

An artistic illustration of a nativity scene. A bright, multi-pointed star shines from the top center, casting a powerful beam of light down onto a stable. Inside the stable, which is covered by a blue cloth, the Virgin Mary is kneeling in prayer, looking at the infant Jesus who lies in a manger. The scene is set against a dark, starry night sky. The text "And This Shall be a Sign Unto You..." is written in a white, elegant script across the middle of the image.

*And This Shall be
a Sign Unto You...*

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2025
10:00am - 4:00pm - 8:00pm

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
1800 West Maple
Birmingham, Michigan 48009

ORDER OF WORSHIP
December 24, 2025 – 10:00am, 4:00pm, and 8:00pm
Christmas Eve - The Nativity of our Lord
Carols and Candlelight

As We Gather

He came, but He didn't have to. He came, even though He knew He would be rejected, hated and executed on a cross. He came anyway. He came to give us a way out. He came to give us a new birth, a new name, a new life. He came to give us hope, not only for eternity, but for tomorrow. On this day we hear again the angel's words and listen to the surprising, yet wonderful, news that our Savior has been born in Bethlehem. He came. *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* – Jesus

Prelude

10:00am & 4:00pm

Rick Helderop, *Organist*

8:00pm

Some Children See Him – Burt/Hutson
Kate DeBoer, *Vocalist*

The Entrance of the Light in the Tradition of St. Lucia

Invocation

P: *We begin our Christmas celebration in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

C: **Amen.**

Congregational Carol 102

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

1. Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him born the King of angels.

Refrain:

*Oh, come, let us adore Him, oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

2. Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God, glory in the highest. *Refrain*
3. Yea Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning!
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. *Refrain*

Prayer

P: Heavenly Father, with joy we enter into the contemplation of the holy mystery of Your Son's incarnation for us and our salvation. Open our minds to understand, our hearts to believe, and our mouths to proclaim the glory of Him who took on human flesh and blood through the blessed virgin in order to suffer and die in our place. Prepare our hearts to be fitting mangers to cradle Your Son that He may dwell in us and we in Him today and throughout all eternity; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

Voluntary

10:00am

Some Children See Him – Burt/Hutson
Kate DeBoer, *Vocalist*

4:00pm

Joseph's Lullaby – Millard/Bannister
Rick Lee, *Vocalist*

8:00pm

Carol of the Bells – Wilhousky
Chancel Choir

Children's Message - 10:00am and 4:00pm

Please rise for the Gospel Reading and Congregational Carol.

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew

Matthew 1:18-23

Congregational Carol

What Child is This?

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?

Refrain:

*This, this is Christ, the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
This, this is Christ, the King, 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.
Refrain

3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Refrain

Please be seated.

Sermon

Matthew 1:18-23

“And This Shall Be a Sign Unto You”
Rev. Randall J. Schlak

Gathering of Offerings

At this time, please take a moment to record your attendance here with us today. There are two simple ways to do this:

1. Scan the QR code on the front page of the announcements and fill out the online attendance form.
2. Use the worship card found in your pew. You may drop it in the offering plate or simply leave it in your pew after you fill it out.

*This is also an opportune time for personal prayer and meditation.
For help, see the prayers beginning on page 102 of the Red Hymnal
and the Psalms beginning on page 123.*

Congregation Carol - Sung During Offering

We Three Kings

1. We three kings of Orient are: Bearing gifts we traverse afar –
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.

Refrain:

*O – star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.*

2. Born a king on Bethlehem's plain: Gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never Over us all to reign. *Refrain*
3. Frankincense to offer have I: Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, all men raising, Worship him, God on high.
Refrain
4. Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorr'wing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
Refrain

Please rise for the Lord's Prayer.

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.

Please be seated.

Lighting of Our Christmas Candles

During Candle Lighting

10:00am & 4:00pm

Rick Helderop, *Organist*

8:00pm

What is This Lovely Fragrance? – Wilan
Chancel Choir; Rick Lee, *Tenor Solo*

Congregational Carol 647

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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 darkness shineth The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears Of all the years Are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary, And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, The angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing To God, the King, And peace to men on earth.

The First Gospel Reading from Luke

Luke 2:1-7

Congregational Carol

Away in a Manger

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,
The 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.

The Second Gospel Reading from Luke

Luke 2:8-14

Congregational Carol

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

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, goodwill to men, From heav’ns all-gracious
King!”
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.
2. And ye, 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:
O rest beside the weary road And hear the angels sing.

The Third Gospel Reading from Luke

Luke 2:15-20

Congregational Carol 646

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. Stille nacht, heilige nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht,
Nür das traute hoch heilige paar, Hölder knabe in lockigen haar.
Schlaff im himmlischer ruh, Schlaff im himmlischer ruh!

Pastoral Benediction

Depart in peace – Merry Christmas!

Extinguish Candles and Pealing of the Bells

Postlude

Rick Helderop, *Organist*

Please place candles in the receptacles at the doors as you leave.

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Sanctuary Altar and Lectern Flowers are placed by Jim Rose in honor of his parents, Carole and James Rose, and in loving memory of his deceased daughter, Christal Evangeline Rose, born on Christmas Day in 1980.

Altar Guild

Kaki Mammel, Corinne Chesna, Jane Zehnder, Kris Ortale,
Jamie Burstein, Ann Marie Violante, Susan Laramie,
Rosemary Scheidt, Linda Hauschulz

Acolytes

10:00am - Elizabeth Reimann and Michael Vella

Audio and Video Operators

10:00am - Mike Lapinski
4:00pm - David Hamada
8:00pm - David Hardoin and Jim Perryman

Elder Cross Bearers

10:00am - Rudy Becker, Jr.
4:00pm - Carter Ortale
8:00pm - Ron Curcio

St. Lucia Candle Bearer and Chime Ringer

10:00am - Lexi Calvaneso and Edith Vella
4:00pm - Emerson Rettray and Hannah Bienkowski
8:00pm - Elise Anzalone and Liam Anzalone

Ushers

10:00am - Jim Grove, *Captain*; Rudy Becker, Tom Boyce,
Raymond Dobring, David Eberly, Bryan Grattan, Mike Grattan,
David Hamada, Jacob Imhoff
4:00pm - Steve Ortale, *Captain*; Greg Bloom, Ben Kamm, Scott Kamm,
Carter Ortale, Paul Quasarano, Rick Russ, Brian Vautaw
8:00pm - Brian May, *Captain*; Robert Artelt, Cliff Clark, Ron Curcio,
Bruce Helmke, Eric Rolf, Rick Russ, Ben Sinko



MERRY CHRISTMAS

The pastors and staff of
Lutheran Church of the
Redeemer extend
their warmest wishes for a
Christ-filled Christmas and
a blessed New Year!

December 25 - No Worship Services

Church Building and Office Closed

December 31 - New Years Eve

Church Office Closing at 1:00pm

January 1 - New Years Day

Church Building and Office Closed