

Notice the Stable

Advent & Christmas 2024



Martin Luther wrote:

“Nobody notices or understands
what God performs in the stable.”

This season, let’s notice what God performs
in unexpected, out-of-the-way places.

Nativity of Our Lord

December 24, 2024, 5pm



New Joy Lutheran Church & Preschool

Welcome. We are blessed by your presence among us today. This bulletin contains the outline and words for worship this evening. Please see the back pages of this bulletin for ministry announcements and additional welcome information about New Joy Lutheran Church.

Little children are always welcome in worship – even and especially when they’re a little noisy! We welcome children to worship God by toddling around, playing with toys, shaking tambourines, babbling, 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 services for **children aged 5 and under**.

God’s promises are at the heart of our worship. God promises justice for the lowly, forgiveness for the sinner, hope for the despairing, and joy for the sorrowful. These promises are “the Good News of Jesus Christ,” fulfilled by Jesus’s birth as a vulnerable child, his works of liberation and grace among us, and his victory over sin, death, and injustice by his resurrection from the grave. In the songs and prayers, Scripture and preaching, you’ll hear of God’s promise for you personally, for society, for this world that God so loves.

Our worship style is patterned after centuries of tradition reaching back to some of the earliest Christian communities. Our service is structured yet also informal, shaped by tradition yet also new. We observe seasons that lift up various themes from the life of Jesus and the mission of the church. In our prayers we pray not just for ourselves but for the church; all of creation; our neighbors and our society; the sick and suffering; and, for the blessed departed. We pray seeking that God’s promises would come to us and through us to a world in need.

Holy Communion is a meal of Christ’s radical welcome, real presence, and complete forgiveness. All are welcome to receive the gift of Jesus’ body and blood in the bread and cup of Holy Communion. We use grape juice for communion, and gluten-free bread is available upon request. Not sure whether to receive communion, or how? Simply find the pastor in the communion line and ask.

Welcome. We are so glad you are with us today.

INTRODUCTION: 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. In his letter to Titus, Saint 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.

GATHERING

SONG: O COME YE FAITHFUL

V1, R V3, R

Verse 1

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;

Verse 3

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

Refrain

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

CHRISTMAS EVE LITANY

Inspired by Titus 2:11

On this night, the grace of God has appeared.

Bringing grace to all!

In a manger, tucked away, the love of God has appeared.

Bringing love to all!

Revealed to shepherds and angels, the peace of God has appeared.

Bringing peace to all!

Born to Mary and Joseph, the joy of God has appeared.

Bringing joy to all.

Merry Christmas! Christ is born!

Glory to the newborn king!

SONG: HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

V1, R, V3, R

Verse 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!"

Verse 3

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. **Refrain**

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WORD

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!

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.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH
Verses 1-2 prior to the reading of the Gospel



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

GOSPEL Luke 2:1-14

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.

The Holy Gospel, according to Saint Luke.

Glory 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 God favors!”

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH
Verse 3 following the reading of the Gospel

SERMON

SONG: 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.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. Each prayer petition concludes:

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Please extend a sign of Christ's peace with those around you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

GLORIA

Refrain

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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Eucharistic Prayer includes Jesus' words instituting the Lord's Supper, and concludes with the Lord's Prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.



THE HOLY COMMUNION MEAL IS SERVED

In communion, Jesus gives himself in the form of bread and cup to all who desire to receive. While we feast, we sing.

COMMUNION MUSIC – O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

V1, V2, V3, V4, V5

Verse 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

Verse 2

For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep
The angels keep their watch of
wondering love
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And peace to men on earth

Verse 3

How silently how silently
The wondrous gift is given
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven
No ear may hear His coming
But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive Him still
The dear Christ enters in

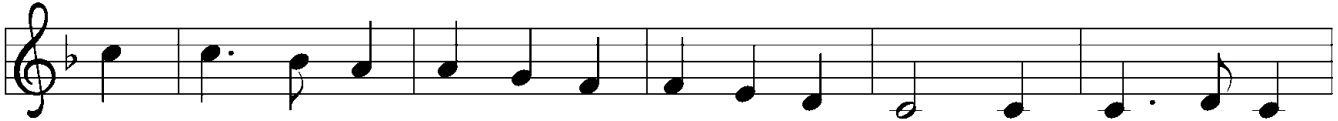
Verse 4

Where children pure and happy
Pray to the blessed Child
Where misery cries out to Thee
Son of the mother mild
Where charity stands watching
And faith holds wide the door
The dark night wakes the glory breaks
And Christmas comes once more

Verse 5

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
O come to us abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel

SONG – AWAY IN A MANGER



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 -



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



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.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHTING

As we prepare to sing Silent Night, we light hand-held candles. Do not tip a lit candle. Instead, tip an unlit candle into the flame of a lit candle, held upwards, to spread the light across the congregation.

SONG - 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,



Hold - er 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.



SENDING

BLESSING

SENDING SONG – JOY TO THE WORLD

verses 1, 2, 4



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

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells among us.

Thanks be to God.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

The band members are Glenn Hoffman, Jim Gregory, & Karen Archbold.
The Sound Board is run by Steve Castle.

	Today	7:30 Christmas Eve Service
Assisting Minister	Kristi Kittilstved	Chris Studer
Reader	Lyn Nore	Libby Dissauer
Acolyte	Open	Colin Studer
Livestream Operator	Open	Namaan Duckworth
Altar Guild	Jessica Allen	Jessica Allen
Nursery Care	Open	Open
Ushers	Open, Open	Open, Open
Greeters	Open, Open	Open, Open

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.

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- **Go Tell It On The Mountain** – by John W. Work, © Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain
- **O Little Town Of Bethlehem** – by Phillips Brooks and Lewis Henry Redner, © Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain
- **Away In A Manger** – by Martin Luther, John Thomas McFarland, and James Ramsey Murray, © Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain
- **Silent Night** – by Franz Xaver Gruber, Joseph Mohr, and John Freeman Young, © Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU AND YOURS! The Christmas season continues for two more Sundays. Come join us for more Christmas-themed Scripture, carols, and worship over the next two Sundays!

WE WORSHIP each Sunday at 9:30am. Early in the New Year we will resume our Youth Group and Confirmation Class, host a Lutheran-Jewish dialogue event, and kick off a few winter family fun night events. We will also start a New Members Class for any who are interested in learning more about New Joy and considering joining.

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.

New Joy Lutheran Church & Preschool

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New Joy Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).
www.iksynod.org | www.elca.org

The Rev. Timothy Graham, Bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

