

First Sunday of Christmas

December 26, 2021

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP
WITH HOLY COMMUNION AT 9:30am**

We are honored that you are joining our worship today. We hope to make you feel welcome whether you are visiting with us for the first time or have been worshipping with us for years.

Welcome

St. Thomas Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered community that lives, shares, and celebrates God's grace with all people!

As disciples of Christ who value the faith, gifts, and ministry of all God's people, and who seek justice and reconciliation, we welcome all God's children to an inclusive community. This welcome is extended without exception and regardless of sex, race, national origin, educational background, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical and mental ability, age, or economic condition.

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Miami, Delaware, Potawatomi, and Shawnee people, the traditional stewards of the land on which we worship today. We acknowledge that they have occupied and cared for this land over countless generations, and we celebrate their continuing contributions to the life of this region.

Worship Aids

In this worship bulletin, worshipers are invited to stand at the places marked with an * and bold type denotes the congregation's response.

Everything you need to participate in worship is found in this bulletin, even the hymns and guitar chords. Full harmony is in the red hymnal under your seat. You are encouraged to join us in praying, singing, sharing the peace, and receiving Holy Communion as you feel moved. Assisted hearing devices and large print bulletins are available from an usher.

Children in Worship

We welcome all children to worship with us— including full participation in Holy Communion. Whether talking, crying, laughing, or singing, the sounds of children in worship are joyful sounds of praise. God put the wiggle in children, and we rejoice! Our Prayground in the sanctuary and our unstaffed nursery are open for quiet, supervised play. Activity bags are available in the narthex. Children's bulletins are also available.

A Few Requests

We ask that you silence your cell phone or electronic devices.

We would love to pray for the concerns of your heart during this service.

Prayer request slips are located on the table near the main doors.

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

C: Amen.

P: In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen.

P: I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. +In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace.
C: Amen.

***ENTRANCE HYMN**

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

ELW#275

Capo 3: *G*
B♭

C *G* *D* *G*
E♭ *B♭* *F* *B♭*

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

Em/B *B* *Em* *A* *D*
Gm/D *D* *Gm* *C* *F*

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

G *C* *Am* *C* *D* *G*
B♭ *E♭* *Cm* *E♭* *F* *B♭*

Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

***GREETING**

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

C: And also with you.

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

Joy to the World

ELW#267

D D/A A D G

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

A D

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 -

A

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

A⁷ D D/A A D

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.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C:Amen.

+WORD+

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pr. Adrienne Meier

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces
peace,

who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;

for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

Break forth together into singing,

you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 98 (spoken responsively assisting
minister/**congregation**)

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done
marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the
victory.

**²O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the
sight of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and
faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory ^l of
our God.

**⁴Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the
LORD,
who comes to judge the earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the world with
righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels

as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

*HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1-14 NRSV

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

P: The Gospel of our Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Amy Bartleson Balcam

*HYMN OF THE DAY

He Came Down

ELW#253



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

Am⁷(b5)



Text: Cameroon traditional
Music: Cameroon traditional

HE CAME DOWN
LM

*NICENE CREED

A: Together, let us confess our faith.

**C: We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and Earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the
virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the
living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver
of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped
and glorified,**

who has spoken through the prophets.

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic
Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: Joining our voice with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Each petition ends:

A: Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Concluding petition:

A: Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

During this time of Fading COVID, we encourage you to share the peace with a wave, a bow, or maybe an elbow, checking in with your neighbor for whatever feels safe and conveys the spirit of peace and reconciliation this ritual intends.

OFFERING

*Please sign and pass the **Together In Community** pads. Make note of the names of your neighbors so you can introduce yourself after the service. These pads and pencils are sanitized at the end of each service.*

During the Offertory Hymn, the offering is brought forward. St. Thomas collects gifts to support our mission of sharing, living, and celebrating God's grace with all people. We support Lutheran Campus Ministries at IU/Rose House and many local, national, and international ministry partners. Gifts may be placed in the offering plate by the door or you can also give on our website (stlconline.org) or by using the Vanco mobile app (find it in the app store and use the code RTTMYX).

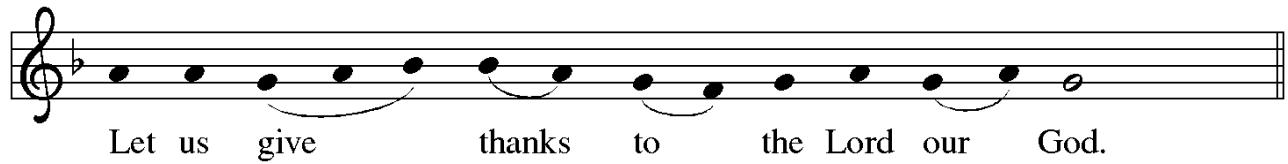
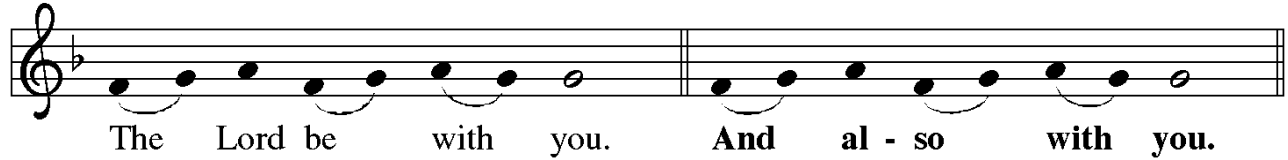
*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

+ MEAL +

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Refrain

Chord symbols for the first staff: *Bm* *Dm*, *Em*⁷ *Gm*⁷, *A* *C*, *D* *F*, *G* *Bb*, *A* *C*

Chord symbols for the second staff: *D* *F*, *D/A* *F/C*, *A* *C*, *D* *F*, *Bm* *Dm*, *Em*⁷ *Gm*⁷, *A* *C*

Chord symbols for the third staff: *D* *F*, *G* *Bb*, *A* *C*, *D* *F*, *D/A* *F/C*, *A* *C*, *D* *F*

Lyrics: Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
 Music: French carol

GLORIA
 7777 and refrain

*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The thanksgiving may include this acclamation.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

*LORD'S PRAYER

Speak this prayer in your preferred language. The pastor will continue when all versions are complete.

C: 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.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

We believe that God is our host and that all people are welcome to this feast of grace, community, and forgiveness. Come forward at the direction of the ushers. Hand-torn bread or gluten-free wafers are offered with pink wine and red grape juice in individual cups. If you wish to receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest.

COMMUNION HYMN

Away in a Manger

ELW#277

Capo 3: *D*
F



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 -

D
F



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

G *D* *A7* *D* *Em/G* *A7* *D*
Bb *F* *C7* *F* *Gm/Bb* *C7* *F*



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.

Text: North American, 19th cent.
Music: James R. Murray, 1841-1905

AWAY IN A MANGER
11 11 11 11

*EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING

C: Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray. We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

+ SENDING +

*BENEDICTION

P: The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

C: Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

Go Tell it On the Mountain

ELW#290

Refrain
Capo 3: D F G/D B \flat /F D F A C D F

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

G/D B \flat /F D F Em Gm A 7 C 7 D F

go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

D F A C Bm A D Dm C F

- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

E G E 7 A 7
G G 7 C 7 *Refrain*

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

***DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*We depart in peace to continue our worship
in lives of witness to Christ's love
in work, play, service, and care for creation.*

The Liturgy is reprinted from
Evangelical Lutheran Worship, setting 3, p. 138
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At A Glance: This Week at St. Thomas

Sunday December 26

First Sunday of Christmas

9:30am Worship

Last Day plate offerings will be counted for 2021

Monday December 27 – Friday December 31

Church Office Closed

Thursday December 30

Last Day online donations will be counted for 2021

Sunday January 2

Second Sunday of Christmas

8:30am Worship/Livestream Worship

11am Worship

Noon Taking Down the Greens

Announcements

The Gifts We Bring – An Epiphany Retreat

Someone once said, you should start the new year the way you intend for it to continue. This is less about setting resolutions and more about beginning the year with intention and purpose. On Saturday, January 8, St. Thomas will host a morning-long retreat to guide participants in reviewing 2021, discerning the gifts we are bringing into the new year, and set intentions for 2022. A light, continental breakfast will be served at 8:45am, and the retreat will begin at 9am and last until noon. A suggested donation for \$5-10 for breakfast and materials will be accepted the morning of the retreat. Sign up here:

<https://bit.ly/30sbHZw>

The Rapture Exposed - a Bible Study on Revelation

This January, dive deep into one of the most misunderstood books of the Bible, Revelation. Using the book, *The Rapture Exposed: the Message of hope in the book of Revelation* by Barbara Rossing, we will explore new ways of understanding this ancient text that bring hope - not condemnation - to the world God loves. Participants can pick up a copy of the

book at Morgenstern's or order online (and one or two copies will be available on loan from the St. Thomas library - check with the office). **Discussion will take place during at 9:45am on Sunday mornings, during the Sunday School hour, in the conference room.**

Women's Bible Study

WBS (men are welcome too!) meets on the Second Sunday of the month in room 17. The next meeting is **Sunday, January 9** between services. Any questions: contact Kari Esarey at kesarey@mccsc.edu or kariesarey@gmail.com or 812-219-4177.

Taking Down the Greens

The holiday greens will be removed after 11am service on January 2. Please stick around if you are interested in helping.

End of the Year Financial Contributions

As our fiscal year draws to a close, please note that the church office has closed for the calendar year. Contributions for 2021 will be accepted in the offering plate today and online through December 30. Year to date statements were sent earlier this month.

Prayers for those with health and safety concerns

Elif Ogan, Jan Ellis, Caretta Van Ruler, Shane Clements, Anne Smith, Carole Kirsch, Tim Kirsch, Roger Sasse, Paula Ionescu, Audrey Alpers, Deborah O'Brien, Casey-Marie, Mike Ost, Ethelyene Thomason, Seth Lahn, Erin Wyatt, Bob Osborn, Gwen Powell, and Andrew Halvorson.

Contact the church office for inclusion in this list of concerns and to be included in the Sunday prayers.

A separate, confidential prayer chain is also available. Contact **Susan Colston** at skcolston@aol.com to join the prayer chain or make a request for prayer.

Due Date for **printed** Weekly Announcements:
Wednesdays

Due Date for **emailed** Weekly Announcements:
Thursdays

To submit an article or announcement: email the church office at parishadmin@stlconline.org

To receive these **Weekly Announcements** via email please contact the Church Office at parishadmin@stlconline.org or 812-332-5252

Today's Worship Leaders

Presider: Pastor Adrienne Meier

Preacher: Amy Bartleson Balcam

Assisting Minister: David Rohlfing

Lector: Mary Lou Nierzwicki

Ushers/Greeters: Dean Arnold,

Gene & Gayl Laughman

Council Coordinator: Amy Bartleson Balcam

Altar Care: Barb Unger, Pauline Caldwell

Bread & Wine: Dean & Sandy Arnold

The altar flowers this week are given
by Peter Iversen and Leah Sinn Iversen
in honor of the birthdays of their daughters,
Elaina & Eliza

ST. THOMAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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stlconline.org

Partners in ministry with
**Lutheran Church of
the Living Waters**
Cherokee, North Carolina

Linked with
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Iglesia Santo Domingo
de Guzman, Chichipate
Parish of San Pedro, El Estor,
Izabal, Guatemala

In covenant with
**LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY
AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY**
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Rev. Lecia Beck,
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and Christian Nurture
christiannurture@stlconline.org

Erica Whichello,
Parish Administrator
parishadmin@stlconline.org

Mike Powell,
Director of Music and Organist

Dr. Dale Heidebrecht,
Interim Adult Choir Director

Melissa de Graaf,
Children's Choir Director

**St. Thomas Lutheran Church and LCM-IU
are Reconciling in Christ Ministries**

**We are a Christ-centered community that lives,
shares and celebrates God's grace with all people!**