



# *A Blessed Christmas*

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**  
10:30AM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021

# St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)

901 West Jefferson Avenue  
Effingham, IL 62401

Phone: (217) 342-4334

Christian Education: Sun. 9:15am

E-mail: office@stjohnsLCMS.net

Website: stjohsLCMS.net

Preschool Website: eaglesnestpreschool.com

Services: Sat. 5:30pm – Sun. 8:00am & 10:30am

December 19, 2021 - The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent



We welcome you to God's Service in worship at St. John's, and extend a special welcome to all guests and visitors with us.

- Restrooms are located on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> floors. Those on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> floors include diaper-changing stations.
- The Service video is broadcast in the Atrium and in the Library area on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor.
- Visitors are not expected to bring an offering. Our members do so in free response to the Gospel and to finance the extension of God's Kingdom. They place offerings in the boxes at the North and West doors, or give through our online portal on our website.
- **All worshipers are requested to complete an attendance card (located in the pew) and to place them in the boxes at the North and West doors. Thank you!**

## Those Who Serve Us

Each Member of St. John's .....	The Body of Christ
Rev. Mike Burdick.....	Pastor
Rev. Gary Fortkamp .....	Visitation Pastor
Mrs. Sandy Esker .....	Preschool Director
Mrs. Kiley Bohnhoff .....	Sunday School Superintendent
St. John's Praise Band .....	10:30am Music
Emmerson Hansen.....	Acolyte
Mr. Jeff Weis .....	10:30am Elder on Duty
Mr. Dave Worman 217-821-7819 .....	Elder on Duty for December 20 – December 24
Chatelain School & Baja School .....	Our Schools for feeding in Haiti
Ms. Janet Martins & Mr. Kris Lipe .....	Stephen Ministry Leaders
Mrs. Julie Scott .....	(1-217-343-3047) Prayer Partner Coordinator
State, National & International Missions .....	through our District and Synod

# Christmas Jubilee!

## The Call to Worship

## The Welcome

## The Processional Hymn

## The Congregation

### Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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

#### *Refrain:*

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

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 the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel. *Refrain*

3. Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise each child of earth,  
Born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

## The Invocation

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

## Responsive Reading

Psalm 146

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD!

**Praise the LORD, O my soul!**

<sup>2</sup>I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

**I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

<sup>3</sup>Put not your trust in princes,

**in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.**

<sup>4</sup>When his breath departs he returns to the earth;

**on that very day his plans perish.**

<sup>5</sup>Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

**whose hope is in the LORD his God,**

<sup>6</sup>who made heaven and earth,

**the sea, and all that is in them,**

who keeps faith forever;

**<sup>7</sup>who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.**

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

**<sup>8</sup>the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.**

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

**the LORD loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD watches over the sojourners;

**he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.**

<sup>10</sup>The LORD will reign forever,

**your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!**

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD!

**Praise the LORD, O my soul!**

## The Hymn

### Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

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!

## The Congregation and Children

2. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door,  
And we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!

4. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today.  
He has come to set us free.  
Come adore on bended knee.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!

## **The Prayer for the Day**

**Pastor:** Almighty God, You have made Yourself known in Your Son, Jesus, Redeemer of the world. We give thanks for His birth as our Savior, for He sets us free from the slavery of our sin; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

## **The Christmas Meditation**

### **The Message Presented by the Children**

#### **An Invitation**

**Kendall:** Now Christmas time has come again, we join tonight This annual rite. The shepherds said, "Let us now go to Bethlehem to worship Him."

**Children:** Come and join our jubilee. (*Beckon with arms.*)  
Hear how Jesus sets us free. (*Arms up and out.*)

**Hayden:** We want to see this baby too, This little boy, His mother's joy. Let us remember who He is, This little child, So small, so mild.

**Children:** Come and join our jubilee. (*Beckon with arms.*)  
Hear how Jesus sets us free. (*Arms up and out.*)

**Ava:** With Mary, ponder in our hearts What He would do For me and you. We pause, reflect, and give thanks and pray His sacrifice—Redemption's price.

**Children:** Come and join our jubilee. (*Beckon with arms.*)  
Hear how Jesus sets us free. (*Arms up and out.*)

**Ally:** We come to sing and join the praise In company In jubilee.

## The Song

## The Children

### Jubilee Bells All Sing

*Sung to the tune of Jingle Bells. Pre K class shakes the jingle bells they made.*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Jubilee, Jubilee,<br>Hurry now and see!<br>Born this night in Bethlehem<br>God's Son who sets set us free! | 2. Jubilee, Jubilee!<br>See the baby boy!<br>He is Lord of everything.<br>Our Savior, King, and joy. |
|---|--|

## Who Is This Baby?

**Ally K:** Who is this child of jubilee, This child who comes to set us free?

**Children:** This child is Jesus, God's own Son. *(Rock baby in arms.)*  
The Savior who our freedom won. *(Arms up and out.)*

**Cloie:** Is He the Lord, God's Chosen One, The Savior, who our freedom won.

**Children:** This child is Jesus, God's own Son. *(Rock baby in arms.)*  
The Savior who our freedom won. *(Arms up and out.)*

**Maddux:** Is He God's promise, coming true? Is He the hope for me and you?

**Children:** This child is Jesus, God's own Son. *(Rock baby in arms.)*  
The Savior who our freedom won. *(Arms up and out.)*

**Maddux:** Is He God's promise coming true? Is He the hope for me and you?

**Children :** This child is Jesus, God's own Son. *(Rock baby in arms.)*  
The Savior who our freedom won. *(Arms up and out.)*

## The Song

## The Children

### Oh, Come, Little Children

1. Oh, come, little children, oh, come, one and all,  
To Bethlehem haste to the manger so small.  
God's Son for a gift has been sent you this night  
To be your Redeemer, your Joy and Delight.
2. He's born in a stable for you and for me;  
Draw near by the bright, gleaming starlight to see,  
In swaddling clothes lying, so meek and so mild,  
And purer than angels, the heavenly Child.
3. See Mary and Joseph, with love-beaming eyes,  
Are gazing upon the rude bed where He lies;  
The shepherds are kneeling, with hearts full of love,  
While angels sing loud alleluias above.

# Jesus Is Born

(Luke 2:1–20)

*Children costumed as Mary, Joseph, shepherds, and angels come forward to pantomime the action and create a manger scene during the reading of the Gospel.*

**Ethel:** In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

**Leo:** And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.

**Kennedy:** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**Lilli:** And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with a great fear.

**Avery:** And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

**Alece:** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased.”

**Cailyn:** When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

**Melia:** But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## The Song

## The Children

### In a Little Stable

1. In a little stable  
far across the sea  
Was a little Baby  
just like you and me.
2. Not a bed or cradle,  
not a pillow deep,  
But lowly manger  
was His place to sleep.
3. Shepherds stood around Him,  
Angels watched with care,  
For this Babe was Jesus,  
Lying, smiling there.
4. Oh, I love this Jesus,  
who was little then,  
For I know He loves me,  
little though I am.

## Angels Tell—Christ Has Come!

### The Recitation

### The Children

#### Angels Tell

Angels said up in the sky,  
“Glory be to God on high.”  
Christ is born in Bethlehem,  
Let us go and worship Him.

Christ has come to set us free.  
Join our Christmas Jubilee.  
God is good and God is great.  
Join the fun and celebrate!

## The Song

## The Children

### Away in a Manger

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, *(Place hands, palms together, on one side of head.)*  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head. *(Switch sides with hands.)*  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay, *(Extend fingers out, making “stars,” then shield eyes for “looked.”)*  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay. *(Hold arms in front as if holding a baby.)*
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, *(Place hands on either side of head and open palms wide.)*  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes. *(Rub eyes with closed fists and shake head “no.”)*  
I love You, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, *(Give yourself a hug! Then shield eyes to “look.”)*  
And stay by my side till morning is nigh. *(Hold arms in front as if holding a baby.)*
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask You to stay *(Hold hands in a praying position.)*  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray. *(Give yourself a hug.)*  
Bless all the dear children in Your tender care, *(Swing arms apart in front of you, palms up—indicating the assembly.)*  
And take us to heaven to live with You there. *(Extend arms straight up.)*



## We Rejoice in Jubilee!

6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Praise the Lord! Now, praise His name! All the world His praise proclaim;

4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> We're free from death, the devil, and sin; We're free in Jesus, our Savior and Friend.

2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> We're free to be Christian and free to confess. Free to say, "Jesus," to know we are blessed.

## The Song

### Go Tell it on the Mountain!

#### *Refrain*

Go, tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere  
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 Congregation and Children

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 lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent out salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn.

#### *Refrain*

## The Prayers

## The Benediction

**Pastor:** The Lord bless and keep you in His love. It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Go, then, celebrate that freedom. May this Christmas be for you a jubilee! In the name of Jesus.

**All: Amen. God has redeemed us. Jubilee!**

**"Joy to the World" (K-1<sup>st</sup> Hand Bells)**

## The Closing Song

## The Congregation and Children

### Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive its 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.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.
4. 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.

**Thank you**

**to all the teachers, musicians, and parents who made this year's  
Children's Christmas Program possible.**

## **Special Services**

### **Christmas Eve**

with Holy Communion  
4:00pm, 6:30pm, and 11:00pm

### **Christmas Day**

with Holy Communion  
9:00am

### **December 26**

We will hold ONE Sunday Service at 9:00am  
No Sunday School

### **New Year's Eve**

with Holy Communion  
6:30pm

### **New Year's Day**

with Holy Communion  
9:00am

### **January 2**

We will hold ONE Sunday Service at 9:00am  
No Sunday School

**Sign-Up is NOT Needed**