



Christmas Eve - Candlelight Service - 7:30 pm

December 24, 2025

All members and guests, please fill out the Welcome Form found at the end of your row and pass it on to your neighbor. The pastoral and spiritual care of the members of Christ Church is very important to us. In order to care for all of you, we need to know who is present and who is not. So, please take a moment to sign the pad. The Welcome Forms will be picked up by the ushers at the end of the service.

WELCOME TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Looking for a Church Home?

Mr. Rogers once asked, "Won't you be my neighbor?" Jesus asked, "Who is your neighbor?" At Christ Lutheran Church (CLC) - Zionsville, our answer to Jesus' question is EVERYONE, and to Mr. Rogers - YES.

God calls us to meet people wherever they are in their journey of faith – and that includes YOU!

At Christ Lutheran Church you are welcomed, just as you are:

- Single, committed, married, divorced, lost your partner, still looking or not.
- Every race, nationality, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation
- Ready to join a group or prefer to sit back
- Regardless of knowing a little or a lot about Jesus
- Whether you have left the Church and are returning
- Whether you find yourself on this list or not

We are calling YOU neighbor! Join us!

Children in Worship

Children hold a special place in our congregation! We warmly invite children of all ages to join us in worship. We embrace their natural tendencies to giggle, poke, squirm, and swing their legs - it's all part of being a child and a precious gift to our community.

There is no attendant in the nursey for this service. However, it is open, and you and your family are welcome to use the Nursey room if needed.

We respect and support each family's unique circumstances and preferences. Whether your child joins the main worship service or utilizes our nursery, we are here to accommodate and make everyone feel welcome and comfortable.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

PRELUDE Christmastime arr. Larson

~ Celebration Bells ~

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

C Amen.

P Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Reconciling God,

C 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.

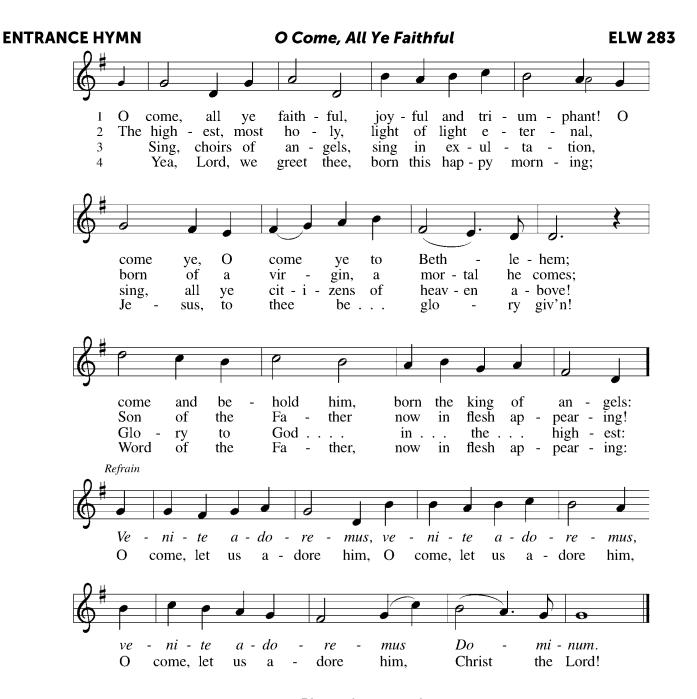
P God's grace upon grace flows over you.

→ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.

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

C Amen.

Please stand as you are able.



Please be seated.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

From the manger, hope, peace, joy, and love are growing—growing to be God with us. His name is Jesus—the Bread of Life.

First, we light the candle of hope. Hope is believing things can get better with compassion and imagination.

Next, we light the candle of peace. Peace is what happens when everyone treats each other, themselves, and the world kindly.

Then, we light the candle of joy. Joy is when you feel so thankful you could burst with excitement and gratitude.

Next, we light the candle of love. Love is the care and connection binding us together with each other and God.

Next we light the Christ candle which shines the light of God's love on all people.

Light the four Advent candles, and sing all verses of From the Manger.



PRAYER FOLLOWING LIGHTING

AM God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, and God of love, Teach us how to love one another as reflections of your light in the world. God of promise, God of love, into our lives come and stay. **C Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

AM The peace of Christ is with you.

C And also with you.

AM Let us share a sign of God's peace with those around us.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7

L A reading from Isaiah.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.
³You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you

as with joy at the harvest,

as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ 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.

- ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- ⁶ 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.

⁷Great will be his authority, 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.

L You are witness to these things.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96

- L ¹ Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- C ² Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.
- L ³ Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.
- C ⁴ For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.
- L ⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.
- C ⁶ Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.
- L ⁷Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- C 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.
- L ⁹ Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the Lord, all the earth.
- C ¹⁰ Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."
- L ¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- C ¹² Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O Lord, for you come to judge the earth.
- L ¹³ You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

SECOND LESSON Titus 2:11-14

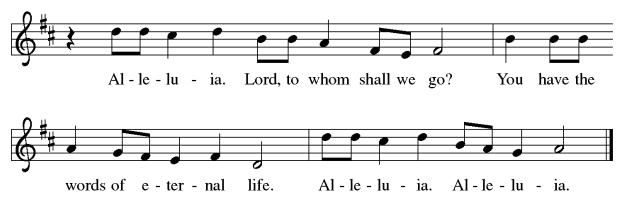
L A reading from Titus.

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

L You are witness to these things.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

P ¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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 in the guest room.

⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

[¹⁵ 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 the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.]

P You are witness to these things.

C Praise to you, O Christ

Please be seated.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Hope Moran, Interim Pastor

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

The congregation stands.



APOSTLES' CREED

AM Gathered together by the power of the Holy Spirit we confess our common faith:

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

AM Gathering God, you bring your people from every corner of the earth together before the manger that you have made a throne. Unite the church in love as we rejoice in the news of your coming. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

AM Creating God, you brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Join our voices with the roaring seas, the exulting fields, and the trees of the forest singing for joy on this holy night. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

AM Shepherding God, you lead us to your love in the face of our neighbor. Send us into the world to find your Word made flesh in one another, especially those who are sick or struggling especially **Margie, Bob, Rita, Mike, Mimi, Ray, Janice, Tina, Marilyn, Charlotte, Dorothy,** and for all those we now name in our hearts or in Your presence. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

AM Nurturing God, you dwell with us in humble places. Sustain housing and clothing ministries in this community, that all find shelter and warmth. We pray especially for youth seeking safety and care through Lutheran Child and Family Services. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

^{*}Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use. ** meaning - all of God's Church...

AM Abiding God, you remain at the side of all the departed. Grant all who mourn hope in the resurrection and peace in Christ Jesus. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

AM 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.**

WE CELEBRATE GOD'S MEAL

RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS

God calls us to be generous stewards for the sake of our ministry near and far. You can support our ministry by placing an offering in the offering plate, mailing it to the church, giving online through our website, or the QR code. If you would like more details on direct deposit, please contact our office administrator for more information at office@clczionsville.org.



OFFERING

VOLUNTARY

On Christmas Night

~ Sanctuary Choir & Celebration Bells ~

OFFERING PRAYER

P God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow.
Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

EUCHARISTIC DIALOGUE

P The Lord is 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.

PREFACE

P Lord, we greet you this happy night, for you have been at work in our world throughout all time.

You made all things and called them good.

You claimed your people Israel, freed them from the bondage of Egypt, and journeyed with them through the wilderness to the promised land.

You sent prophets to call your people back to you.

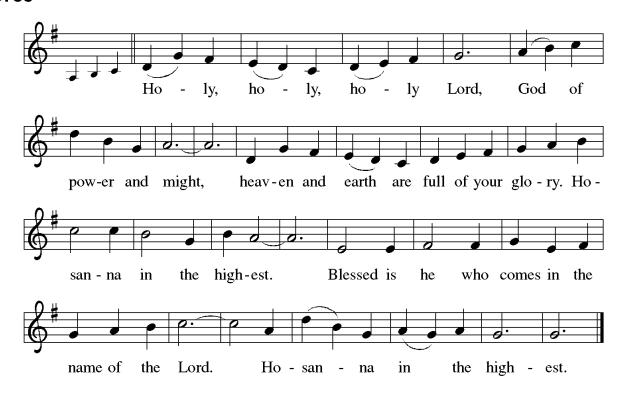
Then in the fullness of time you sent your Son Jesus, Immanuel, born the King of Angels, your Word in flesh appearing.

He was one of us and lived with us, giving up all his glory for our sake to make us whole.

And yet you raised him up again to overcome the power of death and live a new life. Still we wait for the day when we too will share the fullness of life in him and with him.

And so, with the faithful of all the ages, we sing the praise and glory of your name,

SANCTUS



P 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. Then, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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 TO COMMUNION

P God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy! C Amen.

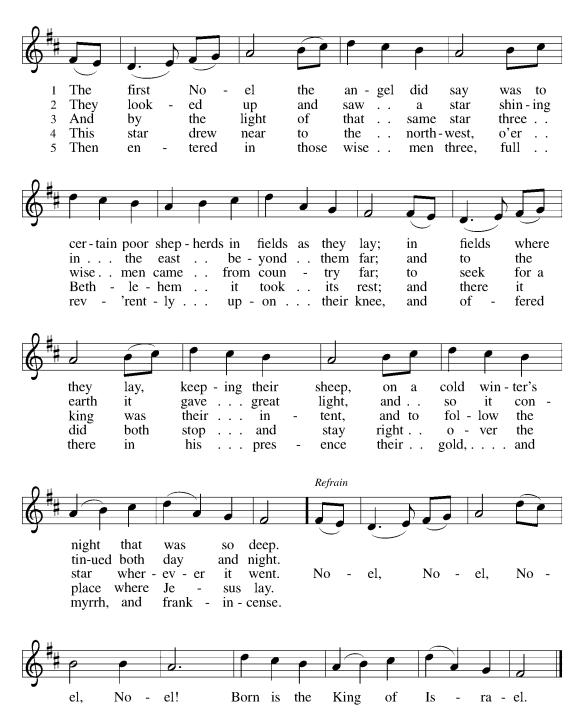
Please be seated.

COMMUNION

All are welcome to participate in the Lord's Meal. If it's been years, or just a week, the bread and wine/juice and Jesus' presence in, with, and around them are for all. If you have questions about taking your first communion don't hesitate to speak with Interim Pastor Hope.

Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. When you come forward you will receive a piece of bread and you will hear the words **the body of Christ, given for you**. Then you are invited to take either wine or juice from the communion assistant and you will hear the words, **the blood of Christ, shed for you**. Once you've communed there is a small receptacle where the used communion cup can be placed.

If you would prefer to come forward for a blessing only, please place your arms crossed over your chest.



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P 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.

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

At this time, the sanctuary lights will be dimmed, and you are invited to stand.

Please stand as you are able.

SERVICE OF CANDLELIGHT



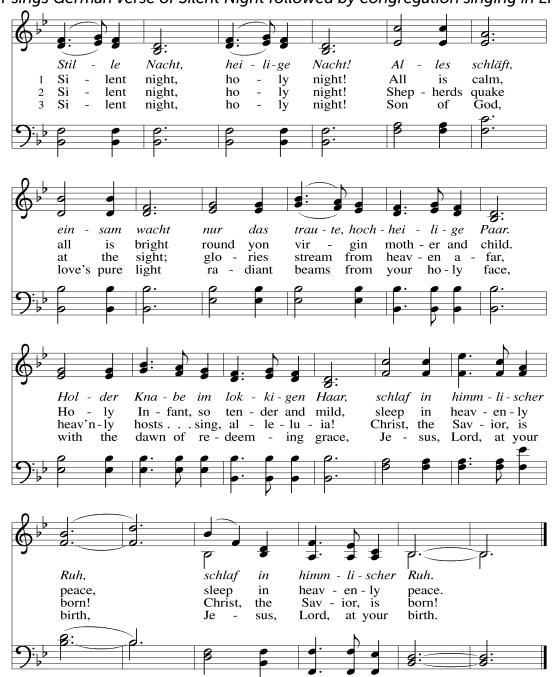
At this time, please turn on your electronic candles. If you have a wax candle, Pastor and a few volunteers will light the ends of each row and people are invited to light their neighbor's candle. Always keep a lit candle upright. The unlit candle is tipped to receive light from the lit candle.

HYMN

Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht (Silent Night, Holy Night)

ELW 281

Choir sings German verse of Silent Night followed by congregation singing in English



BENEDICTION

P May Christ, the Bread of Life,

born this day to love and serve the world, accompany you as you go.

May the love of our Creator,

who calls us to care for the hungry and oppressed, surround you.

And may the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

who empowers us to imagine a kingdom where all needs are met, strengthen you, now and always.

Go in hope, peace, joy, and love to feed the hungry, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of Christ's birth.

C Amen.

Please extinguish candles and remain standing.



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.

As Christ has welcomed all to our worship, greet someone that you don't know and introduce yourself as you leave the sanctuary.

Please return candles to the table in the lobby

POSTLUDE Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

arr. Wold

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POINSETTIAS December 24, 2025



The Poinsettias that are gracing the Altar have been sponsored by the following people:

Margie Kilgus In Memory of Lowell

Greg, Deb, Amy & Jim For God's love and peace to all

Firmani Family In Loving Memory of Pat Bosworth

Hardesty Family (2) In Memory of our grandparents

John & Barb Burkhardt To the Glory of God

Glenn & JoAnne Tuffnell To the Glory of God

Tom & Connie Niessink In Memory of our terrific parents

Tom & Doris and Herm & Roselynn

Doug Bosworth In Memory of Pat Bosworth

Tom & Gretchen Jeffers To the Glory of God

Kathy Clark In Honor of DJ & Meg's marriage

Dan & Bev Selky In Honor of daughters Barb & Kelli

Will & Jen Luczak To the Glory of God

Knox Family To the Glory of God

Hope Moran In Honor of God's love I experience through

the people at Christ Lutheran

Becky Walter In Memory of my parents

Bob & Anne Behrend (2) In Loving Memory of Anne's sister, Theresa

Murphy

In Loving Memory of Robert Behrend, Sr.

and Peter & Beverly Carroll

Ted & Cheryl Kussow In Memory of Jim Kussow &

Joe Perusich our fathers

Connie & Gary Ashenfelter In Memory of family

Randy & Angie Eugenio (2) In Memory of Tate Eugenio

In Memory of Roger Tate

Tina, Grace & Austin Lizama In Memory of Dominic Lizama

You may take your Poinsettia home after the 7:30pm Christmas Eve service so you can continue to enjoy it throughout the Christmas Season.

Upcoming events you are invited to:

<u>Lessons and Carols Worship Service</u> Sunday, December 28 at 10:30am Come sing your favorite carols of the season.

Food Drive

Sunday, January 4
Bring items for the Caring Center
Food is collected the first Sunday of each month.
Enews will have a list of their current needs.

Pizza with the Interim Pastor

Sunday, January 25 after 10:30am worship Come hear more about Christ Lutheran from leaders. You will not be asked to join, just to learn more about this vibrant place of ministry.

Enews

Sign up to receive the latest news from Christ Lutheran. Emailed every Friday.

Contact Tina at office@clczioinsville.org to be added to the list.

Want to know more about Christ Lutheran Church? If you want more information about the church, please email pastor@clczionsville.org



SERVING US AT WORSHIP THIS EVENING

Interim Pastor:Hope MoranAssisting Minister:Jeannie PhillipsLector:Tony Firmani

Communion Assistant: John Burkhardt, Connie Niessink, Gretchen Jeffers

Greeter: Gary Ashenfelter
Usher: Angie Eugenio
AV Assistant: Ray Boucher

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Anne Behrend

Finance Administrator billing@clczionsville.org

Melissa Woldman

Preschool Director preschool@clczionsville.org, 317-873-3232

Jen McKinzie

Governance Board President president@clczionsville.org

Connie Steinhart

Financial Secretary giving@clczionsville.org

Please scan if you would like to give an electronic offering.

