

St. Mark

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Reach, Teach, Rejoice!

Did You Know?

HYMN: CW 55

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

The Prophecies Foretold Jesus' Birth

M: Did you know that it's already been more than two thousand years since that first Christmas? Imagine how many things have changed since then! You may not even realize what that night in Bethlehem was like. Today we would like to take you back to the first Christmas to get a better idea of what Jesus' birthday really was like.

Most people know about nine months in advance that they are going to have a baby. But did you know that people knew about Jesus' coming at least three thousand years before he was actually born? The first time people heard about Jesus was when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, which meant all mankind would be sinful humans for the rest of time. The only way to solve this problem was to have a Savior come into the world, live a perfect life, and die for us. Genesis 3:15 has the first promise of a Savior.

C: **I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. (Genesis 3:15)**

M: But that's not the only time God promised this gift. There are many other times in the Old Testament where we hear about the Savior that would come to rescue us. For example, we read about it in Genesis chapter 49 when God tells us that the Savior would come from Judah's line of descendants.

C: **The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his. (Genesis 49:10)**

St. Mark Lutheran Church and School

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This Week at St. Mark

- Monday - Worship w/Lord's Supper 7:00 PM
- Wednesday - Bible Class Lexington Assisted Living Center 3:30 pm
- Catechism 5:30 pm
- Advent Service 7:00 pm
- Thursday - Bible Class—All Welcome 6:30 am
- Friday - Snow Removal—Gary Mundt
- Church Cleaning: Sec. 1 N. Flood Sec. 2 Hoefler
Sec. 3 Humphrey
- Saturday - Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm
- Sunday - Christmas Day Service 10:00 am

Sunday School—There will not be Sunday School on Christmas Day. There will be Sunday School on New Years Day.



Please remember in your prayers...

- Shirley Zacherson
- Tammy Koepsell, Wendy Colson & Eric Richert’s sister
- Sarah Brauer, Margaret Booth’s daughter
- Jacob Kander, Jean & Denny Riegsecker’s nephew
- Those traveling over the holidays, may God keep them safe

Advent Wreath The fourth Advent candle, the last purple one, is called the Angel Candle. It represents the final coming of the Savior in glory with all His angels to take all those who believe in Him to everlasting life in heaven. Read Matthew 25:31-34

Your Offering Envelopes for next year are ready for you to pick up. They are on a table in the church office.

Stewardship Time and Talent Sheets are on the table in the entryway. Please fill them out when you have time and give them to an usher or place them on the secretary’s desk.

NELHS: Congratulations to both the boys and girls basketball teams who won the Martin Luther College Tip-Off Tournament this last weekend. The girls defeated Northland and Evergreen. The boys defeated Northland and Illinois.

NEHLS Christmas Concert is today at 4 pm, with a performance of the one-act play and a meal to follow.

- M:** Another time God told Isaiah that the mother of Jesus, Mary, would be a virgin.
- C:** **The Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)**
- M:** Later in the Old Testament the prophet Micah says that the Savior would not be born in a castle or some huge city, but, rather, he would be born in a small town called Bethlehem.
- C:** **But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. (Micah 5:2)**
- M:** Over the course of three thousand years God gave this promise many times, and we are reminded again and again that God kept his promise then and he still keeps his promises today.

HYMN: CW 50

Once in Royal David’s City

The Birth Of Jesus

- M:** Did you know that it’s about 80 miles from Nazareth, where Mary and Joseph lived, to Bethlehem? That’s about how far it is from Lincoln to Grand Island. It would only take us about an hour and a half to get there, but it may have taken Mary and Joseph a week to walk that distance! We hear more about their journey in Luke chapter 2.

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

C: So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. (Luke 2:1-5)

M: Can you imagine what that trip might have felt like for Mary? She was just about to have a baby! We can imagine that the only way she could have endured that kind of a trip at that point of her pregnancy was by God's grace. We can be comforted, as I'm sure Mary was, by the words of Psalm 46:1: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." Luke continues by telling us of Jesus' birth.

C: While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:6,7)

M: Did you notice that the Bible doesn't actually say that Jesus was born in a barn? It says that he was placed in a manger, or feeding trough, for animals. These words tell us that Jesus was not born in a palace where a king normally would have begun his life. Instead, we see how Christ willingly began his life in a place where not even a poor individual would be born.

HYMN: CW 68

Away in a Manger

The Shepherds Hear About the Birth of Jesus

M: Did you know that shepherds at this time were very low in society? The only thing they were trusted with was the sheep! Isaiah even compares them to nomads, people who wander from one place to another. Usually when a baby is born, all the important

Nursery At St. Mark, we love children and encourage their worship, too! In the foyer, we have some children's busy bags hanging from hooks that you are most welcome to use in church. If your child becomes restless during the service and you feel you both could just use a little break, you're welcome to use our nursery. Ask an usher to lead you to the nursery. Most of us have or have had young children, so you're with caring people who understand what it's like to have little ones.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING

Elders: Tyson Martin, Curt Jamison

Ushers: Noel Lee, Larry Hans (E), Rich Beltz, James Mullen (L)

Greeters: Mel & Sue Soyk (E), Tina Schmidt (L)

Pianist: Jocelyn Vogel

Building Addition Fund: If you would like to give specifically to the new building addition, please write "Building Addition Fund" on the envelope to be sure that the money is allocated correctly. Put the envelope in the offering plate.

Christmas cards for inmates: We invite everyone to participate in sending anonymous Christmas cards to those in prison. Pull out your old Christmas cards and choose those with a Christian image (i.e. no Frosty, Rudolf, Santa, etc). Cut off the front and write a simple Christmas greeting on the reverse, e.g. "Jesus was born for you!" or "God loves you so much that he sent you his Son" or "The best gift at Christmas is a Savior." Sign your first name only. Bring your cards to church by November 30 or send them yourself to WELS Prison Ministry, P.O. Box 452, New Ulm, MN 56073.

Birthday— Kerry Johnson 12/22, Susan Rehm 12/23 **An-**
iversary — Dwayne & Dorothy Burianek 12/19



Cedars Birthday Boxes

The students at St. Mark are planning on assembling and wrapping birthday care boxes for the foster kids at Cedars. All month we will be collecting items to put in the boxes and then the kids will wrap the presents at their Christmas party. The students are asking for the congregation to help by donating items from the list below. Please donate full size bottles instead of travel size. Most of the kids that are at Cedars are preteen to teenagers. **Project Dates: Monday, November 21st-Monday, December 19th**

NO items with alcohol and NO aerosols

Nail polish	Pencils
Emory board	Toiletry bag
Lotion	Playing cards
ChapStick	Water bottle
Lip Gloss	Hacky Sack
Toothbrush	Name Brand socks (Nike, Addidas, etc)
Toothpaste	\$5 Gift cards (McDonald's, Target, etc)
Deodorant	Ear buds
Body spray/perfume/cologne	Candy
Body wash (esp. Axe body wash for boys)	Birthday wrapping paper
Comb/pick/brush	Birthday cards
Hair accessories	Tissue paper
Small notebook	
Pens	

people hear about it first: Grandma, Grandpa, aunts, uncles, and so on. But God chose these lowly shepherds to be the first to hear this wonderful message. Why? Perhaps using these men shows us that this is news everyone should hear! Let us hear how the angels gave them the exciting message.

There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them,

C: **“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”**

M: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

C: **“Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”**

M: So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

C: **The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. (Luke 2:8-20)**

M: Did you hear how everyone responded to this news? The angels praised God in a united chorus, the shepherds ran to spread the news, and Mary treasured these things in her heart. As you can see, there are many different ways to show your excitement on this special day. How are you going to share the message?

HYMN: CW 57

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

The Wise Men Are Led to the Savior

M: This message was proclaimed to the simplest of men, the shepherds, but it was also shared with some very important and intelligent men, the Magi from the east. Unfortunately, there is a lot we don't know about the Magi. We don't know exactly when they came to worship Jesus, we don't know how many there were, and we don't know what country they came from.

The Magi may have left their homes on the day Jesus was born, but we know, based on certain facts the Bible gives us, that they didn't arrive in Judea until at least a few months after his birth. Perhaps this shows us the importance of praising Jesus throughout the year, not just on Christmas!

We also are told that the Magi came from the east; however, the Bible doesn't tell us which country. This is a story that every person on earth needs to hear. Matthew recorded this event.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked,

C: **"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."**

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.

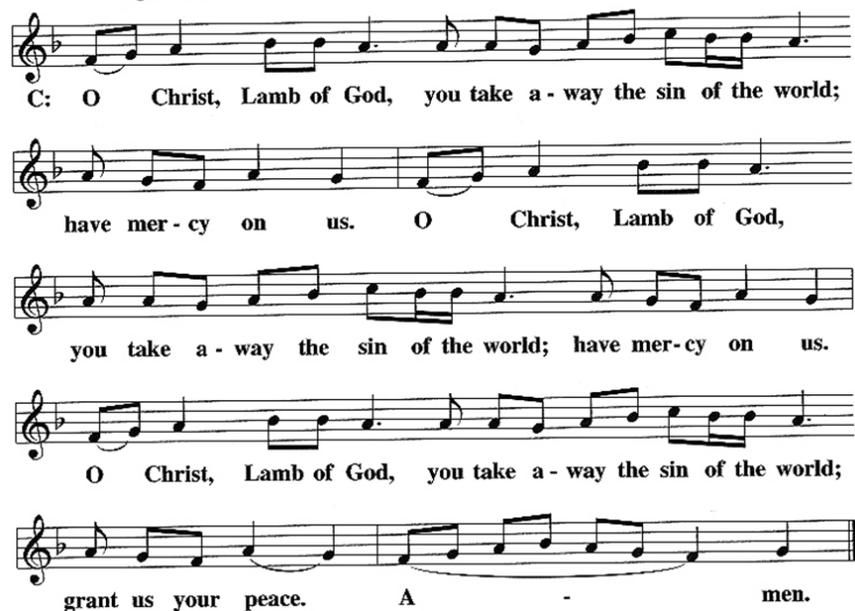
C: **Amen.**

HYMN: CW 64

Let Us All With Gladsome Voice

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - - - men.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.

C: Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh." (Matthew 2:1, 2,11)

HYMN: CW 51

I Am So Glad When Christmas Comes

The Good News of Jesus Is for All

M: Did you know that Jesus didn't have to come into the world? After Adam and Eve fell into sin God could have just called it quits and started over. But instead, Jesus left his heavenly kingdom to be born on this earth. He lived a perfect life here on earth, he died on the cross, and he rose three days later. And he did it all because he loves us. God wants us to share this amazing news with the rest of the world. Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he told his disciples:

C: Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19)

M: Did you also know that Christ will return again someday? In the last book of the Bible, Jesus says, "I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star. . . . Yes, I am coming soon" (Revelation 22:16,20). As we look forward to his return, we thank him, praise him, and serve him, using the gifts he has blessed us with to share this news with the people who surround us.

HYMN: CW 60

Silent Night! Holy Night!

SERMON

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- M: O Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray...
- C: 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 SACRAMENT

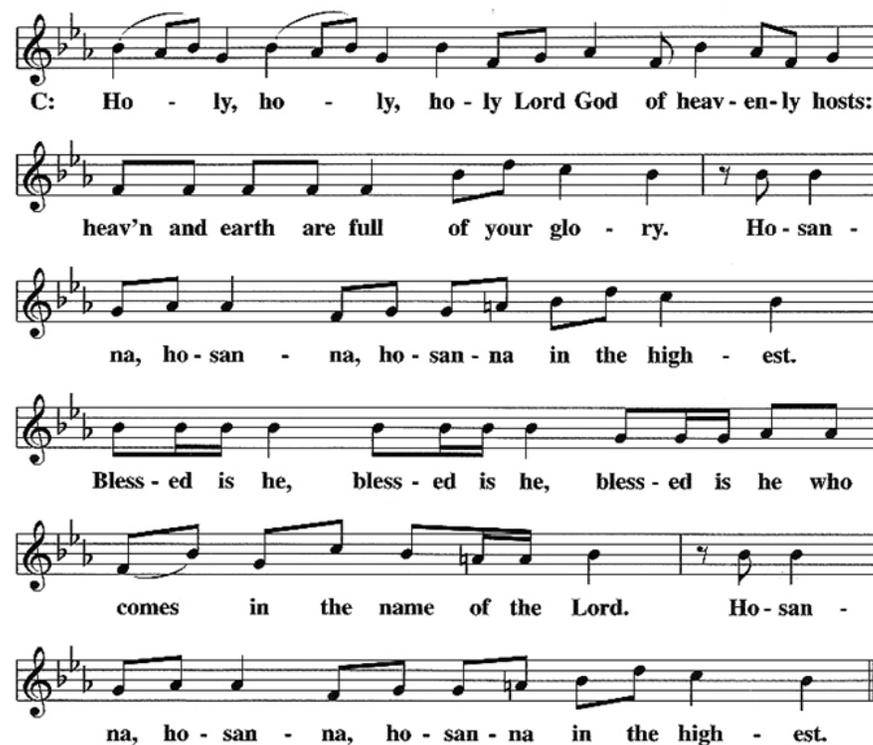
We follow the historic Christian practice of *close communion*. We ask that only members of St. Mark Lutheran or one of our sister congregations partake of the sacrament. If you are not a member, please speak to the pastor before communing.

Preface

- M: The Lord be with you.
- C: **And also with you.**
- M: Lift up your hearts.
- C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**
- M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C: **It is good and right so to do.**
- M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for in the wonder and mystery of his birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
- Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."
- The peace of the Lord be with you always.

- C: **Amen.**