



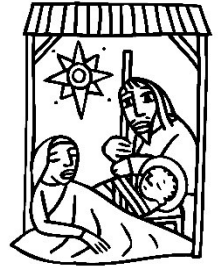
First English Lutheran Church

9 NW 3rd Street; Ortonville, MN 56278

Reverend Denise Fossen

Lisa Berdan, Senior Choir Director

Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson, Missionaries/Tanzania



December 24, 2023

**Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Eve**

2:00/4:00 PM

PREPARATION

30-minute Prelude of Special Music

Bells

Welcome & Announcements

GATHERING

Greeting

pg. 147

P: 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.**

Gathering Hymn (with Trumpets) 'O Come, All Ye Faithful' vs.1, 3 ELW #283

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:

(Refrain): O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God in the highest: *(Refrain)*

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakley, 1802- 1880, sts 1,3-4; Music: attr. John Francis Wade's Cantus Diversi, 1751

Confession and Forgiveness: *All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation. **C: Amen.**

P: God of life, **C: you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.**

P: Hear the good news... the salvation of God. **C: Amen**

Special Music

'Born, He is Born!'

Senior Choir

Traditional French Carol arranged by Lloyd Larson

Prayer of the Day: P: Almighty God, **C: 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.**

WORD

Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

OT pg. 494

L: ²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

C: those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

L: ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;

C: they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

L: ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, **C: you have broken as on the day of Midian.**

L: ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors

C: and all the garments rolled in blood

L: shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

C: ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;

L: authority rests upon his shoulders;

C: and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

L: ⁷His authority shall grow continually,

C: and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

L: He will establish and uphold it with justice

C: and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

L: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

'Your Little Ones, Dear Lord' vs. 1, 2

#286

1. Your little ones, dear Lord, are we, and come your lowly bed to see; enlighten ev'ry soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.

2. With songs we hasten you to greet, and kiss the ground before your feet.

Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night that gave you birth, our soul's delight.

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694-1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845-1925, alt. Music: Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747-1800.

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

NT pg. 44

*Each time it is announced "To us is born a savior,"
your response is: **Jesus Christ our Lord.***

SHARING THE MEAL

The Great Thanksgiving (spoken)

pg. 152

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.**

'Holy, Holy, Holy'

pg. 153

Holy, holy, holy Lord. Lord God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

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Words of Institution

P: In the night in which he was betrayed... for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

p. 154

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

Distribution Hymn:

'In the Bleak Midwinter'

#294

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.

2. Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign; in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

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.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894. Music: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934.

Distribution Hymn:

'The Bells of Christmas' (vs. 1, 4)

#298

1. The bells of Christmas chime once more; the heav'nly guest is at the door. He comes to earthly dwellings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.

4. Oh, join with me, in gladness sing, to keep our Christmas with our king, until our song, from loving souls, like rushing mighty water rolls!

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Charles Porterfield Krauth, 1823-1883, alt. Music: Carl C. N. Balle, 1806-1855.

Distribution Hymn

'Infant Holy, Infant Lowly'

#276

Distribution Hymn

'Go Tell It On The Mountain'

#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)***

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt. Music: African American spiritual.

Eucharistic Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

Hymn

'Silent Night, Holy Night!' vs. 1, 3 (candles are lit)

#281

1. 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.

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.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885. Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863.

SENDING

Benediction

P: God bless you and keep you, † Jesus grant you grace and truth, And the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, Now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Dismissal

P: Christ the Savior is born! God in peace. Proclaim the good news.

C: We Will! Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn (with Trumpets)

'Joy to The World' vs. 1, 3, 4

#267

1. 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.

3. No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

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, wonders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748. Music: English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872.

Bells

Postlude


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Psalm 139:14. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

In other words, "created to be..."

If you have pastoral needs, please call Pastor Denise anytime at 763-516-2026. **Welcome to all visitors and guests!** May the joy of Christ fill you as we worship today. Friendship Pads are at the ends of each pew (by middle aisle). Fill them out, pass them on to your neighbor(s), and send them back to the middle aisle.

KDIO Radio Broadcast is sponsored by Marilyn Hanson in honor of her children and grandchildren. [Radio broadcast cards are available on the information kiosk in the narthex; cost is \$100/week].

OFFERING UPDATE: Here are the expenses for November: \$18,989.29. Here is what we received: \$17,514.25. We deficit spent by \$1,475.04 You're also encouraged to visit our webpage for Online Giving at www.firstenglish.net 


There will be a special fellowship after church next Sunday (12/31) to wish Pastor Denise farewell on her retirement. If unable to attend, please consider sending a card or note.


We need some volunteers for our New Year's Eve morning service. Please contact the office if you can acolyte, greet, or be our lector for the day.

Thank you to our very talented vocalists and musicians for performing during our prelude & Christmas Eve Service: Darin, Kelsie, and Nathan Ehrenberg; Lisa Berdan, Katelyn Berdan Rennet & Keven Berdan (duet), Jonathan Ydstie, Christie Peterson (flute), Ellie Helgeson, & Meg Scholberg, the Helgeson family and any other volunteer musicians.


Please pick up & fill out your pledges & opportunity sheets and put them in the box in the Narthex before the end of the year. We need new opportunity sheets each year, so that we know you are still interested and willing to continue volunteering. You can also pick up your giving envelopes for 2024.

If you want to receive a box of donation envelopes in 2025, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex before the end of the year.

Coffee Fellowship needs volunteers to continue. Please contact the office or sign-up in the fellowship hall if you're willing to help to prepare & serve coffee. If no one volunteers to serve, we won't have coffee fellowship that Sunday. 

"Caring Friends" to meet January 14th during coffee after church. If you are part of the "Caring Friends" group, please stop to check in, tell us who you are seeing and give us ideas for new ways to touch base. If you would like to become part of this group, just come to our informal meeting and see if it is something you'd like to try. Each one of us picks a person from our congregation who we will contact at least once a month either by phone or a visit. Some of the people on the list are in the nursing home, assisted living or just at home and unable to always come to church. Questions or if you know someone who would benefit from a monthly visit call Neva, 320-305-4964. 

GLLM's summer programs opened and spots are filling up fast. There is a \$50 early bird discount by Feb. 15th. If interested, we have flyers in the pickup room or office.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING and COMFORT for Carol Barrett; Marcus Hanson, Arlen LaCombe; Gail Olson; Harris Selvig; Beth Swanson; Brandi Tweeter; Clara Zeek; Monty Athey, Paul Erdman; Beckett Foster; Rosie Frank; Larry Helgeson; Natalie Henneberg; McCoy Jipson; Zane Kilde; Brian Pribyl; Janice Redfield; David Scholberg; and Jerry Stotesbery. AT FAIRWAY VIEW NEIGHBORHOODS: Janet Anderson; Ricky Anderson; Arvilla Bergseth; Adeline Burgess; Ruth Hansen; Jim Hipple; Vivian Janssen; & Eleanor Nickolauson. ALL OUR MILITARY who are deployed to areas of conflict, especially Alexander Johnson (Ev Johnson's grandson). If you would like a name added/removed, please contact the church office. 

Christmas Poinsettias/Floral Arrangements have been given...

- . . . in loving memory of Richard Janke from Patricia Janke.
- . . . in honor of Barb & Roger Nornes' 70th Wedding Anniversary from Jackie Nornes and Jeff Nornes and family.
- . . . in honor of Barb & Roger Nornes' 70th Wedding Anniversary from Linda Ranisate and family.
- . . . in loving memory of Dallas I Hanson, Rev. LeRoy, & Carol Mueller from Marilyn Hanson.
- . . . in loving memory of Mark Block from Terry and family.
- . . . in loving memory of Joseph & Beverly Menne from Mark & Amy Block and family.
- . . . in loving memory my Mom, Dad, and brother Joel from Marilyn Chindvall
- . . . in loving memory of Patrick Ketz, Marvin Vick, and Donald & Corinne Tiegs from Liz Ketz and family.
- . . .in loving memory of Henry Domine from Jackie & Melvin Domine.
- . . .in loving memory of Bill & Donna Hoel from their children.
- . . .in loving memory of Adeline Brown, Alice Ellingson, and Herman Ellingson, from David & Debbie Ellingson and family.
- . . .in loving memory of Mick Boone & Wes & JoAnn Strei from Richard & Marla Strei and family.
- . . . in memory of loved ones from Dean & Anita Longnecker.



REMINDER: Calendar and other important information is on our website at www.firstenglish.net and on the bulletin board (kiosk) in the narthex. The church office number is (320) 839-2527.

This Week's Ministry Assistants—December 24th (2 PM Christmas Eve Service)

Greeters: Neva Foster

Acolytes: NEED 2 VOLUNTEERS

Organist: Carol Ydstie

Lector: Kathy Randall

Tech Desk: Marina Thomson & Liz Ketz

Lay Assistants: Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg, Liz Ketz, Marilyn Chindvall, Sara Mattison

Ushers: Ron Athey, Russ Thielke, Gale May, & Vern Nickolauson

This Week's Ministry Assistants—December 24th (4 PM Christmas Eve Service)

Greeters: Neva Foster

Organist: Carol Ydstie

Tech Desk: Marina Thomson & Liz Ketz

Lay Assistants: Tami Lundberg, Liz Ketz, & Marilyn Chindvall

Ushers: Glenn & Deb Henningson, Owen Dorry, & Kevin Fossen

Acolytes: Archer & Eliot

Lector: Kathy Randall

Next Week's Ministry Assistants—December 31st

Greeters: NEED VOLUNTEERS

Organist: Kathy Haukos

Tech Desk: Terry Kalberg & Marina Thomson

Ushers: Rodney Torgerson, Liz Ketz, Rob Randall, & Josh Wollschlager

FWV: Kim Anderson

Acolytes: NEED VOLUNTEERS

Lector: NEED VOLUNTEER

Coffee Servers: Nornes



Weekly Calendar

Sun – 12/24 CHRISTMAS EVE

**NO SUNDAY
SCHOOL FOR
THE REST OF
2023**

9:00 am Advent Worship – KDIO & Facebook Live Broadcast

2:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with communion –
KDIO & Facebook Live Broadcast

4:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with communion

Mon – 12/25 CHRISTMAS DAY – OFFICE CLOSED

Tues – 12/26 3:30 pm Pastor Denise at Donnie's Diner at Fairway View

Wed – 12/27 NO Confirmation or Youth Group (Winter Break)

9:30 am Channel 3 broadcast

5:30 pm Channel 3 broadcast

NO CHOIR

Fri – 12/29 9:00 am Bulletins Printed

Sun – 12/31 NEW YEAR'S EVE (Pastor Fossen's Last Service)

9:00 am Worship – KDIO & Facebook Live Broadcast

10:00 am Coffee Fellowship

10:30 am Fairway View – Pre-recorded