



*Therefore the Lord himself
will give you a sign.
Behold, the virgin shall
conceive and bear a son,
and shall call his name
Immanuel.*

Isaiah 7:14

**St. James Lutheran Church
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The Festival of Lessons and Carols
The Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 24, 2023

Preservice Music, Call to Worship & Welcome

The Opening Hymn: 357 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" -ALL: 1, 4, 7; Choir: 2, 6; Women: 3; Men: 5

Dialogue

P: In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

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

P: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

C: **We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

P: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: **In Him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

The First Lesson:

Genesis 3:15

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

A Hymn: 562 "All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall" (Verses 1, 3-5)

The Second Lesson:

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

A Hymn: LSB 359, "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" (Choir sings verse 2)

The Third Lesson:

Micah 5:2-5

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they

shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

A Hymn: 338 “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

The Fourth Lesson:

Luke 1:26-35, 38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy – the Son of God. ... And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

A Hymn: LSB 356, “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” (**Choir verses 1-2; Congregation 3-4**)

The Fifth Lesson:

Luke 2:1, 3-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ... And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

A Choral Anthem: “Lullay, Thou Tiny Child” (Coventry Carol)

A Hymn: Christmas Day (We the Kingdom) – (Worship team)

Verse 1 (Sung by Worship team)

Joy to the world
On a night like no other
Emmanuel
God is with us

Verse 2 (Sung by Worship team)

Beggars and kings
Let us come and adore Him
Rest in His peace
And bow before Him

Chorus (All)

*Sing all you people
The Lord almighty reigns
Sing ev'ry creature of God
Come bless His name
For He is good for He is good
He was born to conquer the grave
Light of the world
The reason for Christmas Day*

Verse 3 (All)

Stars we have seen
Over deserts and oceans
The darkness was deep
But never hopeless
Redemption came
And His name is Jesus (*Chorus*)

Bridge (Worship Team)

From the mountains
We will shout it out
For the Lord our God almighty reigns
He is with us
He is with us now
For the Lord our God almighty reigns

Chorus (All)

Sing all you people

The Lord almighty reigns

Sing ev'ry creature of God

Come bless His name

For He is good for He is good

He was born to conquer the grave

Light of the world

The reason for Christmas Day (Repeat)

Tag (Worship Team)

Light of the world

The reason for Christmas Day

Andrew Bergthold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, Scott Cash

CCLI Song #7139126

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A Sermon

An Offering: “Meditation on a French Carol” (Bell Choir)

The General Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

Welcome, Announcements & Dismissal of Online Worshippers

The Confession of Sin and Absolution

P: Holy and gracious God,

C: I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know – the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed – but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.

L: By the mercy of God, we are redeemed by Jesus the Messiah, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and live to serve Him.

C: Amen.

The Words of Institution

The Distribution (Free-Flow Communion) – “A Festive Christmas” (Bell Choir)

The Post-Communion Prayer

The Blessing and Dismissal

The Benediction

A Closing Hymn: 332 “Savior of the Nations, Come”

This Week at St. James

Today (12/24) **Communion Service - 9:30 AM**
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 6:30 PM

Monday (12/25) **Christmas Day Communion Service - 10:00 AM**
Office Closed - 9:00 AM

Looking Ahead

Serving Today (12/24)

Officiant Pastor Glenn Schaeffer
Lector Marjie Weiss
Organist Beth McKay
Deacon(s) Craig Popma / Bryan Ensing
Ushers Jim McKay
Video/Sound/Recording Nathan Urbanski/John & Marjie Weiss
December Altar Guild Butler Family
KidzTime -

Serving Next Sunday (12/31)

Lector Jim Spears
Organist Beth McKay
Deacon(s) Craig Popma / Bryan Ensing
Ushers Jim & Nancy Spears / Dale & Grace Roesma
Video/Sound/Recording Nathan Urbanski/John & Marjie Weiss
December Altar Guild Butler Family
KidzTime -

Financial Discipleship: December 17 & 18, 2023

General Fund	\$13,937.00
<i>Needed each week for budget \$5,769.00 (+\$8,168.00)</i>	
ISJ Academy	\$500.00
Tessaro Ministry (Nigeria Mission)	\$5.00
Rwandan Mission Trip Fund	\$10,100.00
Memorials	\$30.00
TOTAL Contributions	\$24,572.00

Announcements

Come, Worship the Christ Child! Join us this evening at 6:30 p.m. for our Candlelight Christmas Eve service and again, on Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m. for our Christmas Day Communion service.

In His Image 2024 Winter Conference: A conference will be held at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids on January 20, 2024, from 9:00 am-4:30 pm. The cost will be \$20 which includes the conference and lunch. The conference will be on Christian worldviews, sexuality, Caring for the transgender child and so much more. The presenters are Rev. David Fleming and Dr. Beverly K. Yahnke. If you would like more information on this conference and to see the conference schedule, please see the bulletin board outside the coat room. If you would like to attend the conference, please let the office know no later than Friday, January 12th so we can send over a head count.

Sometimes silence is golden. Other times it is a relationship killer. Two people are estranged. Angry. At odds. A friend intervenes with the suggestion, *“Well, have you tried talking about it?”* Reconciliation takes conversation, verbal interaction, words. Under the theme *Love Talks: Daring Conversations Toward Reconciliation*, the 2024 Theological Conference is designed especially for laity of all ages. The conference, which will take place on February 3 in Lansing, will equip you to engage in the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18). The world around us needs us to engage with others in the ministry of reconciliation, both with people and with God. At the very heart of all reconciliation is the Word Himself, the Word made flesh, Jesus. Let’s get started with daring conversations of reconciliation. After all, love talks

WHEN & WHERE

- **February 3, 2024**

- Our Savior Lutheran Church, Lansing
7910 E. St. Joe Hwy
Lansing, MI, 48917

For more information, visit: <https://michigandistrict.org/event/theological-conference-2024/#overview>. If interested in attending this conference, please talk with Pastor Schaeffer.

Lord, Teach Us To Pray! This was the question the disciples asked Jesus and he responded by teaching them The Lord's Prayer. Pastor Schaeffer will begin a new Bible study on The Lord's Prayer on Sunday, January 7th. Not only will this study help you appreciate The Lord's Prayer but it will equip you and motivate you to be a person of prayer.

A Statement on Holy Communion

We rejoice in the celebration of the LORD'S Supper as the Lord Jesus comes to us in a very personal manner, giving to us His true Body and Blood in, with, and under the bread and wine in this sacred meal. St. Paul writes, "*A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.*" (1 Corinthians 11:28-29) It is out of love and care for every individual who comes to the Lord's Supper that we ask those who are not instructed in the faith and/or doubt the presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus in this Sacrament to refrain from attending the Lord's Supper.

Members of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregations, who:

- Repent of their sin;
- Believe in Jesus as their Savior;
- Trust that they are receiving, not only bread and wine but also the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of their sins; and
- Intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to live as forgiven sinners resisting the devil, saying no to sinful desires, and walking in the newness of life;

are invited to partake of this Holy Meal with us. We request that ALL guests who desire to commune, kindly speak to the Pastor before the service.

If you prefer to come forward for a blessing at the time of Holy Communion, please do so. We ask that you cross your arms over your chest so that Pastor knows you want to receive a blessing.

NOTE: We provide gluten-free communion host and non-alcoholic grape juice. Just let the Pastor and/or the assistants know when you come for Holy Communion.