cup and receive the cup with the invitation, "This is the blood of Christ shed for you."

Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us from your very self with the body and blood of Christ. Through this mystery, send us forth to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Let us pray for those who are not receiving communion this day.

Lord Jesus Christ, sanctify, save, and embolden those unable to partake of the sacrament of the altar this day. Wash them clean in the waters of Baptism. Strengthen them, hear them, and hold them always at your loving side.

AMEN.

Spreading the Light of Christ

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a

witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

Hymn

Silent Night

**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.**

**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!**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord at thy birth, Jesus Lord at your birth.**



*The Poinsettias are
given to the glory of
God...*

In loving memory of...

Yo's dad, Antoni Soroko, on his Christmas Eve birthday and Yo's mom for her dedicated and loving acts to her kids by Yo Baumann; Olivia Ann Rose by Rick and Melissa Beese; Mark's parents, Tony and Eldine Czerwinski, by Mark and Pam Czerwinski; Ezra and Caleb Hartinger, and Gaylen and Dorothy Lind by Bren and Beth Hartinger; Jean Isberner by Gene and Marcia Jacobson; John and Meredith Lawson, and Ken Westerlund by Dick and Lynn Lawson; Clyde Bickley and Ina Lewis, Ewald and Leona Lehrmann, Ed Wodalski and James Conant by Karen Lehrman; Clayton and Mary Bailey by Pat and Sue McFaul; Barb Kinney by Joy Mitchell; Bill Radloff and Arlon Tesch by the Radloff Family; Elizabeth and John Gehler by Amy Larson Roloff; Denise's mother, Marianne Bell; Don's mother, Betty Skare; Don's father, Norman Skare and Denise's friend, Sherry Gayken; Grace Hietala, Estelle Wolff, George Wolff and Leslie Hietala by Gale Wolff.

And in honor of...

Pam's parents, Joe and Dorothy Kahle by Mark and Pam Czerwinski; Their 50th wedding anniversary by Gene and Marcia Jacobson; Reverend Jerry and Helene Schrankler by Amy Larson Roloff.

And in recognition of...

Saint Andrew's 40th anniversary by Karen Lehrmann; Families affected by COVID 19 by Tyler and Stephanie Robinson; Their grandchildren, Hannah, Elle, Cameron, Jon, Ryan, Katie and Emily by Jim and Pixie Tipple.

And by...

Sandra Fischer; Charlie and Holly Herwig; Dan and Jonnie Malm; Sean and Sheila McCarthy; and Greg and Jeanne Willems.

A special thank you to the *Koenig family* for donating the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary in memory of parents, Ervin & Arvella.

Prayer

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of 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.

Benediction

Hymn

Joy to the World

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the light! **Thanks be to God!**

DECEMBER 24-25, 2020
CHRISTMAS EVE,
CHRISTMAS DAY



Jesus is born for those in need.

CHRISTMAS BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Christmas celebration.

Thursday	Luke 2:1-20	The birth of Jesus
	Isaiah 9:2-7	The reign of the coming king
Friday	Psalm 96	Sing a new song
	John 1:1-14	The Word became flesh

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR CHRISTMAS

But the angel said to [the shepherds], “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”

Luke 2:10-11 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Christmas:

Amazing God, for good news given to peasants, to shepherds, and to us, we give you thanks and praise through Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

With this gift of food we remember you are to be praised for all you do for us through Jesus Christ, born in a manger in Bethlehem. Amen. (Psalm 96:4)

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who comes to save you, bless you with joy. (Titus 2:11)



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DECEMBER 24-25, 2020

HYMN FOR CHRISTMAS 

Silent Night

CHRISTMAS MILESTONES 

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS 

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think about a time when you surprised someone.
- Tell or think about a time when someone surprised you.
- How does Jesus' birth in Bethlehem amaze you?

DEVOTIONS 

Read: Luke 2:1-20.

The shepherds in the fields have a startling encounter with God, bringing them good news of Jesus' birth. In that time and place, shepherds were described as “sinners.” Their work in the fields kept them from observing the Sabbath. They were unclean and seen as liars, thieves, and generally unsavory. With this social stigma, they are likely people who had themselves given up on God. More than outcasts, they had simply walked away from hope in the mercy of God. In Luke 2, God does not give up on the shepherds—or us—as God reaches out to them in the fields. God didn't wait for them to show up at the temple or the synagogue. God doesn't have to wait for us to show up at “church,” either. The startling news of Jesus' birth is that it is for those who need God most. When have you felt like giving up on God? How does this birth story help you hear good news?

Pray: **Loving God, help us to hear the good news of Jesus' birth for all the world, especially when we feel far from you; in the name of Jesus, the Savior, Messiah, and Lord, amen.**

SERVICE 

There are those around us in need of seeing God's love in action. Is there a local soup kitchen or shelter where you can volunteer time or donate items this week for those in need of seeing the good news of Jesus birth in action?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS 

Make your Christmas Day into a celebration of Jesus' birthday. Use some Christmas pastries or a cake to help celebrate. Place a white candle in its center and on Christmas Day, light the candle, sing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus, and then take time to complete this sentence:

Say: **The birth of Jesus is special to me because _____.**

Then sing some Christmas carols.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org