



And on
earth
Peace.

Luke 2:14

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

DECEMBER 24, 2024, 4:00 P.M. AND 10:00 P.M.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT OAK GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission Statement
*To Put the Love of Jesus Into Action,
As We Welcome, Serve and Love All People.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

The impossible is about to happen. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them has the light shined!

This is the night when creation stood still and held its breath,
for God was doing the most unbelievable, dangerous thing.

This is the night when God gave to humanity the greatest gift ever, in the form of a helpless, innocent child.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

Let us join in worship of the greatest gift of all.

Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us! O come, let us adore him!

CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

vss. 1 & 3

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!**

**3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest: *Refrain***

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Based on Isaiah 9:2-7 and John 1

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness- on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing the plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For a child has been born for us, a son has been given us; authority rests on his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

And 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.

Along with the four candles of Advent, tonight we also light the Christ Candle as a reminder of the light of Christ that shines into our lives, into our world even when all feels so dark and heavy – for the light of Christ cannot be extinguished.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

Angels from the Realms of Glory

vss. 1 & 4

1 **Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

4 **All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. All-powerful and unseen God,
you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light.
Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence
and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

ANTHEM

4:00 p.m.

My Heart, Your Bethlehem

Chorale

10:00 p.m.

Once & For All Time

Pam Gmitro

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (4:00 PM)

+ *Please stand as you are able.*

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-7

(Part I)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CAROL*Away in a Manger*

vss. 1 & 3

**1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

Luke 2:8-14

(Part 2)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High

vss. 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*

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

Luke 2:15-20

(Part 3)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

When 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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they

made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CAROL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

vss. 1 & 3

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled." Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies; with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" | 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

Refrain

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

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

COMING HOME for CHRISTMAS

CAROL

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

vss. 1, 2 & 5

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 I am so glad each Christmas Eve, the night of Jesus' birth! Then like the sun the star shone forth, and angels sang on earth. | 5 And so I love each Christmas Eve, and I love Jesus too; and that he loves me ev'ry day I know so well is true. |
| 2 The little child in Bethlehem, he was a king indeed! For he came down from heav'n above to help a world in need. | |

+ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends with:
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

+ SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

*Let us offer with joy and thanksgiving what God has first given us –
ourselves, our time, and our possessions; signs of God’s gracious love.*

OFFERING PRAYER

God of heaven and earth,
from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight.
The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.
Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,
that we may join the chorus of creation
to tell of your salvation from day to day.
Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

COMMUNION CAROLS

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

vss. 1 & 3

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.

3 And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing!

O Little Town of Bethlehem

vss. 1 & 4

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.

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!

The First Noel

vss. 1 & 2

- 1 **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.**
- 2 **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***

Refrain

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

What Child Is This

vss. 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!**

+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Merciful God,

we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. **Amen.**

+ CANDLE LIGHTING

*As the light is passed down the aisles,
tip your candle into the flame. For safety reasons
please don't tip the burning candle.*

CAROL

Silent Night

1 **Silent night, holy night!**
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

2 **Silent night, holy night!**
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3 **Silent night, holy night!**
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

PRAYER

Let us pray. Almighty God,
you have made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light.
Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the
last day wake to the brightness of his glory, through your son, Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.

+ BENEDICTION

May the Word that Mary brought to birth, carry you into new and abundant life.

Amen.

May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms, enfold you with love and strength.

Amen.

May the Word that the angels proclaimed in song, bring harmony to the world.

Amen.

May the blessing of almighty God, Creator, Christ and Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

CAROL

Joy to the World

vss. 1 & 4

1 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.

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.

+ DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Thank you to all who ordered poinsettias.

Plants may be picked up following Christmas Eve Services
or in the church office.

Given by:

Carol Athey

Deb Athey Godfrey

Carolyn and Mark Aura

Lloyd and JoAnn Beggs

Carol Benson

John and Beverly Bjostad

Bruce and Deidre Boyea Family

Josh, Kayla and Emily Brehmer

Dorla Dagner

Les and Becky Hanson

Mike and Muriel Hanson

Bev and Randy Hummel

Vivian Jacobson

Karen Levisen

In Honor or In Memory of:

In Memory of my husband Adrian Athey
and my son-in-law Tim Godfrey

In Memory of my husband, Tim
and my dad, Adrian

In Memory of Helen Stanley

In Memory of our parents

In Memory of Jerry Benson and
other loved ones

In Honor of our parents

In Memory of Wayne E. Gruben

In Memory of Grandfathers Herm Albrecht
and Floyd Brehmer and Great Grandparents
Kay and Jay Katzenmeyer

In Memory of Herman Dagner

In Memory of our parents

In Memory of our parents

In Memory of our parents
and Diana Hummel (Randy's sister)

In Memory of Lori Bekkum (daughter),
Wallace Bekkum (late husband),
and Paul Kaiser (special friend)

In Memory of my parents, Earl and
Maurine Levisen

| | |
|---|--|
| Melissa and Benjamin Little | In Memory of Marc Little and Carlos McKee |
| Bobbie Martin | In Honor of my daughter who treasures and shares the gifts of Christmas joy |
| Carol Martin | In Memory of my parents Ev and Dick Martin, and my sister, Linda Martin |
| Jim and Lisa Martin Rennicke | In Honor of our beloved family and our wedding this year |
| Beverly Moe | In Memory of Jim Moe and Patricia Sandberg Moe |
| Scott and Barb Olson | In Memory of Roger and Ann Lundberg |
| Mark and Quynh Panning | In Memory of our parents |
| The Penz Family | In Memory of Edward and Joan Penz |
| Jane Peterson | In Memory of my parents |
| Lilah Rasmussen | In Memory of my parents, Judith and Peter; brother Paul; nephew Eric; and niece Maisa |
| Lee Schaefer and Joyce Morseth Suzki | In Memory of Harris Morseth and In Honor of Leverne Morseth |
| Tom and Mary Schermerhorn | In Memory of John Schermerhorn |
| John Schroeder | In Memory of my parents, Jim and Gerry |
| Brad Sveum | In Memory of parents Leland and June Sveum |
| Mark and Margaret Swanson | In Memory of our Son, Charles |
| Carol Swenson | In Memory of Jim Moe |
| Carol and Mike Tveite | In Honor of Eleanor and Vera |
| John and Nickie Wigdahl | In Memory of our parents |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call Committee—Interest Form Due Date Extended to December 24th

In January, Pastor Lee joined us at Oak Grove as Interim Pastor. With two pastors leaving within a year, after being at Oak Grove for 30+ years and other things happening at Oak Grove we were grieving. Pastor Lee did a session allowing us to grieve. He called this phase of our transition “Accept the Ending” - a time of letting go of the past and honoring and grieving the ending but also accepting it. The next stage Pastor Lee talked about was the Neutral Zone. He described the neutral zone as “the no-man’s land between the old reality and the new. It is a time when the old way is gone and the new does not feel comfortable yet.” This Neutral Zone is where the Transition Team has been living and hopefully with our monthly updates you too have been there with us. The Transition Team is coming to the end of our tasks, needing to complete several forms that must go to the synod.

We are at a point at Oak Grove when we can begin to think about “new beginnings” as Pastor Lee labeled it. He noted that “people get to the new beginnings only if they first make an ending and have spent some time in the neutral zone.” The first task in this New Beginnings phase is to begin the process of forming the Call Committee. The Call Committee will consist of six Oak Grove members and the President of the congregation – Julie Tvete. We ask that if you are interested, if you would fill out the form titled “Call Committee Interest Form” which you can find in the office on the counter or you can get a form from Julie Tvete.

Forms can be turned into the envelope on the counter in the office or directly to Julie. **The interest form due date has been extended to December 24th.** Call Committee will be named in mid-January following the church council meeting. Any questions, please ask Julie Tvete or Pastor Lee.

2025 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2025 are available for pick-up in the narthex. The envelope numbers remain unchanged from last year and the packets are labeled. If you wish to start using envelopes, but have not used them previously, please sign-up on the pad next to the envelopes and a packet will be available for you next week.

Rebirth of the Property Commission

As you know, our beloved engineer Scott is retiring in January. We have been looking at ways to get the things at Oak Grove done that Scott has been doing. We will hire a part-time cleaning service but there are many other things Scott does that we think a Property Commission could help with. Some things would only occasionally need to be done (small paint jobs, change lightbulbs, test AED and replace batteries as needed...). Others would be on a more regular basis (mow the lawn, shovel the sidewalks...). And there would be other things as needed. If you are interested, please contact Julie Tvette (612-750-2589) or at church on Sunday.

We need your help!

We have been thinking of things that need doing after Scott retires in January. Do any of these things sound of interest to you or are there things that need doing that you think you could help with? Here are just a few:

- Change paraments and banners according to the liturgical calendar
- Wash laundry from the kitchen (there is a washer at church)
- Set up seasonal decorations
- Kill weeds on sidewalk and in the parking lots
- Weed flower gardens
- Trim bushes and shrubs
- And many other jobs as well, of course

If any of this sounds of interest or if you need more information, please contact Julie Tvette (612-750-2589) or at church on Sundays. Your help with this will greatly help Oak Grove!

End of Year Contributions

There is still time to give offerings for 2024! You may contribute by dropping it off in the Oak Grove office by 2 pm on December 31, mailing it (with a postmark) by December 31, or by submitting an online payment by December 31. Your contributions are important to the financial stability of Oak Grove.

Congregation Devotion Book for Lent

Wouldn't it be meaningful to have a devotional booklet for the season of Lent that has been written by members of Oak Grove Lutheran Church? Pastor Lee is inviting 40 members to write a devotion that will be placed in a booklet for parishioners to use during the Lenten season.

Your devotion can be about anything related to the faith that is meaningful to you, and you feel will encourage others in their Lenten journey. You can base it on a bible verse, hymn verse, personal story, etc. (If you feel that you would rather not compose something yourself, you can share someone else's thoughts and include why this is meaningful to you!) If you want to include a closing prayer, that would be good but not necessary. Please keep your devotion to about 150-250 words.

If you are willing to share a devotion, please let Pastor Lee know very soon. Then submit your devotion to him by February 23 so he can compile them into a booklet. His church email is: pastorlee@oakgrovelutheran.org.

Thanks for serving God in this way and for being a blessing to others at Oak Grove!

Prayer Shawl Knitters Needed

Are you a knitter or have you always wanted to learn? The Prayer Shawl Ministry is going strong at Oak Grove and we'd love to have more shawls on hand for Pastor Lee to gift to those in need of comfort. We have enough yarn on hand for 4 shawls that may be used. If you are interested in knitting a shawl or donating supplies, please get in touch with Kathie Curry or Amy Hanson in the office.

Stewardship

There is still time to return your Statement of Intent to Oak Grove Lutheran. Pledge cards may be placed in the offering basket or dropped off in the office. If you're interested in the Vanco Simply Giving program, an automatic electronic way to give, please pick up an enrollment form in the office.

OAK GROVE EVENTS THIS WEEK

Tuesday, December 24—Christmas Eve

4:00 pm Candlelight Service

10:00 pm Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 25—Christmas Day

Offices Closed for Holiday

Thursday, December 26

Friday, December 27

Offices Closed

Saturday, December 28

8:00 am Men's Bible Study, Library

9:00 am Joy Bells Practice, Sanctuary

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 29 Carol Sing Worship with Meditations, 10 am

Sunday, January 26 Congregational Annual Meeting, 11 am

Oak Grove Core Values Statement

Love one another with compassion and care, just as Christ loves us.

Welcome all people into fellowship with hospitality.

Accept others as they are, treating each person with respect and dignity.

Worship God through music and ministry, reflecting our Lutheran heritage while embracing new ways of worship.

Grow in faith rooted in the Gospel, both as individuals and as a faith community.

Serve the Lord by generously sharing our faith, time, talents, and resources with the community and the world.

Worship Leaders for Christmas Eve, December 24, 4:00 pm

Assisting Minister: –

Scripture Reader: –

Communion Servers: Bev Hummel, Jeanne Hanson, Julie Tvete,
and Kelli Olson

Worship Leaders for Christmas Eve, December 24, 10:00 pm

Assisting Minister: –

Scripture Reader: –

Communion Servers: Caron Olson and Phil Olson

Worship Leaders for next Sunday, December 29

Assisting Minister: –

Scripture Reader: Julie Tvete

Communion Servers: Margaret Olson and Jan Philibert

Media - Facebook Live: Les & Becky Hanson, Julie, Curt and Elisa Tvete,
Pam Krause, and Kathie Curry

*Oak Grove Lutheran Church sits on traditional lands of the Dakota people.
We acknowledge, with gratitude, the many blessings we receive from this land.*

*Children are always welcome in worship. Activity bags are available
in the library or ask an usher for help in locating them.*

Restrooms: *Located downstairs near the fellowship lounge.*

Hearing devices: *Personal hearing devices are available through the ushers.*



If you're done with this bulletin, please leave it in the pew. It will be recycled.

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Oak Grove Lutheran Church

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