



Dinke Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

God's purpose for our congregation is to faithfully witness God's Word in our community and throughout the world.

***December 24, 2025; 5:00PM
Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve
Holy Communion***

*To all who are lonely and need fellowship; to all who are discouraged and need good news; to all who mourn and need comfort; to all who are tempted and need help; to all who are sinners and need forgiveness; to all who are complacent and need disturbing; to all who thirst for the water of life; to all who love Christ and would follow Christ, Dinkey Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church opens its arms and bids you **welcome!***

GATHERING

Prelude

The prelude is a call to worship, a time for quiet reflection as we prepare to join together in worship of our creating and loving God.

Gathering Dialogue: (Based on Psalm 96:1-6, 11)

O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.

Sing to the LORD, bless the LORD's name; tell of the LORD's salvation from day to day.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.

Declare the LORD's glory among the nations, the LORD's marvelous works among the peoples.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.

For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; the LORD has been revered above all gods.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.

For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.

Honor and majesty are before the LORD; strength and beauty are in the LORD's sanctuary.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn: *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* (#282)

Prayer of the Day

The true light that enlightens everyone has come into the world.
God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray,

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

² 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.
³ 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.
⁴ 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.
⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶ 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.
⁷ 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.

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

¹¹ The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³ while we

wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Presentation of the Christ Child

All children are invited to come forth for the presentation and gather around the nativity scene. The following hymn is sung as the children gather at the nativity scene. Please stand as you are able for the hymn.

Hymn: That Boy-Child of Mary (#293)

Blessing of the Manger

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

*Response after the announcement: **Glorify to you, O Lord.***

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” ¹⁵ 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.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Response after the conclusion: Praise to you, O Christ.

Message

Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem (#279)

Apostles' Creed

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

**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.
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. Amen.

TABLE

Prayer of Intercession

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Gathering God, you bring your people from every corner of the earth together before the manger that you have made a throne. Unite the church in love as we rejoice in the news of your coming. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, you brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Join our voices with the roaring seas, the exulting fields, and the trees of the forest singing for joy on this holy night. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Transforming God, the world trembles amid violence and war. Empower our hands, feet, and hearts with your Spirit to shatter the rod of the oppressor and turn swords into plowshares. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Shepherding God, you lead us to your love in the face of our neighbor. Send us into the world to find your Word made flesh in one another, especially those who are sick or struggling (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Nurturing God, you dwell with us in humble places. Sustain housing and clothing ministries in this community, that all find shelter and warmth. We pray especially for youth seeking safety and care. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abiding God, you remain at the side of all the departed. Grant all who mourn hope in the resurrection and peace in Christ Jesus. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

Offering

*At this time an offering is collected to support the ongoing ministries of the church. Please join in singing **Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (#288)**.*

Offering Hymn: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (#276)

Offering Prayer

God of glory,
Great are your wonders among us
and many are the blessings you bestow.
Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,
that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,
through Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving: Sung to “Good Christian Friends Rejoice”

Oh, may the good Lord be with you.

And may the Lord be with you too.

Lift your hearts to him in praise.

To the Lord our hearts we raise.

Let us offer praises true.

It is fitting so to do.

Gratefully we sing... to the Lord, our King.

The minister continues:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you,
almighty and merciful God, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh,
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus: *Sung to “As With Gladness Men of Old”*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of hosts by all adored:
Heav’n and earth cannot contain
all the glory of Your name!
With the heav’nly host we sing
highest praises to our King.**

**Hail! Hosanna! Endless fame
be to him who, in God’s name,
now draws nigh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hail! Hosanna! Praises be
to the Lord eternally!**

The minister continues:

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks,
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer: Sung to "Away in a Manger"

**Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name!
Your kingdom among us, your will done the same
by mortals and angels. Come Lord, reign alone.
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.**

**The bread that we yearn for provide us each day.
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
in times of temptation, to lead us be near;
from evil deliver your children most dear.**

**For yours is the kingdom, o'er all things you reign.
And yours is the power; all things you maintain.
To you be the glory, resounding again
from all of creation, forever! Amen.**

Communion

As a member of the ELCA, Dinkey Memorial celebrates open communion. All baptized Christians are welcome to share in communion. When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond

Amen.

Distribution

During the distribution, please join in singing the following hymns:

269, 270, 275, 277, 283, 289, 290, 296, 300

Following the distribution, the minister blesses the assembly.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.

May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence.

Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

Amen.

SERVICE OF THE LIGHT

During the lighting of the candles, we ask that the lit candles be held upright while the unlit candles are turned on their side for lighting.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In him was life, and the life was the light of all.

Hymn: Silent Night, Holy 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 sing alleluia!

Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Assembly raises candles during the final verse.

***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.

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SENDING

Blessing

The triune God,
glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One,
abiding Comforter,

✝ bless with endless grace, peace, and joy.

Amen.

Sending Hymn: Joy to the World (#267)

Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to God's people on earth!

The worship has ended, let the service begin.
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Ministers:

The Congregation

Pastor:

Reverend Anthony Pagotto

Musician:

Bridgette Gorman

Greeters:

Scott Klotz

Donna Johnson

Dan Schwartz

Jan Schwartz

Communion Assistants:

Kirsten Frankhouser

Joanne Koons

Acolytes:

Larkin Klotz

Jaxson Markell

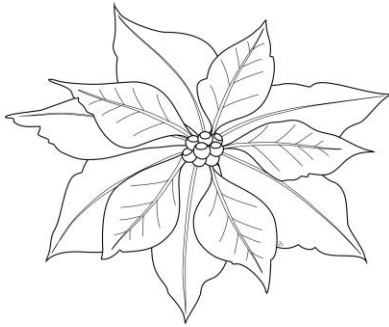
Lector:

Jan Schwartz

***May you have a blessed
Christmas season!!***



POINSETTIA SPONSORSHIPS



(1-red) Arlene Bisbing and family

In Memory of Karl Bisbing

(4-red, 4-pink, 2-white) Mr. & Mrs.

Charles N. Eckert

In Memory of Andreas, Balliet,
and Nimson ancestors

**(1-red, 1-pink) Kirsten and Sierra
Frankhouser**

In Loving Memory of our mom,
Gina Koiniski
In Honor of Pr. Tony, Erica, Elijah,
& Claudia

(2-white) Bill & Donna Johnson

In Memory of Bill & Peg Johnson
In Memory of Dale Rehrig

(1-red) Joanne Koons

In Loving Memory of Willard Doll
and all loved ones

**(1-red) Pr. Tony, Erica, Elijah, &
Claudia Pagotto**

In Honor of our church family

**(1-red, 1-white) Dan & Jan
Schwartz**

In Memory of LaMar & Judith
Schwartz and Lois Adams
In Honor of Elaine Manzo and
Memory of Phil Manzo

(1-red) Carol Steigerwalt and family

In Memory of Philip Steigerwalt

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un-furled,
 3 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
 4 For lo! The days are has-t'ning on, by proph-ets seen of old,

from an-gels bend-ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
 and still their heav'n-ly mu-sic floats o'er all the wea-ry world.
 who toil a-long the climb-ing way with pain-ful steps and slow;
 when with the ev-er-cir-cling years shall come the time fore-told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gra-cious king."
 A-bove its sad and low-ly plains they bend on hov'-ring wing,
 look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift-ly on the wing;
 when peace shall o-ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,

The world in sol-emn still-ness lay to hear the an-gels sing,
 and ev-er o'er its ba-bel sounds the bless-ed an-gels sing,
 oh, rest be-side the wea-ry road and hear the an-gels sing!
 and all the world give back the song which now the an-gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876
 Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900

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That Boy-Child of Mary

Refrain



That boy - child of Mar - y was born in a sta - ble,



a man - ger his cra - dle in Beth - le - hem.



1 What shall we call him, child of the man - ger?
 2 His name is Je - sus, God ev - er with us,
 3 How can he save us, how can he help us,
 4 Gift of the Fa - ther, to hu - man moth - er,

Refrain



What name is giv - en in Beth - le - hem?
 God giv - en for us in Beth - le - hem.
 born here a - mong us in Beth - le - hem?
 makes him our broth - er in Beth - le - hem.

5 One with the Father,
 he is our Savior,
 heaven-sent helper
 in Bethlehem.

6 Gladly we praise him,
 love and adore him,
 give ourselves to him
 in Bethlehem.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000

Music: BLANTYRE, Malawi traditional; adapt. Tom Colvin

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O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light,
 O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1825-1893
 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

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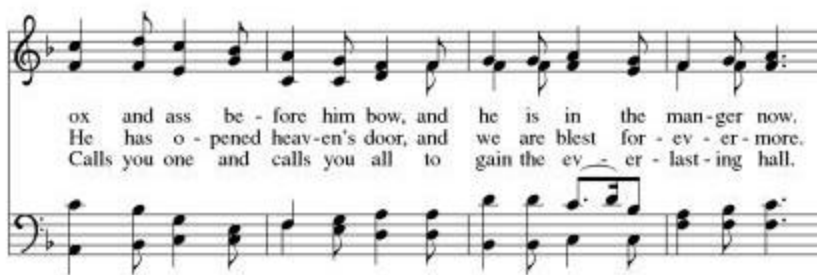
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now,
 He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866
 Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795-1856

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Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.
Music: W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

Joy to the World

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

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 -

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

and heav'n and na - ture sing. and

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.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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