

If you are joining us today for the first time, we are so grateful that God brought you to this place. If you have any questions, feel free to speak to one of our friendly ushers. We would appreciate it if you would please fill out a VISITOR FORM -or- sign our VISITOR BOOK. They are both located near the entrance of the sanctuary. Feel free to ask about Busy Bags for little ones.



Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA

"Encouraging faith and proclaiming God's love by Gathering, Growing and Giving."

Christmas Day Worship

Carols/Stories/Communion Worship

December 25th, 2022

This worship is being livestreamed. Your presence in the sanctuary signifies your agreeing to be on our live broadcast.

*NOTE: **Bold text** indicates worshippers' response, and '*' means please stand as able.*

PRELUDE "O Holy Night"
WELCOME & MINISTRY MESSAGES

Sung by Keith Lee / Performed by Michelle Young

GATHERING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The angels came to humble shepherds, **All: Keeping watch over their flocks by night.**

L: The gift of God, Immanuel, is for all people. **All: We, too, hear the angels' joyful song.**¹

* CONFESSION We confess our sins before God and one another. *Pause for silence and reflection.*
Radiant God, **ALL: You have come to live among us, yet we fail time and again to see you in the faces of our neighbors. We look to ourselves instead of those in need. We seek the shallow comforts of things we can buy instead of the deep and lasting comfort of your presence. Forgive our stubborn refusal to see, and open our eyes to the joy and wonder of your incarnation. Amen.**

* FORGIVENESS Do not be afraid, for I bring you good news of great joy. The God of boundless grace forgives you all your sins, renewing your spirit for the sake of Immanuel, ✚ God with us.¹
Amen.¹

* GREETING/PRAYER OF THE DAY The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **All: And also with you.** The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray. Holy God, **C: With the angels we rejoice at Jesus' birth. Give us the eagerness of the shepherds to tell all the world of your limitless love. Amen.**¹

* # 55 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice vs. 1

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today! Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866

(Please be seated)

GROWING

READING ONE: *Isaiah 2:1-5*

L: Today we gather, **All: to celebrate the birth of the One and Only, the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ the Immanuel. We light the first candle in recognition that God's HOPE could not wait.** (LIGHT FIRST CANDLE – HOPE)

#40 *What Child is This* vs. 1-2

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!
- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary! Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

READING TWO: *Isaiah 11:1-10*

L: Today we light the second candle **ALL: in remembrance that God provides something our world is in great need of; with this candle, we remember that God's PEACE could not wait.** (LIGHT SECOND CANDLE – PEACE)

#54 *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear* vs. 1, 4

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
- 4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing. Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876

READING THREE: *Isaiah 35:1-10*

L: In lighting the third candle on the Advent Wreath, **we celebrate how God's presence can be felt within nature and all of the world. We remember that God's JOY could not wait.**

(LIGHT THIRD CANDLE – JOY)

#71 *Angels We Have Heard On High* vs. 1, 3

- 1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.
- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo. Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

* (Please stand) READING FOUR: *Gospel of Luke 2:8-20*

The fourth candle represents LOVE, a divine love like no other. This love inspires us to love more courageously and to trust...all because God's LOVE could not wait. **ALL: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.** John 3:16-17 (LIGHT FOURTH CANDLE – LOVE)

41 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* vs. 1-2

- 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.
- 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! Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

GIVING

* PRAYERS AND PETITIONS (L: Emmanuel, God with us, **All: You hear our prayer.**)

*#45 OFFERTORY CAROL *Oh, Come All Ye Faithful* vs 1,4 (*Communion elements brought forward*)

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels:

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

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

NOTE: The Offering Plate is located at the entrance of the sanctuary, in the middle aisle. Giving to support God's ministry at Shepherd of the Hill can also be mailed to (Mailing address: 207 University St., Elk Mound, WI 54739 – OR – as a 'bill pay' on your bank/credit union account – OR – go to <https://www.sothem.org/give> to make a one time or reoccurring donation. Setting up an account with GivePlus offers you control on amount and timing of your giving that comes from your checking or savings account.

* OFFERING PRAYER God you shower us with gifts, **and above all, the gift of Jesus. With the joy of the shepherds, we offer what first belonged to you. Accept these gifts for the sake of him whose birth we celebrate. Amen.**¹

* GREAT 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**

* 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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen**

* INVITATION Heed the call of the angels, revel in the glory of Jesus revealed, and come with haste to the table of Christ to share in the feast of heavenly food. God prepares this meal just for you.¹

HOLY COMMUNION – *All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Jesus Christ in the bread and wine are welcome to commune with us. Gluten-free wafers available and give "thumbs up" for grape juice. Children who do not yet receive Holy Communion may come forward for a blessing. If you or a family member would like communion brought to them, please tell an usher.*

HYMN #39 COMMUNION HYMN *Joy to the World*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love. Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

POST COMMUNION PRAYER ... **Amen.**

* ANNOUNCEMENTS/BLESSING God's divine work is accomplished through Jesus, God the Son. May we be bold in sharing this Good News, and remember Jesus still lives among us. We go into God's world blessed in the name of the Father, ✚ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

* HYMN #__ *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!

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

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

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

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

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

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.

BELLS AND DISMISSAL Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Michelle Young

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THIS WEEK AT CHURCH AND BEYOND OUR DOORS

TODAY

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

	10am	- Christmas Day Communion Worship
MONDAY	7pm	- AA Meeting
TUESDAY	4-6pm	- Food Pantry
WEDNESDAY	NO CONFIRMATION CLASS	
THURSDAY	3pm-7pm	- 7 th -8 th Grade Confirmation class at Action City
FRIDAY:	10am-Noon	- Food Pantry
SUNDAY:	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	
	10am	- New Year's Day Worship

FYI: Pastor Mary will be working from home and visiting members in the week ahead. If you need to reach her, please contact her at 715-308-0652 or meide@luthersem.edu

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTENT FORMS/TIME & TALENT SHEETS for 2023 giving can still be dropped off at the church or mailed in throughout the rest of the year.

12/29th THURSDAY, 3pm-7pm the 7th-8th Grade Confirmation class will be hanging out at the trampoline park at Action City. If you haven't done so already, please contact Kris Jenson (715-563-1402) to confirm whether or not you are participating and whether or not you need a ride from the church. We will be leaving from the church at 3pm, playing from 3:30-5:30, eating and then returning to the church by 7pm.

- Luther League will pay for the entrance fee to the Trampoline Park
- Students need to pay for the special Trampoline Park socks (if you already have a pair, bring them)
- Students need to bring money for food and any other activities they will do
- Parents need to complete **Action City** Parent Permission slip BEFORE students arrive
- We need to know how many students need a ride, and if additional drivers are needed.

GRIEF SHARE a thirteen-week grief support group, will begin meeting **on Sunday, January 8th, 2023**. Anyone who is dealing with the loss of a loved one is invited to attend these gatherings at **Trinity United Methodist Church (105 S. Holly Ave.) from 1:30-3:30pm**. This program consists of videos featuring individuals sharing their grief story, as well as leading grief recovery experts; in person group discussions about the weekly video content, and a personal workbook with study exercises that reinforce the weekly session topics.

Call Denise at Trinity United Methodist Church Elk Mound at (715) 879-5596 to register and purchase your workbook for \$15.00. Workbooks are available at Trinity UMC Elk Mound

MARK JANUARY 29th on your calendars for our ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING/BURNING OF THE MORTGAGE/WORSHIP/POTLUCK, it all starts at 10am with a brief worship service.

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