

✧ Called to be Christ's Community of Truth and Mercy ✧
 ✧ Saved by Grace - Solid in the Word - Here to Serve ✧

Welcome!

“ God Himself is present: Let us now adore Him And with awe appear before Him. God is in His temple; All within keep silence; Humbly kneel in deepest reverence. He alone On His throne Is our God and Savior; Praise His name forever! Hymn 907 st.1 LSB



Holy Communion

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of our Lord Jesus Christ's true body and true blood. Reception of the Lord's Supper expresses not only fellowship with the Lord, but also fellowship and agreement with the teaching of the pastor and congregation. We want to express our sincere welcome to our guests and assure them that out of care for each person and a desire to be faithful to God's Word we follow the biblical practice of closed communion. **All guests are kindly asked to please speak with Pastor Gaunt before communing at our altar.** Normally, people from churches in fellowship with the LCMS, are welcome to partake. Those not communing, who so desire, may come to the altar to receive a blessing. So that the pastor knows you desire a blessing please cross your arms over your chest. Please pray with us that we might all be truly united in the teaching of our Lord's precious word. (For further study: 1 Cor. 11:17-34; Matt. 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15-35; 6:26-29.)

Prayers of the Church

Circuit Congregation Zion, Red Cloud **Health Issues** + Sara Stutzman + Rodney Rose + Bobbie Carr (relative of the Botsch's) + Marydae Eigenberg + Bill Fintel + Linda Parsons + Don Nissen + Kara Nissen + Rose Witt + John Parsons + Dee Janssen **Military** + Tyler Mars + Ross Peters + Gary Thompson

In His Service

Presiding Minister: Rev. Micah R. Gaunt
 Organist: Dr. Phil Hesterman Cantor: Mr. David Witt
 Altar Guild: December: Tonda Wolfe
 Elders: Dustin Russell, Kevin Hoins, Derek Zeisler
 Acolyte: Isaac Russell, Merrick Russell, Victor Gaunt

A Note on the Service

Born for you in the city of David is your Savior. He is Christ the Lord. This is a mystery at which to marvel. Tonight, we celebrate the same way in which Mary and Joseph and the Shepherds celebrated - we ponder the story and we receive the same enfleshed Christ who, once present in the manger, is now present in Holy Communion.

Everything we do in worship points us to the divine mysteries. Tonight, as we worship by candlelight, remember that Christ is the light who shines in the darkness (John 1: 5). Likewise, as the gospel story is read in the midst of the congregation, be reminded that Jesus, the Son of God, has come to dwell among us in our very midst (John 1:14). May His light, and His joy, and His peace be yours now and to eternity.

The Light of Christ Shines Forth in the Darkness

Heaven and earth rejoice on this night because the glory of the Triune God is manifested in the human birth of "our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13). In Him, the Father's grace, mercy and peace rest upon the world. The silence of death is broken by this "good news of great joy that will be for all the people" (Luke 2:10). And all we who have gone astray like lost and wandering sheep, who have "walked in the darkness" of doubt and fear and sinful unbelief, behold "a great light" in the nativity of Christ (Is. 9:2). In Him "the grace of God has appeared" (Titus 2:11). For this Child of Mary who is born for us, this dear Son of God who is given to us, will bear the burden of our sin and death in His own body on the cross. He thereby establishes a government of peace, "with justice and with righteousness," which shall have no end; not by any work of man, but "the zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this" (Is. 9:7).

Prelude & Ringing of Bells	
Hymn	#361
Confession & Absolution	p.184
Service of the Word	
Introit	<i>insert</i>
Gloria Patri	p.186
Kyrie	
Hymn of Praise "Gloria in Excelsis"	
<i>(Candles are lit while singing)</i>	
Salutation and Collect	
First Reading	
Gradual	#363
Epistle Reading	
Gospel Procession	
Holy Gospel	
<i>(Extinguish candles)</i>	
Nicene Creed	
Hymn of the Day	#380
Sermon	Luke 2:1-14
Offertory	
Offering - Choir Anthem	
"Shepherds, Come A-Running"	
Prayer of the Church	
Service of the Sacrament	
Preface & Proper Preface	p.194
Sanctus & Lord's Prayer	
The Words of Our Lord	
Pax Domini & Agnus Dei	
Distribution & Hymns	#375 #370 #386
Dismissal & Nunc Dimittis	
Thanksgiving & Collect	
Salutation & Benedicamus	
Benediction	
Hymn	#368
Postlude	
Announcements	

Christmas Poem

G.K.Chesterton

There fared a mother driven forth
Out of an inn to roam;
In the place where she was homeless
All men are at home.
The crazy stable close at hand,
With shaking timber and shifting sand,
Grew a stronger thing to abide and stand
Than the square stones of Rome.

For men are homesick in their homes,
And strangers under the sun,
And they lay their heads in a foreign land
Whenever the day is done.

Here we have battle and blazing eyes,
And chance and honour and high surprise,
But our homes are under miraculous skies
Where the yule tale was begun.

A child in a foul stable,
Where the beasts feed and foam;
Only where He was homeless
Are you and I at home;
We have hands that fashion and heads that know,
But our hearts we lost---how long ago!
In a place no chart nor ship can show
Under the sky's dome.

This world is wild as an old wife's tale,
And strange the plain things are,
The earth is enough and the air is enough
For our wonder and our war;
But our rest is as far as the fire-drake swings
And our peace is put in impossible things
Where clashed and thundered unthinkable wings
Round an incredible star.

To an open house in the evening
Home shall all men come,
To an older place than Eden
And a taller town than Rome.
To the end of the way of the wandering star,
To the things that cannot be and that are,
To the place where God was homeless
And all men are at home.

Christmas Eve
Divine Service Setting 3

December 24th
7:00pm



Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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