

## Stewardship 2026 Join the Journey

*"Trust in God from the bottom of your heart;  
don't try to figure out everything on your own.  
Listen for God's voice in everything you do,  
everywhere you go." Proverbs 3:4-6*



### WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

9:15 AM Worship Express – Sunday School Christmas Program

**Pastor:** Paula Geister-Jones   **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman

**Organist/Pianist:** Linda Kunz

**Acolytes:** Autumn Wendorf

**Ushers:** Ben Foltz and Anna Foltz

**Technical Support:** Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

As we gather together this day to hear again the story of our Savior's birth, we thank you for the gift of your children among us. By your Holy Spirit, let their voices in Word and song bring you glory and praise, that we may experience the promise of Christ shining out like the star above Bethlehem, pointing to our Lord and King.

**CALL TO WORSHIP: "Cradle Song"** *Kids follow Paula*

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*The first, second and third candles of the Advent Wreath are lit.*

**P:** Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrows.

**C:** You bring water to parched ground and life out of death.

**P:** Bless us as this light grows, and send sorrow and sighing to flee away.

**C:** Give us strength and patience, trusting that you are true to your promises.

**P:** Transform the lives of all who suffer with your wonders near at hand.

**C: Amen**

*Stand*

**“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” Vs. 2**

**Vs. 2: O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
Embracing all things far and nigh:  
In strength and beauty come and stay;  
Teach us your will and guide our way.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to you,  
O Israel.**

*Sit*

**HOLY BAPTISM page 227**

Baptized today is Maverick Mitchell Fuller, Son of Mitchell and Sydney Fuller

*Stand*

**P: Do you believe in God the Father?**

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?**

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by 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.**

**P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?**

**C: 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.**

*Sit*

**OFFERING SONG: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" ELW #270**

*(All loose offering will go towards Food Pantry.)*

**vs. 1: Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born king  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled"  
Joyful all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With angelic host proclaim  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the new-born king"**

**vs. 2: Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus our Emmanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**P:** Nourishing God,

**C:** you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.

**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: "The Animals Tale"**

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: "The First Noel"**

**The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;**

in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

**Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!**  
**Born is the King of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain...***

**And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain...***

*Scene 1: A Call for the Retelling*

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** (Lead by the 5<sup>th</sup>  
and 6<sup>th</sup> grade along with the Congregation)

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.**

**Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.**

**O come, O come, O Lord of might,  
as to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times you gave the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain...***

*Scene 2: Mary and the Spider*

**“Away in a Manger”** (3 Year-olds, 4 Year-olds, Kindergarten and Grades 1-2 up  
front all kids sing and perform the movements.)

*Scene 3: Joseph’s Donkey*

## **CONGREGATIONAL SONG: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

**Vs. 1: O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**Vs. 2: For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!**

**Vs. 3: How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

**Vs. 4: O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!**

Scene 4: Shepherds and the Sheep

**“Angels We Have Heard on High”** (Grades 3-4)

Serta: Then the strangest thing happened...

Scene 5: Wise Men and the Camels

Scene 6: The Surprise Ending

**“The Star is Bright”** (All Sunday School Grades)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Stand*

## **BENEDICTION**

**P:** The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustains you in hope,  
and the anointing of the Spirit ✝ remain upon you now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

## **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Christ is born!

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG: “Go Tell it on the Mountain”**

**Refrain:** Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!

**While** shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. *Refrain...*

**The** shepherds feared and trembled  
when, lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain...*

**Down** in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born;  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain...*

**Postlude: “Go Tell It” arr by Wonacott**

**Cast Members:**

**Narrator:** Asia Hoverson

**Ole Owl:** Ben Foltz

**Star:** Eve Conant

**Sheep/Lambs**

**Lujah:** Hannah Peterson

**Shirley:** Amber Daniels

**Serta:** Anna Foltz

**Holly:** Clara Harrington

**Little Lamb:** Eliza Schlotthauer

### **Camels**

**Grandpa Humphrey:** Quinlan Harrington

**Cara:** Sadie Soderling

**Van:** Jordyn Hostrawser

### **Spiders**

**Charlotte:** Sydney Daniels

**Little Spider:** Nora Schwenn

### **Donkeys**

**Donna:** Gretchen Wethal

**Billy Bob:** Levi Wendorf

### **Nativity**

**Mary:** Emma Annen

**Joseph:** Zane Deck

**Wise People:** Genevieve Annen, Lucas Peterson and Avery Sime.

### **Angels**

**Lead Angel:** Autumn Wendorf

Lainey Conant, Dayna Ross, Charlotte Annen, Maggie Conant, Renee Wethal, Katie Daniels, Braylynn Anderson, Mady Anderson and Millie Brabender.

**Shepherds:** Dave Erdman, Lukas Olson, Hans Schlotthauer Magnus Iverson, Hudson Liechty, Ellis Sime and Malcolm Harris.

**Innkeepers:** Libby Conant, Kylee Soderling, Ellie Gross, JD Conant, Roman Bull, Bowen Sime, Lane Maerz and Kayden Tavenner.

### **Bunnies**

**Bud Bunny:** Cole Hostrawser

Kristine Annen and Xaurora Henderson.