

THE GATHERING

Prelude “French Carol Miniatures” Hal Hopson  
Piano: Marsha Kurtenbach  
Organ: Kristy Tostenson

Opening Special Music “All My Heart This Night Rejoices” arr. Marie Pooler  
Men of the Praise & Rejoice Choir  
Directed by: Kristy Tostenson

Welcome

Call to Worship  
We gather on the eve of Christmas to relive the story of our Savior’s birth and celebrate the gift of life that we receive through Christ. Hear then the Word of the Lord: “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; **On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.** You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; **They rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest.** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. **And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.** Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. **The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.” O come, let us adore him.**

Opening Hymn “O Come, All Ye Faithful” #283 vs. 1-3  
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!  
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)  
Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God in the highest: (Refrain)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath  
In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.  
(The center white candle and all four candles around the Advent wreath are lit.)

On this holy night, we light all four candles and the center candle, the Christ candle, on the Advent wreath. God’s promise to send a Savior has been fulfilled. The Light of the World has come. Christ the Lord is born!  
**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!**  
The Son of God humbled himself to be born among us. The newborn Savior was wrapped in swaddling cloths and laid in a manger in Bethlehem. The infant King was worshiped by shepherds and praised by angels. Tonight, we join them in praising our Lord and King. To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given!  
**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!**

Confession and Forgiveness  
Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace. Amen.  
Trusting in God’s steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.  
Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God, **we confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.**  
God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Greeting and Prayer  
May the grace and truth of Christ be with you all. And also with you.

Let us pray. **On this holy night, we welcome with joy the light of your life among us, Baby Jesus. Thank you for being the light of our lives every day. Reveal the warmth of your love. Help us to always glow with your greatness and shimmer with your grace that more may come to your light and be blessed by you. Amen.**

Special Music  
1:30 p.m. “A Christmas Lullaby” arr. Bill Ingram  
Handbell Choir  
Directed by: Bev Splinter  
3:30 p.m. & 5:30 p.m. “Discover the Light of Christmas” E. & P. Drennan  
Praise & Rejoice Choir  
Accompanied by: Marsha Kurtenbach  
Directed by: Kristy Tostenson

THE WORD

First Reading Isaiah 9:2-7  
<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Second Reading 1 John 1:5-9  
This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you. **God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.** If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, **We lie and do not live out the truth.** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, **We have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.** If we claim to be without sin, **We deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.** If we confess our sins, **He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Gospel Acclamation “I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve” #271 vs. 1 & 5  
I am so glad each Christmas Eve, the night of Jesus’ birth!  
Then like the sun the star shone forth, and angels sang on earth.  
And so I love each Christmas Eve, and I love Jesus, too;  
And that He loves me every day I know so well is true.

Gospel Reading Luke 2:1-20  
Sermon “Be the Light” Pastor Laura Overbo

Hymn “O Little Town of Bethlehem” #279 vs. 1, 3, 4  
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.  
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 Emmanuel!

Nicene Creed  
**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**  
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**  
**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**



Prayers of the People

Offering

“Angels We Have Heard on High” arr. Smith & Hustad  
Piano: Marsha Kurtenbach  
Organ: Kristy Tostenson

Offertory Hymn “What Child Is This” #296 vs. 1 & 3

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping,  
whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

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!

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution

**Lord’s Prayer**  
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.  
**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.**

**Holy Communion**  
*Communion will be served by intinction. Proceed at the direction of the ushers to the nearest servers. After you receive the bread in your hand, you may dip it into the wine in the chalice to receive the bread and wine together. (White grape juice and red wine in the divided chalice.)*

**Distribution**  
1:30 p.m. & 3:30 p.m. “Miracle in the Manger” Nathan Lawrence  
Soloist: Katie Graeb  
Accompanied by: Handbell Choir & Kristy Tostenson

5:30 p.m. “Miracle in the Manger” Nathan Lawrence  
Soloist: Katie Graeb  
Accompanied by: Kristy Tostenson

**Post Communion Prayer**  
Let us pray. **Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. Amen.**

**The Gospel of Incarnation** John 1:1-14  
*Following the Gospel of Incarnation, please turn on your candle.*

Hymn of Light “Silent Night, Holy Night!” #281

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.

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!

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.

**Blessing**  
Christ is the Light of the world, the Light no darkness can overcome. The Lord  
bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be  
gracious to you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.  
**Amen.**

*The candles are turned off.*

Sending Hymn “Joy to the World” #267

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.

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.

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.

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.

**Christmas Dismissal**  
Go in peace, share the light of Christ with all.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Thank you to all who volunteered to serve this Christmas Eve.  
You are appreciated beyond measure.*

*The Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer staff wish all the families and friends of Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year. May God bless us as we seek to do the will of God who loved us so much that He became one with us in Jesus Christ.*

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer  
Watertown, SD | Christmas Eve 2025





# Christmas Eve Illumination

## TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

- Marv & AJ Sherrill
- Clarence & Sandy Olson
- Bill & Sharon Malcom
- Lowell & Jeanne Zander
- *Our Grandchildren: Van, Townes, Phyllis, Teddy & Emery* by Mark & Kristi Reierson
- *In Thankfulness for All of God's Blessings* by Ron & Carol Bergan

## IN HONOR OF:

- *Our 5 Children & 16 Grandchildren* by Roger & Karla Stimson
- *Our Grandkids: Addy, Rhett, Maverick, Nora, Wren & Violet* by Bill & LouAnn Clark
- *John & Dorothy Holmquest* by Ric Holmquest
- *Doris Stowe* by Her Family
- *Our Grandparents* by The McAreavey's
- *Clea Urevig* by Heather Rasmussen

## IN MEMORY OF:

- *Justin Radtke* by Craig, Jessica, Addison & Avery Kruse
- *Blake Michael Kruger* by DeLyle, Wendy, Wyatt & Abby Kruger
- *Allen Andersh & Arden Stave* by Burt & Barb Andersh
- *Alvin & Doreen Johnson* by Denise, Todd & Thomas Schmahl, Betsy Spartz & Alissa Iverson
- *Eleanor Wiesner*
- *Harold & Clarice Jorgenson & Loretta Bopp* by Steve & Joan Jorgenson
- *Kevin Pierce* by Chase & Jessica Peterson
- *Stan Peterson* by Chase & Jessica Peterson
- *Stan Peterson*
- *Todd McGillivray, Tom Foster, Grandpa Spartz & Grandma Comes* by Bret, Gwen, Addy, Haydn & Graysn McGillivray
- *Howard & Joan Hopper, Russ & Ev DeVine, Terry DeVine, Tom DeVine & Lisa Albers* by Monte & Michele Hopper
- *Steve & Nancy Solum & Dwayne Hlavacek* by Tracy, Brooke, Dawson Harper & Lennon
- *Carl Bevers* by Sharon Bevers & Family
- *Arnold, Donna & Lynn Anderson* by Curt & Kim Hlavacek
- *My Sister, Ruth Ringle* by Nancy Hlavacek
- *Christy Barkley* by Bill & Cathy Zubke
- *Windy Johnson* by Barb Johnson & Matt & Wendy Olson Family
- *Samuel John Horstmeyer* by Larry & Joyce Horstmeyer
- *Leonard & LaVonne Splinter* by Steve, Bev & Amy Splinter
- *Donald Gugel* by Annette Gugel & Family
- *My Parents, Peter & Marian Melgard* by Barb Dohrer
- *Rick Dohrer* by Barb Dohrer
- *Marlin Berger* by Todd & Cami Gottsleben
- *Myron & Joyce Gauger* by Robbyn, Ron, Prescott & Darian Givens
- *Don Givens, Roger Givens & Tom Myers* by Ron, Robbyn, Prescott & Darian Givens & Helga Myers
- *Wayne & Bev Langner* by Chuck & Lynn Langner Family
- *Tom Wolf & Brenda Coleman* by Lynn & Chuck Langner Family
- *Grandpa Rick* by Todd, Darci & Sophia Nichols
- *Our Parents* by Robert & Dawn Johnson
- *Perry & Shirley Williamson, Ron Williamson, Peg Slobe* by Lee & Jane Hurlbert & Family
- *Merrill & Peggy Hurlbert, Greg Bullis* by Lee & Jane Hurlbert & Family
- *Our Parents* by Allen & Julie Rude
- *Peter Maffei* by Cindy Maffei
- *Our Daughter & Sister, Pam Wetzell* by Don & Kathy Scharn, Mark & Nancy Bauer
- *Howard & Lucille Evenson, Parents of/by* Carol & Tim Moes
- *Cliff & Rita Moes, Parents of/by* Tim & Carol Moes

# Christmas Eve Illumination

## IN MEMORY OF:

- *Our Daughter, Ivey Turbak* by Andrew & Abby Turbak
- *Bob & Dorothy Nichols* by Todd, Darci & Sophia Nichols
- *Don Stowe* by Doris Stowe & Family
- *Our Mother & Grandmother, Grace Barse* by Art & Cindy Barse & Family
- *Janet Morrow, Sister-in-Law of Ann & Gregg DeSpiegler & Daughter-in-Law of Dar Morrow* by Ann & Gregg DeSpiegler
- *Ron Morrow, Husband of Dar & Father of Ann* by Dar Morrow & Ann & Gregg DeSpiegler
- *Gibbs DeSpiegler, Father of Gregg (Ann) DeSpiegler* by Ann & Gregg DeSpiegler
- *Sonya Benson, Troy Benson, Kim Jorgenson* by Donna & Kerry Jorgenson
- *Marlin Berger* by Dennis & Bonnie Weippert
- *Our Parents, Forrest & Mildred Stimson, Arlee Johnson, Virginia Walraven & Brother-in-Law, Roger Ching* by Roger & Karla Stimson
- *Leo & Bette Titze, Drake Titze, Duane Mohror* by Grant & Deb Titze
- *Corky & Virginia Moehring* by Their Children
- *Marshall & Evelyn Likness, Tom & Audrey Draper, Paul Draper, Marcy Draper Nipps* by Clark & Gerry Likness
- *Frank & Ruth Band* by Greg & Connie Gertsen
- *Dwight Gertsen* by Greg & Connie Gertsen
- *Ray & Tildy Moe* by Jeff & Paula Orthaus, Katie, Jake, Jack & Ty Berg, Kelsey, Robin & Dawson Marquardt
- *Dave & Joan Orthaus* by Jeff & Paula Orthaus, Katie, Jake, Jack & Ty Berg, Kelsey, Robin & Dawson Marquardt
- *Robert & Katherine Haugen, Carl & Mariel Freiwald* by Lelan & Karin Freiwald
- *Our Parents* by Tony & Lori Beyer
- *Our Parents* by Burdette & Janet Drake
- *Grandma Leona Stone* by Brian & Katie Graeb & Family
- *Randy Johnson* by Leanne Johnson
- *Ken Varilek* by Bryan Varilek Family
- *Our Grandparents & Loved Ones* by Eric, Melissa, Griffyn & Kole Muller
- *Bill & Donna Neale* by Dave & Tammy Neale
- *Eugene & Jean Lundy, Mike Lundy* by Dave & Tammy Neale
- *Bazil Anderson, Howard & Irene Nielsen, Allan Nielsen* by Michael, Cheryl, Alec, Natalie, Samantha & Abby Anderson
- *Jeff Iverson* by Rod & Nancy Iverson
- *All Our Loved Ones* by Ken & Bonnie Karst
- *Myron Kindopp* by David & Kenda Falconer, Evan, Miranda & Ainsley
- *Our Parents, Chrise & Geneva Madsen, Einar & Agnes Jerpseth* by Diane & Mike Madsen
- *The Anderson Family "Donna, Donnie, Darla & Danny"* by Jenni, Ryan, Lydia & Lainey Nuttall
- *Dawn Burns* by Jenni, Ryan, Lydia & Lainey Nuttall
- *Frank Andrews* by Eric, Patti, Kade & Cooper Johnson
- *Norman & Ethel Stormo* by Clea Urevig
- *Herm Jutting & Rick Hanson* by Todd & Lesli Jutting
- *Jerry Eggen & Lori Liljegren* by Bev Eggen
- *Agnes Voight, Clinton Voight, Greg Voight, Vernon Hickel, Rocky Hickel* by Daniel & Deanna Hickel
- *Zacary Sasse, Harlan & Romona Krause* by Joe & Marlys Tesch
- *Charlie, Kenny & Bunny Tesch* by Joe & Marlys Tesch
- *Our Parents: Grover & Joyce Peterson, Lester & Helen Johnson* by Ron & Candace Johnson & Family
- *Our Parents: Keith & Aldine Madison, Steve & Lola Acheson; Renae's Sister: Cynthia Emery* by Ken & Renae Madison
- *Glen & Betty Schull, Alvin & Hazel Spanton, Sr, Sherry Spanton, Bob Moes, Warren Berg, Jason Morris & Bobby Gasper* by Steve & Patti Schull