

Milwaukie Lutheran Church

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*I am bringing you good news
of great joy*

LUKE 2:10

December 24, 2025 - 5PM

The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Eve Worship

Welcome to Milwaukie Lutheran Church

“Nurturing the Personal and Spiritual Growth of Our Community.”

December 24, 2025 5:00 PM

The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Eve Worship

Our order of worship follows this printed bulletin. # signs indicate hymn choices and are printed on the top of each page in the hymnal. Little ones are always welcome at worship. We stand and sit at various places in the service. These symbols are a guide to those times...please know that if at any time it is difficult to stand, you are invited to stay seated.

 = stand  = sit

Reader for today - TBD

Communion Assistants - Paul & Andrea Daniel

Gathering

Prelude Music: Cindy and Alan Mair

Choir Prelude: Mary, Go Tell It!

Arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome and Announcements

Gloria: Angels We Have Heard on High vv. 1, 3

ELW #289

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share that peace with one another.

(following the sharing of the peace)

 *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,
whose steadfast love is everlasting.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God-with-us,

**C: we confess that we have turned away
those seeking shelter,
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.
We have made power and wealth our idols,
while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.
We have overlooked the shepherds,
expecting good news in prettier packaging.
Too often, we have valued violence
instead of your peace.
Turn us from our ways to your ways.
Grant us the grace to begin again.
Free us from all that keeps us bound,
and forgive our sin,
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.
Amen.**

P: Hear the good news and rejoice!
You are God's chosen ones,
holy and beloved,
✠ forgiven in Christ,
and freed to respond in joy.

C: Amen.

Call to Worship

P: Tonight we celebrate the birth of Christ! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

C: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

 *Carol Sing: Congregation is invited to choose their favorite Christmas hymns.*

Word

 *First Reading:*

Isaiah 9:2-7

Second Reading:

Titus 2:11-14

P/A: Here ends the readings.

 **Gospel:**

Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

 *Reflection*

 **Song: "Hallelujah Chorus"**

by George Frederic Handel

 Prayers of the People

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

A brief silence.

P: Angels sing with praise, and shepherds run with haste. As we glorify and praise you in this place, send us into the world, proclaiming the salvation you have revealed this night. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: The seas roar, and the trees of the forest sing for joy. As creation resounds with praise, inspire us with awe, reverence, and a renewed care for all that fills the fields, skies, and seas. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: The nations declare your glory. Uphold the leaders of the earth with your justice and righteousness. Break the rod of the oppressor in every land, and bring peace where there is conflict. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: The holy family finds shelter around the animals' manger. Draw near to persons experiencing homelessness, those who are alone this holiday season, and all for whom this world makes no room. Wrap all your children in bands of love and mercy. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: A child is born for us and light shines on the weary. Watch over those who give birth this night and attend to those who are dying. Be present in our joys and in our sorrows. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: The heavenly host praises you. With thanksgiving for Mary, Joseph, and all your saints, sustain us in the blessed hope revealed this night. Fashion us by their example into a people zealous for good deeds, sharing your love and mercy with all. God of grace,

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

 *Offering*

Offertory: Joy to the World

ELW #267

 *Offertory Prayer*

P: God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.

C: Amen

Holy Communion

P: The Lord be 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.

Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Holy Communion:

All who hunger and thirst for Christ's presence are welcome at the Lord's Table. Communion is served on the lower level at the front row of pews. There are both gluten free and non-alcoholic options available. If you are mobility challenged, please let one of our ushers know, and we will bring the meal to you.

Communion Hymns: *Away in a manger* **ELW #277**

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming **ELW #272**

Blessing after Communion:

P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.

Post Communion Prayer

P: Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

C: Amen.

Blessing:

P: The God of love, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

C: Amen

Candle Lighting

The pastor lights a candle from the Christ Candle; the ushers light their candles from the pastor's candle. The ushers then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. Lighted candles should not be dipped, to avoid hot wax burning hands and dripping on the floor. The unlighted candle should be dipped when lighting it from a neighbor's candle.



Hymn: "Silent Night, Holy Night"

ELW #281

Dismissal:

P: Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Cindy and Alan Mair - O Holy Night

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Milwaukie Lutheran Prayers

If you would like to add a name to the prayer list, or to submit a personal prayer request, please call the office (and leave a voicemail) or email office@milwaukielutheran.org. If you are submitting a prayer request on behalf of someone else, please make sure you have permission before sharing personal information.

Prayer List

Myra Manley, Mark and Dawne Haase, John Wehr, Darlene Larson, Dee McCluskey, Joshua Manley, Sarah Forsythe-Insley, Phil Stauffer, Rex Stores, Dave, Larry, Sue, Beth, Maxinne, Michelle, Carolyn, Gary, Lonnie, Chip, Greg Ames, Shirley Meyer, Cindy, Jan Weishon, Dave Effenberger, Glenn Wheatley, Charissa Towns

Submitted Prayers

- Mickey (mother to Cathy Mathistad), currently in hospice care
- Helen Rhode, recovering from a recent medical operation
- Jerry Prosa, recovering from a severe lung infection
- Laura Giese, recovering from a fractured vertebrae

Places of Conflict

- Ukraine and Russia
- Israel, Palestine, Lebanon and Syria
- Sudan
- Madison, Wisconsin

MLC Highlights

Blue Christmas Service - Sunday 12/29 @ 11am

Remembering those not present at our Christmas table.

Education Hour

Education Hour and Sunday School will start back up again on **Sunday, January 5th**. Our study for the new year will be *End Times: A Lutheran Perspective*. Looking forward to seeing you!

Clackamas Service Center

Looking to purge some menswear from your closet for the new year? The **men** who come to the Clackamas Service Center need **socks, underwear, jeans, tops and warm coats**. Any donations are greatly appreciated. Contact Brenda Hegel if you have any questions. Donations can be left in the bin in the gathering place. Thank you!

Midweek Lectionary Study (at Shirley Meyer's house)

ON BREAK UNTIL JANUARY 7.

A weekly study at 10:00am where we look at the lectionary texts for the upcoming Sunday. We meet at Shirley Meyer's house: 14075 SE Hines Dr., Clackamas, OR 97015.

Rowe Middle School Pantry

The pantry is in need of boys' and girls' small and medium sweatpants.

MLC Highlights (continued)

Piecemakers

The Piecemakers are looking for helping hands. No sewing skills required. If you can tie your shoes, we need you! The need for our quilts is high at our local hospitals.

Piecemakers meet the first and third Friday of every month from 10:00-2:00 or any amount of time you have to give. Bring your own lunch if you stay through lunch. Coffee and great fellowship provided.



Salvation to All

“Good news” is a familiar phrase for Christians, but in the world outside the bible the Greek word we translate as “bringing . . . good news” (Luke 2:10) was used to announce a new emperor. The Emperor Augustus commands that the world be counted, and those with the least are required to do the most to fulfill the requirements of those in power. The scene at the manger, however, is anything but imperial. In Bethlehem, God’s power is revealed in weakness, and the people who count include even the migrant laborers keeping watch over their flocks by night.

What does it mean this Christmas for us to hear that God is found in the hidden, the neglected, the immodest places of the world? What does it mean for us this year to know that when God takes a census, all the people of the world matter as much as any citizen of any empire?

The Nativity of Our Lord is the story of God’s reign spilling over the boundaries set by the powerful people of the world and into the margins. Dark nights and fragile infants interrupted by migrant laborers and choirs of angels point to a vision of the world as it should be, where “being connected” to the right people is replaced by being interconnected through a spirit of unity that brings us all out of the margins and into the center of life. In the infant Jesus, God declares a new standard for power, a word of hope, “good news” for all who are fragile, all who are weak, all who are overlooked, all who are despised, all who are abandoned, all who are homeless, all who are hovering between life and death. The festival of the incarnation is indeed “salvation to all” (Titus 2:11).