

Family of Christ Lutheran Church
Christmas in July
July 19, 2026

Welcome, Announcements and Prayer Requests

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

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

Silence for reflection

Reconciling God, **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 on the margins and our reluctance to embody your good news that is for all the earth. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

God's grace upon grace flows over you. ☩ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the creation rejoice and be glad! **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: ELW 283 O, Come All Ye Faithful

O, Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

Please be seated

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of Day

All-powerful God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, every day of the year. We pray this in the name of Jesus who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

- ² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
- ³ You 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.
⁷ Great 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.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96

- ¹ Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- ² **Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**
- ³ Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.
- ⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**
- ⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.
- ⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

⁹ Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

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.”**

¹¹ Let 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.

¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your
coming, O LORD,
for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³ You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

¹¹ The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,

¹² training 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. ¹⁴ He 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.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Christmas Pageant

We will sing 2 verses of ELW 300: The First Noel during the pageant

Pageant Theme Song *(sung to the tune of Angels from the Realms of Glory)*

Congregation sings theme song when cued.

First cue:

Shepherds, shepherds, there's too many
Shepherds gathered here to tell
Once again the Christmas story
Of the angel's first Noel.

Shepherds, shepherds, only shepherds
There's too many shepherds here.

Shepherds, shepherds, what's with all these
Shepherds filled with joy and mirth?
How can we proclaim the Good News
Of Messiah's blessed birth?

Shepherds, Shepherds, only shepherds
We need more than shepherds here.

Second cue:

Shepherds, shepherds, we need shepherds
Gathered here around the Word.
We must tell the Gospel story

That those first scared shepherds heard.
Shepherds, Shepherds, many shepherds
There are shepherds needed now.

Shepherds, shepherds, all are shepherds
Who have seen what God has done.
Called to praise and glorify our
Lord and Savior: God's own Son
Shepherds, Shepherds, many shepherds
Won't you be a shepherd, too?

Hymn: ELW 267

Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fret the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Please rise as you are able

Apostles' Creed

**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 power of 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.**

Please be seated

Prayers of the People

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A brief silence.

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. God of steadfast love,
hear our prayer.

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. God of steadfast love,
hear our prayer.

Transforming God, where the world trembles amid violence and war, empower us with your Spirit to shatter the rod of the oppressor and turn swords into plowshares. God of steadfast love,
hear our prayer.

Shepherding God, you are present in every one of our neighbors. Send us into the world to find your Word made flesh in those who are sick or struggling; we remember especially those on our prayer list and those whose names and needs we lift before you know, either silently or aloud. God of steadfast love,
hear our prayer.

Nurturing God, you dwell with us in humble places. Sustain housing and clothing ministries in this community, that all find shelter and warmth, especially we pray for the ministry of New Hope Cares. We pray for youth seeking safety and care. God of steadfast love,
hear our prayer.

Abiding God, you remain at the side of all the departed. Grant hope in the resurrection to all who mourn and give them peace in Christ Jesus. God of steadfast love,
hear our prayer.

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayer to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of Christ's peace with those around you.

Offering Is Collected

Offering and Elements Are Brought to the Table

Offering hymn: ELW 296, verse 3, What Child Is This

What Child Is This



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
- 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

Offering Prayer

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. Amen.**

Communion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

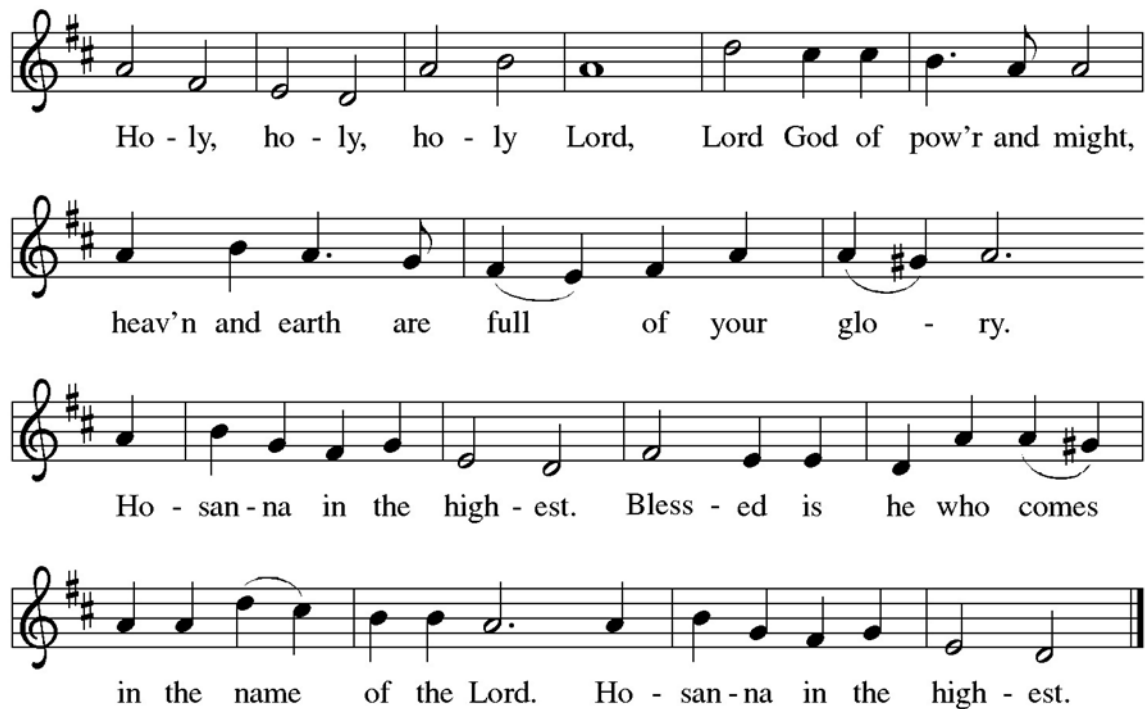
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Blessed are you, Mighty God, Source of all peace. In the beginning, You set the cosmos in motion: sun, moon, and stars, planets and galaxies, were all illuminated with a Word.

You called upon Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekkah, Jacob, Leah, and Rachel, giving them your promise that they would be your beloved children filled with joy and exultation freed from the yoke of their burden.

You made yourself known through the prophets who retell your story of love and justice and call us back to your promise: Unto us a child would be born, a Son would be given.

In your great love for us, You became flesh to dwell with us, a Savior, born of Mary proclaiming peace on earth, goodwill to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, 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.

Again, 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 sins. Do this for the remembrance of me.

We remember his birth as one of us, his death at our hands, his resurrection for our salvation, and we await his coming again when peace will reign and all will be made new.

Send now your Holy Spirit upon this meal we share and upon our hearts, hands, and voices, that we may be united as one people, making known all we have been told about the Prince of Peace.

Through him, all glory and honor belong to you, blessed Trinity, in your church, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

Lord's Prayer

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

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus. **Amen.**

(All are welcome at the Table. Both wine and juice are available. The juice is the innermost circle on the tray.)

Communion Hymn: ELW 289 Angels We Have Heard on High

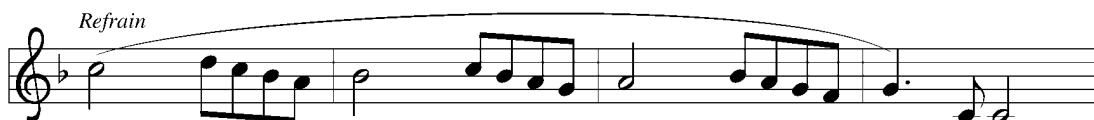
Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
 Music: GLORIA, French carol

Post-Communion Blessing

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

Prayer after Communion

Jesus, Prince of Peace, **you have come to us in this meal, offering the gift of your very self. Now send us out to serve all**

people, reflecting your goodwill for this world in all we do. We ask this in Your holy name. Amen.

Blessing

Love has come to dwell with us! Alleluia!

Let the whole earth rejoice!

May the triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, ✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: ELW 290 Go Tell It on the Mountain

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to God's people on earth!

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

Thanks be to God.

Announcements:

- **Ice Cream Meet-up Dates:** August 7th at Oberweis on Telegraph; September 11th at Ted Drewes.
- **Getting Crafty:** August 19th, 6:30 p.m. Bring your current work-in-progress and craft and visit for a while.
- **Book Club:** July 23rd, 7 p.m.

focelca.com
foclutheran@gmail.com
Pastor Jane Brda, SAM
Ellen Mueller — Music

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