

# Messiah Lutheran Church

2015 N. Hastings Way - Eau Claire, WI 54703



Church Office: 834-2865

Pastor Bruce Naumann: 864-3465

Pastor Caleb Schaller: 577-6199

Pastor Paul Tiefel: 829-2000



*Friday, December 25, 2020*

## *Christmas Day*

**Pre-service Devotion: John 1:14**

*We have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son  
from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

## *Opening Prayer*

**Hymn 708 "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"**

**John 1:1-4**

**Pastor:** In the beginning was the Word,

**People:** **And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

**Pastor:** He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him,

**People:** **And without Him was not any thing made that was made.**

**Pastor:** In Him was life,

**People:** **And the life was the light of men.**

*[All sing] O sing of Christ, whose birth made known  
The kindness of the Lord,  
Eternal Word made flesh and bone  
So we could be restored.  
Upon our frail humanity God's finger chose to trace  
The fullness of His deity, The icon of His grace.*

*LSB 362*

**Rom. 5:12-18, Gal. 4:4**

**Pastor:** Death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam,

**People:** **Who is a type of Him who was to come.**

**Pastor:** Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation,

**People:** **Even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.**

**Pastor:** For when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son,

**People:** **Born of a woman, born under the law,**

**Pastor:** To redeem those who were under the law,

**People:** **That we might receive the adoption as sons.**

*What Adam lost, none could reclaim  
And Paradise was barred  
Until the second Adam came  
To mend what sin had marred.  
For when the time was full and right  
God sent His only Son;  
He came to us as life and light  
And our redemption won.*

**John 1:10-13**

Pastor: He was in the world, and the world was made through Him,  
**People: Yet the world did not know Him.**  
 Pastor: He came to His own,  
**People: And His own people did not receive Him.**  
 Pastor: But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name,  
**People: He gave the right to become children of God**  
 Pastor: Who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man,  
**People: But of God.**

*He came to that which was His own,  
But He was not received;  
Yet still through Him God's glory shone,  
And some His name believed.  
To these He gave the right to be  
The heirs of heav'n above,  
Born not of human ancestry,  
But born of God in love.*



**Phil. 2:5-8, 2 Cor. 8:9**

Pastor: Let this mind be in you,  
**People: Which was also in Christ Jesus,**  
 Pastor: Who, being in the form of God,  
**People: Did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,**  
 Pastor: But made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant,  
**People: And coming in the likeness of men.**  
 Pastor: And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death,  
**People: Even the death of the cross.**  
 Pastor: For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor,  
**People: That you through His poverty might become rich.**

*Lord Jesus Christ, You deigned to dwell  
Among us here on earth  
As God with us, Emmanuel,  
To bring this holy birth.  
Though rich, You willingly became  
One with our poverty,  
That we might share Your wealth and name  
For all eternity!*

*Pastor: Prayer for the Day*

*The Old Testament Lesson - Isaiah 9:2-7*

The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined. {3} You have multiplied the nation And increased its joy; They rejoice before You According to the joy of harvest, As men rejoice when they divide the spoil. {4} For You have broken the yoke of his burden And the staff of his shoulder, The rod of his oppressor, As in the day of Midian. {5} For every warrior's sandal from the noisy battle, And garments rolled in blood, Will be used for burning and fuel of fire. {6} For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon

His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. {7} Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

### *Response of the Congregation, in Song:*

*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 sing,  
The great glad tidings tell:  
Oh, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!*

### *The Gospel Lesson - Luke 2:1-14*

And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. <sup>3</sup> So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. <sup>7</sup> And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup> Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. <sup>10</sup> Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. <sup>11</sup> "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> "And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

### *Christmas Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, who sent His Son to be my Savior.

And I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, my Lord, the long-promised Messiah, Who came as foretold, being conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, announced by the angels, worshipped by the shepherds, adored by the Wise Men, Who lived to suffer, die, and rise again, to free me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, Who has brought me to faith in my Savior, and by Whose work in my heart I rejoice in my salvation, walk in Christ, show forth His praises, and will one day live and reign with Him in all eternity. Amen.

### **Hymn 711 "See in Yonder Manger Low"**

From the tan *Worship Supplement*

### *The Sermon - John 1:1-13 (ESV)*

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 were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

<sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

<sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

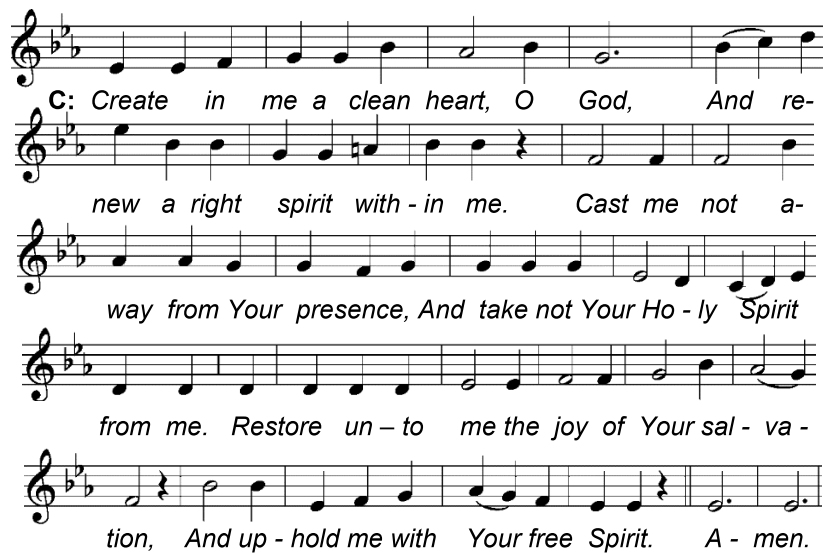
<sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.

<sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

- <sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.
- <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.
- <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.
- <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,
- <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

*"Born like us, that we can be reborn like Him."*

Preaching Today: Pastor Caleb Schaller



### Hymn 76 "A Great and Mighty Wonder"

From the red *Lutheran Hymnal*

*Prayer - The Lord's Prayer*

### *The Benediction*



C: A - men, a - men, a - men.

### Hymn 94 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

From the red *Lutheran Hymnal*

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### Luther Writes about Our Riches in Christ

Over the fields of Bethlehem, the angel announced to the shepherds: "I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11). No one can ever fully expound these words. They are a heavenly message. We may sing of them, to be sure; but we shall never exhaust their meaning. This, says the angel is to be your joy. If we had all the joy of the world, what would it be? Madam Disgust! For when we consider the end of all joys, we find a common seal at the end of all, namely, disgust. After you have lived a life of glory and pleasure, what is the end? Disgust, as Solomon says "Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of mirth is heaviness." (Prov. 14:13). The end of worldly pleasure is grief. After money has been your delight for a long time, there comes the grief of thinking how you are to hold on to it. For the joy of the world rests only on uncertain, temporal possessions, honor, and pleasure. It cannot last any longer than these but vanishes and disappears if only an evil wind blows upon it and it must suffer a little trouble. But the joy of the Christian endures forever, because its foundation stands forever. It remains firm and increases in the midst of external sorrow and misfortune. Therefore a believer is able to forego and despise all the joy of the world with a cheerful heart.

(From *What Luther Says*, p. 689)