

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
508 Bloom Street, Red Bud, Illinois
618/282-2394

Rev. Mark A. Nebel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Brian Nowak, Associate Pastor

The Nativity of Our Lord

December 24, 2022

3, 5 and 9 p.m.

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S: May God bless you this wonderful night as you join together in His house to celebrate the birth of our Savior from sin, Jesus Christ. The Baby in the manger is the Son of God born in human flesh for us. We welcome our visitors. Please introduce yourself to our pastors. We invite you to worship with us again.

WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION TONIGHT: In this Supper of our Lord we receive the true body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ in, with and under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. Since this sacrament is a way that we confess our common Christian faith, we invite to the Lord's Table all those who are confirmed members of congregations of our Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The cups of white non-alcoholic wine in the center of the trays are for those who prefer this. Please place your finger to your lips if you are receiving an individual cup.

SERVICE OF PREPARATION

THE PRELUDE: "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" *arr. by Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau*

THE RINGING OF THE BELL calls us to reverent and joyful worship.

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 380 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

(if able, please stand as the cross enters the sanctuary)



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



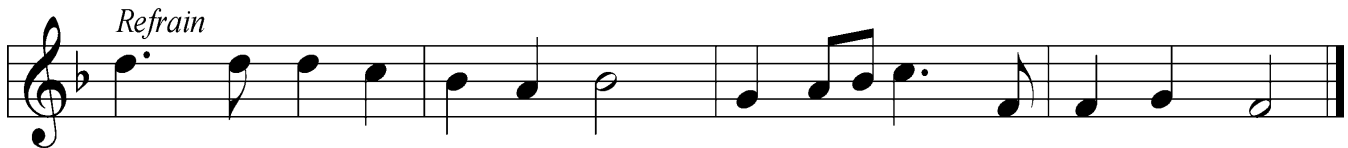
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be-hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir-gin's womb.
 Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!"
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im-man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec-ond birth.



Refrain
Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King!"

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THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

Pastor: In the name of our life-giving Father and of His new-born (+) Son and of the faith-creating Holy Spirit. **Congregation: Amen.**

P: We are here to worship in the name of our loving Triune God;

C: our one God who is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

P: In joy this night we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: We also confess that our sins made necessary His birth, life and death.

P: We sadly have separated ourselves from our God by our sins.

C: Instead of faithfulness to God's will for our lives, we have followed our own evil desires.

P: There is nothing we can do to make up for our sins in the sight of God.

C: The destiny we deserve is death. Our proper punishment is condemnation.

P: We are sorry for our selfish sins. We ask, O God, for Your full forgiveness.

C: We ask for Your Spirit's strength to help us lead holy lives in Your name.

P: Jesus Christ was born on earth to save sinners. Upon this your confession of your sins, I, as a called and ordained servant of God's Word, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray; cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels, the great, glad tidings tell; oh come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

SERVICE OF THE WORD

PSALM 96:

P: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

C: Sing to the Lord, praise His name; proclaim His salvation day after day.

P: Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples.

C: For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; He is to be feared above all gods.

P: For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

C: Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and glory are in His sanctuary.

P: Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it;

C: Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy;

P: they will sing before the Lord, for He comes, He comes to judge the earth.

C: He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in His truth.

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY:

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

P: Let us pray: O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven;

C: through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (please be seated)

SOLO: "O Holy Night"

Mrs. Lindsey Hudak

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before You as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, You have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

P: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING: Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good.

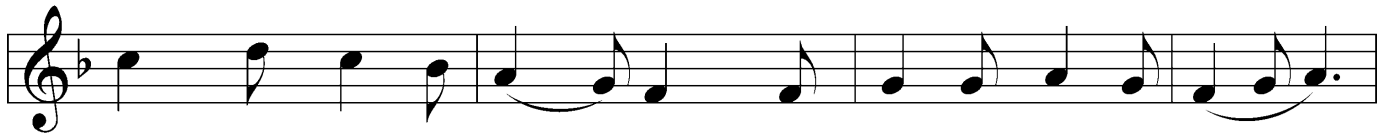
P: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF JOY: 386 “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”



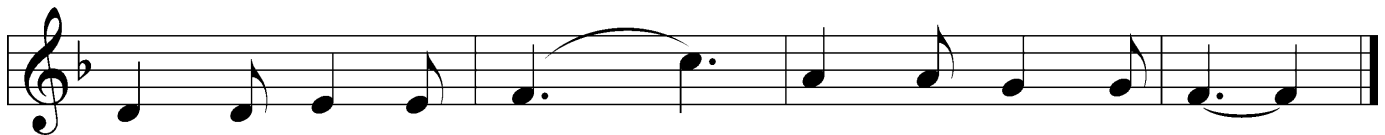
1 Now sing we, now re - joice,	Now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me;	I can - not rise to Thee.
3 Now through His Son doth shine	The Fa-ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found?	Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth	Poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it,	O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death was reign - ing o'er us	Through sin and van - i - ty
Where the an - gels sing - ing	With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth	The sun in yon - der skies.
Through Thy grace and mer - it,	Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
Till He o - pened for us	A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
Sweet - est prais - es 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!

(please stand if you are able)

THE GOSPEL READING: (read from center of sanctuary accompanied by the cross)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter. **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

(Luke 2:1-20 is read.)

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE CHRISTMAS CREED: *(spoken in unison)*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, who sent His Son as my Savior on Christmas Day.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, announced by the angels, worshipped by the shepherds, adored by the wise men; who lived to suffer, die and rise from the dead to free us from our sin, from death and from the power of the devil.

I believe in the Holy Spirit who has brought me to faith in the Christ of Christmas, and by whose work in my heart I am strengthened to lay before the feet of Jesus the treasures of my life and to love and serve Him as my King now and forevermore. Amen. *(please be seated)*

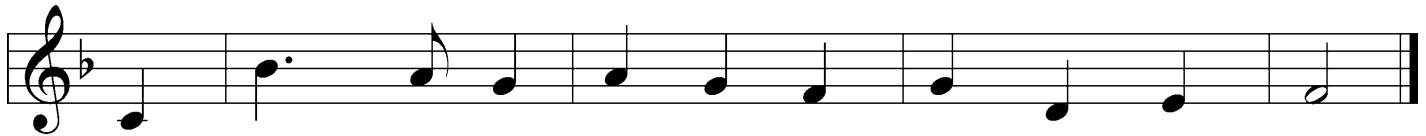
HYMN OF THE DAY: 364 "Away in a Manger"



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
 But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
 Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the sky ——— looked down where He lay,
 I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

SERMON: (3 p.m.) “What Is This Thing Called ‘Love’?” 1st John 4:7-16

(5 & 9 p.m.) “God’s Christmas Grace So That We Can Say ‘No!’ to the World” Titus 2:11-14

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (*please stand if you are able*)

(*Each petition ends, “**Lord, in Your mercy,**” and we respond, “**hear our prayer.**”*)

HEALING AND COMFORT: Wil Guebert, Kenneth Koester, Stanley Langrehr, Clyde Rowold, Ruth Hecht, Rick Horrell, Sherry Winkelmann, Rhonda Schaefer, Susie Harms, Marcy Watters, Zac Carnahan, Ashlynn Crafton; *Family/Friends of St. John’s Members:* Susan Sochowski, Ava Kern, Jim Arrington, Gary Hollmann, Rose Schneider, Delores Stirnaman, Irene Stamm. *Help us keep this list current!*

MILITARY: (*Please call with names.*) Army- Casey Vallett, Tanner Valleroy, Brandon Voss, Adrienne Vallett, Easton Lucht, Ethan Summers, Tim Healy, Jacob Adams, Donald Roberts, Matthew Kraus, Paul Craft, Jr., Austin Scheibe, Trevor Buckner, Jessica DeMarco, Benjamin Boeder, Christopher Dupertius, Garrett Carnahan, Tyler Wahlman, Gavin Roche-Voss; Navy- Carl Muehler; Air Force- Gage Baldwin, Jason Nehrt, Curt Hatten, Terry Koester, David Livingston, Matt Sabo, Ryan Kozarich; Marines- Alex Renner, Cody Koch, Josh Butterworth, Keenan Turnure, Austin Grohmann; National Guard: Jeremiah Brandt

EMERGENCY PERSONNEL: Fire/EMS- Jerre Atchison, Tom Beshoar, Kevin Biffar, Breanna Bingel, Savannah Cowell, Chad Crafton, Steven Falkenhain, Chad Grohmann, Curt Guebert, Jason Guebert, Scot Heller, Blake Koppel, Chad Langrehr, Matt Liefer, Kevin Miller, Alan Piel, Jason Rippelmeyer, Brad Stechmesser, John Valentine, Mike VanDorn, Tanner Winkelman; Police- Abigail Browne, Ralph Sievers, Chris Hewitt, Nick Mounts, Jason Palm, Doug Brennan, Jason Roscow, Aaron Runge.

THE OFFERTORY: (*LSB 375*)

**Oh, the joy be-yond ex-press-ing When by faith we grasp this bless-ing,
 And to You we come con-fess-ing That Your love has set us free.
 Gra-cious Child, we pray, O hear us, From Your low-ly man-ger cheer us,
 Gent-ly lead us and be near us Till we join Your choir a-bove.**

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE PREFACE:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts in praise to God.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is good, right, and proper that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord God, Almighty Father, especially that You humbled Yourself and took up

our human nature in Your only Son, through whom You created the universe and who is the Light of the world and at whose cradle we bow and worship; therefore with the Christmas angels and all Your people we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

THE SANCTUS: *(sung to the tune of “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”)*

**Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord! God of hosts by all a-dored!
Heav’n and earth can-not con-tain all the glo-ry of Your name!
Hail, ho-san-na, God most high! Blest is He who now draws nigh
In the name of God the King! Hal-le-lu-jahs glad we sing:
Hail, ho-san-na! Prais-es due, be for-ev-er, Lord, to You!**

P: Assembled now in Your name, Lord Jesus, and in the fellowship of all who worship You as King of the Ages and the Light of life, we join together in prayer as You have taught us:

**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 WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

P: ...The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

THE AGNUS DEI: *(sung to tune of “O Little Town of Bethlehem”)*

**O Lamb of God who takes a-way the sin of all the world,
Up-on us all have mer-cy, too, ac-cord-ing to Your word.
O Lamb of God, may e-ver our love for You in-crease,
and may You grant to us a-gain the pro-mise of Your peace.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: *(please be seated)*

392 “God Loves Me Dearly”



1	God	loves	me	dear	-	ly,	Grants	me	sal	-
2	I	was	in	slav	-	'ry,	Sin,	death,	and	
3	He	sent	forth	Je	-	sus,	My	dear	Re	-
4	Je	-	sus,	my	Sav	-	ior,	Him	-	self
5	Now	I	will	praise		You,	O	Love	E	-

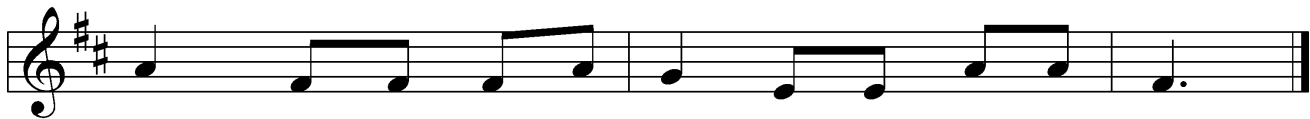


va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.
 dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.
 deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.
 of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.
 ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.

Refrain



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

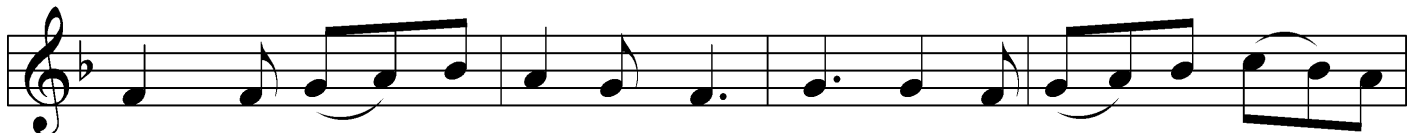
377 "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris - tians sing To hear the news the
 2 Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since our Re - deem - er
 3 When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then life and health come
 4 All out of dark-ness we have light, Which made the an - gels



an - gels bring, On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing To
 made us glad, Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since
 in its place, When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then
 sing this night, All out of dark - ness we have light, Which



hear the news the an - gels bring, News of great joy, news of great
 our Re - deem - er made us glad, When from our sin He set us
 life and health come in its place; An - gels and men with joy may
 made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to God and peace to



mirth, News of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.
 free, All for to gain our lib - er - ty?
 sing, All for to see the new - born King.
 men Now and for - ev - er - more. A - men."

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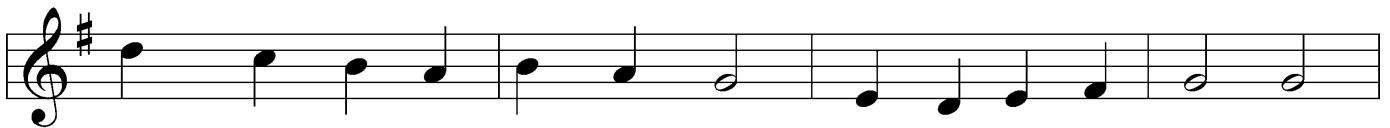
374 "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"



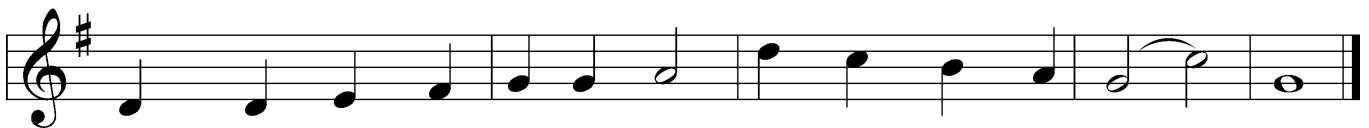
1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
 2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
 Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
 He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
 Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
 Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
 All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
 Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

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366 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"



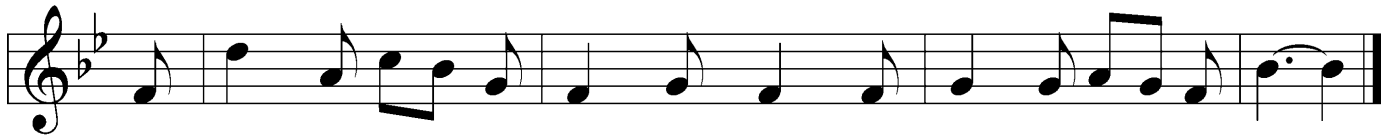
1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo - rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un - furled,
 3 All you, be-neath your heav - y load, By care and guilt bent low,
 4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
 And still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world.
 Who toil a - long a drea - ry way With pain - ful steps and slow:
 When down in - to the cir - cling years Came Christ as was fore - told.



"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
 A - bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov - 'ring wing,
 Look up, for gold - en is the hour, Come swift - ly on the wing,
 His word of peace shall to the earth God's an - cient prom-ise bring,



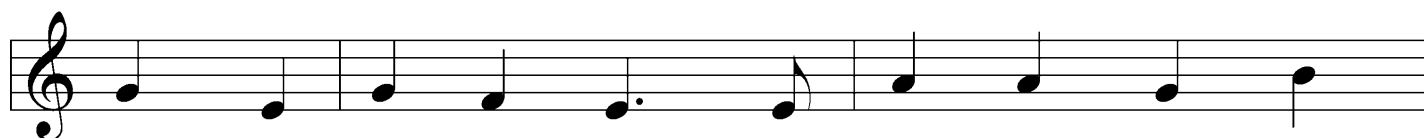
The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.
 And ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.
 The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an - gels sing.
 And all who take this gift will hear The song the an - gels sing.

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358 "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
 2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
 3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your
 4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by
 5 "These are the signs that you shall mark: The swad - dling



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of
 sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your
 God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,
 clothes and man - ger dark. There you will find the



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
 low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
 Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.
 bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.
 in - fant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

- 6 How glad we'll be to find it so! Then with the shepherds let us go
 To see what God for us has done In sending us His own dear Son.
- 7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, And see what in the manger lies.
 Who is this child, so young and fair? It is the Christ Child lying there.
- 8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, Through whom the sinful world is blest!
 You came to share my misery That You might share Your joy with me.
- 9 Ah, Lord, though You created all, How weak You are, so poor and small,
 That You should choose to lay Your head Where lowly cattle lately fed!
- 10 Were earth a thousand times as fair And set with gold and jewels rare,
 It would be far too poor and small A cradle for the Lord of all.
- 11 Instead of soft and silken stuff You have but hay and straw so rough
 On which as King, so rich and great, To be enthroned in royal state.
- 12 And so it pleases You to see This simple truth revealed to me:
 That worldly honor, wealth, and might Are weak and worthless in Your sight.

- 13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart For You to dwell within my heart.
- 14 My heart for very joy must leap; My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradlesong:
- 15 Glory to God in highest heav'n, Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

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THE THANKSGIVING: *(please stand if you are able)*

(tune: "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen")

**Oh, thank the Lord and sing His praise, What He has done pro-claim!
Let all who seek the Lord re-joice And proud-ly bear His name
Who leads His thank-ful people forth His pro-mis-es to claim
O, tid-ings of com-fort and joy, com-fort and joy, O, tid-ings of com-fort and joy.**

**Lord, let Your ser-vant go in peace, Your word has been ful-filled.
My eyes have seen the sav-ing work Which for the world You willed:
The glo-ry of Your chos-en race As Light for all re-vealed.
O, tid-ings of com-fort and joy, com-fort and joy, O, tid-ings of com-fort and joy.**

**O, praise to God the Fa-ther, And praise to God the Son,
And praise to God the Spir-it, Most bless-ed Three in One,
As was, is now, and e'er shall be While end-less a-ges run!
O, tid-ings of com-fort and joy, com-fort and joy, O, tid-ings of com-fort and joy.**

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(9 p.m.) SERVICE OF CANDLES *(remain standing as the church darkens)*

(Pastor lights his candle from the white Christ candle on the Advent wreath because Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. This light is then passed on to the ushers in the center aisle who then share it with the first worshippers in each pew. Please pass the light on to those next to you. Tip only the unlit candle when sharing the light!) **Page 5**

Pastor: Our God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all. Arise, shine for your light has come! The glory of the Lord has risen upon you! People of all nations of the world shall come to this light. Jesus says, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life. You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." If we walk in that light,

we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus, God's Son, purifies us from all our sins.

ALL: 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 Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(After the closing hymn is over please extinguish your candles. Return them to an usher. When the lights come on you may exit in hope and joy.)

(3, 5 and 9 p.m.) THE BENEDICTION:

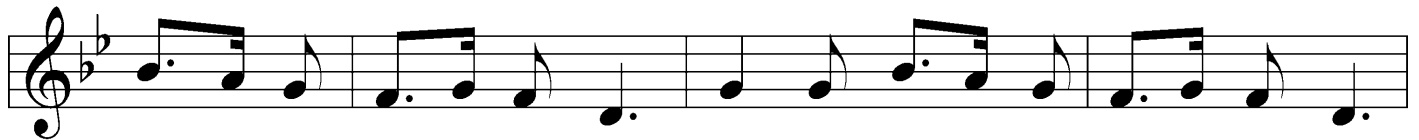
P: May the good Lord bless and keep, cause His face on you to shine,
Look on you with favor deep, granting you His peace divine.

C: Glory to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit! The Savior close beside us; God's love from harm to hide us; the Spirit's power to guide us forevermore!

THE CLOSING HYMN: 363 "Silent Night"



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant



vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In-fant, so ten-der and mild,
stream from heav-en a - far, Heav'n-ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
beams from Thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re-deem - ing grace,



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

THE POSTLUDE: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" *arranged by David Cherwien*

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A MERRY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL OF YOU
from Pastor Mark, Cindy, and the Nebel family, and
from Pastor Brian, Heather and the Nowak family!

REMAINING SPECIAL HOLIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday, December 31, 5 p.m., New Year's Eve Holy Communion Service
Sunday, January 1, 2023, 10:30 a.m., First Sunday After Christmas Holy Communion Service
(no early service or Sunday School; Adult Bible Class will be at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall)

This Week With Our Lord, December 18-25, 2022

Tuesday, December 27-

1:30 p.m. Holy Communion Service at Red Bud Garden Place

Wednesday, December 28- Noon Office Staff meeting

Saturday, December 31-

5:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Holy Communion Service; Acolyte: Brian Liefer

Sunday, January 1, 2023- *No early service or Sunday School*

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion; Acolyte: Colin Korando

FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL:

To have flowers in worship please call the office at 282-2394 to notify the committee and to have proper thanks in the bulletin of those donating.

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL LAST WEEK:

Worship: 297; Communion: 152; Adults: 33; Youth/Sunday School: 28

Grades 6-8 Christmas Service: AM- 215; PM- 215

And let us consider how to stir one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Heb. 10:24-25)

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS: LCMS Stewardship Resources

John 1:5 – “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” Through all of our hardships, all of our sorrows, all of our pains and loneliness, Jesus’ light shines in the darkness, and we are not overcome. In the face of our sin, in the midst of our pettiness, against all our pride, Jesus’ light shines and illuminates our hearts and changes us, day by day, into a greater reflection of His likeness.

WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN, WHATE’ER THE GIFT MAY BE:

We join together in the grace of giving. 12/18- General: \$26,085.79; School: \$365; Debt: \$16,097.16. *Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2nd Corinthians 9:7)*

AMAZON SMILE DONATION:

St. John's Lutheran Church and School has been issued a \$216.13 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between July 1 and September 30, 2022. Thank you!

OFFERINGS PRESENTED:

Our worship offerings still will be gathered in the plates by the sanctuary doors. An usher will bring those plates forward during the Offertory to be placed on the altar. If you forgot to place your offering in a plate before worship as you entered the sanctuary, you can do so as you leave the sanctuary after worship.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL:

Sunday ABC will not meet this Sunday but will resume next Sunday, January 1st with a focus on Paul’s letter to Philemon in the New Testament from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall with refreshments provided.

PORTALS OF PRAYER:

The next quarter's issue of *Portals of Prayer*, our daily devotional booklet, is available in the racks by the church's front door. Sonshine Visitation members, please take a copy for those whom you visit.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2023:

Boxes of offering envelopes for 2023 are on the tables in the Fellowship Hall. If you do not find one for yourself and would like to have one, please contact Leslie in our church office at 282-2394. Thank you!

WEEKDAY BIBLE CLASSES IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL:

Wednesday Women meet at 9:30 a.m. Both Wednesday evening and Thursday morning classes now are on a break until the first week of January. Men's Bible Breakfast next meets on Saturday, January 7 to study "Proverbs: Ancient Wisdom for Modern Living."

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, As you know, the work of the church cannot be accomplished by just a few individuals. It takes the efforts and talents of all of God's people to carry out His mission. That's why we are in need of dedicated volunteers to serve as officers in our church. Whether it's serving as an Elder, Trustee, Treasurer or member of the Board of Parish Education, these roles are vital in helping to lead and serve our congregation. If you have been asked to serve, or feel called to serve, please prayerfully consider offering your time and talents to the Lord in this way. "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms" (1st Peter 4:10). Thank you for your prayers and consideration. May God bless you as you seek His will for your life. *Eric Fritsche, Board of Elders*

SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION PROJECT THIS YEAR:

Our international mission project is Bible Books for Families in Ukraine through Lutheran Heritage Foundation. Only \$5 provides a Ukrainian family with a Bible storybook, Small Catechism, or other Bible resource in their language! To support this project, please direct your offering to the attention of the Sunday School.

UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES:

*Sat. Dec. 31 *5 p.m. New Year's Eve Holy Communion*

*Sun. Jan. 1 *10:30 a.m. New Year's Day Communion (no Sunday School)*

*Thu. Jan. 5 *3 p.m. Epiphany Eve Holy Communion*

CHRISTIAN MUSIC CDs AVAILABLE:

+Joan Voges offers us music CDs from her Lilyfields Collection for a donation to our school ministry. Copies are on a table in the Fellowship Hall.

+Former St. John's member Bryan Perdue has CD music available on the table in the Fellowship Hall for a \$10 donation to St. John's debt reduction.

MEN'S CLUB GIFTS:

Our recent Wurstmarkt was just short of \$5300 in profits. This will be distributed between St. John's Senior Youth for their help and our congregation for our use of the facility. We also are supporting the ministry of KFUEO radio, Lutheran Hour Ministries, Lutheran Bible

Translators and the Concordia Seminary Food Bank. Thank you for your help in our support of these ministries.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Red Bud High School senior and St. John's member and day school alumnus Mitchell Fleming has been named an Illinois State Scholar. St. John's school alumna Anna Wolter also has been named an Illinois State Scholar.

FINANCIAL NEED FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT:

St. John's member and Red Bud High School senior Ashlynn Crafton has been diagnosed with leukemia. We can provide some financial assistance for her treatments at her GoFundMe account <https://gofund.me/3579ba87> or at an account set up with Buena Vista National Bank Account #272745. Thank you for considering how you can help during this difficult time.

THE WINTER ISSUE of *LifeDate* from Lutherans for Life is on the tables in the entryway for you to take with you.

CUSTODIAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED:

+St. John's Lutheran Daycare is in search of an individual to do daily cleaning and small maintenance tasks at the center. This is a part time position and hours are flexible. For more information please call Amanda at 618-282-3873 or by email at amandaf@stjohnsredbud.org

+A part-time paid position is available in our church custodian rotation for about 8 - 12 hours every 2 weeks. We need someone for Saturday evening service ONLY and/or Sunday morning services. Trained provided. This involves the opening and closing of the building for worship, lighting, setting temperatures, ringing the bell, and light cleaning. See John Preston or Pastor.

+Our school seeks a maintenance/janitorial aid/substitute to work with our two custodians on days when school is not in session to work larger projects as well as day-to-day cleaning and also to work as-needed when the other custodians are on vacation. Please inquire by calling the school office or stopping by Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. We look forward to working with you!

ATTENTION COFFEE DRINKERS:

We are in Community Coffee's program, "Cash for Schools." By clipping the proof of purchase off packages of ground coffee and/or K cups our school earns rewards. You can drop off proof of purchases at the school office. Thank you for participating in this program to benefit our school!

LIFE THOUGHTS: (from *Lutherans for Life*) www.lutheransforlife.org

The Lord bared His holy arm (Isaiah 52:10) not just by appearing in the form of a full-grown man. The Word became flesh (John 1:14) first as an embryo and a fetus. The clearest revelation of God's glory (Hebrews 1:2-3) also designates every human life precious, no matter what age, appearance, or ability. We can no more keep quiet about the sanctity of life than we can leave out Christmas or Jesus from the Gospel!

SENIOR YOUTH FUNDRAISER:

Our Senior Youth is selling greeting cards (all occasions) for \$1. Cards are on display in the Fellowship Hall. A money box for payment (honor system) is next to the card display. We also have full boxes of greeting cards for sale. They cost \$30 for 30 cards and come with a lovely storage box.

THE PRAYER CHAIN:

Vickie Heller is our Prayer Chain Coordinator. To serve in the Prayer Chain or if you have a prayer request, please contact her at dvheller@htc.net or 618/521-7417. Call our office to add someone to our worship prayers. *Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective* (James 5:16).

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF FAITH AT:

Red Bud Care Center: Alice Smith, Jody Winkelmann; Ruma R&R: Fern Schnepel; Waterloo Magnolia Terrace: June Lawrence and Jean Menke; Bria-Columbia: David Burgdorf; Randolph County Nursing Home: Donald Kueker

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF FAITH AT GARDEN PLACE:

Kathryn Chunn, Elaine Guebert, Margaret Hanebutt, Dorothy Heizer, Omer/Neva Liefer, Vernon Muench, Lorine Reinhardt, Paul Schrieber, Arlin/Helen Winkelman, Carl/Flo Zschiegner

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF FAITH CONFINED IN-HOME:

Wil Guebert, Don/Betty Fausz, Nancy Holmstrom, Kenneth/Geri Koester, Joyce Lopez, Ed Luttmann, Edna Moeller, Viola Muench, Harold Thies

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!:

12/25- Wayne Mesnarich, Ken Ruwald, Laura DuFrenne; 12/26- Michael VanDorn; Christina Gidley; 12/27- Rick Liefer, Lynn Langrehr, Louis Stellhorn, Angela Cartee, Andrea Liefer, Bailey Montroy, Archer Mehring; 12/28- Brenda vanBuren, Linda Koester, Addison Dilley, Bently Valentine; 12/29- Kevin Miller; 12/30- Edward Wagner, Erin Cowell, Traci Proctor, Jordan Buch, Blake Uffelmann, Taylor Dilley, Addison Schaefer; 12/31- Reese Foster, Emma Guebert. *Please call with corrections!*

KFUO AM 850 LUTHERAN RADIO:

KFUO Radio AM850 & **kfu.org**, a media ministry of LCMS congregations, shares Christ for you on AM850 & **kfu.org** via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. You can find programs on demand at **kfu.org** and wherever you get podcasts! Find us on social media @KFUO.org, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Merry Christmas! Enjoy the Twelve Days of Christmas through January 8 and hear special Christmas programming during this time. Regular programming resumes January 9!

PARISH NURSE NOTE: from LCMS *Better Health*

When We Have a Cold- Don't forget to hydrate! Liquids that are thin and clear, water, tea and broth-based soups, shorten the duration and severity of a cold. They help to thin the mucus in your body making it easier for your body to clear the mucus from your airways and sinuses.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS: *from Lutheran Bible Translators*

Readings for the year are on the tables in the entryway. December 25- Matthew 1:1-17; December 26- Matthew 2:18-25; December 27- Matthew 2:1-12; December 28- Matthew 2:13-23; December 29- Luke 1:1-25; December 30- Luke 1:26-38; December 31- Luke 1:39-56.

LCMS FOUNDATION:

Today we celebrate God's great gift of His Son Jesus, born for us. Celebration is wonderful. What if you could plan a scenario for the celebration of your use of God's gifts when He calls you home to be with those same angels who celebrated on Christmas night in the skies of Bethlehem. Your intentional gift plan in your estate could generate that celebration. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you get started. Contact Scott Radden, Gift Planning Counselor at (618) 977-4049 or Scott.Radden@lfnd.org.

FOUND: One Ford car key in front of church before early service on Nov. 13.

CHRIST OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL- 618/853-7300

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thank you for supporting the ministry of *Christ Our Savior* in 2022. We are looking forward to a joy-filled and blessed ministry to families with you in 2023.

22nd Annual Trivia Night: Join us for this year's "Decades" Trivia Night & Silent Auction on January 20 at 7:00 p.m. in our gym. Adults \$15 ea., 5th-8th grade students \$6 ea., and 9th-12th grade \$10 ea. with a limit of eight people to a table. Reserve your table by calling 618-853-7300 or by using this form: <https://bit.ly/COSTrivia2023>. Table proceeds from the evening will support Prom and Post-Prom at COS. The silent auction will benefit the next Mission Trip. A new student club for girls, "S.L.A.Y." will be having a bake sale to raise funds for their club.

School Hours: Office hours December 19-30 are Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. The office will be closed Dec. 23, 26, and Jan. 2. School resumes Jan. 3, 2023.

Registration for Second Semester 2022-2023 is open! If you have a student or know someone who is high school age, encourage them to consider Christ Our Savior Lutheran High School. Call 853-7300 to schedule a private tour. Registration for 2023-2024 will start in January. Learn more and download a registration form from our website, www.coslhs.org.

The mission of Christ Our Savior Lutheran High School is to provide a Christ-centered and academically excellent education.

St. John's Lutheran Church – LCMS 508 Bloom Street, Red Bud, Illinois

Church Office & School: 808 S Main Street 618/282-3873 Fax 618/282-4087

E-mail: office@stjohnsredbud.org Web address: www.stjohnsredbud.org

Senior Pastor Mark Nebel 618/237-5802 or home 618/282-3050

Associate Pastor Brian Nowak 708/369-7741

Principal – Mr. Justin Palm 618/214-1103

Director of Parish Music – Mrs. Lindsey Hudak 618/340-6055

Director of Christian Education/School Librarian–Mr. Bill Becker 618/282-2958

Secretaries – Mrs. Leslie Froemling and Mrs. Sara Shepherd
Senior Youth – Kirk and Stephanie Liefer 618/967-0804
Matthew Foster, Principal, Christ Our Savior Lutheran High, 618/853-7300

Faculty and Staff

Preschool – Cindy Steele Kindergarten – Betty Schmitz
Aides: Nola Jean Vallett, Shawn DeRousse, and Elizabeth Schaefer
First Grade – Rachel Miller Second Grade – Rebekah Liefer
Third Grade and Junior Youth – Stephanie Valleroy
Fourth Grade and Before/After School Care – Cindy Nebel
Fifth Grade – Amanda Ruhmann Resource Teacher – Judy Stephens
Sixth Grade Homeroom (6th-8th) – Doreen Schnepel
Seventh Grade Homeroom (6th-8th) – Nancy Whelan
Eighth Grade Homeroom: Bill Becker Athletic Director – Scott Voss
School Custodians – Wil Krick and Bob Schramm
Cooks – Jill Gross and Marilyn Oettle

Day Care

Amanda Falkenhain, Director; Kellie Shields, Assistant Director; Lisa Quinn, Megan Diercks, Amy Williams, Nicole Kadlec, Christy Deterding, Patty Brewer, Kristi Martel, Courtney Schoenbeck, Brittney Eichholz, Madison Shields, Brooke Supancic, Pam Henry, Eileen Seibold, Melissa Schilling, Kaleigh Johnston, Kaitlin Schmitz, Haley Ehler, Hailey Guebert, Courtney Schaefer, Brittany Smith, Callen Reitz, Kailyn Moeller, Kendall Williams, Madison Falkenhain, Ashlynn Crafton, and Geraldine Thompson

Church Council

Chairman: Kevin Liefer Vice-Chairman: Michael DeRousse
Secretary: Joan Ruwald Treasurer: Ray Wagner Board of Finance: Jill Gross
Elder Chair: Eric Fritsche Parish Education Chair: Karen Liefer
Trustee Chair: John Preston Estate Fund Chair: Brian Guebert
Lutheran High School Board: Kathy Valleroy and Rebekah Liefer

Also Serving Us in Worship Today

Video: Eric Fritsche/Justin Palm Communion Cloths: JoAnn Yarbrough
Flower Servers: Alverda Rahn and Jacquie Roy Paraments: Virginia Moeller