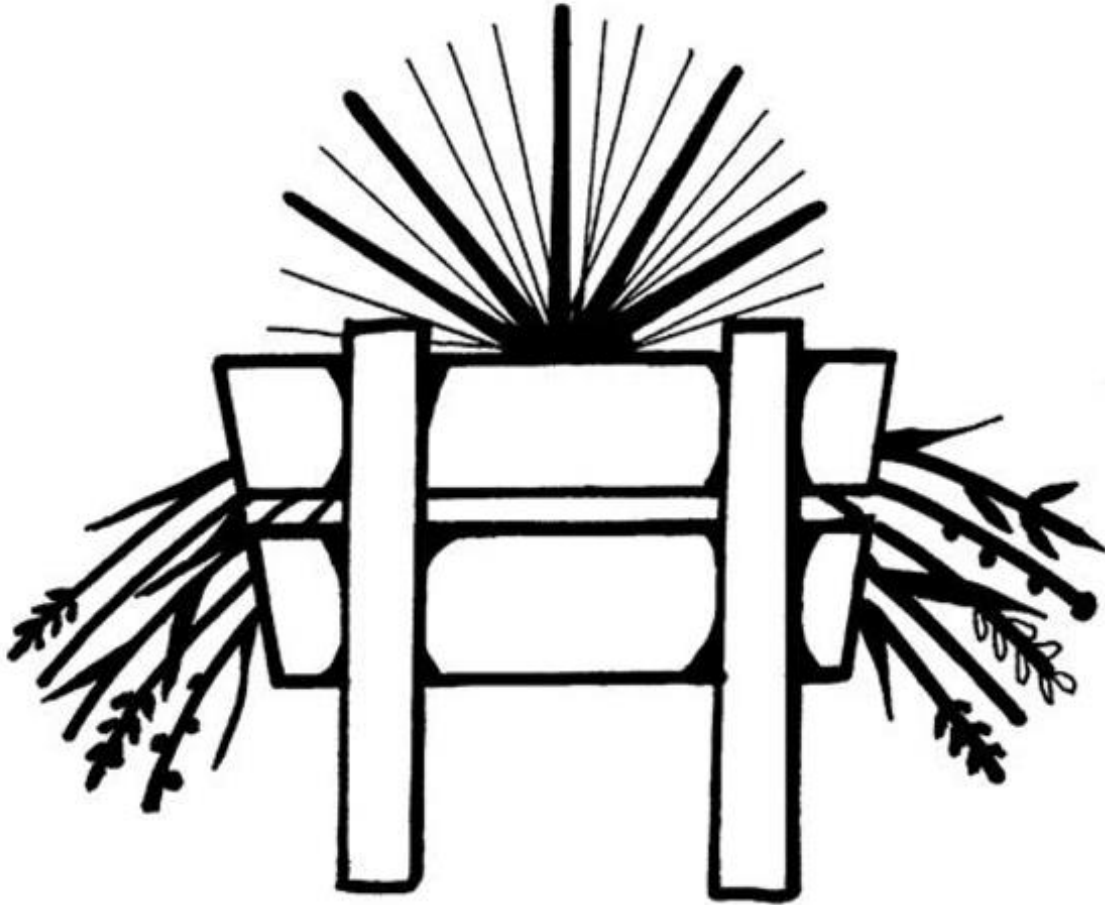




# Covenant Lutheran Church, ELCA



*We celebrate gathering together this Christmas Eve Family Service!*

*December 24, 2025 at 4 p.m.*

The People of Covenant are called to:

**Gather, Grow and Go Serve**

...With God's Love!

# Welcome Thank you for joining us for Worship today!

**WORSHIP ORDER – Sunday, December 24, 2025 – 4 p.m.**

*Congregation participation in **bold** in bulletin  
ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymn Book*

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### **Land Acknowledgment**

Covenant Lutheran Church acknowledges and honors the Indigenous Peoples and their ancestral homelands on which we gather. We stand on stolen ancestral homelands of the Ho-Chunk and the many other Indigenous Nations that have been historical occupants here. We respect Native Americans as caretakers of this land and Mother Earth. We strive to emulate the stewardship they first demonstrated. We embrace Indigenous People in love and gratitude. May we always seek a greater understanding of the Native community and their history as a whole as we aspire to work in meaningful partnership.

### **Welcome**

#### **Call to Worship**

He's coming! He's coming! The Savior of the World is coming!

**Let us prepare our hearts to greet him!**

He comes to each one of us, healing and restoring our lives!

**Praise be to God for God's mighty gift to us.**

O Come, Prince of Peace, bring your light to us!

**We are ready to receive you in our lives! AMEN.**

#### **Gathering Hymn**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ELW 283

#### **Prayer of the Day**

Holy God, in days of old you sent your angels to tell shepherds the good news: "To you is born this day a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord." Help us hear with the shepherds this good news, that we too may glorify and praise you for all that we have seen and heard. **Amen.**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

### First Reading

**Titus 2:11-14**

*A reading from Titus the second chapter.*

<sup>11</sup> The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup> 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.**

### Vocal Anthem

*Christmastime*

Michael W. Smith & Joanna

Carlson,

arr. Lloyd

Larson,

with Denise Pigarelli, flute

### Welcoming the Gospel *Angels We Have Heard on High vs. 1-2* ELW289

*The gospel will be call and response each time the reader announces:*

*'To us is born a Savior',*

*the assembly responds:*

**'Jesus Christ our Lord'.**

### Gospel

**Luke 2:1-20**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. To us is born a Savior. **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom

he was engaged and who was expecting a child. To us is born a Savior. **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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 for them in the inn. To us is born a Savior. **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. To us is born a Savior. **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” To us is born a Savior. **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” To us is born a Savior. **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

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.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. To us is born a Savior. **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. To us is born a Savior. **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Celebrating the Gospel** *Angels, We Have Heard on High vs. 3* ELW 289

## Children's Message

### Hymn of the Day

*Away in a Manger*

ELW 277

### Prayers

Glory to God in the highest,  
**and peace to God's people on earth.**

Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

**Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**

Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor.  
You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.

**Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.**

Blessed are you, Emmanuel.  
You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.

**Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.**

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

**Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.**

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

**Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.**

### Exchange of Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Let us share a sign of peace safely with one another.*

### Announcements

### Offering Prayer

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### **Liturgy of Holy Communion**

#### **Thanksgiving**

God, you made us, and the world and everything in it.

**All the good we see comes from you.**

You have always loved us, but people have not always loved you.

**You sent Jesus to show us how to live and to bring us back to you again.**

On a night kind of like this, with some people kind of like us, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his friends and family, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you. Do this and remember me."

Again, on that same night, kind of like this night when Jesus was gathered with some people kind of like us after supper, He took the cup, and having given thanks for it, he said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, given for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this and remember me."

*Gathered into one by the power of the Holy Spirit we pray as our Lord taught us:*

#### **The 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

This is a magical night. God-with-us has come to touch our world, our lives. God-with-us invites us now to come to the table, believing in the promises of God fulfilled tonight. Here love is offered, and love is found, in the sharing of bread and cup. Here we find our journey's end and its beginning.

## Communion Hymns

<i>Infant Holy, Infant Lowly</i>	ELW 276
<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	ELW 270
<i>Go, Tell It On the Mountain</i>	ELW 290
<i>I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve</i>	ELW 271

## Post Communion Blessing

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

## Prayer after Communion

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation.

We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. **Amen.**

*The minister lights a large candle from the Christ candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks.*

*The ushers light their candles from the minister's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle.*

*The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another.*

## Gospel

**John 1:1-14**

*A reading from John the first chapter.*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Hymn**

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

ELW 281

## **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **Blessing**

Go now in wonder. Go to bring light to those in darkness, joy to those who can find no joy, magic to a world steeped in realism. Go with the songs of angels in your ears, and the love of God in your hearts. Go and spread the word the babe of Bethlehem is born for all. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn**

*Joy to the World*

ELW 267

## **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.**



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## Announcements:

- ✝ **Welcome to you this Christmas Eve, thank you for being here to Worship and Praise**
- ✝ **Thank you for your Christmas Flower Orders!** Updated plant pickup is Dec 29 after Worship
- ✝ **Much gratitude for your generous giving in many various ways to spread joy this season!**
- ✝ **Please Join for Lessons and Carols Worship Dec 28 at 9:30am-** As always- Everyone is Invited
- ✝ **The office will be closed** Dec 24 and 25 for Christmas and Dec 31 and Jan 1 for New Years
- ✝ Thank you to our Vocal Choir for the special music tonight.

### WORSHIP NOTES

**Pastor:** *Pastor Wendy Moen*; **Acolyte:** *Ariana Smith*  
**Assistant Minister:** *Ingrid Thompson*  
**Lector:** *Marijo Vols*  
**Greeters:** *Laura Just, Linda Harrison*  
**Communion Worship Assistants:** *Marijo Vols, Laurie Judd, Kathy Andrusz*  
**Organist/Pianist:** *Meghann Proper*  
**Ushers:** *Tamarine Westrand, Judy and Matthew Heil*  
**Sound/projection:** *Jude Surrell*  
**Altar Guild:** *Jean and Norm Sime*; **Communion Prep:** *Jessica and Mia Wagner*  
**Poinsettia Flowers:** *Members of Covenant*

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