

CANDLE LIGHTING

The ushers will light the candle of the person on the aisle. Hold the lit candle upright and dip the unlit candle into the flame. Please be cautious with small children. As your candles are lit, the sanctuary lights will be turned off. After extinguishing your candle, please hold upright momentarily until wax has hardened to prevent dripping.

***HYMN:** LBW #65 *Silent Night, Holy Night!* vs. 1-3

Extinguish your candles. The ushers will collect them as you exit.

***BENEDICTION**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you,
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace,
In the Name of the Father, (+) and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Go In Peace. Serve the newborn King.

C: Thanks be to God!

***SENDING HYMN:** LBW #39 *Joy to the World*

POSTLUDE

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IN OUR PRAYERS: Margaret Sloan (mother of Molly Rodemeyer), Stell Campbell (Brian Campbell's mother), Megan Haack's brother and family, Evelyn Warmbier (mother of Elaine Sidles), Garwin Anderson, Lois Quam, Pastor Steve Ellerbusch, Linda Laws, Bonnie Anderson, Karyn Davis, Rod Snavelly, Nancy Zeigler, Bob & Janet Mortensen, Lea Schipull, Lucille Anderson, Norma Larson, Richard Omundson and those we name in our hearts.

*Our sympathy to the families of Ed Gentry and Dorothy Brownlee

*Our missionary: Courtney Davis in Papua New Guinea

It has been our pleasure to welcome you to our Christmas Eve Service. If you are looking for a church home, we extend an invitation to you to join us again. If you are home for the holidays, we welcome you home and pray you have safe journeys. Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
CHRISTMAS EVE
December 24, 2016 5 PM and 10:30 PM

Bethany & Lost Island Lutheran Churches
Pastor Peter Morlock

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

***INVOCATION**

***GATHERING HYMN:** LBW # 60 *Hark! The Herald Angels* vs. 1

WELCOME-please sign the attendance booklet located at the end of the pew

We extend a warm welcome to all of you this evening. Except for the hymns the service is printed in its entirety for your convenience. You will need a candle (available from the ushers) for the candlelight portion of the service.

THIS EVENING we join with Christians throughout the world to celebrate the great mystery of our faith: God speaks to us in our words so that we might know God's mercy; God comes to us in human flesh - in Christ's body and blood - so that we might share in God's unfailing love.

It is not a baby's birth we celebrate, but the light of redemption. As Paul reminds us, the grace of God has appeared bringing salvation to all. Christ unites himself to our fragile, mortal lives so that we might know he is with us, always offering us life, health, and salvation. With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest."

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** "The Great Proclamation"

***HYMN:** LBW #54 *It Came up on the Midnight Clear* vs. 1 & 3

***THE COMMUNION LITURGY - THE PREFACE**

P: It is truly the right thing to do that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may be drawn to the love of those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing.

***HYMN:** LBW #45 *Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful* vs. 1

***THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***THE LORD'S PRAYER** Pg. 71 (LBW-green hymnal)

HOLY COMMUNION

We invite all who are baptized to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion with us. We ask that you believe that Christ is present in the bread and wine and that you desire the benefits He offers. If you would like to come forward for a blessing and not receive Holy Communion, please indicate by crossing your arms. If you are not able to come forward, please indicate to the usher and we will serve you at the pew. Grape juice is present in the center of the tray. Gluten free wafers are also available. The bread will be distributed at the center of the railing as you come forward. After you have received the bread proceed along the railing and kneel, if able, to receive the wine. The blessing will be given to dismiss each table.

HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTUION LBW (green hymnal)

#44 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*; #52 *Your Little Ones, Dear Lord*

#41 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*; #70 *Go Tell It On the Mountain*

***THE POST COMMUNION LITURGY**

P: The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

***HYMN:** LBW #55 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* vs. 3

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Great and gracious God, we thank you that in this holy meal the true Light has come to dwell in us. As we return into the world you love, may we take to all people the Good News of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **C: Amen.**

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.

***HYMN:** LBW #67 *Away In a Manger* vs. 3

THE MESSAGE

Pastor Peter Morlock

***HYMN:** LBW #71 *Angels We Have Heard On High* vs. 1 & 3

***PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

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

C: Blessed are you, Prince of peace.

P: You rule the earth with truth and justice. Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

C: Blessed are you, Son of Mary.

P: You share our humanity. Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day, especially for..... and those we name silently in our hearts.

C: Blessed are you, Son of God.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

***CONFESSION OF FAITH:** HYMN: LBW #40 *What Child is This?* vs. 1-3

Please be seated while the offering is received

***THE OFFERING & THE OFFERTORY** Merciful Father, **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us-ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***HYMN:** LBW #69 *I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve* vs. 1-3

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LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH The Fifth Candle

P: Our season of waiting is over, and the Savior of the world is here!

C: As we light the Christ Candle, we join our voices with all the saints to praise the holy name of the Lord.

P: O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods. (Psalm 96:1-4)

C: God is worthy of our praise, this day and everyday; together, we will worship Emmanuel – God With Us!

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Please rise as you are able.

***CONFESSION:**

Pastor: Rejoicing in the Good News that God and sinners are reconciled in Christ, let us confess our need for forgiveness.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination using the Ten Commandments.)

C: God of everlasting love, we confess that we have lived in captivity to the fear of death. By our actions and by our neglect we have resisted your good and gracious will. Free us from anxiety and distraction; cast out our sin, and enter in; give us a new birth of hope as we welcome the child born to save, Christ the Lord. Amen.

***ABSOLUTION - FORGIVENESS**

Pastor: "You are my children; I am your Savior," says our God, who has redeemed us, who lifts us up and carries us all our days. In mercy and loving kindness God forgives us all our sins for the sake of Jesus who delights to call us sisters and brothers. **C: Amen.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE:** LBW #50 *"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"* vs. 1

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with You. **C: And also with you.**

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P: Let us pray: Pray together

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC-Jonah Hackbart-Morlock, Pastor Peter Morlock (10:30)

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!

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.

³You 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.

⁴For 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.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For 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.

⁷His 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.

HYMN: LBW #67 *Away In a Manger* vs. 1

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.

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

HYMN: LBW #67 *Away In a Manger* vs. 2

***GOSPEL: Luke 2:1–20**

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace

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."