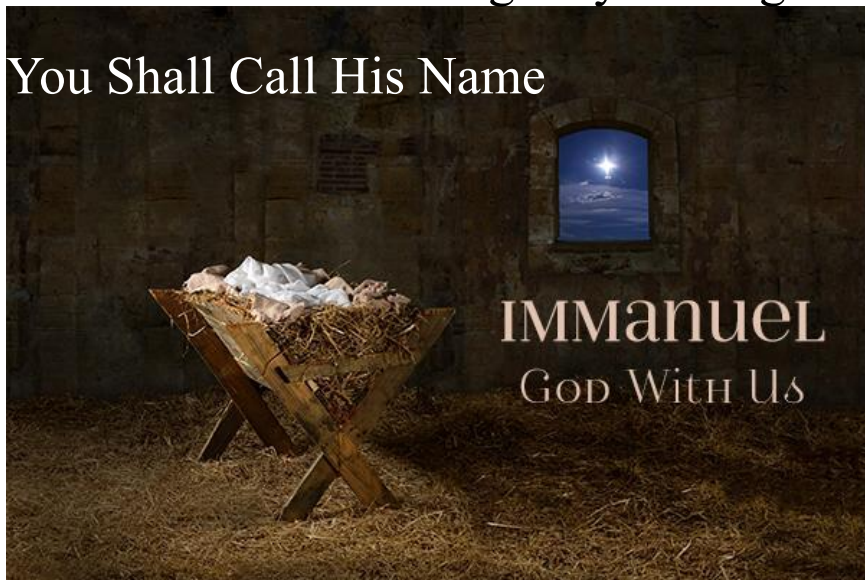


St. Johns Lutheran Church

The Lord himself will give you a sign.

You Shall Call His Name



The virgin shall conceive
and bear a son,

AS WE GATHER

One of the pleasures of walking through medieval towns and cities in Europe is seeing the signs that hang above the doorways of various stores and craftwork locations. Without a word of written language, you can tell where the town's cobbler, blacksmith, baker, and glove maker have set up their shops. The signs indicate that the masters are at work in their various locations. For Christians, Advent is a time for looking to the signs of the presence of God as found in Word and Sacrament. There are signs around us right now! The cross over the altar or in front of church wordlessly attests to the fulfilling of the work by the Master of all creation through the coming of Jesus as the babe of Bethlehem, who would be our crucified and resurrected Lord. The candles on the Advent wreath burn brightly today! The signs of the season are all around us.

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME GUESTS

We're glad you are here! Make it a point to introduce yourself to the pastor. Please take time to fill out an attendance card and drop it in the basket during the offering. Please consider liking us on Facebook (St. Johns Lutheran Church – St. Louis City) and checking out our website (<https://stjohnslutheranstlouis.org/>).

PREPARATION

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring;
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise
Your joyful songs of praise.

A righteous Helper comes to thee;
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings;
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise
Your grateful hymns of praise.

How blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He
Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise
Your happy shouts of praise.

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in
And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise
For word and deed and grace!

**Redeemer, come and open wide
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine;
Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on
Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame
We offer to Thy name.**

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

As we prepare for the advent of Christ's coming God gives us a sign. "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." God sent His son to dwell among us, taking our place, living under the law perfectly and paying the price for our sins. The candles on the Advent wreath have often symbolized **hope, love, joy and peace** which can only come from Immanuel. God with us, the Light of the World. (*four Advent candles are lit.*)

O Lord,
You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives.
As we watch, wait, hope, and pray,
guide us all to reflect Your light
and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our gracious heavenly Father.

Eternal God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and that sin is ever-present in our lives. O God, in Your mercy, forgive our sin. Redirect and renew us, that we may joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your commandments.

Graciously forgive our sins and, by the leading of the Holy Spirit, guide us in ways of compassion and love.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ is given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

WORD

KYRIE LSB 204

Lord, have mercy;

Christ, have mercy;

Lord, have mercy

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS... Glory to God in the Highest LSB 204

To God on high be glory

And peace to all the earth;

Good-will from God in heaven

Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!

We praise and bless You, Father;

Your holy name, we sing-

Our thanks for Your great glory,

Lord God, our heavenly King.

To You, O sole begotten,

The Father's Son, we pray;

O Lamb of God, our Savior,

You take our sins away.

**Have mercy on us , Jesus;
Receive our heart-felt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high.**

**For you a-lone are holy;
You only are the Lord,
For-ever and for-ever,
Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
“Amen!” our glad re-ply.**

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

MEMORIZED WORD

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. Zechariah 9:9

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 7:10–17*

¹⁰Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men,

that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The Lord will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL *Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of * Zion.

Shout aloud, O daughter of Je * rusalem.

**Behold, your king is com * ing to you;
righteous and having sal * vation.**

Blessed is He who comes in the name * of the Lord.

From the house of the Lord we * bless You.

EPISTLE *Romans 1:1–7*

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Matthew 1:23a*

Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 1:18–25*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter
Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸Now 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. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But 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. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All 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). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *LSB 357*

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain:

**Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel
Shall come to thee,
O Israel!**

**O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. [*Refrain*]**

**O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. [*Refrain*]**

**O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. [*Refrain*]**

**O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. [*Refrain*]**

**O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. [*Refrain*]**

**O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. [*Refrain*]**

SERMON

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

OFFERING *“Emmanuel, God Is with Us” Sung by the Choir*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray

We pray for the Church as it awaits the final Advent of our Lord, that through it, the message of salvation be proclaimed, and the gifts of God be shared. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

And we pray for the nations of the world, that we may know times of peace and may with thankful hearts enjoy the blessings we receive. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for our family of faith and for all Christian people in God's kingdom around the world. Help us to share confidently the blessings that we know in Christ both within our family circles and beyond them. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those things needed by us as part of what we know to be our daily bread. And we remember people with special needs and concerns this day, especially the hospitalized, the grieving, the unemployed, and all on our hearts for whom our petitions are desired, [*including . . .*]. Help us to share love without limit and offer forgiveness as we have been loved and forgiven by our gracious Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray that we will not succumb to the many temptations that surround us in this and every season, and we ask that we be delivered from every evil. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

With thankfulness, we ask God's blessing on all who brighten these darkening days of the year—the shopworkers and postal clerks, the musicians and carolers, the delivery people and all those who work long hours in these days. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

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.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

**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.**

**Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne.**

**Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began.**

**God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.**

**For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your might pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.**

**From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.**

Stand

**Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.**

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Preacher | Pastor Michael Tanney |
| Liturgist | Tristan Pilot |
| Lector | Tristan Pilot |
| Elders | Al Bohannon & Earl Welch |
| Organist | Suzanne Manelli |
| Ushers | Cameron Hampel, John Benwell, Patrick Benwell, Jayvon Evers, Joan Potvin, William Gebhart, and Roger Schmidt |
| Children's Message | Tristan Pilot |
| Acolytes/Screen | Tra-Mi and Thao-Vy |
| Bible Class | Pastor Michael Tanney |

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: Parts of this worship folder are copyrighted. Permission for reprint has been received from Concordia Publishing House. The Fellowship Publications, and C.C.L.I copyright license #386077 & C.C.L.I Streaming license #20825510

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1,
Copyright © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Announcements

Saved to Share Called to Care

Our Response to God's Love Last Week

Attendance Sunday/Communion: 37/33

Nepalese Attendance: 30

Wednesday (Advent): 24

Offering: \$1,711.00

POINSETTIAS It's time again to order poinsettias. The cost is \$10. There are envelopes in the Narthex to fill out with number of plants and names for the memorial page. Please place them in the offering basket.

LONG TERM SUB NEEDED One of Word of Life's preschool teachers will be taking maternity leave from the end of March through the end of the school year. They are looking for a long term substitute teacher for that time period. If you are interested or know someone who may be, please contact Principal Melissa Bergholt at mbergholt@wordoflifeschool.net or 314-832-1244.

ADVENT 2022 The theme for this year's Advent is "A Tale of Trees". The Compass Christmas Program will be Wednesday, December 21st at 6pm. The Christmas Eve service will be on December 24th at 5pm. The Christmas Day service will be at 9am and will not be a Joint service.

BIG BAND SWING The Lutheran South bands will host *Big Band Swing* on Friday, January 13 from 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. The night will feature the local professional big band "The Ambassadors of Swing." Tickets are available for \$30 each and include beer, wine, and hors d'oeuvres. Free swing dance lessons will be offered at 6:30 p.m. It is sure to be a fun evening as we raise money for the band to go on tour this spring! Register at LSlancers.org/events

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES & CALENDERS are available for pickup in the Narthex.

MUSIC IN A SACRED SPACE The Gateway Ringers will present handbell music for the Christmas season at Hope Ev. Lutheran in St. Louis on Sunday, December 18th at 4pm. Come visit the sanctuary of Hope Lutheran church, decked out in Christmas splendor. Hope Ev. Lutheran is located at 5218 Neosho St. in St. Louis, MO.

Prayers

Special Prayer Petitions –**Joan** as she recovers from hip surgery; **Melba Fanger** as she recovers back at home; **Maureen Rehmer** for healing of her hip; **Jabin** for healing as he is still in the hospital; **Carmen Hobson** who is facing pain, stability, and results for upcoming surgery; **Bobbie** who is back in the nursing home, but suffering; **Confirmation Class** for the Lord to mature their faith; **Our Vicars** as they continue to take classes at the Seminary; **Our Field-Workers** **Tristan** (and family), **Alvaro** and, **Isaac**; **St. Johns** as we look for the funding for two new AC units.
Shut Ins – **Bobbie** Kepford, **Jerry** Schmaltz, **Steve** Bain, **Eileen** Wehrheim, **Carmen** Hobson

Opportunities to Love and Serve Christ this Week

December 18-December 25

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Sunday | 9:00am Worship 10:30am Bible Study/Nepali Worship 12:30pm African Worship |
| Monday | <u>8am-12pm</u> Office Open / <u>8am-3pm</u> Counseling in Nursery <u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass / <u>All Day</u> Light Installation |
| Tuesday | <u>8am-12pm</u> Office Open / <u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass NO Seminary Students |
| Wednesday | 8am-12pm Office Open <u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass / <u>3:45pm</u> Compass Chapel <u>5:15pm</u> Pizza Supper / <u>6pm</u> Compass Program |
| Thursday | <u>8am-12pm</u> Office Open / <u>2pm</u> Ridgewood Bible Study <u>NO</u> Compass / <u>6:30pm</u> Adult Confirmation |
| Friday | 8am-12pm Office Open <u>8am</u> Bible Study / <u>NO</u> Counseling in Nursery <u>1pm</u> Nepali Mother's Prayer Service / <u>NO</u> Compass |
| Saturday | NO Food Pantry <u>NO</u> Confirmation / <u>NO</u> Vicar Meeting 5pm Christmas Eve Worship 6pm African Christmas Fellowship |
| Next Sunday | 9:00am Worship w/ Communion (Christmas Day) 10:30am Bible Study/Nepali Worship & Christmas Celebration 12:30pm African Worship 1pm Nepalese Luncheon |