

**ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**July 14, 2024 9 AM**  
**Christmas In July: The Clothing of Joy**  
*We Proclaim and Practice Christ's Love*



**CALL TO WORSHIP** *Based on Psalm 98*

Sing to God something brand new! **For God has done wonderful things!**  
God has not forgotten to love us all! **Even the ends of the earth have heard!**  
Make a joyful noise! **Break forth in song!**  
With strings and horns, **sing praise to the Holy One!**  
With the roaring sea and everything in it! **With all the land and everything in it!**  
The floods clap their hands. **The hills sing for joy.**  
Sing to God something brand new! **For God has done wonderful things!**

**OPENING HYMN** *Joy to the World*

**#267**

Vs. 1: 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, and heav'n, and heav'n and  
nature sing.

Vs. 2: 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.

Vs. 3: 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.

Vs. 4: 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.

**PRAYER:** *Joy to the World*

It may seem naive, in a world of grief, to choose to live in joy; It may seem foolish, in a world where solemnity is power, to sing and dance to a different tune; It may seem cruel, in a world of suffering and injustice, to speak of light and celebration;

**But you have come, Jesus, to bring joy into our grief, light into our darkness, singing into our mourning; and it is an act of healing and proclamation to believe and embrace the joy you offer. Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Alleluia! Amen.**

**READING** *“Let Every Day Be Christmas” by Norman W. Brooks, 1976*

**CHILDREN’S TIME** *Away in a Manger*

**LITANY OF JOY**

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.  
**We long for a light to guide us.**

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy.  
**We long for God's joy in our lives.**

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.  
**We long to be relieved of all that we carry.**

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
**He is named Emmanuel: God with us. In this tiny baby, this vulnerable child, we find our light, our joy, our comfort. Joy to the World! The Lord is come!**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**Addi and Anni Ostrander**

**SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM**

**Kivan Sirah Martin**

**Birthdate: February 24, 2012**

**Son of Nicole Kristine Martin**

## **Baptismal Sponsors: Larry and Darla Westling**

Pastor: In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ? *I do.*

As you bring Kivan to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that he may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Kivan grow in the Christian faith and life? *I do.*

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Kivan in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? *I do.*

People of God, do you promise to support Kivan and pray for him in his new life in Christ? **We do.**

### Profession of Faith

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church:

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises? **I do.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God? **I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he**

**descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit? **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that he who is washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Kivan Sirah, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us pray: We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Kivan with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Kivan Sirah, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen.

Presentation of Candle: Kivan, let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Welcome

Let us welcome the newly baptized: **We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission that we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

**HYMN *Silent Night***

**#281**

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 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.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray: **O God of love, you have brought us together this day and blessed us with the promise of Christmas found not only in December, but each day of the year. Open our eyes to the light of Christ, which glows in every time and every season. Speak to us now that we may hear the good news of your salvation. Bring us into the joy and wonder of your presence once again. Fill us with your light and strengthen us to carry it out into a world that needs to see it. Amen**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2–7**

<sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN *O Little Town of Bethlehem***

**#279 Vs. 1 & 4**

Vs. 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 dark streets shineth the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Vs. 4 O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

**READING: Colossians 1:15-20**

<sup>15</sup>[Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;<sup>16</sup>for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL: Luke 2:8-20**

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the second chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

**HYMN *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

**#270, vs. 1**

Hark! The Herald Angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."

Joyful all you nations rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The Herald Angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

<sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY *O, Come all Ye Faithful***

**#283**

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:

Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come, let us adore him,

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

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,

Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;

Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!

Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come, let us adore him,

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

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God in the highest:

Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come, let us adore him,

Oh, 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:  
O, come, let us adore him, oh, come, let us adore him  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

**READING *Lo! The Light!***

**HYMN *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* #282, vs. 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, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

**BLESSING OF 2024 YOUTH GATHERING PARTICIPANTS**

**HYMN RESPONSE *What Child Is This* #296, vs. 3**

Vs. 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.  
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**  
*Let us share words of peace with one another.*

**OFFERING REFLECTION**

The Gift of Christmas is greater than what can be found in any wrapped box. Christmas has presented us with the Christ in our midst. As Jesus the Christ was the one who taught us how to love one another, we pass this Divine Love to our neighbors through our talents, treasures, and time. Whether Christmas or Easter, Pentecost or any ordinary day, we share our gifts with the church and community.

**OFFERING**

**SPECIAL MUSIC *Love Has Come***

**Small Group**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Enchanting God, Divine Joy,

**We take these days in the warmth of summertime to remember the birth of the Christ. We take time far away from the busy holiday to celebrate the**



**holy aspects of Christmas. May this day remind us of the joy of Jesus' birth and the love of Jesus which still ripples in our world. May we spend these next few months until Christmas with the joy of rebirth in our hearts, sharing that excitement with our neighbors around us. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS**

*Response:* We rejoice with joy and singing, **For the coming of the LORD is near.**

## **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.**

## **CLOSING BLESSING**

Filled with the joy of this ordinary day, May we go forward celebrating the magnificent and ordinary, The fantastic and everyday, The mediocre and amazing, The astounding and common. God is in the shiny days and cloudy evenings, The starry nights and the foggy mornings. Let us find Divine Sparkle no matter the time or space As God is already there! And may Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN *Angels We Have Heard On High***

Vs. 1: Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

Vs. 2: Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

Vs. 3: Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God!**

## Announcements

### **Please Stay After Service for Christmas Trivia!**

**VBS: Vacation Bible School**, presented jointly with Our Saviour's and St. Paul Lutheran Churches, will be held from July 22nd-25th. Registration forms can be found in the current edition of the Journal, on the front page of our website, at the church office or at the Usher's table during Outdoor Worship.

**Volunteers are also needed for VBS:** Volunteer registration is at the bottom of the regular registration form. Please call the office with any questions! We will also be asking for donations of supplies in the coming days!

**Youth Gathering Fundraiser: Stocks:** On July 15, (THIS MONDAY!), four of our youth and one adult will travel to New Orleans for the National ELCA Youth Gathering. You can buy stock in their trip for \$10. Stockholders will be invited to a Stockholder's Meal later in the summer to hear more about the trip. We will pray for and bless our Youth Gathering participants at our worship service on July 14.

**Hug Booth:** In the spirit of being a welcoming congregation, St James will be sponsoring a "hug booth" for the Mason City Pride Festival on Sat. July 20th. Come visit us in Central Park from 9-5. If you would like to volunteer, please talk to Carol Meyer at 641-430-2299 or scoutmama2@gmail.com. Please talk to Pastor Sid or Pastor Jeni if you have any questions.

**Lutheran World Relief School Kits:** On October 12 we will be sending school kits to Lutheran World Relief. Stores are already selling school supplies so it's a good time to get them on sale. We need 70-page spiral notebooks, rulers with centimeters on one side and inches on the other, pencil sharpeners, blunt scissors, unsharpened pencils, blue or black ink pens, boxes of 24 crayons, and 2 1/2 inch erasers. Items can be placed in the brown baskets in the narthex or in the plastic bin inside the gym door.  
Thank you for your contributions! - Welca Mission Action Team

**Next week is Generosity Sunday.** We encourage everyone to wear their Thrivent "Live Generously" shirts to worship. Lots of free shirts in all sizes are available in the gym!

**Mark your Calendar for our Church Garage Sale** which will take place from August 15th-17th! More details to come!

### **Next Week's Calendar**

**Tuesday, July 16th: Do-Days 9 am**

**Wednesday, July 17th: Men's Breakfast 7 am**

**Thursday, July 18th: Council 5:30 PM**