



**HOPE**  
*for all nations*

Nativity of Our Lord  
December 24, 2024 | 3:00 pm | St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

## *Welcome*

Your visit is a blessing to us, and we're glad you're here this afternoon!

As children of God and disciples of Christ seeking peace and justice in the world, we welcome, affirm, and include all people into the fullness of God's love. We celebrate and lift up people of all races, cultures, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical or mental abilities, economic statuses, political affiliation, appearances, family status, and citizenship as equally loved and valued in the eyes of God and in this place. All are invited to join this community as we worship God, grow in faith, and strive to love and serve one another.

All, without exception, are welcome in this place.

## *New Here?*

As a visitor, please do not feel obligated to contribute an offering - you are our guest! Rather, please ask an usher for a Let's Get Acquainted card and drop it in the offering plate.

Restrooms are located on the same level as the sanctuary. Exit the back of the sanctuary, turn left into the Parish House, turn left again at ramp and continue midway down the hallway. Restrooms are on the right.

## *Prayer Requests*

The importance of prayer is affirmed throughout the Bible. As a church we are committed to prayer - your needs are important to us. Prayer request cards can be obtained from an usher and may be filled out and dropped in the offering plate.

## *Gathering Times*

Sunday | 9:30 am | Sanctuary & livestreamed on YouTube

**Worship Celebration with Holy Communion**

Connect with us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.



*In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.*



# Nativity of Our Lord

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

The congregation may stand.

## GATHERING HYMN

## O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

### Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num,  
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*The congregation may kneel.*

God-with-us, **we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.**

*The congregation may stand.*

Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy. **Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. 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. **Alleluia.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## FIRST READING

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

*This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!*

<sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments

rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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.**

## **SECOND READING**

**Titus 2:11-14**

*The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.*

<sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>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.**

The congregation may stand.

HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW 270



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



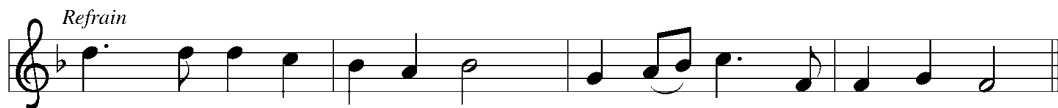
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

## THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. **Glory to you O Lord.**

**Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

[<sup>15</sup>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.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

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

*The congregation may be seated.*

**SERMON**

**Pastor Bob Machamer**

**MUSIC SELECTION**

**Behold**

**arr. Daniel Galbraith  
D. Jenkins, P. Wickham, S. Furtick**



*The congregation may stand.*

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*The congregation may kneel.*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

Angels sing with praise, and shepherds run with haste. As we glorify and praise you in this place, send us into the world, proclaiming the salvation you have revealed this night. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The seas roar, and the trees of the forest sing for joy. As creation resounds with praise, inspire us with awe, reverence, and a renewed care for all that fills the fields, skies, and seas. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The nations declare your glory. Uphold the leaders of the earth with your justice and righteousness. Break the rod of the oppressor in every land, and bring peace where there is conflict. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The holy family finds shelter around the animals' manger. Draw near to persons experiencing homelessness, those who are alone this holiday season, and all for whom this world makes no room. Wrap all your children in bands of love and mercy. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A child is born for us and light shines on the weary. Watch over those who give birth this night and attend to those who are dying. Be present in our joys and in our sorrows. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

*Please verbally add your personal prayer requests.*

The heavenly host praises you. With thanksgiving for Mary, Joseph, and all your saints, sustain us in the blessed hope revealed this night. Fashion us by their example into a people zealous for good deeds, sharing your love and mercy with all. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **OFFERING MUSIC**

*The congregation may stand.*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. **Amen.**

### **COMMUNION MUSIC**

#### **The Table**

#### **Chris Tomlin**

I will feast at the table of the Lord.

I will feast at the table of the Lord.

I won't hunger anymore at His table.

Come all you weary, come and find

His yoke is easy, His burden light.

He is able; He will restore at the table of the Lord.

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

On the night of his betrayal  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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**

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

*The congregation may be seated.*

### **DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT**

*All without exception, are welcome at the table of God's grace and love. Please fill out a communion card and hand to an usher or place in the box in the Narthex. Today we receive the sacrament at the altar rail. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available at the center aisle. Return to your seats by the side aisle. If you are unable to come forward for communion, please let an usher know and communion will be brought to you.*

*The congregation may stand.*

### **BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. **Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION**

The God of love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always. **Amen.**



*Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,*  
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



*ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.*  
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



*Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher*  
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



*Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.*  
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885  
 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.  
 Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23029.  
 Hymns and service music reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-709485.

# *Serving in Worship*

## **Acolyte**

Delaney Hersperger

## **Altar Assistants**

Shannon Omlor

Becky Scheiry

## **Altar Guild**

Mary Kay Heimbach

Sue Hill

Bonnie Moatz

## **Assisting Minister**

Lauren Jones

## **Lector**

Ben Rohrbach

## **Media**

Justin Jones

## **Musicians**

Ashtyn Ehst, *vocals*

Christine Mervine, *organ/piano*

## **Prayers**

Martha Bentley

## **Sound**

Ashley Gheer

## **Video**

Camryn Friz


## **Ushers**

Martha Bentley

Joanne Dykie

Barbara Houp

Nathan Wanish



# **Christmas Day Meal**

**Wednesday, December 25**  
**11:30 am - 1:00 pm**  
*worship service at 10:30 am*

**St. John's Lutheran Church**

Join with others in our community on Christmas for this free, family-style meal, open to everyone!

**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**45 N. Reading Avenue, Boyertown**  
**610.369.1024**  
**[stjohnsboyertown.org](http://stjohnsboyertown.org)**



**DECEMBER 29, 2024**  
**9:30 AM**

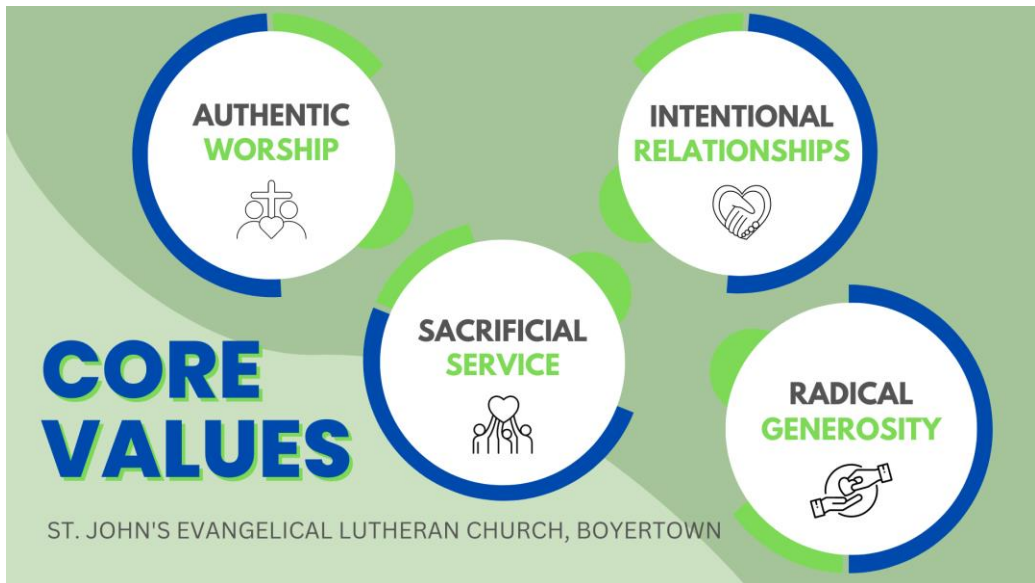
# **LESSONS & CAROLS**

**GUESTS** are always welcome to the Table!

**MEMBERS** (*two types*)  
Voting & Non-voting

**KEEPING MEMBERSHIP SIMPLE**

1. The only way you can ever be removed from the membership roll at St. John's, or any ELCA congregation:
  - You request a transfer
  - You ask to be removed
  - You depart this life
2. Voting members must make a record of having:
  - Filled out a communion card and received the Lord's Supper ONE time per year
  - Contributed ONE time per year, making sure your name is included



---

## PURPOSE STATEMENT

We believe God's purpose for the people of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is to develop joy-filled children of God who love the Lord and share God's Word.

*We do this by:*

- Maintaining a trusting and welcoming environment.
- Praying daily.
- Reading scripture regularly.
- Sharing our faith through action-based service.
- Encouraging holy conversations.
- Feeding our faith with music.

*With a focus on:*

- Activities that build relationships.
- Worship that is relevant.
- Meeting the needs of the vulnerable in our community.

---

Pastor Bob Machamer

[bmachamer@stjohnsboyertown.org](mailto:bmachamer@stjohnsboyertown.org)

Kay Christman, Finance Team

[financialsecretary@stjohnsboyertown.org](mailto:financialsecretary@stjohnsboyertown.org)

Sue Grofe, Finance Team

[financialsecretary@stjohnsboyertown.org](mailto:financialsecretary@stjohnsboyertown.org)

Donnie Heimbach, Property

Bonnie Moatz, Finance Team

[financialsecretary@stjohnsboyertown.org](mailto:financialsecretary@stjohnsboyertown.org)

Shannon Omlor, Communications Coordinator

[somlor@stjohnsboyertown.org](mailto:somlor@stjohnsboyertown.org)

Linda Rohrbach, Treasurer

[treasurer@stjohnsboyertown.org](mailto:treasurer@stjohnsboyertown.org)

Becky Scheiry, Parish Administrator

[parishadmin@stjohnsboyertown.org](mailto:parishadmin@stjohnsboyertown.org)

---



45 N. Reading Avenue | Boyertown, PA 19512

610.369.1024 | fax 610.369.1463

[stjohnsboyertown.org](http://stjohnsboyertown.org)

Office Hours | Monday-Thursday 8:30am - 3:30pm | Friday 8:30am - 12:00pm