

# ✚ CHRISTMAS EVE ✚

December 24, 2020



**Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church**

1665 South 57<sup>th</sup> St.  
West Allis, WI 53214

# ✝ NAIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ✝

1665 South 57<sup>th</sup> Street | West Allis, Wisconsin 53214

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**Organist:** Deb Buske  
**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."

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.

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## *THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD*

# CHRISTMAS EVE

Thursday - December 24, 2020



***A Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord!***

Welcome to the Lord's house on this blessed and holy night. Our Service of Lessons and Carols focuses on the fulfillment of God's promise to send us a Savior in the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord. We pray that the Holy Spirit will enable you to receive the Lord's Word to you tonight with great joy as he points you to the infant Christ-child lying in the manger.

The time had come for God to fulfill what had been spoken of through the prophets. With the birth of Jesus, light shined in darkness. Heavenly messengers and the glory of the Lord told of his birth. The shepherds hastened to the manger to see this special baby. How could they not? This infant is the Eternal Word of God in human flesh, who came down from heaven to save us from our sins. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords who was born to die for us! That is what Christmas is truly about - the salvation won for us by Jesus Christ!

# ✚ SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS ✚

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**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 Prayer for before Worship:** O Lord – our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter – we are assembled in your presence to hear your holy Word. We pray that you would open our hearts by your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of your Word we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus, and grow daily in grace and holiness. Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

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## THE PREPARATION

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

### PRELUDE

50 "Once in Royal David's City"

### OPENING HYMN

34 "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"



1 Now sing we, now re - joice,      Now raise to heav'n our  
2 Come from on high to me;      I can - not rise to  
3 Now through his Son doth shine      The Fa - ther's grace di -  
4 Oh, where shall joy be found?      Where but on heav'n - ly



voice;      He from whom joy stream - eth Poor  
thee.      Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O  
vine.      Death o'er us had reign - ed Through  
ground?      Where the an - gels sing - ing With



in a man - ger lies;      Not so bright - ly  
pure and ho - ly Child;      Through thy grace and  
sin and van - i - ty;      He for us ob -  
all his saints u - nite,      Sweet - est prais - es



beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.  
mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,  
tain - ed E - ter - nal joy on high.  
bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!  
Draw me un - to thee! Draw me un - to thee!  
May we praise him there! May we praise him there!  
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

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

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.**

### **THE LESSONS AND CAROLS**

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

#### **FIRST LESSON**                      Isaiah 9:2,6,7

**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!**

RESPONSIVE HYMN

61 vv 1,3 *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the  
3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of

new - born King; Peace on earth and mer - cy mild,  
Right - eous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,

God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all you  
Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his

na - tions rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,

With th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is  
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to

*Refrain*

born in Beth - le - hem!" Hark! The her - ald  
give us sec - ond birth.

an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

## SECOND LESSON

Micah 5:2-4

M: A lesson from the book of the prophet Micah, chapter five.

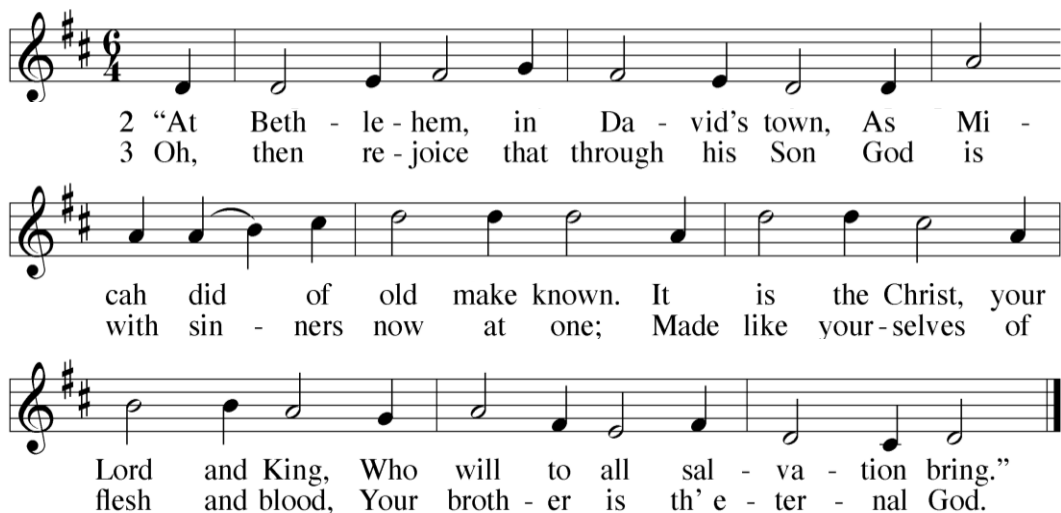
*\* After the reading of the Lesson:*

M: The Word of Our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## RESPONSIVE HYMN

53 vv 2,3 *"To Shepherds as They Watched by Night"*



2 "At Beth - le - hem, in Da - vid's town, As Mi -  
3 Oh, then re - joice that through his Son God is  
cah did of old make known. It is the Christ, your  
with sin - ners now at one; Made like your - selves of  
Lord and King, Who will to all sal - va - tion bring."  
flesh and blood, Your broth - er is th' e - ter - nal God.

## THIRD LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

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

*\* After the reading of the Lesson:*

M: The Word of Our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## RESPONSIVE HYMN

65 vv 3,4 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The  
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De -

won - drous gift is giv'n! So God im - parts To  
scend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin And

hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n.  
en - ter in; Be born in us to - day.

No ear may hear his com - ing, But  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The

in this world of sin Where meek souls will Re -  
great glad ti - dings tell; Oh, come to us, A -

ceive him still, The dear Christ en - ters in.  
bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

## FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

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

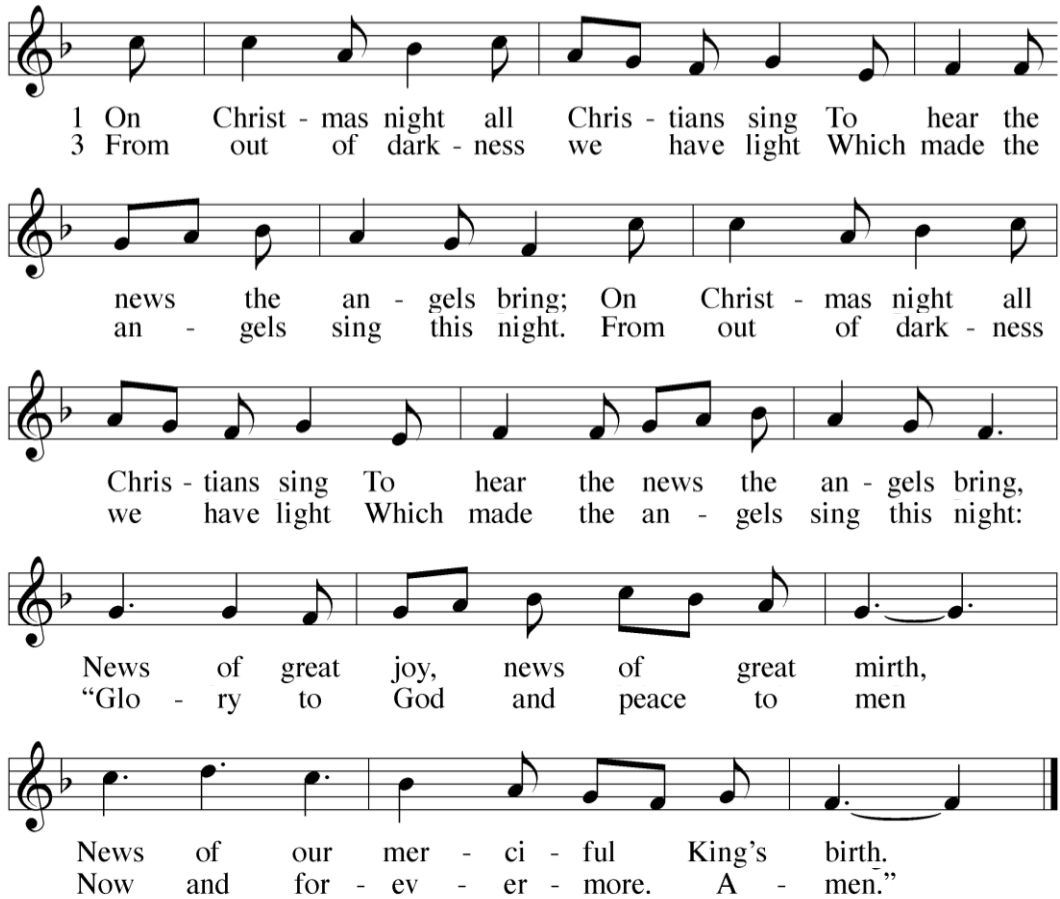
\* After the reading of the Lesson:

M: The Word of Our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

**RESPONSIVE HYMN**

52 vv 1,3 "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"



1 On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing To hear the  
3 From out of dark - ness we have light Which made the  
news the an - gels bring; On Christ - mas night all  
an - gels sing this night. From out of dark - ness  
Chris - tians sing To hear the news the an - gels bring,  
we have light Which made the an - gels sing this night:  
News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
"Glo - ry to God and peace to men  
News of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.  
Now and for - ev - er - more. A - men."

**FIFTH LESSON**

Matthew 2:1-12

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

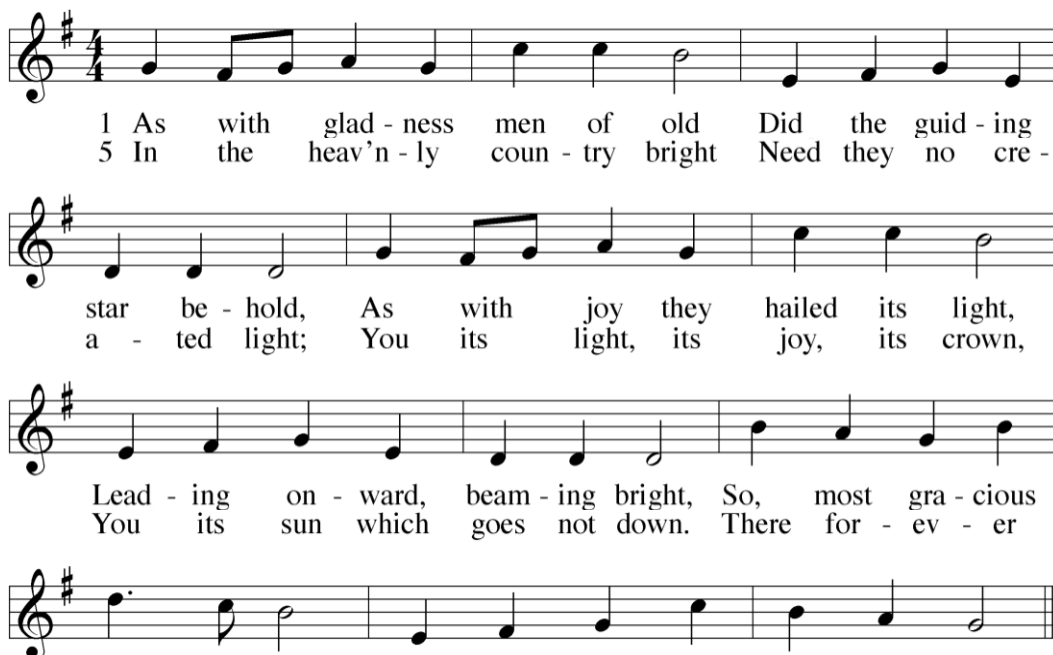
*\* After the reading of the Lesson:*

M: The Word of Our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## RESPONSIVE HYMN

83 vv 1,5 "As with Gladness Men of Old"



1 As with glad - ness men of old Did the guid - ing  
5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright Need they no cre -

star be - hold, As with joy they hailed its light,  
a - ted light; You its light, its joy, its crown,

Lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright, So, most gra - cious  
You its sun which goes not down. There for - ev - er

Lord, may we Ev - er - more your fol - lowers be.  
may we sing Al - le - lu - ias to our King!

## SIXTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

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 HYMN**58 vv 1,3 *"See in Yonder Manger Low"*

1 See in yon - der man - ger low, Born for us on earth be - low,  
3 Sa - cred In - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was thine,



See— the gen - tle Lamb ap - pears, Prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.  
Thus to come from high - est bliss Down to such a world as this.

*Refrain*

Hail the ev - er bless - ed morn; Hail re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn;



Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"

**SERMON**

Luke 2:8-20

**INTERLUDE**63 *"Angels We Have Heard on High"***OFFERING**

\* 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.

## CANDLE LIGHTING DIALOUGE

*\* Please stand at the direction of the pastor.*

M: The light of this candle 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.*



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 - dian 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.



**Personal Prayer for after Worship:** Good Shepherd, I was glad to be here, gathered with your flock to worship you. Cause the Word I have heard to take root in my heart and bear fruit in my life. Guide me in paths of righteousness, that my words and actions might lead others to glorify you. In your Name, I pray. Amen.



*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.*

*Special thanks to: Deb Buske for playing organ; and Ben Leyrer, Peter Hermanson, and Oliva Hermanson for running the sound, playing the music, and recording a video of our service this evening.*

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

***Please join us tomorrow as we continue to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord.***

*We will hold services on Christmas Day at 8:00 am, 9:15 am, and 10:30 am.*

*The 10:30 am service will be live streamed on Nain's YouTube channel.*

*Our order of worship will be the Common Service. Holy Communion will be offered at each service.*

*If you would like to worship with us in person, please contact Pastor Berg  
or reserve a spot by visiting Nain's SignUpGenius page.*

# The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is believed to have originated in Germany, as a folk custom. The evergreen branches symbolize God's unending love for us, and eternal life found in Christ. The four candles set in the wreath represent the four Sundays in the season of Advent. The lighting of the candles each week in Advent marks the growing anticipation for the birth of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

Various traditions explain the color for the candles.

Some churches use three purple or violet candles on the first, second, and fourth Sundays to remind us that Advent is a season of repentance. Other churches use three blue candles on these Sundays to symbolize our hope and expectation at the coming of Jesus; especially his second coming in glory on the Last Day.

A rose or pink candle is often used on the third Sunday, historically observed as Gaudete (Rejoice!) Sunday as a reminder that Advent is also a time of joy.

The fifth candle, if used, is white. It is lighted on Christmas Day and symbolizes the perfection and purity of God's gift to sinners: his righteous Son, Jesus Christ.

Some traditions associate a theme with each candle. One tradition is as follows...

The **Prophecy Candle**: Also called the Hope Candle, this violet or blue candle symbolizes the Old Testament prophecies of Christ's coming.

The **Bethlehem Candle**: Also called the Peace Candle, this violet or blue candle symbolizes the birth of Jesus to the Virgin Mary in the town of Bethlehem.

The **Shepherds' Candle**: Also called the Joy Candle, this pink or rose-colored candle symbolizes the coming of the Savior into the hearts and lives of believers, like the shepherds at Jesus' birth.

The **Angels' Candle**: Also called the Good News Candle, this violet or blue candle symbolizes the final glorious coming of the Savior with all his angels on the Last Day.

The **Christ Candle**: This white candle symbolizes the day of Jesus' birth, the coming we've been waiting for, the advent of Jesus, the Light of the World.