

MAKING THE MOST OF  
**CHRISTMAS**



FOR UNTO US IS BORN  
THIS DAY IN THE CITY  
OF DAVID A SAVIOR,  
WHO IS CHRIST THE  
LORD. LUKE 2:10



PO Box 427 - 500 S Penn Ave  
**Pastor Dave Martin**  
4 Advent – December 24, 2023  
3:00 PM Worship

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## GOD GATHERS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Prayer

Lighting of Fourth Candle on Advent Wreath

**P:** When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took Mary as his wife and she bore a son, and he called him Jesus.

**C:** Lord, as we light this advent candle, give us courage to follow your commands as Joseph did. You used the obedience of Joseph and Mary alike to bring your son into the world. Likewise, use our obedience to bring Christ to the world of this day. You used Joseph and Mary to give him the name "Jesus," which means *the Lord saves*, for he will save his people from their sins. Empower us to proclaim the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of sin and your salvation. Amen.

Songs "The First Noel"

LBW 56

Confession & Forgiveness:

**P:** Rejoicing in the good news that God and sinners are reconciled in Christ, let us confess our need for forgiveness.

**C: Amen.**

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

**P:** God of everlasting love, **P & C: we confess that we have lived in captivity to the fear of death. By our actions and by our neglect, we have fallen short of your good and gracious will. Free us from anxiety and distraction cast out our sin, and enter in; give us a new birth of hope as we welcome the child born to save, Christ the Lord. Amen.**

**P:** The angels of God proclaim to us the birth of hope and joy and peace to God's people on earth. For the sake of the Savior, who is Christ the Lord, who lived and died and rose for us, God forgives us all our sins and delights to call us beloved children.

**C: Amen.**

## **GOD SPEAKS TO US IN HIS HOLY WORD**

Scripture Lessons:

Micah 5:2

Page 989

Romans 3:21-26

Page 1197

Children's Sermon

Sermon Text: Luke 2:1-21

Page 1090

Sermon **"Making the Most of Christmas"**

## **GIVE THANKS TO GOD**

Song **"O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

**LBW 39**

Apostles Creed

Offering\*\*

Prayers of the Church

## **CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Distribution

Communion Blessing

## **GOD CALLS US TO SERVE**

Instructions for Lighting Candles

Candlelight Songs **"O Holy Night"**

with **"Silent Night, Holy Night!"**

**LBW 65**

Benediction

## **ENTER TO WORSHIP – DEPART TO SERVE**

**Thank you for joining us this Christmas Eve for worship our God together! We hope you have a safe and blessed day!**

**Greeters**—Randy & Marla Tegethoff

**Ushers**—Lee Hanten & Mike Erickson

**Communion Servers**—Jan DuFrain, Jim Holter, Tony Schrank

**No Sunday School or Confirmation** on Sundays, December 24 & 31.

We will resume on January 7.

**No Men's Bible Study** this week, Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup>. We'll pick back up in the new year on Saturday, January 6.

**Join us to Celebrate the birth of our Savior!** Our Christmas morning Worship Service is Monday, December 25 at 9:30 AM

**“Something More in ‘24”** On Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, we will begin a Bible Study on the book of John. We will meet from 1:00 to 2:15 PM on Mondays in the Fireside Room. Following an opening prayer, we will start each session by watching one chapter of the book of John on the Visual Bible. Every word spoken on this video is directly from the Bible. There is something powerful about hearing God's Word and seeing it walked out on the television screen before us. After watching the video, we will read through the chapter and discuss it verse by verse.

Missions in Sioux Falls are in need **men's gloves, socks and stocking hats** for this winter. Also looking for donations of Bibles, devotionals, and Bible Study books for adults, teenagers and children. These items can be placed in the box in the narthex.

# PRAYER PRAISES AND CONCERNS

## Those in nursing and assisted living homes or home-bound:

**Assisted Living:** Mary Lee Erickson, Ruth Gruenig, Laura Johnson, Richard Johnson, Arnie Larson, Caroline Peterson

## Please pray for:

- Please pray for the family and friends of Adele Holter as they mourn her passing on December 8th. Pray they feel the Lord's close-abiding presence, walk in His comfort, and love, and know hope, joy, and peace in the sure and certain truth of the resurrection.
- Please pray for Mary Beth & Larry Kuiper's daughter-in-law, Erica, their son, Mike, and their entire family. Erica has been diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer. Her course of treatment has still not been determined and she has several doctors' appointments ahead of her. Pray for the healing hand of Jesus to be upon Erica & for her to respond well to her treatment. Pray for them to know the Lord's peace in this trial and for them to fully feel His love, comfort, strength, and joy.
- Please keep Alison Dykstra's sister, Julie Pepper, her husband, Matt, and their extended family in your prayers as Julie continues her battle with ovarian cancer. Pray her January 5th scan will show the cancer is completely gone and that symptoms she has recently experienced are not due to progression of the cancer. Praise God Matt is doing very well. Pray for them all to know the Lord's peace, love, comfort, and strength in this trial.
- Praise God Rod Berg's September MRI at Mayo showed complete resolution of the lesions in his brain. Rod and Vicki are so grateful and are thanking Jesus for this awesome result. They want to thank each one of you for all your prayers. Rod will continue the infusion treatments monthly and return to Mayo in December for a brain MRI and re-evaluation.
- Please pray for Peggy's brother, Leroy Olesen, and his entire family to feel the Lord's comfort, peace, hope, and strength as they mourn the recent passing of his daughter, Jaden.
- Please continue to pray for Dan Daum's brother, Jim. The ablation surgeries he had recently have done little to diminish his back pain. Please pray for the Lord to sovereignly heal him and give him a new lease on life. Pray he would feel God's hand upon him throughout his recovery and would experience the Lord's love, peace, and joy in a powerful way.
- Thank you for your prayers for Peggy's mom and my mother-in-law, Phyllis Olesen. Her nausea, dizziness, and headaches have gone away. Please pray God would heal her of the sciatica pain in her left leg, restore

her to full health, and give her many good years ahead. Pray for her to feel the Lord's comforting presence in all of this.

- Please continue to pray for Pastor Mike De Jager of the First Reformed Church in Platte. Please pray for the Lord to heal his spine and stabilize his neck, especially where it attaches to the brain stem. Pray for the Lord to heal him quickly and completely and for Mike to be blessed with many years of active life ahead of him. Pray his next check-up would reveal his stem cell transplants are doing well and they wouldn't have to repeat the procedure.