

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
DECEMBER 24, 2020 | 6:30 pm



*O Come  
let us Adore  
Him*

**GATHERING**

Prelude  
Advent Wreath Lighting  
Handbell Choir *"Away in a Manger"*  
Confession and Forgiveness  
**HYMN** *"O Come All Ye Faithful"*  
Greeting  
Prayer of the Day  
Children's Sermon  
Handbell Choir *"Still, Still, Still"*

**WORD**

Isaiah 9:2-7  
Solo *"O, Holy Night"*  
Titus 2:11-14  
**Gospel Acclamation** vs. 1  
*"Away In A Manger"*  
Gospel Luke 2:1-20  
**Gospel Response** vs. 2  
*"Away In A Manger"*

Sermon  
**HYMN**  
*"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

Nicene Creed  
Prayers of Intercession  
Peace

**MEAL**

Offering  
**Offertory** vs. 3  
*"Away In A Manger"*  
Offering Prayer  
Great Thanksgiving  
Holy, Holy, Holy  
Words of Institution  
Lord's Prayer  
Invitation to Communion  
Post Communion Blessing and Prayers  
Candle Lighting  
**HYMN** *"Silent Night"*

**SENDING**

Blessing  
**HYMN** *"Go Tell It On the Mountain"*  
Christmas Proclamation  
Dismissal

**GATHERING**

Prelude

Advent Wreath Lighting

Handbell Choir

*"Away in a Manger"*

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy. **Amen.**

**God of goodness and lovingkindness, we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through † Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace. **Amen.**

Hymn

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him, born the king of angels:

**Refrain**

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O 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! **Refrain**

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God in the highest: **Refrain**



150202 County Road NN, Wausau, WI 54401  
715-842-3333  
www.salc-wausau.org



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
www.salc-wausau.org

## Greeting

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.**

## Prayer of the Day

## Children's Sermon

## Handbell Choir

*Still, Still, Still*

## WORD

### Readings

A reading from Isaiah.

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

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Solo

*O, Holy Night*

+

A reading from Titus.

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

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

**vs. 3**

*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 holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from 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. 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 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" 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. But 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, as it had been told them.

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

#### **Gospel Response**

#### ***Away in a Manger***

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.

#### **Sermon**

#### **Hymn**

#### ***Angels We Have Heard on High***

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

#### ***Refrain***

Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song? ***Refrain***

Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. ***Refrain***

#### **Nicene Creed**

Gathered by the manger, let us profess our faith.  
**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 Intercession**

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church,  
the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

The shepherds sing, "Jesus Christ is born!" Let your church throughout  
the world proclaim this good news, over the hills and everywhere. Unite  
the voices of all your faithful people in songs of praise and rejoicing.  
Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Heaven and nature sing, "Joy to the world!" Give respite to flocks, fields,  
and those who tend them. Come near to us in the beauty of nighttime,  
the shining of the stars, and the hush of a world at rest. May our  
wonder at your creation rouse our care for all the earth. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

The angels sing, "Peace on earth!" Come quickly to still the strife of this  
world. Hush the noise of war and violence in places of unrest  
(especially). Inspire leaders of nations to seek lasting peace and  
sustainable provision for all in their care. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Mary sings melodies of comfort to her newborn child. Bring rest and  
reassurance to those facing struggles this night. Shelter travelers and those  
without homes. Console those who lie awake due to pain or anxiety. Heal  
those who are sick or hurting (especially). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Love sings through the sound of a new baby's cry. Bless new parents and  
expectant parents. Comfort those who long for children, especially those  
running out of hope or options. Surround families of every shape and size  
with your love and care. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

The heavenly chorus sings, "Glory to God in the highest!" We give you  
thanks for all the saints who have proclaimed your glory in word and deed  
(especially). Let us join them this night in joyful praise around your eternal  
throne (especially). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and  
all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

### **Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always...

**and also with you.**

### **MEAL**

#### **Offering**

#### **Offertory**

#### ***Away in a Manger***

vs. 3

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.

## 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.**

## The 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.**

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

## Words of Institution

### Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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

## Post Communion Blessing and Prayers

## Candle Lighting

## 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.

## SENDING

### Blessing

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy  
through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the  
magi by a star,  
bless you this day ☩ through the Word made flesh.  
**Amen.**

## Sending Hymn

### ***Go Tell It On the Mountain***

#### *Refrain:*

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, through-out the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

## Christmas Proclamation

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

---

#### **Assisting with Worship**

Jenn Collins, *Pastor*  
Justin Smoot, *Pastor*  
Jenna Diedrich, *Children's Sermon*  
Al Freiberg, *Coordinator of Music*  
Joel Freiberg, *Pianist*  
Jaime VanEyck, *Soloist*; Jonathan Pinto, *Accompanist*  
Jan Nelson, *Flute*  
Dick Jarvis, *Layreader*  
Sean McCarthy, *Layreader*  
Eleanor and Peter Schwantes, *Cross and Book Bearers*  
Saint Andrew Chancel and Handbell Choirs

---

Stream Team:  
Ryan Josiger  
Mark Clark  
Bob Wiederhoeft  
Joel Freiberg



***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 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by Gene  
and Marcia Jacobson;  
Reverend Jerry and Helene Schrankler  
by Amy Larson Roloff.

#### ***And in recognition of...***

Saint Andrew's 40<sup>th</sup> 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;  
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.

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.

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

## 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)



© 2020 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

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](http://www.milestonesministry.org)