



Nativity of our Lord: Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24, 2023 7:30 pm

The People of New Joy, Ministers

The Rev. Chris Duckworth, Pastor

Glenn Hoffman, Music Minister



Lutheran Church & Preschool

www.NewJoy.org | 317 896-1402 | 316 W. 156th Street, Westfield, IN 46074

Welcome to Worship at New Joy



Welcome. We are blessed by your presence among us today. This bulletin contains the outline and words for worship this evening.



New to New Joy? If you'd like to get in touch with the Pastor, be added to our email list, share a prayer request, or more, simply fill out one of the welcome/prayer cards in (most of) the seatback pockets and set it in the offering plate, hand it to an usher, or leave it on the counter in the church office.



Little children are always welcome – even and especially when they're a little noisy! We welcome children to worship God by toddling around, playing with toys, shaking tambourines, babbling and singing, and coming to the Lord's Table.

If little ones get too noisy during spoken parts of the service – the reading of Scripture, the sermon, or prayers – please try to quiet them or take them into the hallway for a moment to calm down. Thank you!

Our **nursery** is also available most Sundays for **children aged 5 and under**.



Holy Communion: At our Lord's Table Jesus gives his own body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and intimacy of his promised presence with us. All who desire to receive our Lord are welcome. Communion is shared with bread (a wafer) and cup (grape juice). If you're uncertain about receiving or how to receive, don't hesitate to ask pastor when you come forward. You are welcome to receive a blessing or to receive the sacrament, as you feel led by the Spirit.



The Ministry Board is New Joy's governing council. If you have any questions about our ministry or seek to become more involved, please reach out to one of these members.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Term Ending</u>
Becky Suchomel	President	January 2025
Laurie Cupp	Vice President	January 2026
Kristi Kittilstved	Secretary	January 2025
Chuck Studer	Treasurer	January 2024
Andy Clark	Co-Treasurer	January 2026
Gail Castle	Member at Large	January 2024



Tonight is Christmas Eve

Introduction to Christmas Eve: In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.



Worship Leaders: We give thanks for all who give of themselves for service to God and to this community.

Assisting Minister	Chris Studer
Reader	Cana Duckworth
Acolyte	Colin Studer
Livestream Operator	Phil Havlik
Altar Guild	Morgan Studer Jessica Allen
Nursery Care	<i>Nursery care not available this evening</i>

The band members are Glenn Hoffman, Jim Gregory, & Karen Archbold.

Our ushers and greeters are not currently regularly scheduled. We are grateful for Andy and Abigail Clark, Val Bandejas, Jessica Allen, Becky Suchomel, and others who step in at a moment's notice to extend this ministry.

GATHERING

Prelude

Christmas Proclamation

The Christmas Proclamation is a centuries-old tradition announcing the birth of Christ within the context of human history. The traditional proclamation places the birth of Jesus within Western European history only. This updated version of the proclamation names diverse civilizations from around the world, and gives a more accurate telling of the plight of the Jewish people under Roman occupation.



Opening Song

O Come All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

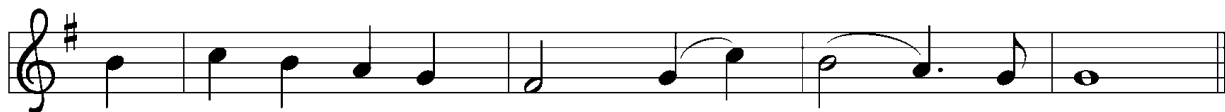


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Words of Welcome



Apostolic 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.

Prayer of the Day

P: 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.

C: Amen.



Hymn of Praise



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.





WORD



Scripture Prayer

R: Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, this Christmas night, for your Word. Open our ears to hear your Good News, and make your Word take flesh in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.



Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

R: A reading from Isaiah:

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³You 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.

⁴For 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.

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

⁶For 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.

⁷His 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.

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.



Psalmody

Psalm 96

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad. (Ps. 96:11)

- ¹Sing to the Lord ¹ a new song;
sing to the Lord, ¹ all the earth.
- ²**Sing to the Lord, bless the name ¹ of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from ¹ day to day.**
- ³Declare God's glory a- ¹ mong the nations
and God's wonders a- ¹ mong all peoples.
- ⁴**For great is the Lord and greatly ¹ to be praised,
more to be feared ¹ than all gods.**
- ⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they ¹ are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have ¹ made the heavens.
- ⁶**Majesty and magnificence are ¹ in your presence;
power and splendor are in your ¹ sanctuary.**
- ⁷Ascribe to the Lord, you families ¹ of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord hon- ¹ or and power.
- ⁸**Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the ¹ holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts ¹ of the Lord.**

⁹Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: “The Lord is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be
moved will judge the peoples with equity.”**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all
that is therein.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your
coming, O Lord,
for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.



Epistle

Titus 2:11-14

*The appearance of God’s grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity.
Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of
our Savior’s final appearance.*

R: A reading from Titus:

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us
to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to
live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for
the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God
and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He 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.

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.



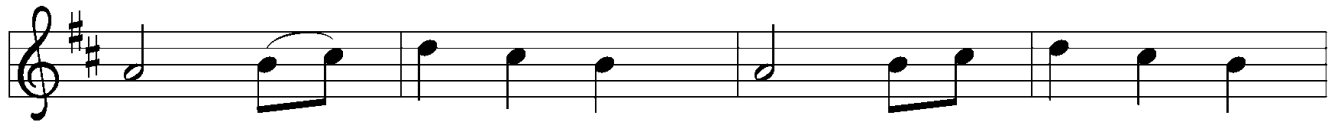
Gospel Acclamation



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.



Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

P: The Holy Gospel, according to Saint Luke:

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And 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!"

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

returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ!



Gospel Acclamation

The First Noel (Refrain Only)



Sermon



Song of the Day

Go Tell It On the Mountain

Refrain



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



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



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;

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.

*The **Assisting Minister** leads this next portion of the service, where we renew our shared mission, lift our prayers to God, and extend God's peace with one another.*



Mission Statement

A: Let us say together the mission we share:

C: New Joy Lutheran Church is a spirited community called by God to extend a radical welcome, share a generous grace, nurture a transforming faith, and live God's promise.



Prayers of Intercession

A: Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

The Assisting Minister leads the congregation in prayers for:

- ❖ *the church universal, its ministry, and the mission of the Gospel;*
- ❖ *the well-being of creation;*
- ❖ *peace and justice in the world, the nations and those in authority, the community*
- ❖ *the poor, oppressed, sick, bereaved, lonely;*
- ❖ *all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit*
- ❖ *for our congregation*
- ❖ *for other special celebrations or concerns*

Each prayer petition concludes:

A: Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

The Assisting Minister concludes the prayers of intercession:

A: Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

C: Amen.



Sharing the Peace

A: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

A: Let us share a sign of Christ's peace with those around us.

Announcements & Offering



As part of our acts of worship we share select activities and opportunities from our life together. We collect an offering for the work of New Joy and of the mission partners we support locally and beyond.

This QR code takes you to [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly), our giving platform.





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.



Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

God our provider,
 by your merciful hand
 abundance springs up from the earth.
 Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.
 Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
 and faithfulness for all people,
 through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

MEAL



As we prepare to receive the gift of Holy Communion, we pray a table grace patterned after the great Old Testament and early church prayers that recount God's goodness and ask that such goodness would extend to us and through us now and until our Lord's promised return.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor continues with the proper preface, appointed specifically for this season, which leads us the angelic chorus of Luke 2 (the refrain of Angels We Have Heard on High)



C: Glo-ria in excelsis Deo (repeat)

Pastor continues with eucharistic prayer, which includes the Words of Institution, and concludes with the Lord's Prayer



**C: 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.**



Lord's Supper *(please be seated)*

All are welcome to the communion feast, for our Lord is host and gives himself to all who desire to receive. Those not receiving Holy Communion are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing or remain in their seats in prayer. Come, let us eat and drink at the table of the Lord.



Angels We Have Heard On High



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
- 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
- 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain



Glo

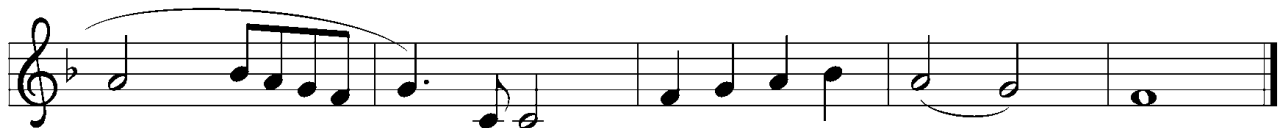
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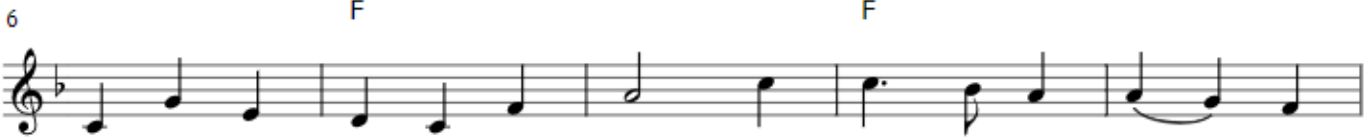
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Away In A Manger



1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a 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 Thee to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the sky — looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes. I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look
 -ev - er, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



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 'til morn - ing is nigh.
 Thy ten - der care; And fit us for heav - en, to live with Thee there.



Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray.

God our redeemer,
 you have fed us at this table
 with gifts of grace, truth, and life.
 As you have gathered us in joy,
 send us forth as messengers of your peace.
 Make us shine with the good news of your glory,
 born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING



Candlelighting

As we light the candles for Silent Night, please do not dip a lit candle but instead dip the unlit candle into a lit candle. Battery operated candles are available for anyone who may not be able to handle a lit candle.

Following the benediction and as the lights are turned on, you may extinguish your candles.

Silent Night (Stille Nacht)



Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.



Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and grant you peace.

In the name of the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit

C: Amen



Sending Song

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



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.



Dismissal

A: Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We give thanks to the musicians, writers, and church ministries who create and publish much of the music, prayers, and words we use in worship.

- None this service

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The following songs are Public Domain:

- **O Come All Ye Faithful** – Text & Music: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786
- **Hark the Herald Angels Sing** - Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788; Music: Felix Mendelssohn 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915
- **The First Noel** – Text & Music English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901
- **Go Tell It On The Mountain** – Text & Music: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr. Public Domain
- **It Came Upon The Midnight Clear** - Text: Edmund H. Sears Music: Richard S. Willis Public Domain
- **Angels We Have Heard On High** - Text: French carol; tr. H.F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864; Music: French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes 1887-1958
- **Away in A Manger** - Music: James R. Murray, 1841-1905; Text: North American 19th cent.
- **Silent Night (Stille Nacht)** - Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885; Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863.
- **Joy to the World** - Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748; Music: English melody arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872.

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New Joy Lutheran Church is a spirited community called by God to extend a radical welcome, share a generous grace, nurture a transforming faith, and live God's promise.

Extend a Radical Welcome We are a spirited community that strives to welcome, value, accept, and nurture all people wherever they are in their relationship with God. Since our founding in 2002, New Joy has been committed to welcoming people of all races, incomes, and expressions of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Share a Generous Grace We are a spirited community which boldly proclaims that forgiveness, mercy, love, and salvation are free gifts of God's grace.

Nurture Transforming Faith We are a spirited community that receives faith as a gift of God that transforms us and the world.

Live God's Promise We are a spirited community that boldly lives in our Lord's promise of renewed and everlasting life.

CONNECT WITH NEW JOY These QR codes take you to our pages - @newjoy on your Facebook app, and @newjoywestfield on your Instagram app. *On Facebook, we also have a private group. Search for "New Joy Partners" to join our group.* We can be reached by phone and email, and in person at 156th & Spring Mill. Office hours approx. 9:00am-1:00pm.



New Joy Lutheran Church & Preschool

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Miranda Verik, Preschool Director
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The Rev. Chris Duckworth, Pastor
pastor@newjoy.org



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



New Joy is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).