

✚ CHRISTMAS EVE ✚

December 24, 2021



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St.
West Allis, WI 53214

✝ NAIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ✝

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Organist: Linda Loeffel

Choir Director: Lois Buske

Secretary: Ashley Leyrer

About Our Worship Service

Welcome in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Our message is as old as God's Word to mankind: Jesus Christ, crucified and risen to take away our sins. We gather for the Divine Service not merely for the sake of ritual or tradition. Nor do we come to worship primarily to give something back to God. Rather, we meet together to hear and receive what God has done for us. In Word and Sacrament, our gracious Lord gives us forgiveness of sins, unity with him in new life, and the promise of eternal salvation in heaven! Through this same Gospel he motivates and equips us to follow his holy will for our lives. We hope that you are comforted with the message of Jesus Christ's love as you worship with us today. Please join us again soon!

Visitors

Thank you for joining us for worship! Please read the following notes about our church. If you have any questions or need any assistance, **please speak with the pastor.**

Our practice of closed communion: If you have not communed with us before, please read the note about our Lord's Supper practices printed later in this bulletin under "Distribution of Holy Communion."

Rest Rooms are located in the downstairs fellowship hall. A wheelchair accessible restroom is located at the front of the church, through the doors to the left of the chancel.

Guest book: If you feel comfortable doing so, please sign our guest book located in the narthex so we can have a record of your visit.

Mother's Room: Parents with crying children are welcome to use the mother's room, located off of the narthex. The room is equipped with speakers so parents can listen to the service.

Chair Lifts are located off the northwest entrance for those who need to go to the fellowship hall on the lower level but have difficulty with stairs.

Scripture taken from: the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION.

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THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2021



The Season of Christmas ***What Child Is This?***

A baby is born every twelve seconds. That's 140 million babies born each year. Yet, there is something that sets *this child* apart from all others. It is not simply his humble beginnings, with a cattle trough as his first cradle. It is not just the miraculous nature of his birth, his mother being a virgin. There is so much more. This child is the only hope we have for peace and a future. This child can wipe away every tear, drive away every fear. Here is the truth of Christmas. With this child, you lack nothing. Without him, you have nothing. Let us use this season of Christmas to answer this most important question: *What child is this?*

Christmas Eve ***What Child Is This?***

This Christmas Eve, an angel answers that question. "A savior has been born to you." It is a stunning statement, for two reasons. First, this child looks nothing like what we would expect in a hero-savior. This child is weak, helpless, and mired in poverty. Second, he has come to bring salvation "to you." It is a salvation we all need desperately. It was God's gift to us, given on that first Christmas when Christ our Savior was born!

✠ SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS ✠

Welcome to God's house in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

*Please enter the sanctuary quietly so you and others can prepare your hearts for God's worship service.
Personal prayers for worship are printed on pages 10-11, 134-139, and 156 in the front of the hymnal.*

Please be sure to take a candle from the narthex to be used towards the end of the service.

Please also read the directions for the candle lighting rite printed after the Offering.

There will be no pre-service announcements.

Our worship begins with the tolling of the bells, followed by the opening hymn.

THE PREPARATION

(Job 11:13-15; Psalm 25; Isaiah 40:3-5; Hebrews 4:16)

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

TOLLING OF THE BELLS

OPENING HYMN

"On Christmas Night All Christians Sing" (Christian Worship, 52)



1 On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing To hear the
2 When sin de - parts be - fore your grace, Then life and
3 From out of dark - ness we have light Which made the



news the an - gels bring; On Christ - mas night all
health come in its place. When sin de - parts be -
an - gels sing this night. From out of dark - ness



Chris - tians sing To hear the news the an - gels bring,
fore your grace, Then life and health come in its place.
we have light Which made the an - gels sing this night:



News of great joy, news of great mirth,
 An - gels and saints with joy may sing
 "Glo - ry to God and peace to men



News of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.
 All for to see the new - born King.
 Now and for - ev - er - more. A - men."

INVOCATION (Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

** Please stand.*

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING VERSICLES

M: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. (Isaiah 9:2a)

C: **The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.**
 (John 1:5)

M: On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. (Isaiah 9:2b)

C: **We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.** (John 1:14b)

M: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given. (Isaiah 9:6a)

C: **In him was life, and that life was the light of men.** (John 1:4)

EXHORTATION

M: Dear people of God, in this Christmas season it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us – the Christ Child lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God who brought us redemption through this holy Child.

But first, let us pray for people all over the world who would delight with us to know the good news of Jesus Christ and who would join with us in singing his praises. Let us pray for the people of this city and for all those in our own congregation.

And, because this would please our Lord, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who are sad, the lonely and the unloved, and the elderly and the little children. We especially remember all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, those who do not love him, and those who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Finally, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light than we, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, who died in faith, and who live before the throne of God and praise him each day in his temple. We confess that we are united with them as we are united with one another.

To sum up all these petitions, let us pray as Christ himself taught us.

LORD'S PRAYER (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4)

C: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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.

** Please be seated.*

THE LESSONS AND CAROLS

(Romans 10:17; Acts 2:42; 2 Timothy 3:16,17)

FIRST LESSON Genesis 3:8-15

The Seed of the woman will crush the serpent's head

M: A lesson from the book of Genesis, chapter three.

* After the reading of the Lesson:

M: The Word of Our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

SECOND LESSON Genesis 22:15-18

God's promises to Abraham

M: A lesson from the book of Genesis, chapter twenty-two.

* After the reading of the Lesson:

M: The Word of Our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

RESPONSIVE CAROL “Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising” (CW 42: 1,3)

Verse 1: Sunday School children

Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing his love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.

Verse 3: Congregation

3 Christ, from heav'n to us de - scend - ing And in
love our race be - friend - ing, In our need his help ex -
tend - ing, Saved us from the wi - ly foe.

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2,6,7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great Light

M: A lesson from the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter nine.

* After the reading of the Lesson:

M: The Word of Our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9

A Branch from the stem of Jesse

M: A lesson from the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter eleven.

* After the reading of the Lesson:

M: The Word of Our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE CAROL

"The People that in Darkness Sat" (CW 90: 1,3)



1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious
3 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -



light have seen; The light has shone on them who long In
last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The



shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.
God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel visits Mary

M: A lesson from the Gospel of St. Luke, chapter one.

* *After the reading of the Lesson:*

M: The Word of Our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

RESPONSIVE CAROL "A Great and Mighty Wonder" (CW 36: 1,2)



1 A great and might - y won - der, A
2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And



glo - rious mys - ter - y: A vir - gin bears an
yet re - mains on high, And cher - u - bim sing



in - fant Who veils his de - i - ty.
an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.

Refrain



Re - peat the hymn a - gain: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace on earth to men."

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

* Spoken by the Sunday School children.

The birth of Jesus

M: A lesson from the Gospel of St. Luke, chapter two.

* After the reading of the Lesson:

M: The Word of Our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

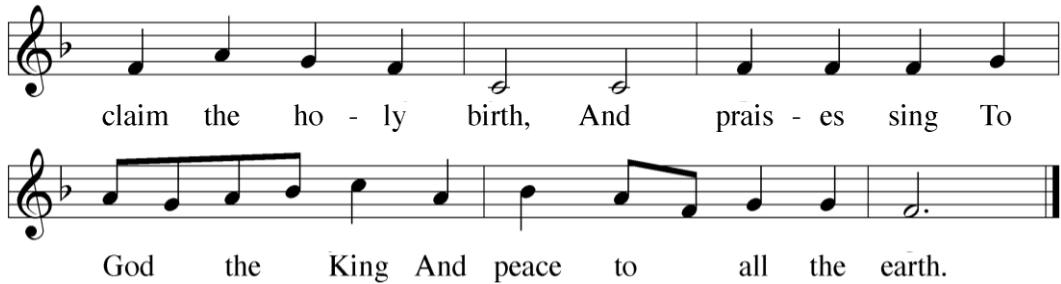
RESPONSIVE CAROL "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (CW 66: 1,2)

Verse 1: Sunday School children

O little town of Bethlehem,
 How still we see thee lie!
 Above thy deep And dreamless sleep
 The silent stars go by.
 Yet in thy dark streets shineth
 The everlasting light.
 The hopes and fears Of all the years
 Are met in thee tonight.

Verse 2: Congregation

2 For Christ is born of Mar - - - y, And,
 gath - ered all a - bove, While mor - tals sleep, The
 an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro -



claim the ho - ly birth, And prais - es sing To
God the King And peace to all the earth.

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

** Spoken by the Sunday School children.*

** After the reading of the Lesson:*

M: The Word of Our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

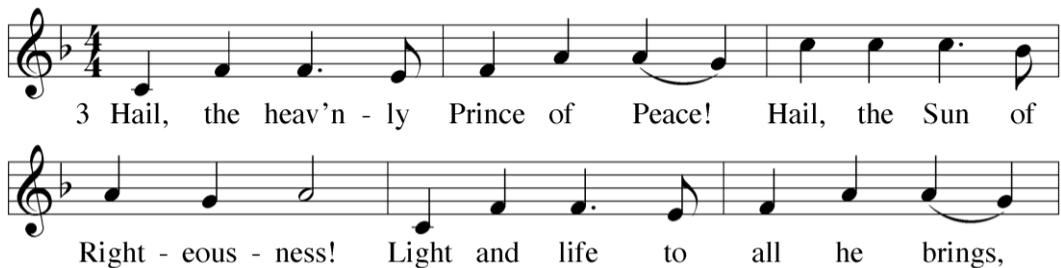
RESPONSIVE CAROL

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (CW 61: 1,3)

Verse 1: Sunday School children

Hark! The herald angels sing,
 “Glory to the newborn King;
 Peace on earth and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled!”
 Joyful, all you nations rise,
 Join the triumph of the skies;
 With th’ angelic host proclaim,
 “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
 Hark! The herald angels sing,
 “Glory to the newborn King!”

Verse 3: Congregation



3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of
 Right - eous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,

Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his
glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to
Refrain
give us sec - ond birth.
an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi worship the newborn King

M: A lesson from the Gospel of St. Matthew, chapter two.

* *After the reading of the Lesson:*

M: The Word of Our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE CAROL

"As with Gladness Men of Old" (CW 83: 1,3)

1 As with glad - ness men of old Did the guid - ing
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare At your cra - dle,



star be - hold, As with joy they hailed its light,
rude and bare, So may we with ho - ly joy,
Lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright, So, most gra - cious
Pure and free from sin's al - loy, All our cost - liest
Lord, may we Ev - er - more your fol - lowers be.
treas - ures bring, Christ, to you, our heav'n - ly King.

NINTH LESSON John 1:1-14

The mystery of the Incarnation

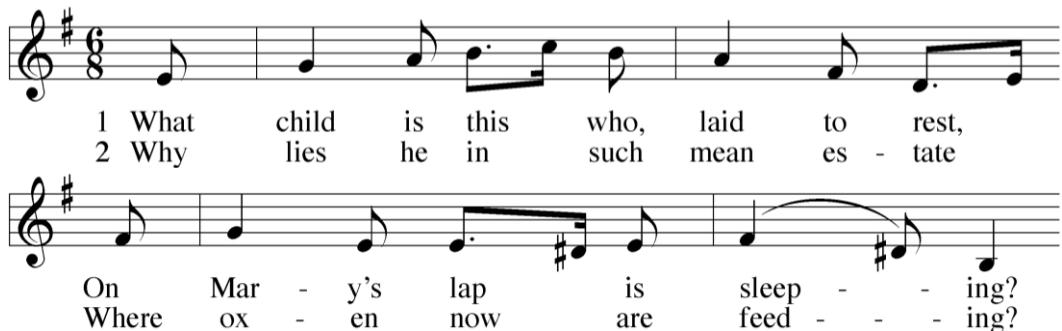
M: A lesson from the Gospel of St. John, chapter one.

* After the reading of the Lesson:

M: The Word of Our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE CAROL "What Child Is This" (CW 67: 1,2)



1 What child is this who, laid to rest,
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate
On Mar - y's lap is sleep - - ing?
Where ox - en now are feed - - - ing?

Whom an - gels greet With an - thems sweet
 Good Chris - tians, fear; For sin - ners here

While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 The si - lent Word is plead - ing.

This, this is shall Christ the King, Whom
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through; The

shep cross - herds guard and for an - gels sing.
 he'll bear for me, for you.

Haste, haste to bring him laud,
 Hail, hail to the Word made flesh,

The babe, the Son of Mar - y!
 The babe, the Son of Mar - y!

SERMON

Luke 2:1-20

“Christmas Light”

OFFERING

** Offering Collection*

God, who blesses us with all we have, gives us the privilege of showing him our thanks in many ways. One of these ways is by giving back a portion of what he has given us to support the work of the Church.

If you are a guest, please don't feel that you must give an offering. We are happy to share with you the free, good news of Jesus' eternal love for you.

If you have an offering, you can place it in the box in the narthex, mail it to the church, or give online via the link on our church website. Thank you for your financial support of our congregation!

* Friendship Registers

A Friendship Register (i.e. the maroon book) is located at the end of each pew. Sometime before you leave, please write in your name and the names of those with you, check any appropriate box, and provide your contact information if you want the pastor to speak with you.

CANDLE LIGHTING INSTRUCTIONS

* *The pastor will light his candle from the Christ Candle. He will pass the light to the ushers, and they in turn will walk down the center aisle and light the candles of those sitting closet to the aisle.*

As the light comes to you, please hold your unlit candle to the flame.

Only tip the unlit candles. Never tip the lit candles.

While your candle is lit, please keep it upright so the wax dripping is minimized.

Please do not bring the lit candles onto the carpet.

Once your candle is lit, hold it to the person next to you so they can light their candle from yours.

In this way we symbolize how Jesus, the Light of the world, came and brings light to a world darkened by sin as his Gospel spreads from one person to the next.

After all the candles have been lit, the church lights will be dimmed, and the pastor will lead the congregation in the candle lighting dialogue.

CANDLE LIGHTING DIALOUGE

* *The lights are turned down.*

Please stand at the direction of the pastor.

M: As the light of these candles illumines our faces, it reminds us of Christ, our Light, the Child in the manger at Bethlehem, a Savior suffering our death on the cross, and soon to come from his throne on high as Judge of all. He is our Light here on earth and the eternal Light who enlightens heaven, where there is no need of candle or sun. Rejoice! The Light of the World has come.

M: This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

C: **If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.** (1 John 1:5,6)

M: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

C: **and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.** (1 John 1:7)

CONCLUDING PRAYER

M: Let us pray.

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ, grant that as we joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

AARONIC BENEDICTION (Numbers 6:24-26)

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

* *Please be seated.*

CLOSING HYMN

"Silent Night! Holy Night" (CW 60)



1 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is
2 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds
3 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of



calm, all is bright, Round yon vir - gin
quake at the sight. Glo - ries stream from
God, love's pure light Ra - diant beams from



moth - er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so
 heav - en a - far; Heav'n - ly hosts sing,
 thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re -



ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
 Al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy



peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

POST-SERVICE MUSIC



A personal prayer for after worship is printed on page 11 in the front of the hymnal.

Thank you for joining us as we together worshiped our Triune God. The Lord be with you this week!

Please contact Pastor Berg if you are need of any pastoral care during the week.

*All worshipers are encouraged to take home a copy of our **weekly newsletter, the "Nain Messenger"** to stay informed about all congregational news. Several copies are available on the countertop in the narthex.*

If you have an offering, you can place it in the box in the narthex, mail it to the church, or give online via the link on our church website. Thank you for your financial support of our congregation.

*Nain is a member congregation of the **Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod**.
 For more information about our synod, please visit its website: www.wels.net*

