

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

425 N. Main Street, Russell, Kansas 67665 ♦ 785-483-5358

www.stjohnrussell.com

Pastor: Roger Dennis ♦ PMA: John Dumler ♦ Youth & Family Ministry: Alex and Audrey Lofland

CHRISTMAS EVE

Thursday, December 24, 2020

3:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, and 10:00 pm

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN.....“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”

Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold him born the king of angels:

Oh come, let us adore him, oh, come, let us adore him,

Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God in the highest:

Oh come, let us adore him, oh, come, let us adore him,

Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

HYMN..... “It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

*It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.*

*For lo! The days are hast’ning on, by prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold.
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.*

SCRIPTURE READING: Titus 2:11-14

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ He 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.

L: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

C: Thanks be to God

HYMN..... “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

*Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”*

*Hail the heav’nborn Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”*

THE HOLY GOSPEL IN GERMANKatrin Kolder 5:00 pm and 7:30 pm

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE 1:1-14

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ 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. ⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then

an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And 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: **Thanks be to God**

HYMN “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see the lie!
Above they deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in the dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond’ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!*

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE Pastor Roger Dennis

HYMN “Joy to the World”

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its 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.*

*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.*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Lord, in your mercy.

C: **Hear our prayer.**

THE OFFERTORY “Angels We Have Heard on High”

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION: John 1:1-14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness,

and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ 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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

HYMN..... "Silent Night, Holy Night!"

One verse in German, Verses 1 through 3 in English

*Stille nacht, heilige nacht alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hochheilige paar. Holder knabe im lockigen haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer ruh! Schlaf in himmlischer ruh!*

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

*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!*

*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.*

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

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.*

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION:

Congregational Hymn “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!*

*Good Christian friend, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven’s door, and we are blest forever more.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!*

Congregational Hymn “Away in a Manger”

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

*The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
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.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.*

You may (and are encouraged to) depart after receiving communion.

**If you return to your seat after communion,
please remain in your seat until directed to depart.**

**Please deposit all borrowed cloth masks in
the receptacles outside the sanctuary.**

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SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THOSE ASSISTING AT TONIGHT'S SERVICES

SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Our family practices "open" communion – all baptized believers are invited to share in **Holy Communion**. Guests who receive communion in their home congregations are welcome to share today's meal. Those not receiving the sacrament may receive a blessing.

A **Spoken Word Christmas Day Service** will be held December 25 at 10:00 am.

MEETINGS/EVENTS/DEADLINES:

The **Church Office will be closed** Friday, December 25 and Friday, January 1.

Many thanks to everyone who help to beautify our Chapel and Sanctuary with **donations of poinsettias and/or sponsorship of candles**. Poinsettias may be picked up beginning Monday, December 28 in Classroom #10 (beside the water fountain). Plants remaining after December 31, 2020 will be discarded.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Please pick up your **2021 Offering Envelopes** from the tables outside the chapel. Envelopes are printed for numbers 1 through 205. If you do not see your envelopes, please contact the Church office.

As we strive to be good environmental stewards, St. John Lutheran Church will not be printing **2020 Contribution Statements** unless requested. If you wish to receive your statement of giving, please contact the church office. Those requesting statements will be notified when they are available for pick up.

Christmas
BLESSINGS



***Poinsettia Plants for the Christmas Services are given in memory of
and in honor of loved ones and to the Glory of God.***

- ◇ To the **Glory of God** by Dick and Georganna McCrary
- ◇ One **white poinsettia plant** represents all those who are missing a loved one who couldn't be with them this Christmas
- ◇ In memory of **loved ones** who are no longer with us by Dean and Ruth Keil and families
- ◇ In memory of **Our Parents** by Robert and Judy Albrecht and family
- ◇ In honor of all our **Servicemen, Servicewomen, Medical Personnel, Emergency Personnel, and those who are working every day** for us, as they have given their time and talents so selflessly. WE THANK YOU!
- ◇ In memory of **Herbert, Viola and Gerald Bender; Henry and Lena Bender, Jr.; Tom Cave; Mr. and Mrs. Dale Duryee; John and Katie Mai; Leo Mai; Lydia and Leon Niedens; and Leah Stoffel** by Bill and Eileen Duryee; Lois Cave; and Jake, Alicia, Reagan, and Quinn Epler
- ◇ In memory of **Wilmer and Estella Boxberger; and George and RaMona Parks** by the families of John and Mary Boxberger
- ◇ In memory of **Dean Brown** by Barb Brown; Greg Brown and family; and Marietta Watkins and family
- ◇ In memory of **Elroy and LoRee Dietz** by their family
- ◇ In memory of **Paul, Ronnie, Danny, and Randy Dietz** by Hilda and Barb Dietz
- ◇ In memory of **our parents Herman and Helen Gideon (Michel); Bob and Eleanor Munk; brother Clyde; sister Elaine; sister-in-law Willie; niece Megan; nephew Bill; and all our family and Friends** by Darold, Corine and family
- ◇ In memory of **Wilmetta "Willie" Gideon** by Glenn Gideon; Donna Bauer and families; Keith and Doris Jackson and family; and Brad and Cheryl Prester family
- ◇ In memory of **Jordanne (Riley) Hackerott** by her family
- ◇ In memory of **William and Anna Janne and Peter and Lydia Michel** by Deloris Janne and family
- ◇ In memory of **Don and Diane Karst** by Monty, Randilyn, Nash, and Autumn Karst; and Alan Templeton
- ◇ In memory of **Dell, Anna, Sam, Louise, Frank, and Steven Klema** by Dick and Georganna McCrary
- ◇ In memory of **Tom and Marcia Krauss** by Tom, Andrea and Katherine Krauss
- ◇ In memory of **our parents Albert and Mollie Krug and Joe and Georgia Fortney** by Morris and Barbara Krug
- ◇ In memory of **Don & Isetta Murphy** by their loving family
- ◇ In memory of **Donnie Murphy** by Sue Murphy
- ◇ In memory of **Verlan and Peggy Olson** by the family
- ◇ In memory of **Gary "Bear" Prester** by Carol Prester; Brad and Cheryl Prester and family; and Tim and Debra Brandes and family



- ◇ In memory of **Bonnie and Alex Schmidt** by Pam and Chuck Gudenkauf and family
- ◇ In memory of **Waldean and Helen Schwien** by their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren
- ◇ In memory of **Chuck Stinchcomb** by Barb; Kai, Angie, Diego, and Edwin Muller; and Jason, Trish, Jenna, and Charlie Stinchcomb
- ◇ In memory of **Calvin, Alvina and Diane Templeton** by Mary Reinhardt, LoAnn Sechtem, and Alan Templeton
- ◇ In memory of **Alan, Mike, and Elmer Voos** by the Alan Voos family; and in memory of **Ralph and Marie Tittel** by Jana, Lana, Fern and families
- ◇ In memory of **Leroy Waymaster** by his family



***A special THANK YOU to all who sponsored Christmas Candles
for the Sanctuary and Chapel windows***



- ◇ **In memory of Our Parents and in honor of Our Children and Grandchildren** by Dean and Betty Boxberger
- ◇ In memory of **Joshua Bachar; Elroy and Fern Dumler; and Bill and Vera Brown** by their families
- ◇ In memory of **Ruben and Lavina Bender** by the families of Dianna, Duane and Ramona
- ◇ In memory of **Dean Brown** by Barb Brown; Greg Brown and family; and Marietta Watkins and family
- ◇ In memory of **Melvin Flegler** by his loving family
- ◇ In memory of **Wendell Holmes and John and Alvina Kilian** by Judy Holmes
- ◇ In memory of **Ivan and Loretta Holt** by Sandy Krug and the Grandchildren
- ◇ In memory of **Melvin Janne** by Deloris Janne and family
- ◇ In memory of **Mr. and Mrs. Alex Krug; Arlene, Harold, Bonnie, and Jill Krug** by Norma Fink and family
- ◇ In memory of **Don H. Krug** by his loving family
- ◇ In memory of **Fred, Amelia, Ray, Hannah, Rose, Vera, Harvey, and Richard Krug** by Jim and Marlene K. Mighell
- ◇ In memory of **Ron Krug** by Shirley Krug and family
- ◇ In memory of **Tillman and Wilma Krug** by Twyla and Dale Ehrlich; Tori, Roy and Halle Hall; and Tami Ehrlich
- ◇ In memory of **Huldrich and Sarah Michaelis and LaJune Gustin** by the families of LaJune, Naomi, and Rich
- ◇ In memory of **Roger and Marj Mighell** by Jim and Marlene K. Mighell
- ◇ In memory of **Pat Radke** by Vernon and family