

The Youth of Bethany  
Lutheran Church Presents

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THE NIGHT OF  
*Jesus' Birth*

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A CLASSIC CHRISTMAS  
STORY

**PRELUDE**  
**RINGING OF THE BELL**  
**WELCOME**

**ADVENT PRAYER AND LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH**

Lord Jesus,  
Master of both the light and the darkness,  
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.  
We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.  
We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.  
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.  
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.  
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.  
To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"  
Amen.

*The candles are lit as the gathered people of God sing verses 1-3 of "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (ELW 240).*



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

*"The Night of Jesus' Birth" -- A Classic Christmas Story*

**Part One – Mary & Joseph**

One day, a woman named Mary was at home when the Angel Gabriel visited her. Gabriel told her, "Mary, do not be afraid. God loves you, and you will give birth to a baby boy named Jesus. He will be the son of God."

Mary was supposed to be married to a man named Joseph, and she told Joseph that she would give birth to God's son. Joseph was not sure how this could be, but an angel appeared to him in a dream and told him not to be afraid. So, Joseph and Mary were married.

Soon, an order came from Caesar Augustus that all people had to return to their hometown to be taxed. Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem, where Joseph had been born. When they arrived in Bethlehem, Joseph and Mary were very tired. But there was no room in any inn. One innkeeper told Joseph that he and Mary could stay in the stable behind his inn. It was there that Mary gave birth to a baby boy. She named him Jesus. Mary wrapped him in cloth and laid him in a manger.

**Hymn: "Away in a Manger" (ELW 277)** Youth will sing first verse; congregation will join starting with the second verse. See next page.



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord  
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord  
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked  
 Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look  
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
 your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

### Part Two – The Angels Appear

That night, shepherds were in the field watching over their sheep. An angel appeared in the sky and said, “Fear not! I bring you good news of great joy!” The Angel told them that Christ had been born and they could find the baby wrapped in cloth and laying in a manger.

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” – Sung by angels.

### THE PEACE OF THE LORD IS SHARED

#### Part Three – The Shepherds

The shepherds rushed to the stable and found Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus. When they had seen him, they spread the word of what they had been told and what they saw. All who heard it were amazed.

**Hymn: “Joy to the World” (ELW 267)** Youth will sing first verse; congregation will join starting with the second verse.



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

## OFFERING

### Part Four – The Star & The Wisemen

After Jesus was born, a star appeared in Bethlehem. Wisemen from the East saw this and started following the star, which would lead them to the newborn king.

“Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star” – Sung by Youth

### THE JOY OF THE LORD IS SHARED (ornaments)

The star led them to Bethlehem, and they found Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus. They bowed down to worship him. They gave Jesus many gifts, including gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

All of this took place to fulfill what the prophets had heard; The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means “GOD WITH US”.

### Hymn: “O Come All Ye Faithful” (ELW 283) – Sung by the congregation



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

#### *Refrain*



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

*The congregation stands.*

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*Each petition ends with, "Lord, in your mercy" and the people of God sing "O Lord, Hear My Prayer" (ELW 751).*



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.  
OR *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.  
*The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.*

Text: Psalm 102:1-2; Taizé Community, adapt.  
 Music: HEAR MY PRAYER, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994  
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Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

### THE 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,  
 and the power, and the glory,  
 forever and ever. Amen**

### BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings,  
 God in the darkness and light,  
 God, our hope for the journey,  
 † bless and keep you now and forever.  
 Amen.

**HYMN: "Savior of the Nations, Come" (ELW 263) See next page.**

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.  
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,  
 3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child— from his throne, a vir - gin mild!  
 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;

Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.  
 was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.  
 Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
 out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version  
 Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524  
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**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Please join us for fellowship following the program!*

| OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS   |                           |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ministers of:            | Today                     | December 22               |
| Music                    | Jill Barnhart             | Jill Barnhart             |
| Proclamation (Lector)    | Bethany's children        | Jon Twing                 |
| Minister of Technology   | Dale Swenson              | Dave Poppen               |
| Worship (Altar Care)     | Cindy Knoop & Stacy Beyer | Cindy Knoop & Stacy Beyer |
| Ministers of Hospitality | Jon & Laura Twing         | Nancy Bruns               |



Thank you for worshipping with us today. Just as Jesus welcomed the stranger, we believe all are welcome here. Please join us again next week. For more information about our life together in Christ, visit: [www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)

**WORSHIP**  
*with us!*  
**CANDLELIGHT  
SERVICE**  
Christmas Eve  
5:00 & 7:00 PM



5:00 service streamed  
live on Facebook

**First Communion**



December 22 we will rejoice with the following children who will join us in sharing the meal of holy Communion.

Sienna McElhinney, Cadence Heid, Cozette Sexton, Ainsley Kinsinger, Avery Fonseca, Theodore Wiele and Easton McFarland.



**THERE WILL BE NO  
4TH SUNDAY DINNER  
IN DECEMBER**



**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**

May your home be filled with love  
and laughter this christmas



**Land Acknowledgement**

Bethany Lutheran is located in the original and ancestral homelands of the Iowa, Sauk, Fox, Kickapoo and Ojibwe peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.