



First English Lutheran Church

9 NW 3rd Street; Ortonville, MN 56278
Rev. Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett, Interim Pastor
Lisa Berdan, Senior Choir Director

Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson, Missionaries/Tanzania



December 24, 2024

Nativity of Our Lord
CHRISTMAS EVE

2:30 PM

PREPARATION

30-minute Prelude of Special Music

(please hold your applause & thank the musicians after the service is over)

Bells

Welcome & Announcements

GATHERING

Gathering Hymn

'O Come, All Ye Faithful' vs.1-2

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!

2. The highest, most holy, light of light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *(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

Greeting

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

DIALOGUE

P: Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

C: By day and night he shines for all to see.

P: Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

C: that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

P: God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

C: so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

P: Jesus is the light of the world.

C: Jesus is the light of our lives.

P: Sing to God a new song!

C: A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

OPENING PRAYER

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness— a beam of light that shines through Jesus.

Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts. **C: Amen**

WORD

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a (*Archer Dorry*)

OT pg. 671

Hymn

'Once in Royal David's City' vs. 1 & 2

#269

1. Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.

2. He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895. Music: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876.

Second Reading: Luke 1:26-35, 38 (*Archer Dorry*)

NT pg. 43

Gospel Hymn

'O Little Town of Bethlehem' vs. 1 & 2

#279

1. 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.

2. 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!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893. Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908.

Third Reading: Matthew 1:18-25 (*Pastor Cheryl*)

NT pg. 1

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children's Message

Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett

Hymn

'Away in a Manger'

#277

1. 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.

#277

2. 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.

Text: North American, 19th cent. Music: James R. Murray, 1841-1905.

Fourth Reading: Luke 2:8-20 (*Archer Dorry*)

NT pg. 44

Special Music

'The Shepherds Song'

Senior Choir

MEAL

Offering Collection and Presentation

Offertory Hymn '*I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve*' #271
*(Jon Ydstie will sing a verse in Norwegian,
then congregation joins in for as many verses as needed)*

Prayer of Dedication

P: God, whose giving knows no ending...work of love in the world. **C: Amen**

Fifth Reading: John 1:1-14 (*Pastor Cheryl*)

NT pg. 70

Hymn '*Your Little Ones, Dear Lord*' vs. 1-3 #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.**
- 3. Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord, and to us all your grace accord; true faith and love to us impart, that we may hold you in our heart.**

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

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

P: It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

C: Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

P: In his light, draw all to the manger

C: to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

P: In his light, draw all to the manger

C: to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

P: In his light, draw all to the manger

C: to sing for joy with the angels.

P: In the brightness of his life

C: cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.

P: It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

C: In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.

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.**

Words of Institution

P: In the night in... forgiveness of sin. Do this 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

THE COMMUNION

At this time I ask you to open your communion cups with the elements and hold the bread... We will take the element all together as you hear the Words spoken.

P: Holding the bread, hear these words spoken for you

"The body of Christ, given for you."

P: You may take the bread...

P: Now holding the juice. Hear these words spoken for you -

"The blood of Christ, shed for you."

P: You may take the juice...

Lay Assistants will pass around baskets to collect the used cups.

Distribution Hymn: 'Angels We Have Heard on High' vs. 1-2 #289

1. 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.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? (Refrain)

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864. Music: French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958.

Eucharistic Blessing

Hymn

'Silent Night, Holy Night!' (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.

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!

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: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

C: Praise God, all creatures here below!

P: You are the shepherds telling the story.

C: We tell it in the streets and across the land.

P: You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

C: We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.

P: You are the angels announcing peace.

C: We live with joy and go now in peace.

P: Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

'Joy to the World'

#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.

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.

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 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

Music: All Rights Reserved. Reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Copyright © 2006. Used by permission of Sundays and Seasons license#SB165499, CCLI License#2288422, & ONE LICENSE LICENSING PERMISSION: Reprinted / Podcast / Streamed with Permission Under One License #A-738935 and CCLI License #20063413.

1 Corinthians 13:13 (MSG) But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.

Pastor Cheryl plans to be in the FELC Pastor office on Wednesdays 11 - 6:30 (unless in a meeting or confirmation classes) & Thursdays 10 – 3 pm (unless up at FWV with members) or by appt. You can contact her anytime via text (605-237-1501) or email her at CMQRondeau@outlook.com.

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 Roger & Barb Nornes in honor of their 71st wedding anniversary and is also sponsored by Marilyn Hanson in memory of loved ones. [Radio broadcast cards are available on the information kiosk in the narthex; cost is \$100/week].

OFFERING UPDATE: Here are the expenses for November: \$16,605.12. Here is what we received: \$24,001.22. You're also encouraged to visit our webpage for Online Giving at www.firstenglish.net or scan the QR Code from the offering cards or bulletins.



December's pink envelope emphasis is for ELCA Missionaries. You can find special pink envelopes for designated giving in a basket in the Narthex.

Our prelude music will be broadcast on KDIO radio & Facebook Live and we want to be able to enjoy *all* of our special music planned, so in the interest of time, please hold your applause and thank the musicians after the service.

Today, due to limited ability to move around, we will participate in communion using the Fellowship communion cups you received on your way in. This means you will remain in your seats during communion opening the packages and commune together... we will take the bread all at one time & then the juice all together. Pastor Cheryl will give you instructions at the time.

All are welcome to enjoy a free Community Christmas Dinner, December 25th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at St. John's Catholic Church in Ortonville. You are invited to join us for fellowship and a sit down Christmas Dinner.

We are always looking for people to help with our Sunday School teaching in ANY capacity (twice a month, only a certain age groups, etc.) so PLEASE consider and let Sara Wollschlager know if you are interested. (Materials & lessons are prepped and supplied for you weekly.)

The Ortonville School is looking for new or gently used youth winter gear. There is a basket in the Narthex for this collection.

The "Giving Tree" is set up in the Narthex. Next to the tree is a basket of named envelopes of choices you may donate your gift to. Place the envelope of your choice in the box labeled "GIFTS" (preferably a check written to First English Lutheran Church). You may also take with you the ornament from the tree to gift it to someone. If you want to donate during the week, the box will be in the office. Please leave your donation with Barbara or slip it under the door. Thanks!

The end of the year is approaching fast, have you turned in your opportunity sheets and pledges yet? Pledge dedication is January 5th.

GLLM's summer programs have opened and spots can fill up fast. There is a \$65 early bird discount by Feb. 13th. If interested, we have flyers in the pickup room or office.

Mark your calendars and join us for a free family fun day of skating and pizza from 10am-1pm Sunday January 5 at Sioux Historic. They have plenty of skates available if you don't have a pair at home, or bring your own if you prefer.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING and COMFORT Jyla Dahle, Jane Debner, Ruth Hansen, Arlen LaCombe, Gail Olson, Harris Selvig, Beth Swanson, Brandi Tweeter; Monty Athey, Paul Erdman, Rosie Frank, Larry Helgeson, Natalie Henneberg, McCoy Jipson, Janice Redfield, David Scholberg, Jerry Stotesbery, and Harvey Vollmer. AT FAIRWAY VIEW NEIGHBORHOODS: Ricky Anderson, Arvilla Bergseth, Adeline Burgess, Jim Hipple, Vivian Janssen, Roger Nornes; and Mary Lou Olson in Madison. ALL OUR MILITARY who are deployed to areas of conflict. If you would like a name added/removed, please contact the church office.



Christmas Poinsettias/Floral Arrangements have been given...

- . . . in memory of loved ones from Dean & Anita Longnecker.
- . . . in memory of loved ones from Marilyn Hanson.
- . . . in memory of loved ones from Glenda Reiffenberger & family.
- . . . in memory of loved ones from Dean & Anita Longnecker.
- . . . in memory of Jerry Wollschlager from Josh & Sara Wollschlager.
- . . . in memory of Herman & Alice Ellingson and Adeline Brown from David & Debbie Ellingson and families.
- . . . in memory of Bonnie Hill and Leo and Darlene Barnhardt from Rick & Dawn Barnhardt.
- . . . in memory of Bill & Donna Hoel from their children.
- . . . in loving memory of Richard Janke from Patricia Janke.
- . . . in loving memory of Henry Domine from Jackie & Mel Domine.
- . . . in loving memory of Patrick Ketz, and Donald & Corinne Tiegs from Liz Ketz and family.
- . . . in loving memory of Mick Boone, Wes & JoAnn Strei from Dick & Marla Strei and family.
- . . . in loving memory of Bob & Donna Thompson from Chuck, Carol & family, Greg, Pat, & Family, and Mark, Sheila, and Family.
- . . . in loving memory of Jerry and Katie Dragseth from Marge and the Karels family



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.

December 24th Ministry Assistants **(2:30 PM Christmas Eve Service)**

Greeters: Fladhammer Family

Organist: Marilyn Hanson

Tech Desk: Marina Thomson & David Ellingson

Lay Assistants: Kari Dorry, Lori Strei, Marla Strei, Kelsey Kaye, Kirsten Karels, Bryson Karels, & Liz Ketz.

Ushers: Dick Strei, Adam Strei, Ron Athey, Russ Thielke, Vern Nickolauson, Gale May

Acolytes: Archer & Liv

Lector: Archer Dorry

Next Week's Ministry Assistants—December 29th

Greeters: Oliver & Jim Schmeichel

Acolytes: Ava & Chase

Organist: Kathy Haukos

Lector: Liv Wollschlager

Tech Desk: Marina Thomson

Coffee Server: June Harms

Ushers: Tami Lundberg, Josh Wollschlager,
Scott & Julie Schneider

FWV: Jim & Neva Foster



Upcoming Holiday Calendar

Wed – 12/25 CHRISTMAS DAY – OFFICE CLOSED

Thurs – Pastor Cheryl working from home

Fri – 12/27 9:00 am Bulletins Printed

Sun – 12/29 9:00 am Worship (w/Ellie Helgeson) – Noisy Offering –
KDIO & Facebook Live Broadcast

10:00 am Coffee Fellowship

10:30 am Fairway View – Pre-recorded

Mon – 12/30 9:30 am Visitation for Carol Barrett

10:30 am Carol Barrett's Funeral

Tues – 12/31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

NO DAY OF LOVE & NO BIBLE STUDY AT FAIRWAY VIEW

Wed – 1/1 NEW YEAR'S DAY - OFFICE CLOSED

We would like to thank our very talented vocalists & musicians for performing during our prelude & Christmas Eve Service:

- † *Away in the Manger* – Performed by Isaac Hodenfield (Trumpet)
- † *The Hands That First Held Mary's Child* – Performed by Women's Choir & Emily Trusty (Cello)
- † *Noel* – Performed by Hannah Vanderwal, Archer Dorry, Liv Wollschlager, & Emily Trusty (Cello)
- † *Child in a Manger* – Performed by Keven Berdan & Katelyn Renne
- † *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* – Performed by Christie Petersen (Flute)
- † *Calypso Lullaby* – Performed by Darin Ehrenberg, Jonathan Ydstie, Jim Foster, Brent Zahrbock, & Christie Petersen (Flute)
- † *Hallelujah* – Performed by Liv Wollschlager

Musicians accompanying *during the service*: Christie Petersen (Flute), Ellie Helgeson (Trumpet), Keven Berdan (Trombone), Carol Ydstie (Piano), Lisa Berdan (Piano & Director), Jonathan Ydstie (soloist and traffic director), and Marilyn Hanson (Organist).

