

## Participants

<b>Preacher:</b>	<i>Pr. Matthew P. Johnson</i>
<b>Liturgist:</b>	<i>Pr. Matthew V. Moss</i>
<b>Kantor:</b>	<i>Dr. Crystal Rossow</i>
<b>Choir:</b>	<i>St. John's Adult Choir</i>
<b>Hand Chimes:</b>	<i>Johanna Rossow &amp; Matthew Koosman</i>
<b>Brass Ensemble:</b>	<i>Wyatt Thurber &amp; Kevin Pomerence (trumpets) Gretchen Kliche (horn) Tom Eversman (trombone) Johanna Rossow (baritone)</i>
<b>Processional:</b>	<i>Alexis Brockberg (crucifer) Adam Kiesow &amp; Benjamin Kiesow (torchbearers)</i>
<b>Acolytes:</b>	<i>Diana Schilling &amp; Naomi Schilling</i>
<b>Worship Assistant:</b>	<i>Erik Preus</i>
<b>Ushers:</b>	<i>Larry Jobes, Rod Priebe, Jack Schalo, Joel Johnson, John Meyer</i>
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	<i>Arlene Rogge and LuAn Schutte</i>

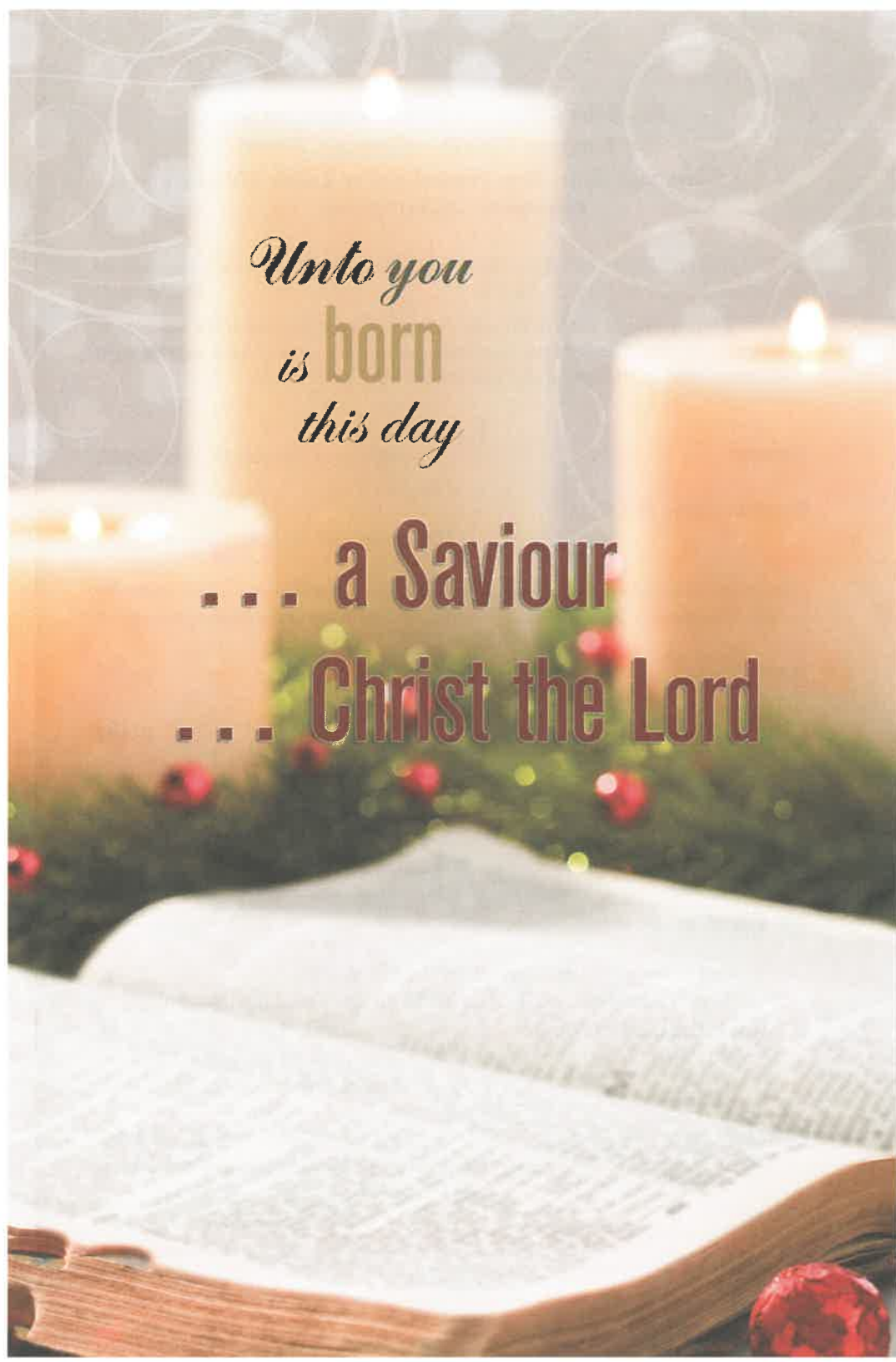
## Announcements:

### FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK –

<i>Wednesday,</i>	<i>December 26:</i>	<i>The Feast of St. Stephen, Martyr</i>
<i>Thursday,</i>	<i>December 27:</i>	<i>The Feast of St. John, Apostle &amp; Evangelist</i>
<i>Friday,</i>	<i>December 28:</i>	<i>The Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i>
<i>Monday,</i>	<i>December 31:</i>	<i>The Eve of the Name of Jesus</i>
<i>Tuesday,</i>	<i>January 1:</i>	<i>The Circumcision of Our Lord</i>

**PUBLIC SCHOOL CATECHESIS** will resume on Wednesday evening, January 9, at 6:00 PM

*Your pastors and staff wish each of you a most blessed  
Christmas and a happy New Year!  
Sing and Rejoice! Christ is born! Alleluia!*



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
† Christmas Day - The Festival of Our Lord's Nativity †  
December 25, 2018 (10:00 am)

**Verse:** Alleluia. The LORD reigns; he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed; he has put on strength as his belt Alleluia. (Psalm 93:1)

**Prayer:** O Holy Triune God, in the glad tidings of great joy and in the washing of rebirth with the Word we acknowledge that even we poor sinners have seen the light of the knowledge of Your great glory in the face of Christ. Amen.

† † †  
**Prelude:** Medieval Intrada (K. Lee Scott)

**Entrance Hymn (all rise):** LSB 379  
Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful (v.3 Choir)

(The processional cross reminds us that God's Son came into our world to die for our sins; the burning "Christ candle" reminds us that Jesus is the Light of the world)

**Kyrie** p. 186

**Gloria in Excelsis** p. 187

**Collect for Christmas Day**

**Old Testament Lesson:** Micah 5:2-5a  
(The Messiah to Be Born in Bethlehem)

**The Christmas Gradual:**

Blessed is he who comes in the name | of the Lord! \*  
The Lord is God, and he has made his light to shine up- | on us.  
This is the Lord's | doing; \*  
it is marvelous | in our eyes.

Psalm 118:26a, 27a, 23

**Epistle Lesson:** Titus 3:4-7  
(The new birth is given through water and the Word)

**Hymn:** LSB 358 (v. 1-3, 13)  
From Heaven Above

**The Christmas Day Gospel:** Luke 2: 1-20  
(The Christmas Story)

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

**Sermon:** "This Is the Gift that Can Be Re-Gifted"  
(Luke 2:15-20)

**Creed** (Nicene Creed; see inside back cover of hymnal)

**Prayers**

**Offerings:** Star Song (Dana Mengel)

† The Service of the Holy Communion †

**NOTE:** Our celebration of the Lord's Supper is reserved for members in good standing of congregations affiliated with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Guests from sister LCMS congregations who agree with our faith and practice of it should announce your desire to commune to one of our pastors before joining us at the Lord's Table.

**Hymn of the Day** LSB 375 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

**Service of the Sacrament:** p. 194

**Lord's Prayer & Words of Institution**

**Agnus Dei** LSB 198

**Distribution Hymns:** LSB 378 Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light  
LSB 384 (v. 2 choir; v. 3 women; v. 4 men)  
Of the Father's Love Begotten  
LSB 380 Hark the Herald Angels Sing

**Closing Collect & Benediction**

**Closing Hymn:** LSB 897  
Oh, Rejoice, All Christians Loudly  
(Alleluias to introduce and conclude the hymn are sung by Choir)

**Postlude:** Postlude on 'Mendelssohn' (David Willcocks)

## † ⑧ Tannenbaum/⑧ 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 "IHOU" (or, Jesus), "XP" which are the first two Greek letters in the word "XPISTOS" (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 Dan & Deb Koehler for the gift of the Christmas trees for setting up the trees.*

AND TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THE POINSETTIAS:

*Lorraine Conley, Melvin & Diane Haag, and Joshua Haag given in memory of Ron Conley*  
*The Cummins Family in memory of loved ones*  
*Larry & Marcy Dalchow in memory of Len Dalchow*  
*Rick & Lois Foggia in loving memory of Ray & Ellen Hidde and Nathan Foggia*  
*Doris Gangelhoff in memory of deceased family members*  
*The Glock Family in memory of Judy Glock*  
*Darlean Goskey and Family in memory of Lyle Goskey*  
*Melvin & Diane Haag and Joshua Haag in memory of Ron Conley, George & Hilda Haag, and Elvira Halvorson*  
*The Holthus Family in celebration of our Blessed Savior's birth*  
*Larry & Carol Jobes in memory of loved ones*  
*The Johnsons in memory of loved ones*  
*Ed & Sally Kemna in memory of grandsons Nathanael Schilling and Billy Harper*  
*The Kindergarten Class in celebration of our teachers Miss Becker and Mrs. Schutte*  
*Glen, Pam, & Garrett Kothrade in memory of Edwin Kothrade and David Werner*  
*Steve Kruse and Family in memory of Paula Kruse*  
*Bradley, Jackson, Robert, Faith, Kaylee, & Della in memory of Grandma Kruse*  
*The Kulberg Family in celebration of our Savior's birth*  
*The MacMillan Family in thanksgiving for faithful parents and grandparents*  
*Tom Parduhn in memory of Victor Parduhn*  
*Mary & Mark Pruhs in memory of Helen Wenzl and Bud & Doris Pruhs*  
*Paul & Diane Radintz in memory of loved ones*  
*Jack & Marcia Schalo in memory of loved ones*  
*The Schillings - DJ, Nichole, Danny, Naomi, & Diana in memory of Nathanael*  
*Paul & Gayle Schlueter in memory of Daniel*  
*The Second Grade Class in celebration of our teacher Mr. Koosman*  
*Alan & Judy Stromback in memory of Clifford Koch & Wayne Stromback*  
*Marian Tillmann in memory of Louis Tillmann and Kay Oliver*



**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE ALTAR GUILD  
AND TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED DECORATE THE CHURCH**

