

# Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool

## Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024 at 4 p.m.

**Rev. Mark Selbo**

*Website: [ChristLutheranVH.org](http://ChristLutheranVH.org)*

*Twitter: [@ChristLuthVH](https://twitter.com/ChristLuthVH)*

*Facebook: [/ChristLutheranVH](https://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranVH)*

**Please join us  
on Sunday  
Mornings at  
9:30a**

Church: 847-367-5787  
[ChristLutheranVH@aol.com](mailto:ChristLutheranVH@aol.com)

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Member of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
(*ELCA* – [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org))



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### **All Are Welcome – All the Time!**

You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to take part in any part of worship. If you wish to take communion, we ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus. His body and blood were given and shed for you.



Christ Lutheran Church & PreSchool is a community committed to the work of equity and inclusion, bringing justice and support for all of God's beloveds. We welcome those who are seeking God's love and grace for the first time or as a life-long believer. We welcome because Jesus shows us how to welcome, regardless of race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, economic resources, relationship status, health challenges or anything else that too often divides us. It is in our welcome which we commit ourselves to being an anti-racist space, a space where we seek daily to deepen our work of inclusion in the life of our church. Our unity is in Christ. All are welcome here.

## PRELUDE/WELCOME

### INVOCATION – Isaiah 9

*Please join in reading the bold portions responsively*



In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
Those who lived in a land of deep darkness –  
**on them light has shined.**

You 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.**

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,  
**the rod of their oppressor, you have broken.**

For 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.**

### **SONG: O Come All Ye Faithful – ELW 283** *(verse 1)*

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

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need  
for God's mercy. God of peace,  
**we confess that we are not at peace with others or ourselves.  
We bring to you all that tears us apart:  
discord in our families, violence in our world, our own conflicted  
hearts. In your mercy, mend us.**

**Reconnect us to one another and to you.  
Let peace reign over all the earth, through  
the Prince of peace, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God has given us grace upon grace: forgiveness that is stronger than our sins, love that can heal every broken heart. Hear this word of God's pardon and peace: in the name of † Jesus our Savior, you are free from all your sins. Rise, shine, for your light has come! **Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. **And also with you!**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Let us pray:* 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. **Amen.**

## **SONG: Angels We Have Heard on High – ELW 289 (vs 1 & 3)**

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

***Glo-ria in excelsis Deo; Glo-ria 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.

***Glo-ria in excelsis Deo; Glo-ria in excelsis Deo!***

## **RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 96:1-3,10-11**

O sing to the Lord a new song; **sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

Sing to the Lord, bless his name;

**tell of his salvation from day to day.**

Declare his glory among the nations,

**his marvelous works among all the peoples.**

Say among the nations, **“The Lord is king!**

The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.

**He will judge the peoples with equity.”**

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

**let the sea roar, and all that fills it;**



## READING – Luke 2:1-7

*The Holy Gospel according to Luke. Glory to You, O Lord.*

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. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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.

## SONG: **Away in a Manger – ELW 277** (*verses 1 & 2*)

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.



## **READING – Luke 2:8-20**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When 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.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen as it had been told them.

*The Gospel of our Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.*

## **SERMON – “A Christmas Journey”**

### **SONG: Go Tell it on the Mountain – ELW 290 (vs 1 & 3)**

**Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere!  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light... **Go...**

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn... **Go...**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray. Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people...

*Lord, in your mercy....* **Hear our prayer.**

*– Additional prayers follow –*

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## SHARING OF PEACE

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

*– Please share a sign of peace or greeting –*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION AT THE FRONT**

**All are welcome to receive the Real Presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion.** You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to receive the sacrament. We ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus Christ. Those who are interested will be invited by an usher to come up the center aisle to the front to receive Communion or you may request a blessing. You are also welcome to remain in your seat to pray. Welcome!

**Today we will offer both single-serving Communion kits as well as a traditional distribution of bread and wine. Please choose as you feel comfortable.**

**Single-serving kits are available in the first tray.** Select a sealed cup and bring it back to your seat to open and partake. Once at your seat, peel back the top layer to find the wafer, and then the bottom seal to drink. An usher will offer a basket to collect the empty container.

**If you would like Traditional Communion,** select an empty cup from the second tray and come forward to the Pastor, who will place a piece of bread into your open hand. The assistant will then pour wine into your cup. Your empty cup may be placed in the trays at each side as you return to your seat. Welcome!

## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

### **WE LIGHT OUR CANDLES**

*Ushers will come down the center aisle to light the first candle in each row. To pass the flame down your row, tip the unlit candle into the flame.*



## **READING – John 1:1-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And 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.

## **SONG: Silent Night, Holy Night – ELW 281**

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

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**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.**

*– Feel free to carefully extinguish your candles –*



## **BENEDICTION**

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **SONG: Joy to the World, ELW 267** (verses 1, 2 & 4)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
Let every 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.

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.

He rules the world with truth & grace & makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, and wonders of his love.

## **DISMISSAL**

*Go in peace. The Lord is come!*

**Thanks be to God!**



Have a blessed Christmas!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Please join us each Sunday at 9:30a – in person or via Facebook**
- **Joy Bags for Sue's Pantry Kids** – Thank you to all who helped make Christmas brighter for more than 60 children and young people served by Sue's Pantry in Vernon Hills.
- **Supporting the Homeless** – Thank you to all who sent items for the camp near Pastor Padraig's home in Chicago. There was so much we are preparing to send a second load already. Thank you!
- **Caring Hands** – Saturday, January 18 from 9a to noon. Making prayer shawls, comfort blankets, hats/mittens. ([CaringHandsVernonHills@gmail.com](mailto:CaringHandsVernonHills@gmail.com))
- **Donating to Storm/Fire Victims** – ELCA's Lutheran Disaster Response is one of the oldest, most effective and most respected organizations for getting money where it can be put to good use. Donate at [ELCA.org](http://ELCA.org).
- **Scouting!** – Boys and girls ages Kindergarten through high school have an opportunity to build skills and have fun through Scouting. Thanks for supporting our Pack and Troop!
- **PreSchool Prayers** – Keep the children, families and staff of our PreSchool in prayer.
- **Support for Anelly** – Our ministry partner Anelly, a young mother of two who has supported refugees in Chicago, has a recurrence of cancer and other challenges. Please lift her in prayer and consider supporting the Meal Train ([HollySJ@earthlink.net](mailto:HollySJ@earthlink.net)).
- **Sue's Pantry** – Call for toilet paper! And anything needed to keep a home and family clean – dish soap, laundry detergent, body wash, shampoo.
- **Love INC** – Housewares, nonperishables and volunteers. Want to learn more? Have a family in need of a bundle of clothes or housewares? Give the details to Natalie she will get us covered! (Thanks, Natalie.) (<https://loveinclakecounty.org/>)
- **COOL Ministries** – We support the COOL pantry in Waukegan with non-perishables. Collection bins in hallway or give online. ([CoolMinistries.org](http://CoolMinistries.org))
- **Prayer concerns?** Consider reaching out so that our network of Prayer Warriors can pray. You may remain anonymous. Email [ChristLutheranVH@aol.com](mailto:ChristLutheranVH@aol.com) with your request.
- **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.** Your presence in worship is very important. Thank you for being part of this community of faith. If you would like to support our service, we welcome donations, which can be provided by credit card or Paypal through the link at the bottom of our webpage, [ChristLutheranVH.org](http://ChristLutheranVH.org). Thank you!