

SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Services: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School and Bible

Class: 10:45 a.m.

Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod
“*A Stephen Ministry Congregation*”
10 McClellan Circle
Buffalo, New York 14220

Rev. John L. Pingel, M. Div., M.A., Pastor
Vicar Domenick Lettieri
Ernelle L. Ponivas, Secretary
Lois L. Jones, Director of Music
Stephen Jarmusz Sr., Custodian
The Rev. Richard E. Blemaster, Pastor Emeritus

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Office Hours:
Mon. -Thurs. 9 a.m. -1:30
p.m.
Friday - closed

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2010 8 p.m.

AS WE GATHER

God the Father gathers us on this holy night give to thanks to Him and to celebrate His unending love for us as we worship the Son He gives! The innocent Christ child in the manger seemed helpless, and yet, He bore the guilt of humanity and accomplished great things through miracles, mission, and sacrifice. The Jesus Christ allays hostilities between God and man and establishes an everlasting covenant of peace between the Father and His children. While those men and women who gathered on this night long ago could scarcely understand its meaning, the angelic host of God sang of "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will to men" for they knew the eternal extent of God's love for us, that He had given His own Son to be our Savior.

PRELUDE – “The Birthday of the King” – Neidlinger; “Messiah Come Medley” – arr. By James
“Gesù Bambino” – Petro Yon Violinist: Carol Steiner

WELCOME/EXCHANGE OF PEACE

THE CHORAL PRELUDE "Once In Royal David's City"

(At the conclusion of the choral prelude, the lights are raised and the congregation stands for the processional hymn)

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN: “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (LW41)

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:

(Refrain) O Come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Highest, most holy, Light of light eternal, Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; Son of the Father, Now in flesh appearing!

(Refrain)

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

(Refrain)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be glory given! Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing!

(Refrain)

THE INVOCATION

Pastor: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son (+), and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen!

Pastor: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel, God with us.

People: For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Pastor: Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in!

People: Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of Glory! Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.

Pastor: Unto us the Christ is born!

People: O Come, let us worship him!

THE GLORIA *“Angels We Have Heard on High” (LW 55)*

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains, And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyful strains.

(Refrain) Gloria...in excelsis deo...Gloria...in excelsis deo!

Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be, Which inspire your heav’nly song? (Refrain)

Come to Bethlehem and see, Him whose birth the angels sing; Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord the newborn king!

(Refrain)

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray...

People: O God, because you once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant that we who have known the mystery of that Light here on earth may come to the full measure of its joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Choral Selection: "Come To Us Now, Emmanuel"

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 9:2-7 (*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light...*)

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Choral Selection: "Advent Hymn"

EPISTLE Titus 2:11-14 (*We await our blessed hope...*)

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SOLO SELECTION – Ryan Shanahan/Lois Jones

THE GOSPEL PROCESSION Luke 2:1-20 (*The birth of Jesus.*)

(The Gospel is read from the center of the congregation, signifying Christ in the midst of his people)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SONG: "Away in A Manger"

Children: Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head, The stars in the bright sky look down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

All: 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 side until morning is nigh.

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

HYMN "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" (LW 49)

**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 new-born king!**

**Christ by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! Hark! The herald angels sing, glory
to the new-born king!**

**Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace, Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, Born to give us second birth! Hark! The herald angels
sing, glory to the new-born king!**

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

CONFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Pastor: Dear God, in the mystery of the Word made flesh you revealed your love to all the world. Teach us to love others as you have loved us. Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Dear God, in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you gave the world the hope that never fades. Give to all who are despondent, ill, or grieving a hopeful faith that trusts in you for forgiveness, life, and salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Dear God, in the mystery of the Word made flesh you proclaimed peace on earth and good will toward mankind. Remove all causes and occasions for war, terrorisms, and other evils between nations and open wide the doors that have been shut to the proclamation of the Gospel, that many more may know your peace that passes all human understanding. Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Dear God, you embodied your Word in Jesus, Your Son. Embody, we pray, your Word in those called to preach and teach, that your people may be preserved from all error and that your light would scatter the darkness. Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Dear God, as your Word was made flesh in the birth of Christ, we receive his true body and blood in the sacrament, according to your Word and promise. Help us to eat and drink worthily, trusting only in Christ for forgiveness of our sins and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Dear God, we thank you for all who have gone before us in the faith, and now kneel before you in heaven. Keep us faithful, so that one day we might join them in kneeling before you in gratitude, wonder, and praise. Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen!

OFFERING/OFFERTORY MUSIC/PASSING OF FELLOWSHIP FORMS

Choral Selection: "Jesus is Born, Prince of Peace"

+ SACRAMENT +

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the Highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest.

LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (sung by Pastor)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

THE FIRST NOEL, the angel did say, Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, On a cold winter's night that was so deep. (Refrain) Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the king of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star, Shining in the east beyond them far, and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. (Refrain)

And by the light of that same star, Three wise men came from country far. To seek a king was their intent, And to follow the star wherever it went. (Refrain)

This star drew nigh to the northwest, O'er Bethlehem it took its rest. And there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. (Refrain)

Then entered in those wise men three, Full reverently upon the knee And offered there in His presence, Their gold and myrrh, and frankincense. (Refrain)

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 street shineth The everlasting Light. The hopes and fears of all the years, Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, And gathered all above, While mortals sleep the angels keep Their watch of won'dring love. O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth, And praises sing To God the king, and peace to all the earth.

How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n. No ear may hear his coming; But in this world of sin, Where
meek souls will Receive him, still the dear Christ enters in!

Oh 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!

IT CAME UPON A 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 heaven's all gracious King,
The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, With Peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats, O'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains, They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its babel sounds The blessed angels sing.

All you, beneath your heavy load, By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way, With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour, Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to give you peace; Of him the angels sing.

For lo, the days have come to pass By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years, Came Christ, as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth, God's ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear The song the angels sing.

GENTLE MARY LAID HER CHILD, lowly in a manger,
There he lay the undefiled, To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, Can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of every race, Who have found his favor.

Angels sang about his birth, Wise men sought and found him.
Heaven's star shone brightly forth, Glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing.
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her Child, Lowly in a manger.
He is still the undefiled, But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth, Beautiful the story.
Praise his name in all the earth, Hail the King of glory!

THE DISTRIBUTION OF LIGHT

(Following communion, the light from our altar, symbolizing Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, is distributed to all in attendance. While the candlelighting is in process, a musical selection is played. Once everyone's candle is lit, we join in singing "Silent Night." Following the hymn, candles are extinguished as the lights are put back on. PLEASE HOLD LIT CANDLES UPRIGHT!)

**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.**

*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schlaft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar. Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh, schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.*

**Silent Night, holy night! Shepherds quake, at the sight, Glories stream from heaven afar!
Heavenly hosts sing 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 thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth! Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

THE PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord God, you are the give of all good and gracious gifts. We are blessed to be those who receive these gifts in and through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. We thank you that you have once again assured us of Jesus' presence in wine and bread. Enable us in true faith to celebrate the nativity of Christ's birth upheld and comforted by it's mystery and everlasting peace; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

People: Amen!

CLOSING HYMN Joy to the World (LW 53)

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come, let earth receive its King! Let every 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!**

**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!**

(continues next page)

No more let sins and sorrows 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, wonders of his love.

Postlude

WELCOME

All who enter here are welcome! It is the house of the Lord; come with a spirit of reverence; worship with a spirit of humility; and do not leave without a prayer to the Lord Jesus Christ for yourself, for those who worship here, and for him who ministers.

SERVING THE LORD THIS EVENING:

Celebrant: Rev. John L. Pingel

Assisting Minister: Vicar Domenick Lettieri

Organist/Choir Director: Lois L. Jones

Violinist: Carol Steiner

Assistants: Vicar Dom and Fred Bartz Jr.

Ushers: Richard Landseadel, Stephen Jarmusz Sr., Stephen Jarmusz Jr., George Merkt,

Rose Ann Merkt

Reader: Fred Bartz Jr.

Welcomer: Fred Bartz Jr.

Acolytes: Members of the Confirmation Class

Altar Committee: Norrine Nagle and Maureen Wilke

TO OUR GUESTS AND VISITORS....we are pleased and honored by your presence with us this evening. We want you to be aware of the various ministries which we enjoy as a family of faith here at Salem Lutheran Church. If you would like to know more about Salem, or are interested in membership, please call the Church Office at 824 2787, or speak to Pastor Pingel or Vicar Dom.

WE APPRECIATE ALL IN ATTENDANCE THIS EVENING signing our Fellowship Form, located in the pew near the middle aisle, in a maroon folder. Please pass along and leave at the wall end of the pew. If you are visiting with us, we appreciate your giving us not only your name but your address. Thank you!

THANKS TO ALL who helped with the Advent Service and Supper, the Children's Christmas Program and service, and the Congregational Christmas Dinner and program. Thanks to all participating in tonight's service as well!

QUOTE OF THE DAY: “ I heard the bells on Christmas day, their old, familiar carols play, And wild and sweet, the words repeat, Of peace on earth, good will to men!”—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Poem: “The Infant King”

Words by Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924

**Sing lullaby!
Lullaby baby, now reclining,
Sing lullaby!
Angels are watching, stars are shining
Over the place where he is lying:
Sing lullaby!
ing lullaby!
Lullaby baby, now asleeping,
Sing lullaby!
Hush do not wake the infant King,
Soon will come sorrow with the mourning,
Soon will come bitter grief and weeping.
Sing lullaby!**

**Sing lullaby!
Lullaby baby, now a dozing,
Sing lullaby!
Hush do not wake the infant King,
Soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing,
Then in the grave at last reposing.
Sing lullaby!**

**Sing lullaby!
Lullaby! Is the babe awaking?
Sing lullaby!
Hush do not stir the infant King!
Dreaming of Easter, gladsome morning,
Conquering Death, its bondage breaking:
Sing lullaby!**

