



St. John's Lutheran Church

Rooted and Growing: In Christ. In Community.



Carols of the Manger

Children's Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 2019

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church



Welcome to our visitors!

- We enjoy sharing the Good News of Christmas with our family and friends. On this night, it is our prayer that the message compels you to praise God along with us for his precious Son. He entered our world with a singular purpose: to rescue us from slavery to sin. As the King from heaven came down to earth, he broke death's grip on our eternity. By faith in him, we are free from the fear of the grave. We can be certain of our future. Our confidence lies not in our own good works, but in his manger stall. He alone, as God made man, opens the door to heaven for us. We pray that you will return to worship with us again.
- Large print service folders are available from an usher.
- The pastors, staff, principal, faculty, and their families wish to thank the members of St. John's for all the Christmas cards and gifts received during this festive season. Your expressions of love and gratitude for our ministry are genuinely appreciated. God bless you for your care and concern. We wish you a blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year.



“Carols of the Manger”

Children’s Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2019

Preservice Music

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel
Camden Theesfeld, guitar

Silent Night
Felix Glaeske, Jacob Nault, Ella Schroeder & Camden Theesfeld, guitar

The Hallelujah Chorus
Kon Knueppel, piano

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Amos Ebeling, baritone; Annalise Kuehn, trumpet

Good Christian Men, Rejoice
Eva Kuehn, piano

Angels We Have Heard on High
Illes Cox, violin

Joy to the World
Emma Lindert, piano

O Come, Little Children
Calissa Schulz, violin

Away in a Manger
Zuzu Eft, Eva Kuehn, Talia Meister & Anna Ognenoff, clarinet

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful
Sam Goede, piano

Preservice Music

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Rhiannon Gantner, alto saxophone; Eva Kuehn, clarinet

What Child Is This

Annabelle Nault, piano

The Hallelujah Chorus

Morgan Festerling & Rhiannon Gantner, violin

Junior Handbells

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

arranged by Michael Helman

Cradle Lullaby

arranged by Lynne Hollander

As With Gladness Men of Old

arranged by Valerie Stephenson

Processional Hymn

Please stand to sing the final stanza

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

Christian Worship 55

**C: 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.**

**God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, to earth he comes,
Only begotten Son of the God the Father.
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 heav'n above.
Glory to God, all glory in the highest.
Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

(continued on the next page)

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n,
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.
Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

M: Let us pray.

Dear Christ-child, today we come to sing the carols of your holy birth. What a marvelous joy and peace it brings our hearts to know that you came to earth to take away our sins. Give us a joy that passes all understanding as we celebrate your birth, hear your wonderful story, and sing your praises. To you alone be all glory and praise forever and ever!

C: **Amen.**

Be seated

PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

Narrations by Sarah Laufer and Annabelle Nault

Silent Night. Joy to the World. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing. When you hear these Christmas carol melodies, do you immediately have fond memories of Christmases past? Perhaps images of Grandma's kitchen flood your mind. A Christmas tree surrounded by gifts hidden in colorful wrapping paper and bows surround you with warm and fuzzy memories of loved ones.

In our service today, we will be singing many familiar Christmas carols. The stories of these carols, though, will be focused on our Savior, Jesus, and the meaning of his birth on the first Christmas. Images of God's promise to save sinners will wrap your heart and mind in the precious Gospel of our Lord. You will take with you truths of God's Word found in the familiar loved carols, truths that tell of our Savior and his work of salvation.

PART ONE: CAROLS OF THE PROPHETS

Narrations by Jesse Rost, Sam Goede, Noah Fritz,
Cael Eide, and Collin Doan

Recitations by Kindergarten – 8th Grades

Why did God send Jesus to the earth? God tells us in Genesis that Adam and Eve sinned. Now, all people have inherited this original sin. With King David, we also confess, “*Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me*” (Psalm 51:5).

God loved Adam and Eve, and he loves us, too. He did not leave us forsaken and without hope. God first promised to send a Savior to take away the sins of the world in the book of Genesis.

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” *Genesis 3:15*

Jesus had to be true man to take our place. He had to be true God to live a perfect life, shed his perfect blood on the cross, and rise from the dead. The Advent carol *Savior of the Nations, Come* proclaims the wonderful truth that Jesus is both true man and true God.

Christmas Carol

Kindergarten – 8th Grades

Savior of the Nations, Come

arranged by Linda Moeller

Savior of the nations, come; virgin’s Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav’n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood, by the Spirit of our God
Was the Word of God made flesh, woman’s offspring, pure and fresh.

Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child of the virgin undefiled,
Though by all the world disowned, yet to be in heav’n enthroned!

From the Father’s throne he came and ascended to the same,
Captive leading death and hell – high the song of triumph swell!

Praise to God the Father sing, praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be ever and eternally.

God continued to renew his promise of a Savior throughout the Old Testament. We call these Bible passages “prophecy passages.” The prophet Micah foretold that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem.

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.

Micah 5:2

The prophet Isaiah foretold that the Savior would be born of a virgin and called Emmanuel.

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

One of the oldest Christmas carols, *Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*, tells why Jesus came to earth. Emmanuel means “God with us.” We were held captive by sin, but Jesus, God’s own Son, was born as true man and true God to live for us and take away our sins.

This carol originally had seven verses. Each verse is an “O Antiphon” (which reminds us of a name for Jesus) such as “O Root of Jesse,” “O Key of David,” and others. Traditionally, one verse was chanted on each of the seven days before Christmas. Please join to sing verses one and two of *Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*.

Christmas Carol

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel (stanzas 1 & 2)

Christian Worship 23

**C: Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
 And ransom captive Israel
 That mourns in lowly exile here
 Until the Son of God appear.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 Shall come to you, O Israel!**

**Oh, come, O Root of Jesse, free
Your own from Satan’s tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save,
And bring them vict’ry o’er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

PART TWO: CAROLS OF BETHLEHEM

Narrations by Emma Lindert, Krista Meingast, Rhiannon Gantner, Jonny Moll,
Logan Rindfleisch, Antonio Hernandez, Isabella Lovelace, and Kaylee Zimmer

Recitations by Kindergarten – 2nd Grades

The angel Gabriel visited Mary and told her she was to be the mother of the Savior! Can you imagine the excitement and humility she must have felt? An angel also appeared to Joseph and told him not to divorce Mary but to take her as his wife, because the child was conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Mary and Joseph made the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem to be counted as part of the census ordered by Caesar Augustus. The time was quickly approaching. We now hear the familiar words from Luke 2 telling us the wonderful story of our Savior's birth.

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Luke 2:1-7

Though some have called it “Luther’s Cradle Hymn,” *Away in a Manger* was not written by Martin Luther and probably not ever known by him. Written with simple words, this carol portrays Jesus as a baby, gently sleeping in the manger. The final stanza is a beautiful prayer, asking Jesus to be with us through our lives on earth, and when we die, to take us to heaven to live with him forever.

Christmas Carol

Kindergarten – 2nd Grades

Away in a Manger

arranged by Jeff Reeves

Away in a manger, no crib for a 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 thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with thee there.

How joyful it was that the Savior King was born! The Lord is come! Isaac Watts, an English hymn writer, wrote a hymn text based on Psalm 98 to depict the joy of Christ's birth.

Composer Lowell Mason pieced together parts of Handel's *Messiah* and arranged it into a tune, which he named ANTIOCH. He later used Watts' poetry with his tune. We know this hymn today as *Joy to the World*.

What joy we have that our Lord reigns in heaven and on earth, especially in the hearts of believers! Through faith in Jesus' perfect life, death, and resurrection, we freely enjoy his righteousness.

Christmas Carol

Junior Choir

Joy to the World

arranged by Mark Patterson

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.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let us our 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 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.

The treasured Christmas carol *Silent Night* was first written by Joseph Mohr for a Christmas Eve service in 1818. It is often a tradition to turn out the lights and sing this carol by candlelight. As we do so this evening, remember that each flickering flame symbolizes Jesus, who brings light to the world. Remember to let your Gospel light shine as God's child in a sin-darkened world.

Christmas Carol

Kindergarten – 8th Grades and Congregation

Silent Night

arranged by Mark Patterson

K5-8th: Stille nacht! Heilige nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht,
Nur das traute hoch heilige 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 yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

C: 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 thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

PART THREE: CAROLS OF THE SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS

Narrations by Nathaniel Crowder, Kon Kneuppel, and Eva Kuehn

Recitations by 3rd – 4th Grades

Soon angels announced the joyful news of Jesus' birth to shepherds who were watching their flocks in the fields outside Bethlehem. Luke continues this blessed story:

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you: he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Luke 2:8-14

We will now sing several well-known Christmas carols about this wonderful news that the angels proclaimed to the shepherds.

Charles Wesley, English hymn writer and pastor of the 1700s, wrote the text of our next carol, *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*. He wrote the text specifically for Christmas Day. The words proclaim praise and glory to our God for his gracious plan of salvation for the world!

The tune for this carol was originally from one of Felix Mendelssohn’s opuses. Though Mendelssohn was a devout Christian, he never intended this tune to be used with sacred words. In the mid-1800s, the text and tune were joined to produce the hymn we have today.

Christmas Carol

3rd – 4th Grades

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

arranged by Vicki Hancock Wright

Glory to the newborn King!
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 th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, hail th’ incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”
Glory to the newborn King!

Hail, the heav'n-born 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 man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
Glory to the newborn King!

Angels We Have Heard on High is somewhat of a "mystery carol." A carol received from France, it could very well date back to a Latin refrain *Gloria in excelsis Deo*, "chanted by the monks in the early Catholic church" (Collins, 19). When translated, the words mean "Glory to God in the highest." The stanzas of the hymn present a dialogue between the shepherds and the angels. Isn't it amazing how our Lord chose shepherds – the lowly poor working class – to be the first recipients of the good news? God sent his Son to save ALL people.

Christmas Carol

Junior Choir

African Gloria

arranged by Carol Stephens

Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains:
"Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!"

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say, what may the tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?
"Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!"

See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.
"Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!"

PART FOUR: CAROLS OF MISSION

Narrations by Aubrey Mortl and Emily Leyrer

Recitations by 5th – 8th Grades

After hearing the thrilling news from the angelic choirs, the shepherds, filled with awe, ran to Bethlehem to see their Savior. Luke's Gospel account continues:

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Luke 2:15-20

The shepherds did not keep the glorious news to themselves; they “spread the word” to everyone! We also have a mission: to tell the precious Gospel to all the world. Sometimes called the Great Commission, Jesus also commands us:

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

Matthew 28:19-20

Go, Tell It On the Mountain is a carol that reminds us to go and tell the news of our Savior to all! Originally a spiritual sung by slaves on the plantations of early America, this carol demonstrates the humble faith of the shepherds and their urgent goal to share the news of Jesus Christ, the Savior born!

Christmas Carol

5th – 8th Grades

Go Tell the Good News

arranged by Jean Anne Shafferman

Good news! Tell it on the mountain! Good news! Tell it ev’rywhere!
Good news! Tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

Go, tell it on the mountain! Over the hills and ev’rywhere!
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

The shepherds tell the story about the holy birth.
The angels sing the glory throughout the whole wide earth.

Good news! Tell it on the mountain! Good news! Tell it ev’rywhere!
Good news! Tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

Go, tell it on the mountain! Over the hills and ev’rywhere!
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

Offering

The members of St. John's have joined together to do the Lord's work in our community and around the world, and our offerings are a joyful response of our faith. To submit your offering electronically, scan the QR code or visit www.sjtosa.org/giving. If you are a visitor today, you are welcome but not obligated to give an offering.



Offertory

Go, Tell It On the Mountain
Kindergarten bells

PART FIVE: CAROLS OF REDEMPTION

Narrations by Ian Ban and Keegan Pagel

Recitations by Kindergarten – 8th Grades

As we sing and treasure the meanings of so many beloved Christmas carols, we remember again the reason why Jesus came into the world. Through him alone comes the only way for people lost in sin to have peace with God, forgiveness, and eternal life in heaven. It was God's plan to save sinners by giving us his Son.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. *John 3:16-17*

O Come, All Ye Faithful. Joy to the World. Away in a Manger. We have sung many well-known Christmas carols in our service today. One more hymn we will sing tonight was written by Paul Gerhardt, a Lutheran pastor. He wrote the beautiful Christmas hymn *O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is* to share the precious Gospel truth that in Jesus' manger our salvation is found. Throughout our days on this earth, may we hold fast to our Savior until that day when he returns to take us to heaven to live with him forever.

Christmas Carol

Kindergarten – 8th Grades

O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is (stanzas 1 & 5)

Christian Worship 40

O Jesus Christ, your manger is
My paradise where my soul is reclining.
For there, O Lord, we find the Word
Made flesh for us – your grace is brightly shining.

The world may hold her wealth and gold;
But you, my heart, keep Christ as your true treasure.
To him hold fast until at last
A crown is yours and honor in full measure.

Please stand

M: Let us pray.

Dear Jesus, thank you for coming into our world to be our Savior. Through your perfect life, death, and resurrection, the sins of the whole world are paid for. As we celebrate Christmas, the day of your birth, keep our hearts focused on you. When we hear and sing beloved Christmas carols of the season, use these Gospel truths to strengthen our faith and increase our love for you. Give us zeal and urgency to tell others of your love, your holy birth, and the message of salvation.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C: **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: Amen.

Be seated

Recessional Hymn

Let Us All With Gladsome Voice
Christian Worship 64

**C: Let us all with gladsome voice praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice, his own Son has given.**

**To this vale of tears he comes, here to serve in sadness,
That with him in heav'n's fair homes we may reign in gladness.**

**We are rich, for he was poor; is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore here on earth and yonder.**

**O Lord Christ, our Savior dear, bless us and be near us.
Grant us now a glad new year. Amen, Jesus, hear us!**



Serving at Worship

Minister	Pastor Eric Schroeder
Musicians	Lynn Kozlowski, piano & organ Mandy Treder, organ Rachel Wendland, piano Morgan Festerling, violin Annalise Kuehn, trumpet Julie & John Handeland, handbells
Kindergarten – 8th Grade Choir Director	Mandy Treder
Junior Choir Director	Mandy Treder
Junior Handbell Choir Director	Julie Handeland

Acknowledgements

“*Carols of the Manger*” Written by Mandy Treder and edited by Pastor Eric Schroeder.

References

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St. John's Holiday Worship Schedule

Tuesday, December 24	Service of Lessons & Carols 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 25	Christmas Day Festival Worship 10:00 a.m.
Saturday, December 28	No evening worship service
Sunday, December 29	Worship 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday, December 31	New Year's Eve Worship 6:45 p.m.
Wednesday, January 1, 2020	New Year's Day Worship 10:00 a.m.

Regular Worship Schedule

Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. – Worship in English

Saturdays at 7:00 p.m. – Worship in Mandarin Chinese

Sundays at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. – Worship in English

Sundays at 9:15 a.m. – Sunday School & Bible Classes (beginning January 5, 2020)



and
suddenly
there was with
the *angel*
a multitude of
the heavenly host
praising God
and saying
Glory to God
in the highest, and on earth
peace, goodwill towards
men
Luke 2
13-14

The Mission of our Church

As God's people gathered together at St. John's, we live to declare the praises of our Savior God who called us out of the darkness of sin into the light of his grace.

As 21st century disciples of Jesus, we reflect the light of God's love by:



Making worship of our Savior the top priority in our lives



Growing in our faith through daily contact with God's Word



Fostering Christian friendships for mutual encouragement and support



Using our unique gifts to glorify God and serve God's people



Sharing the good news of God's forgiving love with others

Worship Services

Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

Sundays at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Worship in Chinese

Saturdays at 7:00 p.m.

Pastors

*Pastor Joel Leyrer
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*Pastor Eric Schroeder
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