

Welcome! We are happy to share God's peace with everyone. Visitors are invited to sign our guest book in the entryway. If you have any questions, the ushers are ready to help. Feel free to visit after the service.

- Aids to assist with hearing (Williams Sound System) are available from the ushers.
- Large Print Hymnal Binders are available on the tract desk for those with vision difficulties.

Please note: the Sunday service is being recorded and streamed on YouTube.

www.youtube.com/@stlukesvassar

The Light Reveals God's Love

347 Angels from the Realms of Glory

CW 347

- 1 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: (Refrain)

**Ref Come and worship, come and worship,
 worship Christ, the newborn King.**

- 2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
 watching o'er your flocks by night,
 God with us is now residing;
 yonder shines the infant light. (Refrain)
- 3 Magi, leave your contemplations,
 brighter visions beam afar;
 seek the great desire of nations,
 you have seen the Savior's star. (Refrain)
- 4 Saints before the altar bending,
 watching long in hope and fear,
 suddenly the Lord, descending,
 in his temple shall appear. (Refrain)
- 5 All creation, join in praising
 God the Father, Spirit, Son,
 evermore your voices raising
 to th' eternal Three in One. (Refrain)

Text (sts. 1-3): James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.; (st. 4): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, alt.
 Text: Public domain

Litany for Christmas Eve

God's love is so special because he is our Creator and the one who sustains us every day of our life. God's love is important because he created us to love him. This loving relationship was destroyed by sin which has

placed doubts in our minds about God's love for us.

These doubts are real because we know that God hates sin. He must be angry with us.

But God has loved us enough that he would find a way to save us from our sins and from the judgment of death that we deserve.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Today we celebrate this love from our God as we celebrate the anniversary of the birth of our Savior. Help us to see this love in the Christ-child. May we rejoice in this love this evening and find the peace that God has promised to us through the angels' announcement to the shepherds.

May this joy be ours today and every day, as we live in the peace established by our Savior forever.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the
 brightness of the
 true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the
 wonder of that light,
 we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to
 come; through your
 Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with
 you and the
 Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

Part I: The Love Promised

Reading: Genesis 3:8-15

315 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

CW 315

- 1 Let the earth now praise the Lord,
 who has truly kept his word
 and at last to us did send
 Christ, the sinner's help and friend.
- 2 What the fathers most desired,
 what the prophets' heart inspired,

what they longed for many'—a year
stands fulfilled in glory here.

3 Abram's promised great reward,
Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord—
him of twofold race behold—
truly came, as long foretold.

4 Savior, hear my welcome cry—
loud hosannas lifted high!
King of glory, enter in;
cleansing my soul of ev'ry sin.

5 Crush for me the serpent's head
that, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to you in faith,
safely kept through life and death,

6 And, when you shall come again
as a glorious king to reign,
I with joy may see your face,
freely ransomed by your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–1659, abr.; (sts. 1–3, 5–6): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 4): tr. Christian Worship, 2021

Text (sts. 1–3, 5–6): Public domain

Text (st. 4): © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716852

Part II: The Love Renewed

Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

349 A Great and Mighty Wonder

CW 349

1 A great and mighty wonder,
 a glorious mystery:
 a virgin bears an infant
 who veils his deity. (Refrain)

Ref Proclaim the Savior's birth:

**“To God on high be glory
 and peace to all the earth!”**

2 The Word becomes incarnate
 and yet remains on high,
 and cherubim sing anthems
 to shepherds from the sky. (Refrain)

3 While thus they sing your monarch,
 those bright angelic bands,
 rejoice, O vales and mountains,
 and oceans, clap your hands. (Refrain)

4 Since all he comes to ransom,
 by all be he adored,
 the infant born in Bethl'em,
 the Savior and the Lord. (Refrain)

5 All idols then shall perish
 and Satan's lying cease,
 and Christ shall raise his scepter,
 decreeing endless peace. (Refrain)

Text: tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; Germanus, c. 634–c. 734

Text: Public domain

Part III: The Love Revealed

Reading: Luke 2:1-7

333 O Little Town of Bethlehem

CW 333

- 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.
- 3 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.

4 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;
 O come to us, abide with us,
 our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893, abr., alt.

Text: Public domain

Part IV: The Love Proclaimed

Reading: Luke 2:8-14

350 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

CW 350

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
 “Glory to the newborn King;
 peace on earth and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled!”
 Joyful, all ye nations rise,
 join the triumph of the skies;
 with th’ angelic host proclaim,
 “Christ is born in Bethlehem!” (Refrain)

**Ref Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

- 2 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 th’_incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel! (Refrain)
- 3 Hail, the heav’nly 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. (Refrain)

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Text: Public domain

Part V: The Love Shared
Reading: Luke 2:15-20

361 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

CW 361

**Ref 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 lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessèd Christmas morn. (Refrain)

Text: John W. Work II, 1873–1925, verses, alt.; African American spiritual, refrain
Text: Public domain

Part VI: The Love Empowered
Reading: John 1:1-14

346 Angels We Have Heard on High

CW 346

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,
 sweetly singing o'er the plains,
 and the mountains in reply,
 echoing their joyous strains. (Refrain)

**Ref 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)
- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see
 him whose birth the angels sing;
 come, adore on bended knee
 Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain)

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, 1862, alt.; French
 Text: Public domain

The Offering

Please rise

Prayer of the Church

Oh gracious and almighty Father, we praise you that
 you kept your

ancient promises by sending your everlasting Son in
human flesh.

On this holy night, receive our thanks and devotion, our
songs and prayers.

You sent Jesus as a lowly child to demonstrate your
concern for all, the

weak and lonely, the troubled and frightened, the timid
and helpless. No one

is overlooked by your ever-seeking eyes. No one is
excluded from your upholding arms. No one is denied
the comfort and help of your outstretched hand.

Bless us with a childlike faith in the divine assurance
that you love and care

for us always. You sent Jesus as the Savior of the world
to deliver all from

the curse of sin, the power of death, and the torment of
hell. He took our place. He was born under the law to

set us free. He became the innocent lamb

of sacrifice. He came to die and rise again in order that
we might live

eternally. Firmly implant this good news in our hearts,
and fill us with an

eager desire to spread the Word concerning what we
have heard tonight.

May all who hear the message, in every nation under
heaven, be amazed

and believe what is told them about the child.
You sent Jesus as the Light of the world to drive out all
darkness that
would rob us of the full life that you intend for us. May
the “joy that will be
for all people” be our joy. May the “peace on earth to all
on whom his
favor rests” be our peace. May the treasure that Mary
pondered in her heart
be our treasure. For today in the town of David, a Savior
has been born to
us. He is Christ, the Lord.
Amen.

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 on you with favor
 and give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

337 Silent Night, Holy Night

CW 337 sts. 1–3

- 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 thy holy face
 with the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
 Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Text: tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885; Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848
 Text: Public domain+

MESSAGE BOARD



Symbolism of the Fourth Advent Candle

The fourth candle that we light today is called the Angels' Candle (sometimes also called the Good News Candle). This violet or blue colored candle symbolizes the final glorious coming of the Savior with all of his angels on the Last Day.

Poinsettias: Poinsettias were given by Jerry & Jennie Comstock, Diane Forbush, Marsha Jobson, Heidi Krause, and Nick & Kerri Hubbard. Poinsettias were given by Fran Emling in memory of Dr. Fred Emling, and by Jeanette Dudewicz in memory of Bill Dudewicz

and Roger & Dolly Gohs. Thank you for helping to beautify our sanctuary!

Operation Joy: St. Luke's Lutheran school sends out a hearty thank you to all for the generosity shown to our shut-ins. The teachers, students, and helpers have divided these gifts and delivered them!

Befriend Our Missionary Friends: December is St. Luke's turn to focus on our assigned missions/missionaries through personal correspondence and prayer. Below the bulletin board near the church office is a list of overseas missionary children attending school in the USA. Please take a copy and send a Christmas greeting and words of encouragement to these young men and woman who are so far from their immediate families. Perhaps you might also consider a gift card along with your good wishes. **It's the Simple Gestures!**

Saginaw Valley Lutheran Chorale (SVLC) begins 1/5/25: The *Saginaw Valley Lutheran Chorale* welcomes all confirmed WELS/ELS members to join in preparing a concert of sacred music to be presented on March 22 & 23, 2025. Weekly rehearsals will begin under the direction of Prof. em. Leonard Proeber on Sunday,

January 5th, 6:30-8:00 PM in the Michigan Lutheran Seminary band room. New voices are always welcome! [For further information, please contact Prof. Proeber or the Chorale's president, Prof. Allen Ash.

STEWARDSHIP AT ST. LUKE'S

For 2024, the planned giving needed is \$7,910.00 per week to meet our ministry goals.

Budgetary Offerings Dec. 4th: \$23,23,380, Tuition: \$100.00

Sunday School: \$19.00

Budgetary Offerings Dec. 10th: \$5,082.00, Sunday School \$12.00

Budgetary Offerings Dec. 18th: \$5,395.00, Missions: \$25.00,

Sunday School: \$5.00, Parking Lot Fund: \$5,624.42 Rainy Day Fund: \$5624.42

Children's Christmas Service Attendance: 175

HAPPENING SOON

Wednesday 12/24 9:00 AM Christmas Communion Service

Sunday 12/29 9:00 AM Worship Service
10:15 AM Sunday School/Bible Class
11:15 AM Choir Practice

Monday 12/30 7:00 PM Worship Service

Sunday 01/05 9:00 AM Communion Worship Service

Monday 01/06 7:00 PM Communion Worship Service

