

# *A Service of Lessons and Carols*

December 28, 2025



LESSONS  
& CAROLS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

### OPENING DIALOG. . .

*P:* We hear again the good news the angels proclaimed: God has come for all people through the birth of the one named Jesus. Through Bethlehem's manger God comes into the chaos, messiness, and vulnerability of the world. In all things and at all times, we rejoice that God comes to save us and reigns in love. We come to adore Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

*Hymn* *Once in Royal David's City* (vs 1 & 2) ELW #269

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Matthew 1:18-25

*Hymn* *Love Has Come* (vs 1 & 3) ELW #292

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

*Hymn* *Lo, How a Rose Is Growing* (vs 1 & 2) ELW #272

3<sup>rd</sup> Reading Micah 5:2-5a

*Hymn* *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (vs 1 & 4) ELW #279

4<sup>th</sup> Reading Luke 1:26-35, 38

*Hymn* *Hark! The Herald Angels* (vs 1 & 2) ELW #270

5<sup>th</sup> Reading Luke 2:1, 3-7

*Hymn* *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* (vs 1, 2,3) ELW #275

6<sup>th</sup> Reading Luke 2:8-16

*Hymn* *In the Bleak Midwinter* (vs 1 & 3) ELW #294

7<sup>th</sup> Reading Matthew 2:1-12

*Hymn* *We Three Kings* (vs 1 & 5) WOV #646

8<sup>th</sup> Reading John 1:1-14

*\*Hymn* *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* (vs 1 & 2) ELW #288

## **\*APOSTLES' CREED**

*P:* Let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

## **\*THE PRAYERS**

*P:* Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

*P:* God of grace, you show us mercy not according to our worthiness, but according to the abundance of your steadfast love. Grant us the courage to go into the world and do likewise. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

*P:* God of abundance, the sun and moon praise you and the shining stars sing of your love. Where we have desecrated your creation, make us into a healing balm for what we have broken. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

*P:* God of righteousness, when leaders fail to fulfill their calls to enact justice, you suffer alongside us. Propel those in power to see you reflected in the faces of all they serve. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

*P:* God of life, you claim us as your own and care for us as Christ's siblings. Pour out your compassion in every place your people suffer, and protect them in the palm of your hand. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

*P:* God of compassion, you nurture children as the apple of your eye. As you sheltered your son Jesus from Herod's grasp, shelter all children in danger. As you comforted Rachel, comfort all who have lost children to violence. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

*P:* God of love, you console those who weep for lost beloved ones. Even as we mourn, we offer thanks for those who have gone before us, trusting in your comfort and protection. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

*P:* With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **C: Amen.**

**\*THE PEACE**

*P:* The peace of the LORD be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Please share the peace with those around you using a greeting  
that is comfortable for both you and them.*

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*An offering plate is located near the entrance to the nave;  
we offer thanks for the abundance God has first shown us:*

*A: Let us pray...* God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*P:* The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

*P:* Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

*P:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING & PROPER PREFACE**

*P:* The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

*P:* Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

*P:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*P:* It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*P:* Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, in the beginning your word brought light into the whole world.

In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **C: Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

*P:* Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **INVITATION**

*P:* God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **COMMUNION HYMN**

*What Child Is This*

*ELW # 296*

### **BLESSING**

*P:* May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*A: 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. **C: Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION**

*P:* The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, † bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy. **C: Amen.**

**\*THE DISMISSAL**

*P:* Glory to God in the highest!

***C:* And peace to God's people on earth!**

*P:* Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

***C:* Thanks be to God.**

**\*POSTLUDE**

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Also, please be advised that our parking lot has surveillance cameras and  
that our worship service is video recorded and/or live-streamed on social media.

**Today's Altar Flowers** are placed to the Glory of God and to honor our family and in memory of parents, Marion and Verna Smith and Andrew and Lois Zeek, from Dennis and Margie Smith.

**Serving God and Us**

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew

Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott

Our Organists – Mary Nelson, DeAnna Cree

Our Pianists – Dr. Adam Smith and Ben Decker

Our Missionary Family – Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings

Our Administrative Assistant – Jen Ripka

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck

Our Sexton – Phil Claar

Our Assisting Minister – Elaine Smith

Our Lectors – Mace Baker, Mary Baker, Steve Oswalt, Pastor Traci

Our Usher – Stanley Smith

Our Altar Guild – Jeannie Smith, Cindy Snyder, Jane Fagans

Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

**Fourth Quarter Ventures in Faith to “*United Lutheran Seminaries*”**

**Prayers are needed for our homebound:** Mary Jane Allision, Fred Brandenburg, Linda Claar, Mary Creps, Betty Helsel, Allen Heltzel, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Jean Stonerook, Pat & Robert Winston.

*So we can give special attention to those with pressing needs, names were removed at the end of the month. Please let the office know if a name should be added to the prayer list for an extended period of time.*

**Prayer Concerns:** Baby Campbell, Juls Bratton and Charlee Howsare and family, Greta Buchart, Doug Bush, Terry Creek, Julie Dick, Mary Farabaugh, Amy Faust, Ken Harkless, Marilyn Horton, Kathy Keith, Rachel Kensinger, Naomi (Noni) Lehman, Kristen Malloy, John Russell, Dan Sinal, Joshua Sollenberger, Kaleb Sollenberger, Bill Stahl, Jim Stewart, and for our **Missionaries: Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings.**

**Away at School:** Max Baker, Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jay Hoenstine, Jeff Hoenstine, Camden Kuster, Lacey Ripka.

**Those Serving in our Armed Forces:** Bradley Buchart, Melody Estep.

### **This Week at St. Matthew:**

#### **814-793-2413: Office Hours**

Pastor Traci – available by appointment. Call 814-935-9267.

Jen – Tues., Wed., Fri. – 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

#### **This Week Events**

- Today –** 10:30 a.m. Service of Lessons & Carols with Communion
- Tuesday –** Knotty Ladies 12:30-3:00 p.m., Quilting Room
- Thursday –** Happy New Year!  
Food Pantry 9:00-11:00 a.m., Allegheny St.
- Sunday –** *Epiphany of Our Lord*  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary



If services need to be cancelled for inclement weather, we will attempt to notify you using email (like we do for the Sunday Bulletin and Messenger) and Facebook. On days when the weather is questionable, please check these notifications before you travel. If you need a phone call instead, please let the office know.

## Office Closure During Inclement Weather

On days that the Spring Cove School District cancels or delays instruction due to weather, the church office will be closed as well. In the event of an emergency, Pastor Traci can be reached at 814-935-9237.



### Martinsburg Food Pantry



Volunteers from St. Matthew will be helping and assisting in the distribution of food on Thursdays, January 1 and January 15 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Needed will be 3 or 4 helpers on those days. See Elaine Buchart if you can help.

#### January food items most needed:

Instant Oatmeal, Fruit, Rice Sides, Peanut Butter, Jelly

Our thanks to all who have contributed food, supplies or monetary donations during this past year. We ask for your continued support and prayers in 2026!

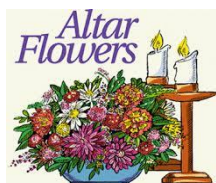
*Linda Smith*



### Mitten Tree Thanks!

We want to thank everyone who contributed to the "Mitten Tree" by bringing many colorful homemade, bought items, and financial gifts for needy elementary school children. Because of your kindness, they will have a Warmer Winter!

These items were distributed to Martinsburg and Spring Cove Elementary Schools. The total items received were 101 items! [12 pairs of mittens and gloves, 59 hats, 12 hat and glove sets, 10 pairs of socks, 3 scarves and 2 hat, gloves and scarves sets].



The 2026 Altar Flower chart is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Altar Flowers are a perfect way to remember loved ones. Please sign up now for the Sunday you wish to place flowers on the Altar. Price - \$40.00