

- PARTICIPANTS -

**Preacher:** Pr. Matthew V. Moss  
**Liturgist:** Pr. Matthew P. Johnson  
**Kantor:** Dr. Crystal Rossow  
**Choir:** St. John's Adult Choir  
**Soloists:** 3pm—Jeremy Kappel  
5pm—Alexandra Meyer  
**Processionals:** 3pm—Jasmine Brockberg (crucifer)  
Alexis Brockberg (candlebearer)  
5pm—Danny Schilling (crucifer)  
Christina Kolstad (candlebearer)  
**Acolytes:** 3pm—Madelyn & Jacob Gangelhoff  
5pm—Samantha Brustuen & Naomi Schilling  
**Worship** 3pm—Ed Kemna  
**Assistants:** 5pm—Barron Cate  
**Ushers:** —Joel Johnson, Ben Kemna, John Meyer,  
Danny Schilling, Wayne Schutte

- ANNOUNCEMENTS -

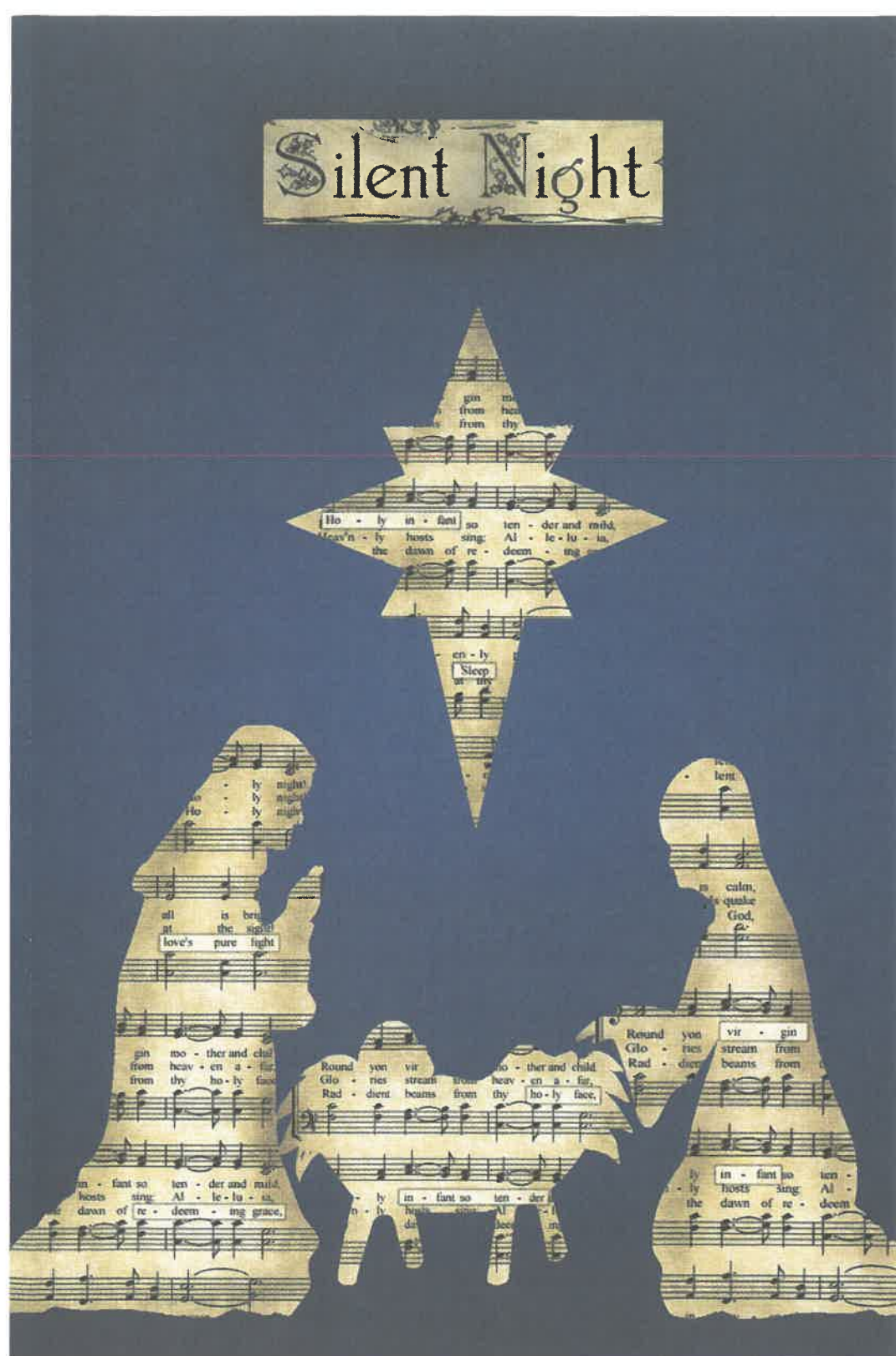
**CHRISTMAS DAY**— Tomorrow, Monday, December 25: 10:00 am  
Festival Day Divine Service with Lord's Supper

**FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK** –

Tuesday, December 26: **The Feast of St. Stephen, Martyr**  
Wednesday, December 27: **The Feast of St. John**  
Thursday, December 28: **The Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs**  
Sunday, December 31: **The Eve of the Name of Jesus**  
Monday, January 1: **The Circumcision of Our Lord**

**PUBLIC SCHOOL CATECHESIS** will resume on  
Wednesday, January 3, at 6:00 pm.

*Your pastors and staff wish all of you a most  
blessed Christmas*



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod  
† Christmas Eve—The Nativity of Our Lord †  
December 24, 2017 (3:00 & 5:00 pm)

*VERSE: Alleluia. Alleluia. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. Alleluia. (Luke 2:11)*

*PRAYER: O Lord, through Your angels you bid poor shepherds of the field not to fear but rejoice that Christ the Savior was born. Drive away all fear from our hearts and stir up in us this true joy, that, though here on earth we may be despised, miserable, poor, and suffering, we may nevertheless be comforted and rejoice that we have Your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who for our sake became man, that He might defend us from death and every evil. Amen.*

**Prelude:** Once in Royal David's City (David Willcocks)

† † †

- A Festival of Lessons and Carols -

**Entrance Hymn:** LSB 376  
"Once in Royal David's City"

[All Rise]

V. 1: Solo

Vv. 2: Choir

V. 3-5: Congregation

[Note: The processional cross reminds us that our Lord came into this world to take on our flesh and die for our sins; the white candle placed in the Advent wreath reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world who came to bring us out of darkness into his marvelous light]

**The Invocation & Invitation to Prayer:**

**M(inister):** In the Name of the Father and the Son † and the Holy Spirit.

**P(eople): AMEN**

**M:** Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmas Eve our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem . . . These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

**P:** (see inside back cover of LSB for the text of the Lord's Prayer)  
**OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN . . . FOR THINE IS**

**Fifth Lesson:** Matthew 2:1-12  
(The Wise Men come to worship the newborn King of the Jews)

**Carol:** LSB 370  
"What Child Is This"

**Tenth Lesson:** John 1:1-14  
(The mystery of the incarnation)

All rise for this reading; the Gospel is carried out into the congregation symbolizing our Lord's advent into the world. Following the reading of the holy Gospel, candles are lit from the Christ candle and carried out into the congregation to symbolize the Light of Christ shining out into this dark world through His Church

**Hymn:** LSB 382  
"We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth"

**Collect for Christmas Eve:**

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**P:** AND ALSO WITH YOU.

**M:** Let us pray. O God, because you once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant that we who have known the mystery of that Light here on earth may come to the full measure of its joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**P:** AMEN.

**Blessing**

**M:** The Almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and keep us.

**P:** AMEN.

**Closing Carol:** LSB 363  
"Silent Night"

**Postlude:** Silent Night (Robert Hobby)

**THE KINGDOM AND THE POWER AND THE GLORY  
FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.**

**M:** *The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life, and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.*

**P:** AMEN.

**Hymn:** LSB 358, vss. 1-6 (Choir, vs. 3)  
*"From Heaven Above"*

**Meditation**

**The Offering** *O Day of Peace* (Carl P. Daw, Jr., C. H. H. Parry;  
set by Robert J. Powell)

**First Lesson:** Genesis 3:1-15  
*(The woman's Seed will crush the serpent's head)*

**Carol:** LSB 375, vss. 1-3, 6  
*"Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising"*

**Second Lesson:** Genesis 22:15-18  
*(God's blessings will come through Abraham to all the world)*

**Carol:** LSB 387: vv. 1 & 4  
*"Joy to the World"*

**Third Lesson:** Isaiah 9:2, 6-7  
*(The people walking in darkness see a great light)*

**Carol:** LSB 377, All: vss. 1 & 4; Men: vs.2; Women, vs. 3  
*"On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"*

**Fourth Lesson:** Micah 5:2-4  
*(The glory of Bethlehem)*

**Carol:** LSB 361 *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*  
*V. 1-2: Congregation*  
*V. 3: Choir*  
*V. 4: Congregation*

V. 5 (congregation; all rise): **O Gracious Father, Lo-rd of all, Our praise and thanks we give;  
Lord Jesus Christ, God's on-ly Son, Who came for us to live;  
O Holy Spi-rit wi-th them, One God, forever blest!  
This Christmas Eve we pra-ise Th-y Name, our God! in Thee we rest.**

**Fifth Lesson:** Luke 1:26-38  
*(The angel Gabriel visits Mary)*

**Carol:** LSB 356  
*"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"*

**Sixth Lesson:** Matthew 1:18-25  
*(The angel Gabriel visits Joseph)*

**Carol:** LSB 546  
*"O Jesus, So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild"*

**Seventh Lesson:** Luke 2:1-7  
*(Jesus is born in Bethlehem)*

**Carol:** LSB 365  
*"Away In a Manger"*

**Eighth Lesson:** Luke 2:8-16  
*(The shepherds visit the manger)*

**Carol:** LSB 368  
*"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

**Carol:** LSB 369  
*"Where Shepherds Lately Knelt"*

## † ⊗ Tannenbaum/⊗ Christmas Tree †

Martin Luther originated the idea of bringing an "evergreen tree" into homes at Christmastide to represent the gift of eternal life which God's incarnation brought us.

He suggested two trees. The first was to be decorated with 33 red apples symbolizing not only the fruit which Adam and Eve ate bringing down on our world the curse of sin but also the number of years our Lord lived on this world assuming our curse and bearing our sins as the Lamb of God. The absence of lights on this tree was to remind us of the darkness our sin has caused us and the darkness our Lord suffered for us on the tree of the cross.

We associate man's fall into sin with a tree. But a tree also became the symbol of life and salvation as we are reminded in the proper preface for Passion Sunday, "He [i.e. the devil] who by a tree once overcame likewise by a tree has been overcome [namely, by Christ in His crucifixion]." A scarlet cloth was to be draped around the base of the tree reminding us of Isaiah's words, "Though your sins be as scarlet..." (Isaiah 1:18).

The second tree substituted 33 white roses for the apples to symbolize God's promise that the Savior would sprout from the stump of Jesse (Is. 11:1) as the Christmas hymn says, "Lo, how a rose is growing, a bloom of finest grace... The rose of which I'm singing, Isaiah had foretold. He came to us through Mary, who sheltered him from cold" (LSB 359). The five-pointed star at the top of the tree represented the head, shoulders, and feet of Jesus. From the star were to flow three gold streamers representing not only the blessings which God, through His incarnate Son, gives to the earth below but also symbolizing our Lord's three-fold office of prophet, priest, and king. The lights on the tree were to remind us that Jesus is the "light of the world" who brings us out of darkness into God's marvelous light. Luther suggested that a white cloth be draped around the base of this second tree reminding us that Isaiah not only wrote, "Your sins are as scarlet" but added the great promise, "They will be white as snow" (Isaiah 1:18).



## † Chrismons †

"Chrismons" speak of our Lord Jesus Christ. The word "Chrismon" combines two words--Christ and monogram (a sign formed by the combined initials of a name).

Take a moment to observe the garland-wrapped cross as you exit the sanctuary into the narthex, and note the Chrismons hung on the greenery.

All Chrismons are made of either white or gold or a combination of the two colors. White, the liturgical color for Christmas, suggests the innocence, purity, and perfection of our Savior. In our culture, it is also a color of joy. Scripture often uses white to portray purity and equates it with light to denote completeness (see Isaiah 1:18, Mark 9:3, Revelation 20:11).

Gold symbolizes the glory and majesty of God (see Exodus 25:11 ff., Revelation 1:13-16, Revelation 21:18-21).

Our Chrismons include some twenty-one different designs symbolizing various aspects of our Lord's person and work. The crosses of different types always remind us of our Lord's sacrifice; stars having either six points (the six days of creation) or five points (representing the human nature of Christ) or even eight points (representing baptism); the triangles and entwined circles represent the Trinity; crowns represent the Lordship of Christ; the fish was an ancient symbol for Christ (each letter in the Greek word for "fish", "ichthus", represented a word: "I"--Jesus, "Ch"--Christ, "TH"--God's, "U"--Son, "S"--Savior). Various Greek letters decorate some of the Chrismons including the letters "IHS" which are the first three letters of the Greek word "IH̄SOUS" (or, Jesus), "XP" which are the first two Greek letters in the word "XP̄ISTOS" (or, Christ ["X" is a "ch" sound in greek and "P" is our English "r"]), "A" and "O" or "alpha" and "omega" (the first and last letters in the Greek alphabet).





**WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR ALL THOSE WHO MADE OUR CHURCH SO FESTIVE FOR THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON.**

*Thank you to Joe & Brenna Koehler for the gift of the Christmas trees and to Joe Koehler and Phil Koehler for setting up the trees.*

AND TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THE POINSETTIAS:

*Gerald & Julie Anderson Family in praise & thanksgiving for our family  
 Ace & Lisa Carroll in memory of Sandra "B"  
 John & Lora Cleaveland in memory of loved ones  
 The Cummins Family in memory of Larry Cummins  
 Larry & Marcy Dalchow in memory of Leonard Dalchow  
 The First Grade Class in celebration of our loving teacher Mrs. Volberding  
 Rick & Lois Foggia in loving memory of Nathan Foggia and Ray & Ellen Hidde  
 The Glock Family in memory of Judy Glock  
 Darlean Goskey and Family in memory of Lyle Goskey  
 Leslie McLeod Jackson in loving memory of parents Matthew & Evelyn McLeod  
 The Larry Jobes Family in memory of loved ones  
 The Johnson Family in celebration of our Lord's birth  
 The Kalk Family in memory of Carl Kalk  
 Ray & Lori Kaiser in celebration of fathers Raymon Kinzler & John Kaiser  
 Don & Linda Kalk in memory of Walt & Gert Whitson  
 Ed & Sally Kemna in memory of grandsons Billy Harper and Nathan Schilling  
 The Kruse Family in memory of Paula Kruse  
 Bradley, Jackson, Robert, Faith, Kaylee, & Della in memory of Grandma Kruse  
 Scott & Ruth Kulberg Family in celebration of our Savior's birth  
 The MacMillan Family in thanksgiving for faithful parents and grandparents  
 Mary & Mark Pruhs in memory of Helen Wenzl and Doris & Bud Pruhs  
 John & Peggy Purdes in celebration of Christmas  
 John L. Radintz in memory of Ardis E. Radintz  
 Paul & Diane Radintz in celebration of the birth of our Savior  
 Jack & Marcia Schalo in memory of parents Emery & Marcella Faue and Bill & Charlotte Schalo  
 DJ, Nichole, Danny, Naomi, & Diana Schilling in memory of Nathanael Schilling  
 Paul & Gayle Schlueter in memory of Dan  
 Al & Judy Stromback in memory of Wayne Stromback & Clifford Koch  
 Marian Tillmann in memory of Louis Tillmann and Kay Oliver  
 Gary & Deb Volberding in memory and in celebration of family*



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A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ALTAR GUILD FOR DECORATING THE CHURCH



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