

**WAYNE ZION  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
December 24, 2025 5pm  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP  
WITH COMMUNION**



**Pastor: Lynn Banderob  
Ministers: All Members**

*\*Denotes the invitation to stand as you are able*

**INTRODUCTION**

*In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *Christmas Canon* Women's Ensemble  
One License # 243599

**GATHERING**

**\*GATHERING CAROL**  
***O Come, All Ye Faithful***

**ELW 283**  
Barb Andreesen, organ  
Conner Andreesen, acolyte

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Because Christ has been born in the world,  
**people who walked in darkness now live in great light.**

Because Christ has been born in the world,  
**the power to oppress and kill will not stand.**

Because Christ has been born in the world,  
we respond in wonder:  
**with the angels, we sing glory to God;  
with the shepherds, we share the good news;  
with Mary, we ponder the words of this night,  
and the Word that has come into the world: Immanuel.**

We light the Christ Candle, at the center of this ring  
to celebrate the birth of God's son, our King.  
May this candle show the way  
Making our darkness bright as God's day.

## **THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT**

God is our light and our salvation,  
**our refuge and our stronghold.**

From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**we praise your name, O God.**

For with you is the fountain of life,  
**and in your light, we see light.**

The light shines in the darkness,  
**and the darkness has not overcome it.**

The Word became flesh and lived among us,  
**and we have beheld Christ's glory.**

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given,  
**In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

## **\*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 yearn for your presence to transform  
our grief, pain, and despair.**  
**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 cry out, weary with the burden of violence,  
oppression, and fear.**  
**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's grace upon grace flows over you.

+ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.

Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Today's Readings Insert

**WORD**

**FIRST READING**

*This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!*

**CAROL *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* ELW 272**

**SECOND READING**

*The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.*

**CAROL *I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve* ELW 271**  
One License # 08637

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

***Angels We Have Heard on High* refrain only ELW 289**

**GOSPEL**

*God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.*

**CHRISTMAS EVE MEDITATION**

**CAROL OF THE DAY *The First Noel* st, 1,2 ELW 300**

**MEAL**

**\*PRESENTATION OF OFFERING**

***What Child is This* st. 1,3 ELW 296**

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**\*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 our thanks and praise.**

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**P. 112**

**DISTRIBUTION**

*All who are baptized and believe Jesus is present in this meal and God nourishes our faith, forgives our sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel are invited to come forward to receive the bread and the wine. Gluten free wafers and apple juice are available. Those who wish to receive a blessing may also come forward with arms folded.*

**CAROLS DURING COMMUNION**

*Away in a Manger*

**ELW 277**

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

**ELW 276**

*The Bells of Christmas*

**ELW 298**

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

**ELW 282**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**CANDLELIGHT CAROL OF LIGHT**

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

**ELW 281**

**SENDING**

**\*BLESSING**

The triune God,  
glorious Mystery,  
holy Incarnate One,  
abiding Comforter,  
+ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Glory to God in the highest!

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

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**Please join us for a service of Lessons and Carols  
December 28, 2025 9:00 am**