



*Christmas Eve Candlelight Service — December 24, 2025*

*Welcome to Worship*

*Worship Leader: Pastor Carol Garman    Worship Accompaniment: Lynn Wegner*

### Order of Worship

**(ELW—Evangelical Lutheran Worship—Red hymnal)**

PRELUDE

*Light of the World  
When Love Was Born*

Hannah Wegner  
Worship Team

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

**Response: All: We gather to once again bask in the glory that visited a stable and a manger, shepherds watching their flocks, and a young couple cradling the newborn Messiah.**

OPENING HYMN

*O Come All Ye Faithful*

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:

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

*Refrain*

#### **Refrain**

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing:

*Refrain*

**Christmas Eve 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.**

## OPENING PRAYER

**Almighty 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.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*Our King Has Come*

Hannah Wegner, Jon Strangstalien

### FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

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 exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing 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 all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood	shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.
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The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

### HYMN TO WELCOME THE GOSPEL

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

ELW 289

### GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar 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.

er 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 in the guest room.  
Now in that same 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!”

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, and 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, just as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

*Joy to the World*

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,

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.

No more let sin and sorrow 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.

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.

**Christmas Eve 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

PEACE

*God calls us to be at peace: with God, with other nations, other races, others of all kinds, with each other. Today we beseech God to pour out love and understanding on our troubled world, that there may be peace, not war, justice not inequity, for all people.*

**C: Amen, Lord. Give us peace.**

As we are forgiven and reconciled to God through Christ Jesus, let us be reconciled to each other. The peace of the Lord be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

OFFERING SPECIAL MUSIC

*Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child*

Worship Team

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*What Child Is This*

ELW 296 v 3

OFFERING PRAYER

**C: Amen**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Love has come, **c: God's love for all people.**

We share this meal, **c: for Christ invites us.**

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS

*Away in a Manger*

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.

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky.  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

## Worship Team Interlude

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

### COMMUNION HYMNS

*Hark the Herald Angels Sing!*  
*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

ELW 270

ELW 279

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**c: Amen.**

*Lights are turned off*

### ANTHEM

*By Candlelight*

Worship Team

### HYMN OF LIGHT

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

ELW 281

### BLESSING

May the Lord God, who has called you out of darkness to be servants of light, grant you the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ Child. In the name of Almighty God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

*Go Tell It On the Mountain*

ELW 290

### DISMISSAL

**c: Thanks be to God!**

### POSTLUDE

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## ***In Our Prayers this Christmas season and always:***

*We pray for friends and family of those who have recently passed: Bob Cottrell, Amanda Anderson, Beulah Sanders, Harvey Miller*

*We pray for Jackson Ammerman (grandson of Les and Susan Kolbo), Susie Johnson, Laurie Gillespie, Diane Jostad, Betty Bender, Stacey Fredricks, Robin Ruhbusch, Pat Martin, Laurie Noelke, Megan Sacia Ulrich, Perry Voshage, Marjorie Lee, Jean Latham, Joan Vaughn, Bridget Ferk, Thema Severson, Katie Wier, Phoebe & Bill Kitzke, Gayle Kuespert, Cary Heyer, Jenny Lee, Mary Dokkebaken, Karla Johnson, Coats family*

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# Announcements

2025 Financial Contributions: Year-end offerings and donations are due by noon on December 31, 2025, to be counted for the year. Thank you!

Nominations for Vision Board: We are looking for a couple Vision Board members to begin in 2026. Nominations are open and forms may be found in the gathering space or through our online form (link in the E-News). Please have all nominations submitted by Jan. 4.

## Annual Meetings February 1, 2026.

Our Annual Congregation Meeting and Halfway Creek Cemetery Meeting are on February 1st followed by our congregation wide potluck. Please save the date.

Groups and ministries who met during 2025 should write a summary for the annual report. Please have those emailed to Shari no later than Friday, January 9. Thank you for your prompt response to this request!

Giving at HCLC: We appreciate all the ways you help to meet our needs and the needs of others! To give through PayPal, please use this QR code.



Noisy Offering: December noisy offering will support ELCA Good Gifts. You may also support this ministry by purchasing an

ornament on our tree. Thank you for your support.

Office Hours: Please note the office will be closed on Christmas and New Years Day. If you need pastoral care, please contact Patti Happel at 608-317-9525.

Thank you to everyone who purchased poinsettias this year. The decorations beautifully reflect our love for those who are with us and those we hold in our memory. Thank you to Sunshine Floral for supplying our beautiful poinsettias!

*Thank you to Lynn Wegner and the Worship team sharing your gifts with us and for leading us in song and worship this Christmas Eve. We are so grateful for all of you!*

*Thank you to Pastor Garman for worshiping with us today, we appreciate you!*

Join us on Sunday, December 28th for the First Sunday of Christmas worship service at 10 AM. Rev. Ralph Kuespert will preside. Sunday School will not meet.

Start out your New Year with Pancakes & Pjs at HCLC on January 4, 2026. We'll gather to enjoy pancakes, sausages, milk and juice at 9:15 AM. Worship will begin at 10 AM with Patti Happel presiding!

Christmas Blessings to you and yours!

# *Christmas Poinsettias*

## *In Loving Memory of:*

Lyle & Leona Anderson; Irvin & Joyce Romskog by the Anderson family

Linda Achterkirch by Andera Baxter and Chris & Alana Baxter

Darrell Washburn, Al Sobkowiak by Kari & Sara Washburn and Mary Sobkowiak

Lola and Ernie Holley, Dale Holley by the Holley Family

Rosalie Kriesel, Darrell Eide by Paul, Jodi & Jillian Eide

Mike Nedoba and Curt Nedoba by Petra Nedoba & family

Russell Bringe by Carol Bringe & family

Our parents by Darlene & Joe Feltes

Raymond O. Lee by Marjorie Lee & family

Orin & Elvern Nyseth by Cary & Miriam Heyer

Sherman & Nita Witte, Eugene & Janet Scholze, Roland Scholze, Karen Scholze  
by Ruth & Ed Scholze & family

Roger & Donna Johnson by Rhonda Britton

Jeff Rose & John Rose, Jerry Rose & Rod Sutherland, Henry & Norma Hoff  
by Lila Sutherland

Chris & Chad Martin by Mike & Pat Martin

All of the people I am missing, especially during the holiday season by Patti Happel

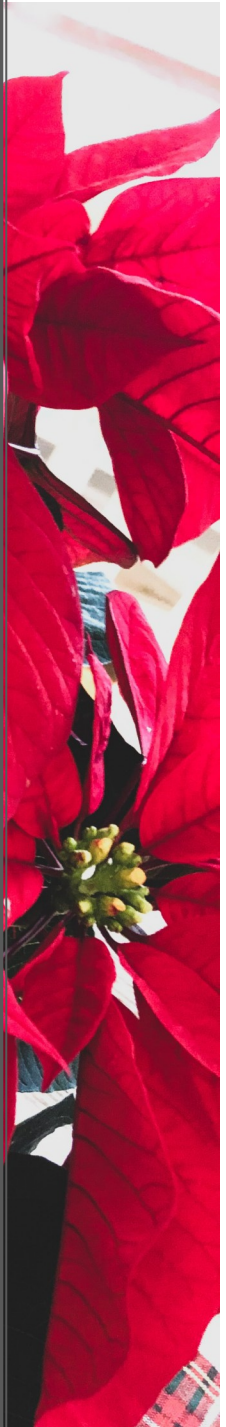
## *In Celebration of:*

Abby & John Fredrickson and Lily, Lynzi & Lexy Neumann  
by Kari & Sara Washburn and Mary Sobkowiak

## *In Honor of:*

my family and friends, past and present by Kathi Hagel

my daughter, Laurie Gillespie, who is fighting cancer. Prayers for her.  
by Lila Sutherland





# *Merry Christmas*

*from Halfway Creek Lutheran Church*

## *Staff*

*Patti Happel*

*Lynn Wegner*

*Jodi Anderson*

*Shari Ireland*

*Rich Pedretti*

## *Vision Board Members*

*Bette Pedretti*

*Nicole Stumlin*

*Amy Noel*

*Andrea Baxter*

*Carrie Payne*

*Nancy Holley*

*Michelle Olson*

*Wayne Atchley*

*Ema Nedoba*

*Oliva Nedoba*

