



HOPE
for all nations

Nativity of Our Lord
December 25, 2024 | 10:30 am | St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Welcome

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

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.



As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The congregation may stand.

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.

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.**

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.**



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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

Let us pray.

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, and adore the Lord. For today a great light has come upon the earth. **Alleluia.**

The congregation may be seated.

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

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

Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

[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.]

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. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The 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

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.

The church sings a new song for you, O God. By the water of rebirth, you claim us as your own. Renew all the baptized by your Spirit of grace and truth, and embolden us to announce your salvation to all. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The heavens and the earth are the work of your hands. By your Word, all things have come into being. Protect coastlands and waters. Awaken in us a heightened care for habitats threatened by rising sea levels. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Beautiful are the feet of your messengers who announce peace. Sustain the work of diplomats, relief agencies, and all who strive for peace in places of conflict and violence. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You guard the lives of your faithful ones and rescue them in times of distress. Heed the cries of all who are afraid. Comfort the grieving and despairing, the lonely and forgotten, and those who are ill. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Voices and instruments ring out with melodies of praise to you. Bless the music ministries of this congregation and all who lead us in making a joyful noise in worship. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Please verbally add your own personal prayer requests.

We give you thanks for our ancestors in faith. As their lives bear witness to your light and love, inspire us to testify to the hope we share in you. 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.**

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.

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.**

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain

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

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

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Serving in Worship

Acolyte

Camryn Friz

Altar Assistants

Ashley Gheer

John Gheer

Altar Guild

Mary Kay Heimbach

Sue Hill

Bonnie Moatz

Assisting Minister

Amanda Ehst

Media

Shannon Omlor

Musicians

Francine Black, *piano*

Madison Robb, *vocals*

Prayers

Ros Moatz

Sound


Melissa Eidle

Video

Abbe Grofe

Ushers

Ros & Brian Moatz



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



DECEMBER 29, 2024
9:30 AM

LESSONS & CAROLS

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

Kay Christman, Finance Team

financialsecretary@stjohnsboyertown.org

Sue Grofe, Finance Team

financialsecretary@stjohnsboyertown.org

Donnie Heimbach, Property

Bonnie Moatz, Finance Team

financialsecretary@stjohnsboyertown.org

Shannon Omlor, Communications Coordinator

somlor@stjohnsboyertown.org

Linda Rohrbach, Treasurer

treasurer@stjohnsboyertown.org

Becky Scheiry, Parish Administrator

parishadmin@stjohnsboyertown.org



45 N. Reading Avenue | Boyertown, PA 19512
610.369.1024 | fax 610.369.1463
stjohnsboyertown.org

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