December 28/29, 2024

First Sunday of Christmas

Lessons and Carols



*Christ Lutheran Church*

**“A Place Where You are Always Welcome”**

**Services: Saturday 5:30 pm and Sunday 10:00 am Sunday School: 9:00 am**

600 North Main Street, Stockton, IL   61085 Office:  815-947-2033

Email: christlutheranchurch70@gmail.com http://www.christlutheranstockton.com

Ministers: ALL members of the congregation

 ***Pastor: Rev. Chrissy Salser*** ***chrissytherev@att.net*** ***815-988-9450***

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***WELCOME:*** *Thank you for joining us for worship today. We are glad you are with us. Communion will be served in the aisle or in your pew. All are welcome to share at this meal. Jesus is our host and invites everyone. Those who would like to come forward, bread and wine will also be available in the front. When directed by the usher, come forward down the center aisle, Pr Chrissy will give you bread (she will be masked and wearing cloves) and then you will take a cup of wine (grape juice) from the tray. After taking communion you will return to your seat by the side aisle.* *For those who are unable to come forward, communion elements can be found as you entered worship. At that part of the service, you are invited to take the bread and wine (or grape juice) when Pr. Chrissy leads. On Saturdays offering is collected as you enter or leave worship. On Sunday we will pass the plate as a response to God’s grace. Online giving is available. Please see QR code on back of bulletin or visit our website.*

***INTRODUCTION***The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon’s song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God’s salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

**Gathering:** *The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**DIALOGUE**

P: Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

**C: By day and night he shines for all to see.**

P: Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

**C: that the world may see the justice and richness of God.**

P: God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

**C: so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.**

P: Jesus is the light of the world.

**C: Jesus is the light of our lives.**

P: Sing to God a new song!

**C: A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.**

**GATHERING HYMN: Joy to the World ELW #267**

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**OPENING PRAYER:**

P. The Lord be with you.

**C. And also with you.**

P. Let us pray. **C. Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness— a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life.**

**Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts. Amen.**

***WORD:*** *God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

### A reading from Genesis:  1In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, 2the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. 3Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. 5God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.14And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, 15and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. 16God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. 17God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, 18to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

 Word of the Lord. **C.**  **Thanks be to God.**

**I Wonder as I Wander WOV #642 vs 1-3**

1. I wonder as I wander out under the sky

 How jesus, the savior, had come for to die
For poor on'ry people, like you and like I.

I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

1. When mary birthed jesus, t'was in a cow's stall
With wisemen and farmers and shepherds and all,
But high in god's heaven a star's light did fall,

 And the promise of ages, it then did recall.

1. If jesus had wanted for any wee thing

 A star in the sky or a bird on the wing
Or all of god's angels in heaven for to sing

He surely could have it, for he was the king!

**SECOND READING: Micah 5:2-5a**

A reading from Micah:  2 But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah,  from you shall come forth for me  one who is to rule in Israel,  whose origin is from of old,  from ancient days.  3Therefore he shall give them up until the time  when she who is in labor has brought forth;  then the rest of his kindred shall return  to the people of Israel.
 4And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  to the ends of the earth;  5and he shall be the one of peace.  If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil,  we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

The word of the Lord **C.**  **Thanks be to God.**

**O Little Town of Bethlehem ELW #279 vs 1 &4**

**1 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.**

**4 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!**

**THIRD READING: Luke 1:26-35, 38**

A Reading from Luke:  26In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.

33He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 38Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

 Word of the Lord. **C.**  **Thanks be to God.**

**Lo, how a Rose E’er Blooming ELW #272 vs 1 &4**

**1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming**

 **from tender stem hath sprung!**

 **Of Jesse's lineage coming**

 **as seers of old have sung,**

 **it came, a flow'r so bright,**

 **amid the cold of winter,**

 **when half-spent was the night.**

**4 O Savior, child of Mary,**

 **who felt our human woe;**

 **O Savior, king of glory,**

 **who dost our weakness know:**

 **bring us at length, we pray,**

 **to the bright courts of heaven**

 **and into endless day.**

**FOURTH READING: Matthew 1:18-25**

A Reading according to the gospel of Matthew: 18Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

20But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:  23"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." 24When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, 25but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus. Word of the Lord. **C.**  **Thanks be to God.**

 **Go Tell It on The Mountain ELW #290**

*Refrain*

 Go tell it on the mountain,

 over the hills and ev'rywhere;

 go tell it on the mountain

 that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching

 o'er silent flocks by night,

 behold, throughout the heavens

 there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

2 The shepherds feared and trembled

 when, lo, above the earth

 rang out the angel chorus

 that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

3 Down in a lonely manger

 the humble Christ was born;

 and God sent us salvation

 that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

**FIFTH READING: Luke 2:8-20**

A Reading from the gospel of Luke: 8In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,  14"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"
15When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." 16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

 Word of the Lord. **C.**  **Thanks be to God.**

**Angels, from the Realms of Glory ELW #275 v 1 & 2**

**1Angels, from the realms of glory,**

**wing your flight o'er all the earth;**

**once you sang creation's story,**

**now proclaim Messiah's birth:**

**Come and worship, come and worship,**

**worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,**

**watching o'er your flocks by night,**

**God with us is now residing,**

**yonder shines the infant light.**

**Come and worship, come and worship,**

**worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**SIXTH READING: Matthew 2:1-11**

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew: 1In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." 3When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:
 6'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  for from you shall come a ruler  who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"
7Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." 9When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

 Word of the Lord. **C.**  **Thanks be to God.**

**In the Bleak Midwinter ELW #294 vs 1 & 3**

**1 In the bleak midwinter,**

 **frosty wind made moan,**

 **earth stood hard as iron,**

 **water like a stone;**

 **snow had fallen, snow on snow,**

 **snow on snow,**

 **in the bleak midwinter,**

 **long ago.**

**3 What can I give him,**

 **poor as I am?**

 **If I were a shepherd**

 **I would bring a lamb;**

 **if I were a wise man**

 **I would do my part;**

 **yet what I can I give him—**

 **give my heart.**

**SEVENTH READING: John 1:1-14**

A reading from the Gospel of John: 1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.
10He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.
14And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

 Word of the Lord. **C.**  **Thanks be to God.**

**Love Has Come ELW #292**

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**RESPONSIVE PRAYER:**

P. It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

**C. Your Word, Jesus, is truth.**

P. In his light, draw all to the manger

**C. to gather in wonder with the shepherds.**

P. In his light, draw all to the manger

**C. to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.**

P. In his light, draw all to the manger

**C. to sing for joy with the angels.**

P. In the brightness of his life

**C. cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.**

P. It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

**C. In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.**

**OFFERING:** *Our offering is a significant act of worship; we worship God through our giving. The ministry of this congregation is completely dependent upon your partnership and generosity. Offering is collected as you enter worship on Saturday. We will pass the offering plate on Sundays. Online giving is available.*

**Offering SONG    Angels We Have Heard On High**        **ELW #289**

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**OFFERING PRAYER:**

P. Let us pray together: God of abundance**,**

**C. receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

**COMMUNION LITURGY:**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all the drink, saying: this cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**THE LORD’S PRAYER:**

*Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.*

***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***

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION:**

Jesus God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

*Please come down the center aisle, take the bread, then receive a cup (wine is dark, juice is light, return to your seats via side aisle.) Those who prefer to take communion in your pews, we will take all together after all is served.*

**DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

P: This is the body of Christ given for you. *(All take bread).*

P: This is the blood of Christ shed for you. *(All take the wine).*

**COMMUNION HYMN It Came Upon Midnight Clear ELW 282 (Next page)**

🕇**TABLE BLESSING:**

P. May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C. Amen.**

🕇**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:**

P: Generous God, **C: we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation.**

**We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.**



**BLESSING:**

P. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

**C. Praise God, all creatures here below!**

P. You are the shepherds telling the story.

**C. We tell it in the streets and across the land.**

P. You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

**C. We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.**

P. You are the angels announcing peace.

**C. We live with joy and go now in peace.**

P. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C. Amen.**

**SENDING SONG    Good Christian Friends Rejoice**        **ELW #288**

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**DISMISSAL**

P: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**IN OUR PRAYERS TODAY**: Darlene and Walt Steffes, Bob Schreck, Delores Wampfler, Marge Arnold, Verla Rhyner, Elaine Schlichting, Aleta Lawfer, Steve Wulff, Karli Weltzin, James Dieter, Christine Happ, Kay Hesselbacher, Mary Lou Bunker, Russ and Kathy Snyder, Judy Wilson, Lilian Seffrood, Frank “Babe” Tipton, Mike (Spike) Magee, Emilee Wolf Schiling  ***To add someone to the prayer list please contact Pastor Chrissy***

**Celebrating birthdays/anniversaries this week:** Ty Harmston, Kay Schlichting, Trent Jones, Julia Casper, Justina Hermann, Darcie Raab, Laura Wilkinson, Cleland Dittmar, Norm Groezinger, and Adriana Curtiss and Don & Judy Brudi

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| Thanks be to God for your gifts for the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church \***these numbers do not reflect online giving- only offering in worship** | Offering/ Attendance **December 21/22** |
| Current Expense  | $3,332.00 | Building Fund | $30.00 | Dec 21  | **24** |
| Benevolence  | $35.00 | Sunday School  | $814.15 | Dec 22 | **124** |
| **Christmas Eve** | $10.00 | **Total**  | $4,221.15 | Sunday School | **33**  |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Current Expense  | $1,320.00 | Christmas  | $40.00 | Dec 24  | **135** |
| Christmas Eve | $1, 265.00 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **Total**  | $2,625.00 |  |  |

**November Totals**:As a way to improve communication around finances, we are sharing the following information: **\*these numbers reflect online giving contribution**

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| **2024** |
|  | **November** | **Year to date** |
| Offerings: | ***$7,265***  | **$88,797**  |
| Expenses: | ***$8,986***  | **$100,484**  |
| ***Overall  Gain / Loss*** | ***($1,721)*** | ***($11,687)*** |

**ONLINE GIVING:**  Your gift has a big impact on our ministries and those we serve. Scan this code or visit our website to give online today.

**POINSETTA UPDATE:** A few poinsettia’s were missed. We are sorry. Here is the addition:

* **Given by Patsy Holland in memory of Ralph & Phyllis Appel**
* **Given by Susan Heller and Amanda Stocks in honor of Loved ones**
* **Given by Don & Judy Brudi in honor of their 62nd Wedding Anniversary on Dec 29**

**HOW WILL YOU SERVE IN WORSHIP:** We need you!!!! to light the candles, read scripture, usher, prepare communion, set up coffee, run Facebook live, help make the space inviting. [Sign](https://signup.com/go/ocWaRzh) up in the back of the church on the clip board. Sign up for one service or many. Questions ask Pastor Chrissy or someone on the worship team.

**AMAZON WISH LIST:** did you know that everyday items used at the church are items you could contribute? The amazon wish list has items like hand soap , trash bags and paper used for bulletins and many others. Find our list here or on our facebook page. Thank you! <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/TWP5U0RAGGAY?ref_=wl_share>

**SURVEY:** a survey will be conducted to obtain a clearer understanding of our membership’s perception of the performance of Christ Lutheran past and present as well as areas where improvements are needed. Copies will be available 11/30 and need to be brought back 12/29. Please leave completed forms in blue envelope in the back of the worship space .

**ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS:** Please have your committee reports into the Church Secretary by Sunday, January 5, 2025. You may email them to christlutheranchurch70@gmail.com or put them in the Secretary door mailbox.

**WELCA BIBLE STUDY**- This year we will be studying the book “Women of the Old Testament” Each month we will encounter and learn about different women of the Old Testament. No prep required. Come as you are to explore scripture together. Groups will meet on the second Wednesday at 1 pm, at the church or the second Thursday at 9 am, at a member’s house or church. All women are welcome to join us for bible study and time of fellowship.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Did you know that our Sunday school has more then one class. The kids start in the sanctuary and then move to the nursery, while the adult class meets in the “**Upper room”** (room outside the office). We study the scripture text for Sunday mornings. Come and See!

**BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER:** On Saturday, January 18 at 9 am join us as we come together and share a meal together. We will meet this month at Stella’s. We will join together once a month for a chance of fellowship with others from Christ. We are hoping to bring everyone from both Saturday night and Sunday morning to share in a meal and fellowship together. Watch the bulletin for date and location. All are welcome.

**BIBLE STUDY:** join us on Wednesday mornings at 9am, we will meet in the narthex weekly to study the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday. Come for a chance to explore the Word together and pray over those on our prayer list. This will meet every Wednesday unless otherwise noted. Please contact Pr Chrissy if you have any question.

**Upcoming Events**

* December 28 - 5:30 pm Worship
* December 29 - 9:00 am **NO Sunday School**
* December 29 – 10am Worship
* December 30- 2 pm WELCA bible study prep with Pastor Chrissy
* January 4 - 5:30 Saturday Christmas Worship
* January 5 - 9am Sunday School (All ages)
* January 5 - 10 am Christmas Worship
* January 8- 9 am Bible Study
* January 8- 1pm Naomi WELCA Church at church
* January 9- 9 am Rebecca WELCA Circle at Church
* January 11 – 5:30 Epiphany Worship
* January 12- 9 am Sunday School (all ages)
* January 12- 10 am Epiphany Worship
* January 12- 11:30-1:30 Confirmation Class
* January 19 - 11 am Annual Congregational Meeting
* January 26- 11:30-1:30 Confirmation Class