

✠ 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 *insert*  
Gloria Patri p.186  
Kyrie  
Hymn of Praise "Gloria in Excelsis"  
(Candles are lit while singing)  
Salutation and Collect  
First Reading  
Gradual #363  
Epistle Reading  
Gospel Procession  
Holy Gospel  
(Extinguish candles)  
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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