

Children's Christmas Service

[St. Thomas Lutheran Church](#)

Bloomington, Indiana

December 24, 2020, 4pm

+Gathering+

Welcome

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, you are like a gentle nightlight or the twinkle of lights on a Christmas tree, giving us comfort when we are afraid. You are like the mysterious and wonderful darkness of night that fills us with the amazement of the shining stars and galaxies far away. Fill us with wonder today that we may celebrate Jesus's birthday and be grateful for your greatest gift to us, in the name of that gift, Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. **Amen.**

+Word+

Reading: Luke 2, "Jesus is Born" from *The Children of God Storybook Bible*

The Roman emperor ordered everyone in Judea to go to the town where their father had been born so they could be counted. Mary, by then quite pregnant, traveled to Bethlehem with her husband, Joseph. When they arrived, all the inns were full. Finally a kind man let them sleep in his stable with the animals.

A cow was mooing, and sheep were baaing. Then everyone heard the sound of a baby crying. Baby Jesus was born! Mary placed him gently in the manger on a bed of hay. All the animals gathered around and tried to snuffle the new baby with their noses.

Outside the town, shepherds tended their sheep in the fields. Suddenly, the sky lit up and an angel appeared.

“Don’t be afraid,” said the angel, “I bring the most wonderful news: God’s Son has been born in Bethlehem! He will bring great peace and joy to the world. You will find him sleeping in a manger.” Soon other angels appeared in the night sky, singing, “Glory to God in the highest!”

The shepherds found Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus in the stable. They sang songs of praise that filled the night and gave thanks to God for the Savior of the world.

A Story: “The Gift of the Littlest Shepherd” by Jane Yolen

+Christmas Tree Lighting+

Decorating and Lighting the Tree

During this time, please bring forward what you have brought to place on tree one household at a time.

Silent Night

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.

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

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.

If decorations are still being added, we will continue to hum the carol.

Blessing the Tree and the Gifts

Holy God,
we praise you as we light this tree.
It gives light to this place
as you shine light into darkness through Jesus,
the light of the world.

God of all,
we thank you for your love,
the love that has come to us in Jesus.
Be with us now as we remember that gift of love
and help us to share that love with a yearning world.

Compassionate God,
Bless these hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, and socks.
May those who receive them find dignity in their use and comfort in their warmth,
and may these gifts be a sign of your love to all people.

Creator God,
you made the stars in the heavens.
Thank you for the light that shines on us in Jesus,
the bright morning star.

Amen.

The 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.**

+Sending+

Benediction

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the magi,
and the peace of the Christ child.
Almighty God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Hymn: Go Tell It On the Mountain

Refrain:

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Chrit is born!

Verse 1:

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

Verse 2:

The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

Verse 3:

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Dismissal

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

Thank you for joining us for worship. Our ministry is run by your support. Donate [here](#).

Download a Christmas Tree Blessing to use in your home [here](#). Or a printable one [here](#).