

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

Palmer, Kansas 66962

Rev. Joshua Hayes, Pastor

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& Ms. Robyn Meyer

December 25, 2021 The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Day)

Welcome to St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church. If you are a guest or visitor with us today, we welcome you and invite you to come and worship with us again. Please take the time to introduce yourself to Pastor Hayes, and we hope to see you again soon.

Remember that the Worship Service begins when you enter. As the Music for Meditation begins, you are invited to join in quiet, preparation time for worship. Before the service, speak to the Lord; during the service, let the Lord speak to you; after the service, speak to one another.

Liturgy – Divine Service Setting Three (Page 184)

Opening Hymn: 379 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Hymn of the Day: 358* "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

*v. 1 & 5 - Pastor; 2 & 4 - choir; v. 10 - women; v. 12 - men

Distribution Hymn: 368 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Distribution Hymn: 370 "What Child Is This"

Distribution Hymn: 380 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Distribution Hymn: 388 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Closing Hymn: 387 "Joy to the World"

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please e-mail prayer requests to Pastor Hayes at pastor.hayes@outlook.com.

Prayer requests will remain for 2 weeks unless you specify a length of time.

Angie Reinert, LaVon Hornbostel, Lula Stuenkel, Marilyn Ohlde,

Loraine Oldehoeft, & Lorna Heitman (in the nursing home)

Ladonna Hornkohl (cancer treatment); family of Don Dodd;

Rev. Peter Lange (thanksgiving and recovery)

Acolyte next Sunday, Dec. 26th - Gretchen Bott

Ushers today - *John Bott, Aaron Stuenkel, Cody Ohlde, & Tyler Ohlde

Ushers Sunday, Dec. 26th - *Jacob Bott, Lance Gerleve, Brady Kolle, & John Bott

LYF Fellowship Hour Dec. 26th & Jan. 2nd - Ella Thalmann & Ryan Stuenkel

Upcoming Events

- December 25** 9:00 a.m. Mixed Choir Rehearsal
9:30 a.m. Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion
- December 26** 9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. **NO** Adult Bible Class or Children's Sunday School
- December 29** 5:30 p.m. Midweek/Confirmation
- December 31** 7:00 p.m. New Year's Eve/Eve of the Name of Jesus
(Installation of Officers)
- January 2** 9:00 a.m. Mixed Choir Rehearsal
9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Children's Sunday School
- January 3** 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting
- January 5** 5:30 p.m. Midweek/Confirmation
- January 9** 9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Children's Sunday School
11:45 a.m. New Member Potluck
Quarterly Voters Meeting (following potluck)

Announcements

- * To help members of Peace Lutheran in Natoma who lost their homes in the recent fires get back on their feet, visit <https://kslclms.org/business-office/donate/>. Click the red "donate" button to access the secure payment page and choose "Kansas Disaster Response" as a designation, with "NW Kansas Fire" in the comments box.
- * **CHRIST FOR YOU:** We celebrate the season of Christmas by taking a hiatus from our regular programming to bring you special Twelve Days of Christmas programming, including Scripture readings, sacred music for the season, and special greetings from our missionaries and military chaplains serving around the globe. Enjoy this programming through Epiphany, January 6! Regular programming returns January 7.



Old Testament Reading: *Exodus 40:17-21; 34-38*

¹⁷ In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected. ¹⁸ Moses erected the tabernacle. He laid its bases, and set up its frames, and put in its poles, and raised up its pillars. ¹⁹ And he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it, as the Lord had commanded Moses. ²⁰ He took the testimony and put it into the ark, and put the poles on the ark and set the mercy seat above on the ark. ²¹ And he brought the ark into the tabernacle and set up the veil of the screen, and screened the ark of the testimony, as the Lord had commanded Moses. . . .

³⁴ Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. ³⁵ And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. ³⁶ Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. ³⁷ But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. ³⁸ For the cloud of the Lord was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

Epistle Reading: *Titus 3:4-7*

⁴ When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Gospel Reading: *John 1:1-14 (15-18)*

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

From Martin Luther's Sermon for *The Principal Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord* (John 1:1-14)

This gospel text allows of no other doctrine beside it; it desires only to testify of Christ and lead men to him, who is the Light. Therefore, O Lord God, these words, "*He was not the Light*," are truly worthy to be capitalized and to be well remembered against the men who set themselves up as the light and give to men doctrines and laws of their own fabrication. They pretend to enlighten men, but lead them with themselves into the depths of hell; for they do not teach faith, and are not willing to teach it; and no one teaches it except John, who is sent of God, and the holy Gospel. Truly much could be said on this point.

In short, he who does not preach the Gospel to you, reject and refuse to hear him. He, however, preaches the Gospel who teaches you to believe and trust in Christ, the eternal Light, and not to build on any of your own works. Therefore beware of everything told you that does not agree with the Gospel; do not put your trust in it, nor accept it as something external, as you regard eating and drinking, which are necessary for your body, and which you may use at your pleasure or at the pleasure of another; but by no means as something necessary to your salvation. For this purpose nothing is necessary or of use to you except this Light.

O, these abominable doctrines of men, which are now so prevalent and which have almost banished this Light! They all wish to be this light themselves, but not to be witnesses of it. They advocate themselves and teach their own fancies, but are silent about this Light, or teach it in a way as to preach themselves along with it. This is worse than to be entirely silent; for by such teaching they make Samaritans who partly worship God and partly worship idols (2 Kings 17,33).

As We Gather... The Living and Life-Giving Word of God Dwells among Us in the Flesh

In the beginning God created all things through His Word, His Son. But man fell into sin, and with man all creation was cursed. Therefore, God spoke His Word again, this time into the womb of the blessed Virgin Mary. The glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle of our human nature (**Exodus 40:17-21, 34-38**). "*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us*" (**John 1:1-14**). The Son of God took on our flesh and blood and died on the cross in order that we might receive the right to become the children of God through faith. Baptized into Christ's body, we are made partakers of a new Genesis, "*the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit*" (**Titus 3:4-7**). In Christ, the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man has truly appeared.

THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

BEGINS CHRISTMAS DAY

Christmas means *Christ Mass*, that is, the liturgy celebrated on the day when Christ came among us as one of us. The church celebrates the mystery of salvation revealed in Christ's birth, rather than the birthday itself. We celebrate the mystery of God become man in Christ, who is both our King and our Savior.

The Christmas season also places special emphasis on the name of the Lord our God because Jesus would have received His name eight days after His birth when He was circumcised.

When the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph and told him that Mary was with child through the Holy Spirit, the angel also told Joseph what to name the child: Jesus, which means *the LORD saves* (Matthew 1:20-21). Eight days after Jesus' birth, when He was circumcised, Joseph and Mary name Jesus as the angel had instructed.

Calendar: The Twelve Days of Christmas always fall on December 25th - January 5th.

Customs: The color white symbolizes the joy and the theme of light that plays so large a part in the Biblical texts associated with the season. Christmas carols also express the joy and wonder of Christ's birth. On Christmas Day, add the figures of Jesus, the angel, and the shepherds to the creche or nativity scene at church or at home. Add the Magi on Epiphany (January 6th). The Christmas tree should stand throughout the 12 days of Christmas and be removed on Epiphany. Read the Christmas story from Luke 2 with your family.

- from *The Lord Will Answer: A Daily Prayer Catechism* by CPH.



...and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.



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