

# **St. John-St. James**

**Ev. Lutheran Church & School**



**Children's Christmas Service**

**December 24**

WELCOME

*God himself took on flesh and lived with us*

***Opening Hymn:***

Oh Come, All Ye Faithful

Christian Worship, Hymn # 55

**🎵 Verse 1 🎵 Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumph,  
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, Born the King of angels.**

**Oh, come let us adore him,  
Oh, come let us adore him,  
Oh, come let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.**

**🎵 Verse 2 🎵 God from true God, and Light from Light eternal  
Born of a virgin, to earth he comes,  
Only begotten Son of God the Father.**

**Oh, come let us adore him,  
Oh, come let us adore him,  
Oh, come let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.**

*(Hymn continues on the next page.)*

**C** Verse 3  **Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.  
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest.  
Oh, come let us adore him,  
Oh, come let us adore him,  
Oh, come let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.**

**C** Verse 4  **Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n,  
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing.  
Oh, come let us adore him,  
Oh, come let us adore him,  
Oh, come let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.**

*PLEASE STAND*

## EXHORTATION AND PRAYER

**M** Beloved in Christ: In this Christmas season it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us, the Christ-child, lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall, and into the birth and glorious redemption brought to us by this Holy Child. Let us hear how peace was lost, and how peace is restored.

But first, let us pray, for this is good and right.

Heavenly Father, we pray for all those who worship you and your Son this Christmas Eve. By your Word, lead us to say with the angels,

**C** **Glory to God in the highest!**

**M** We pray for your blessing upon the people of our city, our state, our nation, and our world.

**C** **Glory to God in the highest!**

**M** We pray for the poor and helpless, the cold and hungry, the sick and sad, that you would give them the joy of your salvation and the comfort of your presence.

**C** **Glory to God in the highest!**

**M** We pray for unbelievers and enemies of the Church, that through your Law and Gospel you would lead them to recognize your Son as their only hope for eternal life.

**C** **Glory to God in the highest!**

**M** We pray for ourselves and our sins. He was named "*Jesus*" because he would save us from our sins. Lord, forgive us and reassure us with the angels' message: "*Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord!*"

**C** **Glory to God in the highest!**

**M** Finally, we remember before you all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light and beauty than we, that multitude which no one can number, who died in faith, and now praise you in your heavenly temple. We confess that we are united with them and with one another.

**C** **Glory to God in the highest! Amen.**

**M** Now let us recount the ancient promises of God and their beautiful fulfillment in the birth of Jesus, the Christ. May we ponder all these things and treasure them in our hearts as we recount God's faithfulness in word and song.

## PROPHECY

### HYMN RESPONSE

*Where Shepherds Lately Knelt*

Verse 1 

**Grades 3-5:** Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,  
I come in half belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;  
But there is room and welcome there for me,  
But there is room and welcome there for me.

Verse 2 

**Grades 3-5:** In that unlikely place I find him as they said:  
Sweet newborn Babe, how frail! and in a manger bed,  
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,  
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.

**C** Verse 3 

**How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,  
His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:  
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,  
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.**

**C** Verse 4 

**Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned  
It's way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned,  
To die, to live, and not alone for me,  
To die, to live, and not alone for me.**

*Genesis 3:15*

*Grades 1-2*

“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.”

*Isaiah 7:14*

*Kindergarten*

“The Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

*Isaiah 9:2,6*

*Grades 3-5*

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. 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.”

*Micah 5:2*

*Grades 6-8*

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come from me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

## HYMN RESPONSE

*Once in Royal David’s City*

Verse 1 

**Grades 1-2:** Once in royal David’s city Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for his bed;  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

Verse 2 

**Grades 1-2:** He came down to earth from heaven Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable, And his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.

*(Hymn continues with congregational singing on the next page.)*

**C** Verse 3 ♪ **But our eyes at last shall see him  
Through his own redeeming love,  
For that child, so dear and gentle,  
Is our Lord in heav'n above,  
And he leads his children on  
To the place where he is gone.**

**C** Verse 4 ♪ **Not in that poor, lowly stable  
With the oxen standing by  
Shall we see him, but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high.  
Then like stars his children crowned,  
All in white, his praise will sound.**

## BIRTH OF JESUS

*Luke 2:1-5*

*Grades 3-5*

“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 their own town to register. 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.”

“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 guest room available for them.”

## HYMN RESPONSE

*Away in a Manger*

Verse 1 🎵

**Kindergarten:** Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Verse 2 🎵

**Kindergarten:** The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

**🎵 Verse 3 🎵** **Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with you there.**

## THE ANGELS TELL THE SHEPHERDS

*Luke 2:8-12*

*Grades 1-2*

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

*Luke 2:13-14*

*3K & 4K*

“Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

## HYMN RESPONSE

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Verse 1 

**3K and 4K:** Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
And the mountains in rely,  
Echoing their joyous strains.

**REFRAIN:** Glo—ri-a in excelsis Deo;  
Glo—ri-a in excelsis Deo.

*(Hymn continues with congregational singing on the next page.)*

**C** Verse 2  **Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song?**

**C** REFRAIN  **Glo—ri-a in excelsis Deo;  
Glo—ri-a in excelsis Deo.**

**C** Verse 3  **Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.**

**C** REFRAIN  **Glo—ri-a in excelsis Deo;  
Glo—ri-a in excelsis Deo.**

## THE SHEPHERDS FIND JESUS

*Luke 2:15-20*

*Grades 6-8*

“When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” 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. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.”

## HYMN RESPONSE

*Joy Has Dawned*

Verse 1 

**Grades 6-8:** Joy has dawned upon the world Promised from creation  
God's salvation now unfurled Hopes for every nation  
Not with fanfares from above Not with scenes of glory  
But a humble gift of love Jesus born of Mary.

Verse 2 

**Grades 6-8:** Sounds of wonder fill the sky With the songs of angels  
As the mighty Prince of Life Shelters in a stable  
Hands that set each star in place Shaped the earth in darkness  
Cling now to a mother's breast Vulnerable and helpless.

 Verse 3  **Shepherds bow before the Lamb**

**Gazing at the glory  
Gifts of men from distant lands  
Prophecy the story  
Gold a King is born today  
Incense God is with us  
Myrrh His death will make a way  
And by His blood He'll win us.**

 Verse 4  **Son of Adam Son of heaven**

**Given as a ransom  
Reconciling God and man  
Christ our mighty Champion  
What a Saviour what a Friend  
What a glorious mystery  
Once a babe in Bethlehem  
Now the Lord of history**

## OUR RESPONSE

**M** “In that day you will say: ‘Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid.’” *(Isaiah 12:1)*

**C** **“The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.”** *(Isaiah 12:2)*

**M** “In that day you will say: ‘Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name.’” *(Isaiah 12:3)*

**C** **“Make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted.”** *(Isaiah 12:4)*

**M** “Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.” *(Isaiah 12:5)*

**C** **“Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.”** *(Isaiah 12:6)*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH and LORD’S PRAYER

**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.**

## BLESSING

**M** May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be and abide with us all.

**C** **Amen.**

*DAYTIME SERVICES CONCLUDE WITH SILENT NIGHT:*

**CANDLE LIGHTING FOR THE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE (7:00PM)**

The Pastor will light his candle from the “Christ Candle” in the center of our Advent wreath. The ushers will come forward and will light their candles from the Pastor’s candle. The Ushers will then light the candle of the worshipper in each pew nearest the center aisle. It is requested that no lit candles be tipped - to avoid candle wax dripping on the furniture or carpet. Tilt only the unlit candle when lighting your candle from your neighbor’s. When the candles have been lit, the **READING OF LIGHT** (*John 1:1-14*) will be read.

After the Reading of Light, the congregation will rise and sing “**Silent Night**”, which is printed below and on the next page.

*ALL SERVICES CONCLUDE WITH THE FOLLOWING HYMN:*

**Closing Hymn:**

Silent Night! Holy Night

**Verse 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.**

**Verse 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!**

*(Hymn continues on the next page.)*

**C** Verse 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.**

**C** V1 (German) **♫** ***Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!***  
***Alles schläft, einsam wacht***  
***Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.***  
***Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar;***  
***Schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh!***  
***Schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh!***

*\*Images of classes on screen shared Courtesy of Tracy at M.C. Kinney Photography.  
+Special thanks to Kristen Hillmann, Phil Stuebs, and Gary Bernhardt for their behind the scenes help with this service and videotaping.*

## A CHRISTMAS WISH FROM OUR STAFF

Pastor & Karla Aden, Rick & Sarah Zimmerman, Phil & Abby Stuebs, Corey & Sarah Marohn, Matt & Kristen Hillman, Jake & Katie Janssen, Nick & Amanda Schrubbe, and Scott & Cindy Bubolz and their families wish to extend to all of you, both members and guests, sincere wishes for a most blessed Christmas and Happy New Year. May the message of the Savior's birth fill your hearts with peace and joy throughout the coming year. Also receive their thanks for the many kindnesses you have shown to them in gifts, cards, prayers, and support this season and throughout the year. They are blessed through you. Thank you and God bless!

# Christmas Poinsettias



**In Memory Of:**

**Donated By:**

<b>Kermit Bastian</b>	<b>Lorna Bastian</b>
<b>Doris Behnke</b>	<b>Hank Behnke</b>
<b>Milton &amp; Dorcella Lau and Roland &amp; Loretta Behnke</b>	<b>Marcus &amp; Rhonda Behnke</b>
<b>Elmer &amp; Joy Brandt</b>	<b>Their Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandsons</b>
<b>Harvey &amp; Lillian Bubolz and Hugo &amp; Elda Porr</b>	<b>Roger &amp; Carol Bubolz</b>
<b>Henry &amp; Dora Busse and Herb &amp; Helen Thoele</b>	<b>Bob &amp; Mary Busse</b>
<b>Evey Busse and Judy Korstad</b>	<b>Brad &amp; Becky Busse</b>
<b>Robert Wenzlaff and Julie Grimm</b>	<b>Randy &amp; Gail Denor</b>
<b>Clarence &amp; Ella Luedtke, Adolph &amp; Eleanor Duchow</b>	<b>Daniel &amp; Audrey Duchow</b>
<b>Sue Ebert</b>	<b>Bill Ebert III Family</b>
<b>Pat Fenlon Sr.</b>	<b>Mary Fenlon &amp; Family</b>
<b>For Loved Ones Gone But Not Forgotten</b>	<b>Joann Fischer</b>
<b>Elroy &amp; Harriet Berkholtz</b>	<b>Karen Grall and Dan Berkholtz Families</b>
<b>Julie Grimm and Robert Wenzlaff</b>	<b>Curt Grimm &amp; Family</b>

# Christmas Poinsettias



**In Memory Of:**

**Donated By:**

Myron & Vivian Herzog	The Family
All Deceased Family Members	Bill & Nancy Hillmann
Orville Krepline	Ida May Krepline
All Deceased Family Members	Mary Lou Krepline
Peter Link	Val Jean Link
Ervin, Mary & Dennis Maertz	Maertz Family
Leonard Denor, Maria Denor	Arlie & Pat Olp
Harold & Rosie Olp & Arnie Olp	Olp Family
Loved Ones That Are Gone	Carol Petermann
Merlin Robley and Jeffrey Robley	Gloria Robley, Dave & Karie, Jeffery, Megan & Kyle Robley
Roger Schultz	Erdie Schultz
Bonnie Torsch	Gary Torsch
Claine Waack	Erwin Waack
Brendan Waack, Harvey & Charmaine Waack	Tim & Amy Waack
Deceased Family	Gene & Char Wagner
Robert Wenzlaff, Julie Grimm	Yvonne Wenzlaff