

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

4200 Londonderry Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109 652-6700

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MINISTERS: Every Member

PASTOR: The Rev. James E. Person, 717-712-8191

Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve

December 24, 2021

Please silence all electronic devices.

Please wear masks at all times while indoors.

WELCOME! Please observe Silent Meditation during the Prelude.

PERSONAL HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES ARE NOW AVAILABLE. Please see an usher if you have trouble hearing the service.

INTRODUCTION

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*
(CD only no singing)

Sit **HYMN #283** *O, Come, All Ye Faithful vs 1 only Sing*

**C O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:**

Refrain

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!**

Stand **CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who shines in glory, clothes us in compassion, and bears gifts of mercy for all.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sins with confidence in God's promise of forgiveness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God, wonderful counselor,

C we confess that we have turned from your gifts and chosen our own way. We have not made room for

you in our hearts or in our world. We have lived in fear; we have not welcomed the stranger; we desire gifts that will not endure. Forgive us our sins, known and unknown, and open us to receive the peace of Jesus dwelling in and among us. Amen.

P God's lovingkindness has appeared to us in Christ our Savior. We are saved, not by anything we have done, but by God's mercy poured out on us richly. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Through the Spirit living in you, God give you faith to trust Jesus, who is Love born for you, now and always.

C **Amen.**

GREETING

P Today Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

Spoken **HYMN OF PRAISE Hymn #289** Vs 1 & 3

Angels We Have Heard on High

C **Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.**

Refrain

**Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.**

Refrain

**Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY - Let us pray . . .

A 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 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

sit FIRST LESSON- Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

- ²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
- ³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
- ⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors

and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us,

a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders;

and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,

and there shall be endless peace

for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it

with justice and with righteousness

from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSON- Titus 2:11-14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to

all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions,

and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled,

upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and

the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior,

Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might

redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of

his own who are zealous for good deeds.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand **Candle Lighting**

HYMN #281 *Silent Night* VS 1—3 *Sing*

vs 1 C Silent night, holy night!

**All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.**

vs 2 Silent night, holy night!

**Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

vs 3 Silent night, holy night!

**Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

The Holy Gospel according to St Luke the 2nd Chapter

C Glory to you O Lord

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

¶In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ¶This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of

Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

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!"

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

sit **HYMN #279** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* vs 1 & 4 Sing

vs 1 C **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.

vs 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!

Stand APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

A Merciful God.

C **Receive our prayer.**

A Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C **Amen.**

MEAL

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

The peace is shared.

Stand **OFFERING PRAYER** - Let us pray . . .

A Holy God,

C **your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE - It is indeed right . . . join their unending hymn:

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he**

who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the table where Christ meets you.
Eat, rejoice, and be glad!

Spoken **LAMB OF GOD**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Stand **COMMUNION BLESSING**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A God of wonder, in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near. As you have come among us now, send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

P God the Creator who delights in you, Jesus the Savior who is born for you, and the life giving Spirit who shines on you, + bless you and keep you in hope and peace.

C **Amen.**

Sit **HYMN #267** *Joy To the World* vs 1, 2, & 4 Sing

vs 1 C Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

vs 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

**vs 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove**

the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.

C We will. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Now Sing We, now Rejoice* ~arr. C. Schalk

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ST. MARK'S MEDITATION GARDEN BRICKS - Cost \$35.00 per brick (no limit). Order forms are available at both entrances to the sanctuary. Bricks can be purchased anytime throughout the year.



**Like us on
Facebook**

Like us on Facebook - St. Mark's is on Facebook –

Follow our page and share with your friends. It's a great way to let your friends know about all the good things happening here!

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

MINISTER OF MUSIC - Joyce Van Nieuwkuyk

YOUTH/FAMILY MINISTER - Kellen Michalowski

ALTAR CARE - Noon—Laurie Womer;

6:00 pm— Marian Person

USHERS - Don Young, Doug Womer, Ed Shadle,

Chris Bair, Dennis Dinger, Dave Featherman

GREETERS -

COMMUNION ASST -

WORSHIP ASST -

LECTOR - **6:00 pm**—Zara Bennett

FLOWER DELIVERY - Laurie Womer

COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Sandy Sherwood

NURSERY SCHL DIR. - **717-652-6700 ext 3**

SEXTON - Don Young

Church Office will be closed from December 27, 2021 to January 3, 2022.

REMINDER: 2022 Church Envelopes are in the Narthex. Check for friends or shut-ins near you if you don't mind taking them to them.

Ryan Shadle

PSC 559 Box 5043

FPO AP 96377-0051

He is stationed in Okinawa, Japan, if anyone wishes to send him a birthday card (12/09) or Christmas card it takes two weeks for him to receive mail.

READINGS LESSONS for December 26, 2021:

First Lesson: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalm: Psalm 148

Second Lesson: Colossians 3:12-17

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

Operating Receipts thru November 30: \$233,476

Expenditures thru November 30: \$266,129

Attendance: 12/19/2021 66

We look forward to continued support of our mission through your generous response to God's gifts given to us.

Altar Flowers are in Memory of a loving husband, father & friend, Harold Sultzaberger, given by Mary Sultzaberger

Altar Flowers are in Celebration of Christ's birth., given by Deb Banks.

Chris Bair is collecting newspapers for the Bird Sanctuary

Anita Featherman is collecting old used Wooden Sleds any condition also Women's old Ice Skates. Call her at (717)469-0840 and she will pick them up

BIRTHDAYS DECEMBER

12/01 – Taylor Trout	12/16 – Brandon Dinger
12/02 – Jonnie Diebler	12/18— Emma Betz
12/04—Susan Seitz	Sue Senft
12/06—Dolores Magaro	12/19— Clint Harr
Caroline Gill	Linda Gingell
12/07 – Michael Nusz	James Miller
12/09 – Ryan Shadle	12/20— Mike Betz
12/10 – Doreen Steinmacher	Colin McClenahen
Mary Ann Kane	12/22 - Austin Fleegal
12/11 – Adam Appleby	Bruce Senft
Jacob McClenahen	12/24 – Sarah Neidig
12/12 – Alexis Ulrich	12/25 – Christine Kroah
12/13 – Vaughn Heym Sr.	12/27 – Liz Harris
12/14 – Pat Ashbrook	12/30— Frank Dillahey
12/15— Mercedes Bretz	Madison Spencer

Beginning Birthdays for JANUARY

01/02 – Phyllis Mengel
01/03 – Troy Spencer
01/04 – Hailey Neidig
01/04 – Alice Graham
01/05 – Kenny Baranowski
01/06 – Elizabeth Baranowski
01/07 – Courtney Miller
01/08 – Andrew Simpler
01/09 – Samuel Flook

If your birthday is in December and we missed it, please let us know. We hope you have a happy birthday anyway.



Lutheran Camping Corporation
of Central Pennsylvania

Books for 2021:

- *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* – J. D. Vance
- *Appalachian Reckoning: A Region Responds to Hillbilly Elegy* – Anthony Harkins
- *At Home in the Heart of Appalachia* – John O'Brien
- What You Are Getting Wrong about Appalachia* – Elizabeth Catts

Winter Youth Retreat at Kirchenwald - January 7 - 9, 2022
Enjoy Kirchenwald in the Winter! Play broom hockey and other games on the frozen pond. Have fun sledding, playing snow soccer and other winter games. Creative Bible studies and worship experiences led by our summer camp counselors are an important part of this retreat. Meet new friends and catch up with your summer camp friends. Other indoor and outdoor activities may be included, as the weather dictates.

HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO WORK AT CAMP? Kirchenwald / The Wittel Farm Maintenance Manager

The Lutheran
Camping
Corporation is hiring
a motivated, faithful,
independent worker
to join our
community as the
Maintenance



Manager for Kirchenwald and The Wittel Farm.