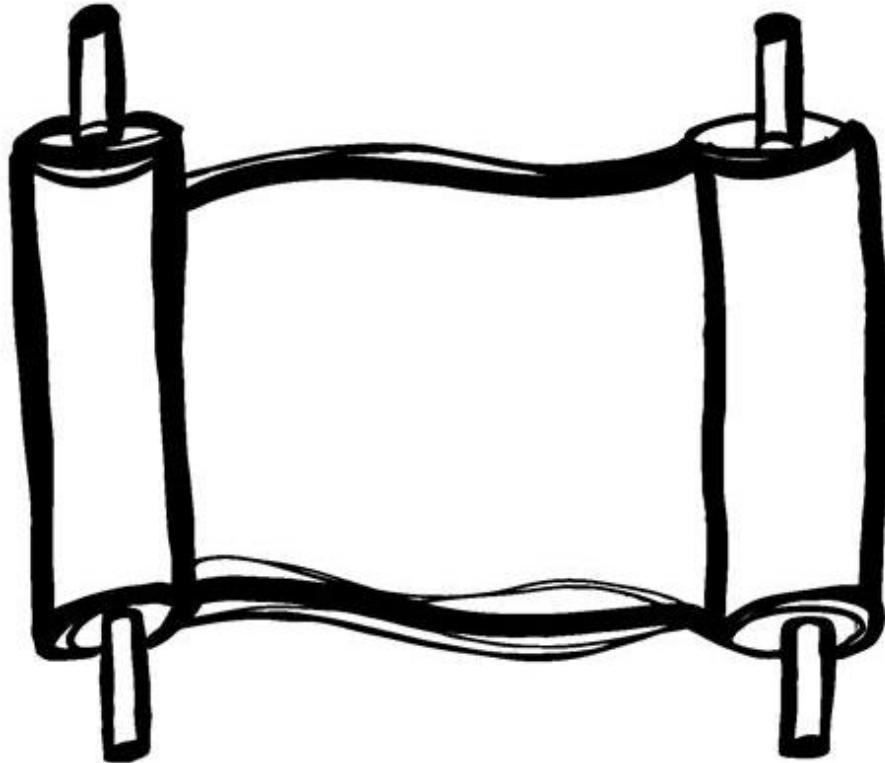




Covenant Lutheran Church, ELCA



We celebrate gathering together this Lessons and Carols Sunday!

December 28, 2025 at 9:30 a.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 28, 2025 – 9:30 a.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

Come! Look upon the baby Jesus, cradled in the arms of his mother.

**Seeing this wondrous sight,
may our hearts be comforted
and our spirits filled with peace.**

Come! Listen to choirs of angels announcing good news to all people.

Hearing this marvelous song, may we too sing:

Glory to God in the highest!

Come! Receive this ancient story in your heart, not as history but as a gift.

**Opening our hearts to this great mystery,
may Christ be born in us today.**

Children's Time

Opening Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life.

Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts. **Amen.**

Lessons and Carols**First Reading****Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18**

A reading from Genesis, the first chapter.

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Carol*Of the Father's Love Begotten vs.1-3*

ELW 295

Second Reading**Micah 5:2-5a**

A reading from Micah, the fifth chapter.

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

Once in Royal David's City vs.1-3

ELW 269

Third Reading

Luke 1:26-35, 38

A reading from Luke, the first chapter.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He 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 ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear vs.1-3

ELW 282

Fourth Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

A reading from Matthew, the first chapter.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

The First Noel vs.1-3

ELW 300

Fifth Reading

Luke 2:8-20

A reading from Luke, the second chapter.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

ELW 275

Sixth Reading

Matthew 2:1-11

A reading from Matthew, the second chapter.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Seventh Reading**John 1:1-14**

A reading from John, the first chapter.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And 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 word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Prayer

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to sing for joy with the angels.

In the brightness of his life
cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.
It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.
In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life.
Amen.

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

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.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Liturgy of Holy Communion and Thanksgiving

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 our thanks and praise.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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 sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

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

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

Blessing

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

Sending Song *Go, Tell It On the Mountain (vs 1-2)* ELW 290

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.**



Care to contribute to our Church and ministries?

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Announcements:

- ✚ **The office will be closed** Dec 31 and Jan 1 for the New Year's Holiday
- ✚ **Bible Study is on a holiday break-** returning **Wed Jan 7 in the Gateway Room at 5:30pm**
- ✚ **Book Group 2nd Thur at 1pm Jan 9**
- ✚ **Social Action Team meets each 2nd Monday, Jan 13 at 6:30pm** in the Gateway Room
- ✚ **American Red Cross Blood Drive** at Covenant **Jan 20 1-6pm** Signup online or just walk in
- ✚ **Honoring Dr Martin Luther King, the office will be closed Jan 20 for Martin Luther King Day**

WORSHIP NOTES

Pastor: *Pastor Wendy Moen*; **Acolyte:** *Ariana Smith*

Assistant Minister: *Laurie Judd*

Lector: *Jessica Diebold*

Greeters: *Jack and Helga Cope*

Communion Worship Assistants: *Judy and Matthew Heil*;

Organist/Pianist: *Michelle Osterhaus*

Ushers: *Norm and Jean Sime, Tom Christian, Carol Pritchard*;

Sound/projection: *Lars Forde*

Altar Guild: *Jean and Norm Sime*; **Communion Prep:** *Jessica and Mia Wagner*

Altar Flowers: *Cindy and Brandon Pietruszynski in memory of dad Frank Beran*

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