Welcome to St. Peter's Lutheran Church



First Sunday of Christmas

December 31, 2023 10:15 Service of Lessons and Carols Pastor Brandon Johns

BELL RINGING

0

come. let

us a

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Let us pray. Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin. As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved. Blessed be God forever. **Amen.** (All candles are lit.)

GATHERING SONG: O Come, All Ye Faithful



dore

him.

Christ

the Lord!

GATHERING LITANY

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

By day and night he shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus is the light of the world.

Jesus is the light of our lives.

Sing to God a new song!

A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

The peace of the Christ-child be with you always. And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM Love Came Down at Christmas Austin C. Lovelace

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Isaiah 11:1-4,6

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² 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.

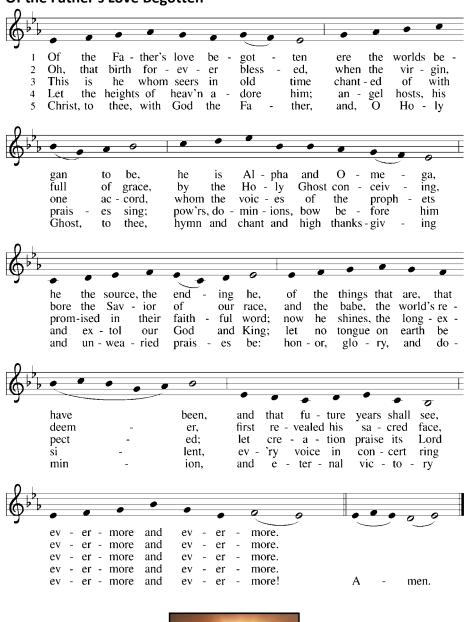
³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

Of the Father's Love Begotten





Micah 5:2-5a

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth;

then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

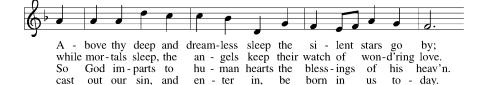
⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

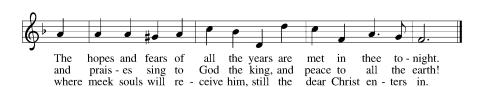
come to

us.









a - bide with us, our

5

Lord Im - man - u - el!

Luke 1:26-35, 38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32He 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. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The 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 Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

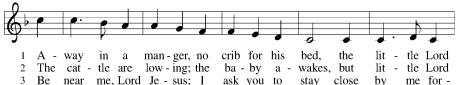


Luke 2:1-7

¹In 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.

BELL CHOIR Away in a Manger







Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

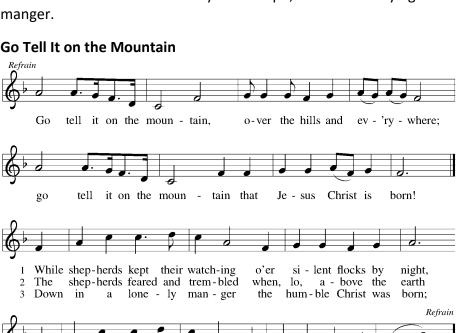




Luke 2:8-16

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.





be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - lv light. that hailed our Sav-ior's rang out the an - gel cho-rus birth. and God that bless-ed Christ-mas sent us sal - va - tion morn.

Luke 2:21-35

²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too."



What Child Is This



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
- 3 So bring him in cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing? Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing. The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing; Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you; Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y! to hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y! joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!



Matthew 2:1-12

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.



The First Noel





be - yond . . and the in . . . the east . . them far; to from coun for a wise.. men came ... try far; to seek Beth - le - hem . . it took . . there its rest; and it rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of fered







Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

Matthew 2:13-18

¹³Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." ¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

It Came upon the Midnight Clear



- 1 It came up on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old, 2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un-furled,
- 3 And you, be neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
- 4 For lo! The days are has-t'ning on, by proph-ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold: and still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world. who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow: when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gra-cious king."

A - bove its sad and low-ly plains they bend on hov-'ring wing, look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift - ly on the wing; when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,



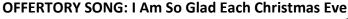
The world in sol - emn still-ness lay to hear the an sing. o'er ba - bel sounds the and ev - er its bless - ed an gels sing. wea-ry road and hear the an rest be - side the and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels

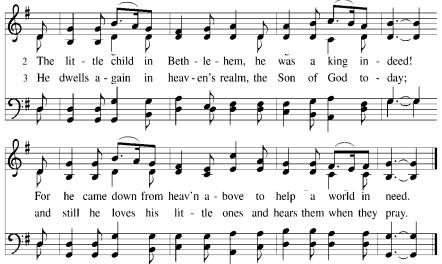
Revelation 21:1-7

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." ⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. ⁷Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

OFFERING

Our offerings are made processionally, which means dropped into the plates located near the entrances to the nave.





RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of peace.

You rule the earth with truth and justice.

Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary.

You share our humanity.

Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

(including ...)

Blessed are you, Son of God.

You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

LORD'S PRAYER

Taught by God's Word Incarnate, we are bold to pray:
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

BELL CHOIR

Silent Night, Holy Night

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ-child.



SHARING FOR SERVING: Mission Notices and Birthdays

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the joy of the Messiah. Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE Postlude on a Christmas Carol Roger C. Wilson

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for December

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause will support Bethesda Lutheran Services. If you would like to support this cause, please mark the *Other* line on your contribution envelope <u>Bethesda</u>.

Today's Altar Flowers are presented by Talea Merrison in honor of her husband Chris Merrison Sr.'s 50th birthday The Eternal Candle
is presented by
Barb Graham in
memory of her husband
Harold Graham

<u>Prayers Have Been Requested Recently for the Following:</u>

Cole Barkley Helen Barto Luke Clawson
Bev Banyay Mark Phillips Karen Marburger
Audrey Smith Joan Gumpp Raquel Barron
Tony Platek Jenny Mashuda Jane Mashuda

Rick Reifenstein Lynn Schweinegruber

Please hold these members and friends of St. Peter's in your prayers.

"The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." James 5:16



ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

is a congregation of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

The Rev. Brandon Johns **Pastor** Music Director and Organist Marlene Domhoff Office Secretaries Kimberly Peaco Sexton Joe Ludwik Leah Plank Acolyte **Assisting Minister** Ted Lindgren Wes Schmidt Bell Ringer Greeters Pat Capella & Dean Zinkhann Lector Jane Taylor **Emily Taylor** Nursery **Tech Support** Adam Price Ushers Cindy & Tom Ayers

<u>Thank You</u>- to everyone who helped in any way to provide gifts and gift cards for children and families at Glade Run Lutheran Services this Christmas season.

St. Peter's Upcoming Events:		
Wed. – Fri.	4 – 6 pm	After School
Tues. Jan. 2 nd	7:00 pm	Property Meeting
Wed. Jan. 3 rd	7:00 pm	Choir
Thurs. Jan. 4 th	9:00 am	Quilters
	1:00 pm	Mary Circle
	7:00 pm	Bible Study
Fri. Jan. 5 th	noon	500 Club

<u>The 2024 offering envelopes</u>- are available in your church mailbox, located in Luther Hall. Please remember to keep your membership active a contribution and communion of record in this calendar year or the preceding year is necessary.

<u>Altar Flowers</u>- Now is the time to fill in your 2024 flower reservation, first come – first served. You can sign up on the chart or contact the church office to see if there is an open date for sponsorship. The altar flowers are \$40 for two vases. Mark an envelope, write FLOWERS and the amount.

Eternal Candle- If you would like to sponsor the eternal candle for a month in 2024 you may also sign up to do that on the flower/candle chart that is located on the red table or by calling or emailing the church office. The cost to sponsor the candle is \$15.00 for the month and your donation can be placed in your offering envelope.

<u>After Worship Fellowship</u> – Please consider signing up to provide the treat or snack for our gathering time after worship in 2024. Thanks!

<u>Nursery</u> – With the nursery being back to regular use, we could use some older children and teens as assistants. Please let Adam Price or Beverly Barkley know if you're interested. Thank you!

<u>Epiphany Luncheon</u>- Our annual Advent Friend reveal will take place on Sunday, January 7th with a pot luck luncheon immediately following the worship service. EVERYONE is invited to attend, eat together, and listen to the stories of those who participated in Advent Friends 2023.



St. Peter's Lutheran Church

SOUP SALE



Saturday, January 27th
\$10.00 per Quart
\$3.00 per Loaf of Bread

\$3.00 per Loaf of Bread

Orders due by Tuesday, January 23rd *Please make checks payable to WELCA

Name	Phone	
Choice of Soup	Number of Quarts	<u>x \$10.00</u>
Potato		
Stuffed Pepper		
Chicken Noodle		
Wedding Soup		
White Chicken Chili		
Loaves of Bread	Quantity x \$3.00)
	Total Amo	ount

<u>To place orders, please return this form to the church office.</u> For more information contact Christine Johns (571) 212-0449

Proceeds support the Evans City Food Cupboard and Priority Projects

*Soup orders may be picked up
Saturday, January 27th from 2:30-3:30 pm
or delivered to homebound upon request

Welcome to St. Peter's

We are thankful that you are here to worship with other Christians today. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray that your worship experience will fill you with the grace and mercy of Almighty God through his Holy Spirit.



Newcomers and Guests

New to St. Peter's? Please sign the GUEST REGISTER behind the last pew. A handicapped accessible RESTROOM is located near the Van Buren Street entrance (through Luther Hall, past the kitchen, restroom is on the left in the foyer). You are welcome to commune with us if that is your practice.

Nursery - is staffed by a volunteer and available for children and caregivers. Exit the rear of the nave and follow the steps to the basement, the nursery is on the left. The service can be heard through an intercom in the nursery. There are activity bags in the back of the sanctuary and children's bulletins geared for children ages 5 and up are at the nave entrances.

Staying in Touch:

Our church office is open Monday through Friday from

9 am until noon. Pastor is often there also or by appointment.

Please feel free to contact us by phone or internet:

Church Office: 724.538.5810

Church Email: stpeterslcec@zoominternet.net
Pastor Email: stpeterslcec@zoominternet.net
Pastor Email: stpeterslcec@zoominternet.net
Pastor Email: stepterslcec@zoominternet.net
Pastor Emailto: <a href="

Church Website: www.stpeterslutheranevanscity.org Church Facebook Page: St. Peter's Lutheran Church Sunday Bulletin Deadline: Wednesdays at 10:00 AM. Newsletter deadline: Third Sunday of the Month

RECOGNITION OF ARTISTS:

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