

**A CHILD IS BORN**



**9PM Christmas Eve Service  
December 24th, 2025**

# About Us

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, has been firmly planted in the Phillips Community since 1912. A Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation, we celebrate our diversity of age, race, gender identities, sexual orientations, culture and citizenship.

## Welcome, Visitors!

**Welcome to all visitors and guests.** If you live here, we hope you'll consider joining. If you are here for a short time, we hope you'll feel at home. Please pick up a copy of our newsletter, *The Sentinel*, from the entry table. **Need hearing assistance or larger print?** Please ask an usher.

**Children** are welcome to participate fully in worship. We feel strongly that children's spirituality develops through experience. In our community, children lead as ushers, musicians, readers and communion servers. We expect that children will behave as children – giggles, wiggles, and all. We offer a playground in the Sanctuary with books and coloring supplies for kids to use during the service. There are bags that can be brought to your seats with supplies. We also have a reading corner in the Hospitality Center with books and toys. Kids and their parents are invited to go in and out of the Sanctuary as needed.

**Safe Church.** For the safety of all children, we ask that children be attended at all times. Please accompany your child to the bathroom and reading corner. Copies of our Safe Church Policy are available from the church office.

## Transportation and Parking

**Parking** - Parking is available in the parking lot off the alley behind church, on the local streets (follow signs as some parking is only residential or has hour restrictions) and at the Hope Academy Parking ramp at 24th St and Park Ave. The arms are up on Sunday mornings until 2pm. Parking there other days requires a code. Pick up a card at church with the ramp code. There are handicap parking spots available in the front and back of the church.

**Bus** - The D line runs every 10 minutes on Chicago Ave. For more options, visit [metrotransit.org](http://metrotransit.org).

## Mission of the month: Helping Hand Fund

This fund is used at the discretion of the pastors for folks who come to our doors – whether members or neighbors - with financial needs. We have helped several people with things like rent assistance, bus rides, releasing a car from an impound lot, utilities and medical bills, transportation for family emergencies, and income assistance from loss of work. We are not a social service agency, but sometimes people fall through the cracks of our systems, and we are a compassionate place to turn. When we give, the gift of money is accompanied by a listening, compassionate ear; prayer, and invitation to Christian community (as appropriate). Thank you in advance for your generosity and for the mercy and compassion that flows from our God to those in need

**Online giving** - If you are interested in giving online to Our Saviour's for the Mission of the Month or general offering, use this QR Code:



# Christmas Eve

*In winter's deepest night, we welcome the promised answer to our prayer; "Christ, make your home here." The angels declare Jesus' birth is good and hopeful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the promised salvation meeting us this night, we enter the Christmas season to share the promise of Christ with the whole world.*

## Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**Prelude**

***Lydia Schwehn***

**Christmas Proclamation**

**\*Opening Carol**

***I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve***

**#271**

**\*Greeting**

The grace and truth of the Word made flesh,  
the cosmic love of the Creator,  
and the healing power of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

**\*Prayer of the Day**

## Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**Carol**

***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

**#270**

**Lesson**

**Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

The people who walked in deepest night have seen a brilliant dawn;  
those who lived in a land of deep shadows — on them dawn has broken.

For a child is born to us, an heir given to us;  
upon whose shoulders dominion will rest.

This One shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Eternal Protector, Prince of Peace.

This dominion, and this peace, will grow without end,  
with David's throne and realm sustained with justice and fairness,  
now and forever. The zeal of the Living God will do this!

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## Lesson

Gustavo Gutiérrez

It is often said at Christmas that Jesus is born into every family and every heart. But these “births” must not make us forget the primordial, massive fact that Jesus was born of Mary among a people that at the time were dominated by the greatest empire of the age. If we forget that fact, the birth of Jesus becomes an abstraction, a symbol, a cipher. Apart from its historical coordinates the event loses its meaning. To the eyes of Christians the incarnation is the irruption of God into human history: an incarnation into littleness and service in the midst of overbearing power exercised by the mighty of this world; an irruption that smells of the stable.

## Carol

*Down Along Chicago Avenue*

Bret Hesla



1. Je - sus was born to an un - wed moth - er.  
 2. Deep in her coat Ma - ry held her ba - by.  
 3. Hope for the world, cud - dled by the home - less.  
 4. Far, far a - way Far - mers gaz - ing sky - ward



Glo - ry, Glo - ry, What glo - ry! The out - look was - n't bright. But  
 Glo - ry, Glo - ry, What glo - ry! She found the shel - ter door. A  
 Glo - ry, Glo - ry, What glo - ry! But man - y heads were turned And  
 Glo - ry, Glo - ry, What glo - ry! be - held the north - ern lights. But



how the an - gels sang that night Down a-long Chi - ca-go Av - e-nue.  
 wo - man smiled and wel - comed her Down a-long Chi - ca-go Av - e-nue.  
 missed the dream of peace that burned Down a-long Chi - ca-go Av - e-nue.  
 none could see that heav'n - ly sight Down a-long Chi - ca-go Av - e-nue

5. Wake, Mary, wake! to the winter morning.  
 Glory, Glory, What glory!  
 Quick, grab a bite to eat.  
 At seven you're back on the street  
 Down along Chicago Avenue.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus  
that all the world should be registered.

This was the first registration and was taken  
while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

All went to their own towns to be registered.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea,  
to the city of David called Bethlehem,  
because he was descended from the house and family of David.

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged  
and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

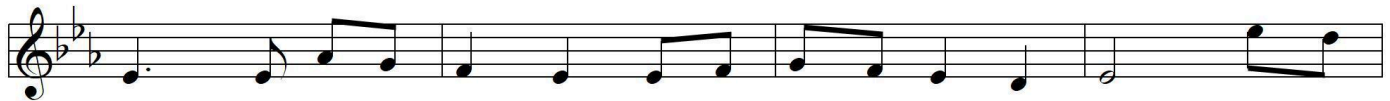
And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid  
him in a manger because there was no place for them in the inn.

## Carol

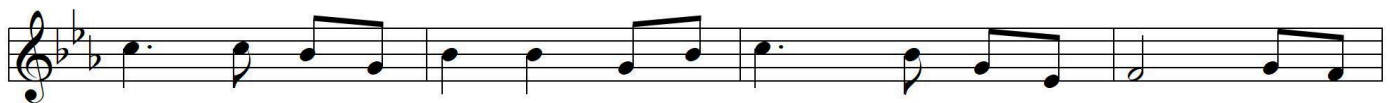
### *Holy Child Within the Manger*



1. Ho - ly Child with - in the man-ger, long a - go yet ev - er near; come as  
2. Once a - gain we tell the sto - ry— how your love for us was shown, when the  
3. Ho - ly Child with - in the man-ger, lead us ev - er in your way, so we



friend to ev - 'ry stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear. As you  
im - age of your glo - ry wore an im - age like our own. Come, en -  
see in ev - 'ry stran - ger how you come to us to - day. In our



lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the out - cast, free the bound, as you  
light - en with your wis - dom, come and fill us with your grace. May the  
lives and in our liv - ing give us strength to live as you, that our



taught us love un - spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.  
fire of your com - pas - sion kin - dle ev - 'ry land and race.  
hearts might be for - giv - ing and our spir - its strong and true.

## Lesson

Luke 2:8-14

*Spark Story Bible pages 212-217*

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of God stood before them, and the glory of God shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them,

“Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom God favors!”

Carol

*Angels We Have Heard On High*

#289

## Lesson

Luke 2:15-20

*Spark Story Bible pages 212-217*

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which God has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Good News.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Reflection

\*Hymn of the Day

*God Came Down*

#253

\*Prayers of the People

*Each petition ends: God, in your mercy.... You hear our prayer.*

# Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **\*Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*(The people greet each other: “Peace be with you.”)*

## **Gathering our Gifts**

*Noël Nouvelet*

*All present, even those who contribute through automatic payments, are invited to lay hands upon the collection plate symbolizing their contributions. Those worshipping online may contribute on our website: [oursavioursmpls.org](http://oursavioursmpls.org).*

## **\*Offertory**

*To the melody of **The First Noel***

As we bring gifts, like ancient kings,  
our acts of peace are offerings.  
So, as we honor Jesus’ birth,  
we pledge to care for all the earth.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the Promise of Israel.

## **\*Offertory Prayer**

## **\*The Great Thanksgiving**

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them to our God.**

Let us give thanks to the Living God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **\*Eucharistic Prayer**

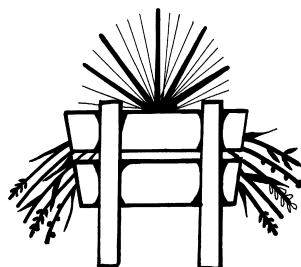
*As part of the eucharistic prayer we confess the great mystery of faith to the tune of the Civil Rights Movement anthem, “We Shall Overcome.” We learned this from Trinity Lutheran in Manhattan:*

**Jesus Christ has died, Jesus Christ is risen,**

**Jesus Christ will come again.**

**Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe**

**Jesus Christ will come again.**



## **\*The Prayer of Jesus**

**Our Mother, our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kin-dom 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 kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

*\*As part of our commitment to using inclusive and expansive language for God, this season we are modifying the word 'kingdom' which connotes both maleness and a form of government unfamiliar to most of us. Instead, we will use 'kin-dom' which captures the way Jesus radically redefines family and invites everyone into a loving relationship with God and neighbor. Whether saying 'kin-dom' or 'kingdom,' we proclaim the subversive reign of God's love and justice.*

## **Healing Prayer at the Font**

*During communion distribution, you are invited to the font for individual prayers.*

## **Distribution**

*All are welcome at Christ's table. Ushers will guide you. After receiving bread or a gluten-free wafer, hold out your glass for wine (dark) or juice (light). Following communion, deposit your compostable cup with a server. Those who do not commune may indicate a preference for a blessing.*

### *To the melody of **O Little Town of Bethlehem***

1. O sad and troubled Bethlehem,  
We hear your longing cry  
For peace and justice to be born  
And cruel oppression die.  
How deep your need for that great gift  
Of love in human form.  
Let Christ in you be seen again  
And hearts by hope made warm.

2. While morning stars and evening stars  
Shine out in your dark sky,  
Despair now stalks your troubled streets  
Where innocents still die.  
And Jesus, born of Mary,  
Whose love will never cease,  
Feels even now your pain and fear,  
Longs with you for your peace.

3. Amazingly and lovingly  
Jesus the child has come  
And, brought to birth through human pain,  
Makes broken hearts his home.  
He comes to comfort all who weep,  
To challenge every wrong  
And, living with the weak and poor,  
Becomes their hope, their song.

*(Alternative text by Wendy Ross-Barker)*



*Love Has Come*

**#292**

*The First Noel*

**#300**

**\*Blessing**

## Sending

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**\*Sending Song**

***Silent Night, Holy Night!***

**#281**

*You may raise your candle as we sing*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Silent night, holy night!<br>All is calm, all is bright<br>Round yon virgin mother and child.<br>Holy Infant, so tender and mild,<br>Sleep in heavenly peace,<br>Sleep in heavenly peace.          | 2. Silent night, holy night!<br>Shepherds quake at the sight;<br>Glories stream from heaven afar,<br>Heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!<br>Christ, the Savior, is born!<br>Christ, the Savior, is born |
| 3. Silent night, holy night!<br>Son of God, love's pure light<br>Radiant beams from your holy face,<br>With the dawn of redeeming grace,<br>Jesus, Lord, at your birth,<br>Jesus, Lord, at your birth |  |

**Lesson**

Adapted from the New Zealand Prayer Book

Welcome, welcome, Jesus Christ our infant savior,  
baby who makes every birth holy.  
May we, like the shepherds who saw  
in the stable a new kind of love, return to our daily life with joy.  
May we, like the angels who filled  
the sky with song, always sing praise to you,  
and may we go out to be instruments of your peace.

**\*Dismissal**

Glory to God in the highest! Go in peace, bring good news!  
**Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude**

## Acknowledgments

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“I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve” Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832-1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881-1959. Music: Peder Knudsen, 1819-1863. English text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915.

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845-1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st. 4. Music: Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

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“Angels We Have Heard on High” Text: French carol; tr. H.F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864 Music: French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958.

“He Came Down” Text: Cameroon traditional. Music: Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949. Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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“The First Noel” Text: English traditional. Music: English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901

“We Shall Overcome” Text: Traditional. Music: African American spiritual. Used with permission.

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893. Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908.

“Love Has Come” Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950. Music: F. Seguin, Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale, 1856. Text © 1996 Living the Natural Way, admin. Music Services, Brentwood, TN

“Silent Night” Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885. Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863.

Information about Our Saviour's can be found on our website ([www.oursavioursmpls.org](http://www.oursavioursmpls.org)) and on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/groups/OurSavioursMPLS](https://www.facebook.com/groups/OurSavioursMPLS)).

# Today's Worship

Ministers:	You!
Presiding:	Martha Schwehn Bardwell
Preaching:	Esther Sianipar
Reader:	Clara Owens
Prayers:	Kristie Hennig
Prelude:	Lydia Schwehn
Special Music:	Our Saviour's Choir
Musicians:	Kent Goodroad, Kathleen Olsen, Anna Rhode, Cole Kerhberg
Livestream:	Jakob Johnson
Window Blinds:	Remi Hanson

**Office will be closed  
December 24 - January 2**



# OUR SAVIOUR'S Lutheran Church

*Our Saviour's Lutheran Church is a dynamic community,  
centered in Christ, called, nurtured and sent –  
to celebrate, serve and do justice.*

(612) 871-2967 Office Hours: M-Th, 9-3  
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[www.oursavioursmpls.org](http://www.oursavioursmpls.org)  
[www.facebook.com/Our.Saviours.Lutheran.Church.Mpls](https://www.facebook.com/Our.Saviours.Lutheran.Church.Mpls)

## Our Saviour's Staff

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	<b>Nancy Nygaard Johnson</b> (Monday) <b>Sheryll Mennicke</b> (Tuesday)	
<b>OSCS Executive Director</b>	<b>Mike Huffman</b> <a href="mailto:mike@oscs-mn.org">mike@oscs-mn.org</a>	(612) 871-5900 opt 1