

The Welcome

In the name of Jesus Christ, whose earthly birth we celebrate this silent, holy night, we warmly welcome you to God's house. Especially if you are visiting, we pray that you will feel at home with us and discover the blessing of a gracious God in this service.

May Almighty God richly bless your celebration of the birth of His only Son.

As We Gather:

There are few nights which can rival Christmas Eve - the familiar carols, the sparkling lights of the tree, and the family gatherings all combine to fill us with special joy and peace. This is a night that the whole world pauses to celebrate.

The problem is that with all that, we easily forget what we are celebrating. And then the celebration itself becomes the focus instead of the good news of God come to earth in the flesh and blood of our humanity to redeem us sinners from our sin and death and to lead us home to our Father in heaven. Therefore, tonight, let us pause to read, sing, and give honest reflection to what makes this night different from all the rest!

We are a people walking in darkness. Yet tonight a great light shines upon us. A Child is born. A Son is given. God's glory bursts upon the world. Through the gift of this Savior, God's peace is freely given to all who will receive the forgiveness and new life He offers.

So, as we gather for worship this silent night, this holy night, we remember with thanksgiving our Savior's coming among us, as one of us, to save us. Through both Scripture and carols, our attention is drawn to the Christmas Gospel - the saving Good News that Christ Jesus, who was born in Bethlehem's manger, who was crucified on Calvary's cross, came into the world as the very Light of the World, the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

The Nativity of our Lord Christmas Eve

The Greeting

Pastor: "Glory to God in the Highest!" the angels sang as they heralded the birth of the Messiah, the Christ Child. May the glory of their message and the joy of their song fill your heart this silent, holy night as we gather together to celebrate the mystery of God's salvation revealed in Jesus' birth.

Hymn of Praise: #380 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (vs. 1,3)

**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'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 each child of earth, Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

(The sanctuary lights are dimmed.)

Pastor: On this most holy night, as we examine our lives according to the perfect Law of God, we can't help but recognize our many sins against God and against one another. We are forced to confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We can't help but recognize our great need for a Savior. Therefore, in humble adoration, we bow before the Christ child, who was sent to be our substitute and sacrifice, the atonement for our sin.

The Confession and Absolution of our Sin

Hymn of Confession: #361 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (vs. 3, 4)

**How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts To human hearts The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still The dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, And enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, Abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!**

Pastor: Gracious God,

People: for us sinners, You became a child. Since we could not fulfill your just and holy will, You fulfilled it for us in Christ Jesus. We bow before You, humbly confessing the sinfulness that separates us from You. We repent of our sin - in thought, and word, and deed - both the times we have neglected and also the times we have violated your righteous ways. Forgive us our sin so that we may be reconciled to You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: On this most holy night, I bring you good news of great joy: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Upon this your confession, I announce the grace of God unto all of you: Your ransom has been paid; you have been reconciled to God.

Pastor: "For unto us a child is born.

People: "Unto us a Son is given.

Pastor: "And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

People: "Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace" (Is. 9:6).

The Christmas Announcement and Invocation

Pastor: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

People: on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. (Isaiah 9:2)

Pastor: For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all people
(Titus 2:11)

People: Jesus Christ is born. Alleluia!

The Christmas Story in Word and Carol

The First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15

(After Adam and Eve sin, God promises salvation: the Holy One to be born of the woman will crush the evil head of Satan.)

8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." 11 He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" 12 The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." 13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

14 The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

The Second Lesson: Genesis 22:1-2, 9-12, 15-18

(God promises salvation to Abraham, and through Abraham.)

1 After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." 2 He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." 3 So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. 4 On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. 5 Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." 6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. 7 And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" 8 Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

9 When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. 11 But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said,

"Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." 12 He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." 13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

15 And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven 16 and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, 18 and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

The Third Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-3

(God's salvation will be a "branch" from the "root" of Jesse (David's father).)

1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. 2 And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. 3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

The Fourth Lesson: 1 Samuel 17:12-14a

The Fifth Lesson: 1 Chronicles 17:3-4, 9-14

(God promises his salvation through Jesse's son, David, and through David's "son," Jesus.)

12 Now David was the son of an Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, named Jesse, who had eight sons. In the days of Saul the man was already old and advanced in years. 13 The three oldest sons of Jesse had followed Saul to the battle. And the names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. 14 David was the youngest.

3 But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, 4 "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: It is not you who will build me a house to dwell in. 5 For I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up Israel to this day, but I have gone from tent to tent and from dwelling to dwelling. 6 In all places where I have moved with all Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I com-

manded to shepherd my people, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" 7 Now, therefore, thus shall you say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be prince over my people Israel, 8 and I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. 9 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall waste them no more, as formerly, 10 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will subdue all your enemies. Moreover, I declare to you that the LORD will build you a house. 11 When your days are fulfilled to walk with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom. 12 He shall build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. 13 I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from him who was before you, 14 but I will confirm him in my house and in my kingdom forever, and his throne shall be established forever.'"

The Christmas Carol: # 380 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,"

**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 Godhead see! Hail, the incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

The Sixth Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

(The salvation of God - the Light Divine - is coming into the world.)

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. . . . 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Seventh Lesson: Luke 1:26-35, 38

(The angel Gabriel announces the salvation of God to Mary.)

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

34 And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy - the Son of God. . . .

38 And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

The Eighth Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25

(The salvation of God finally is revealed: the birth of Jesus.)

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). 24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

The Christmas Carol: #364 "Away In A Manger" (American Carol)

**Away in a manger, No crib for a 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 Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle Till 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.**

The Ninth Lesson: Luke 2:8-16

(The shepherds visit the salvation of God in the manger.)

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

The Christmas Carol: #367 "Angels From the Realms of Glory"

**Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story; Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**Shepherds in the fields abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn king.**

The Tenth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

(The Wise Men follow the star to the salvation of God.)

1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." 3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: 6 "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

7 Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." 9 After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11 And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. 12 And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

The Christmas Carol: #368 "Angels We Have Heard on High"
**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo; Glo-ri-a 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-ri-a in excelsis Deo; Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo.**

The Christmas Sermon

The Christmas Offering

* (stand) The Offertory

(God has given us the "Gift of gifts" in Jesus, his Son. Therefore, we stand and sing Him thanks and praise as the gifts we offer Him are brought to His altar.)

(LSB #370, "What Child Is This?")

So, bring him incense, gold and myrrh;

Come, peasant, king, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings;

Let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.

Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

* (stand) The Responsive Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Gracious Lord, the angels responded to the news of Jesus' birth with glorious songs of praise.

People: Let your Holy Spirit work in our hearts so that our words and actions may be a fitting response to your love, bringing glory and honor to You.

Pastor: Gracious Lord, the Magi from the east responded to the news of Jesus' birth by coming to see and worship.

People: Keep us faithful in our worship lives, that we may faithfully gather together with Christian brothers and sisters to worship You and to be strengthened through your holy Word and Sacraments.

Pastor: Gracious Lord, the shepherds responded to the news of Jesus' birth by telling others what they had seen and heard.

People: Give us courage boldly to share the wonders of His birth - the good news of salvation - with others.

Pastor: Confirm in us the hope that comes because You have come.

People: Assure us that until that day when you will come again in full divine glory, You remain Immanuel, God with us.

Pastor: To You, O Lord, we commend all who are in need, all who struggle through this night in which we take such delight, all who have not acknowledged You as Savior and King, and all the other things that we need, in the words that You have taught us:

(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.

(The congregation is seated.)

The Litany of Light

(From earliest times, the new life God gives in Christ has been likened to light - lighting up the darkness of sin and unbelief. Tonight, the presence of Christ, our Everlasting Light - shining among us, in us, and through us - is symbolized by the center candle of the Advent wreath - appropriately, the Christ candle.)

Pastor: "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Jesus said: "I am the light of the world; whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." We declare the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. For God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of His glory in the face of Christ. No longer will the sun be your light by day or the moon by night; I,

the Lord will be your eternal light. You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before all, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for the fruit of light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth"

(Is. 60:1, 19; Jn. 8:12b; 1 Peter 2:9b; 2 Cor. 4:6; Mt. 5:14a, 16b; Eph. 5:8-9).

Pastor: The light of these candles symbolizes the light of Christ. He is our Light here on earth as well as the eternal Light who enlightens heaven, where is no need of either candle or sun. Tonight again we have seen his glory.

People: "The glory of the only begotten of the Father" (Jn . 1:14).

Pastor: We have seen his glory!

People: He is the Promised One of old.

Pastor: On this holy night God blesses the world with light,

People: the light of the Child of Bethlehem.

Pastor: Christ, the Savior, is born!

People: Christ, the Savior, is born!

As the organ quietly plays once through that solemn song of radiant light - *Silent Night* - the Pastor will light the large candles of the ushers from the Christ Candle. Then, as the congregation joins in singing, the ushers will light the candles of the worshipers on the aisles so that they may pass the light of Christ along to all those who here join together in worshipping the "Light of the world" this most holy night.)

(Important note: In the same way that we dark sinners each humbly bow before the Light of Christ, our Lord, so we also dip our dark (unlit) candles in order to receive the light from the candles that are already lit. The lit candles should never be tilted, but always held upright - held high! - as we each let the light of Christ shine in us.)

The Christmas Carol: #363 "Silent Night, Holy Night"

**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,
Heavenly 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.**

(The light of Christ now burning brightly in each of our hearts, we **extinguish** our candles.)

* (stand) **The Collect For Christmas Eve**

*Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, because You once made this holy night
shine with the brightness of the true Light of the World,*

**People: grant that we who have known the mystery of that Light here on earth
may in the last day awake to the brightness of His heavenly glory;**

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

People: Amen.

*Pastor: To each of you, that very Light of God has said, "You are the light of
the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a
lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it
gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light
shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your
Father in heaven" (Mt. 4:15,16).*

* (stand) **The Christmas Hymn: # 388 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"**

**Chorus: Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'ry where;
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.
(Chorus)**

**The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth.
(Chorus)**

**Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn.
(Chorus)**

* (stand) **The Blessing Of Our God**

*Pastor: May Jesus, the Christ, promised in ages past and revealed and made
known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal
God, indeed fill you with all peace and joy as you proclaim His birth.*

People: Amen.

Pastor: Glory to God in the highest

People: and peace to his people on earth!

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Tomorrow
morning at 10:00 a.m.
we culminate our celebration
of the birth of the Savior with our
Festival of the Nativity of our Lord
Divine Service of Holy Communion.
We sincerely invite you
to make plans
to join with us.

“C’MON, (B)RING THOSE BELLS!” After children, perhaps, nothing quite says “Christmas” like bells, so, c’mon, bring those bells to worship throughout this entire Christmas season. Bring one of your favorite bells from home or borrow one of ours when you get here. The idea is that whenever the Spirit moves you - in our hymns and carols, throughout our liturgy, but especially after each reading of God’s Holy Word (as a reminder that Jesus is the Word incarnate) - you’ll ring those bells . . . in joy and praise to God . . . for Christmas.

"This is the week that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!"

Sun.	12/24	8:15 a.m. - NO Handbell Choir Practice 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School/Adult Bible Class 10:30 a.m. - Divine Service - Holy Communion (4 th Sunday) 11:55 a.m. - LWML “Mites for Missions” coffee fellowship 7:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service - Candlelight and Carols
Mon.	12/25	10:00 a.m. - Divine Service - Nativity Festival - Holy Communion
Tues	12/26	5:00 p.m. - NO Confirmation Class (Merry Christmas)
Wed	12/27	9:30 a.m. - NO Ladies’ Bible Study (Merry Christmas) - NO LifeLight Bible study
Sun	12/31	8:15 a.m. - NO Handbell Choir Practice 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School/Adult Bible Class 10:30 a.m. - Divine Service - Holy Communion (5 th Sunday) 11:55 a.m. - LWML “Mites for Missions” coffee fellowship 7:00 p.m. - New Year’s Eve Service - Holy Communion
Tues	1/02	5:00 p.m. - NO Confirmation Class (Happy New Year)
Wed	1/03	9:30 a.m. - NO Ladies’ Bible Study (Happy New Year) 7:00 p.m. - NO LifeLight Bible Study (Happy New Year)
Fri	1/05	6:30 p.m. - “First Friday” night at the movies (Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m.)

MISSION MINUTE: On this holy night God blesses the world - a world mired in the darkness of sin and sorrow and pain and hurt - with light - the light of forgiveness and hope and peace and new life. Extend that light. Share that blessing.

LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR (from Lutherans for Life) “‘*The goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared*’ (Titus 3:4). And look, . . . it’s a baby!”

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Christmas Eve
December 24, 2017
The Nativity of our Lord
(928) 367-1183
2035 S. Penrod Lane,
Pinetop, Arizona 85935
Telephone/Fax (928) 367-1183
www.shepherdofthemountains.com
e-mail: shepherdpt@frontiernet.net
Pastor: R. Wayne Morton
Ministers: Each and Every Member

Shepherd of the Mountains
Lutheran Church
(LC-MS)