

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.

First Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 2024



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 morning. 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 Sundays 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: On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

PRELUDE SONG

WORDS OF WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

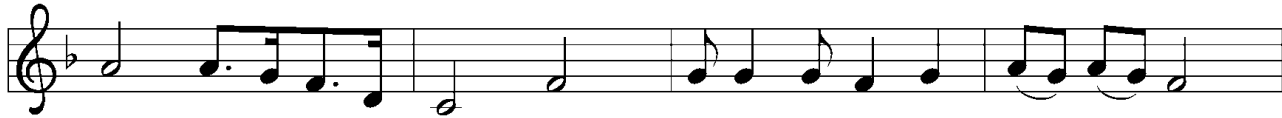


PRAYER OF THE DAY

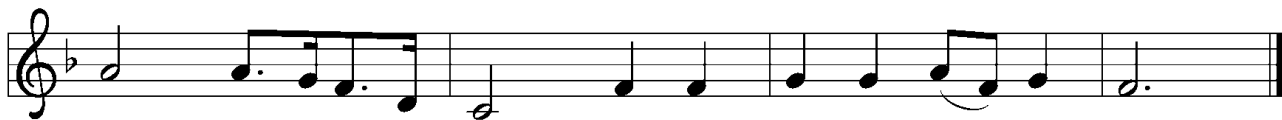
WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SONG: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN



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

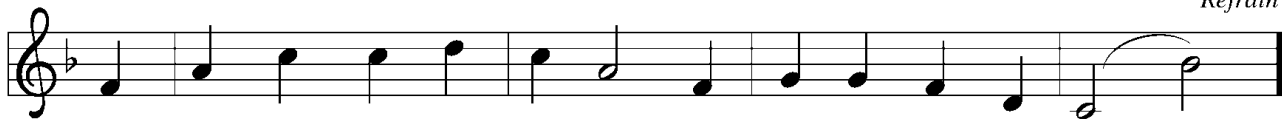


go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



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.

HEBREW BIBLE

Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Having dedicated her son Samuel to God's service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband Elkanah come to the temple to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.

¹⁸ Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹ His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰ Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord"; and then they would return to their home.

²⁶ Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.
Thanks be to God.

SONG: KING OF KINGS

King of kings and Lord of lords, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah. King of kings and Lord of lords,
glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah. Je - sus, Prince of Peace, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah.
Je - sus, Prince of Peace, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah.

**May be sung as a round*

PSALMODY

Psalm 148

℞ *The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)*

- ¹ Hallelujah! Praise the Lord¹ from the heavens;
praise God¹ in the heights.
- ² **Praise the Lord,¹ all you angels;
sing praise, all you¹ hosts of heaven.**
- ³ Praise the Lord,¹ sun and moon;
sing praise, all you¹ shining stars.
- ⁴ **Praise the Lord, heav-¹en of heavens,
and you waters a-¹bove the heavens.**
- ⁵ Let them praise the name¹ of the Lord,
who commanded, and they¹ were created,
- ⁶ **who made them stand fast forev-¹er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not¹ pass away. ℞**
- ⁷ Praise the Lord¹ from the earth,
you sea monsters¹ and all deeps;
- ⁸ **fire and hail,¹ snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do-¹ing God's will;**

9 mountains | and all hills,
 fruit trees | and all cedars;
 10 **wild beasts | and all cattle,**
creeping things and | flying birds;
 11 sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
 princes and all rulers | of the world;
 12 **young | men and maidens,**
old and | young together. R
 13 Let them praise the name | of the Lord,
 whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.
 14 **The Lord has raised up strength for the people**
and praise for all | faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. | Hallelujah! R

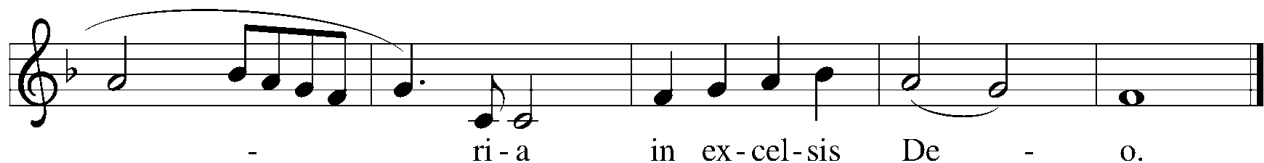
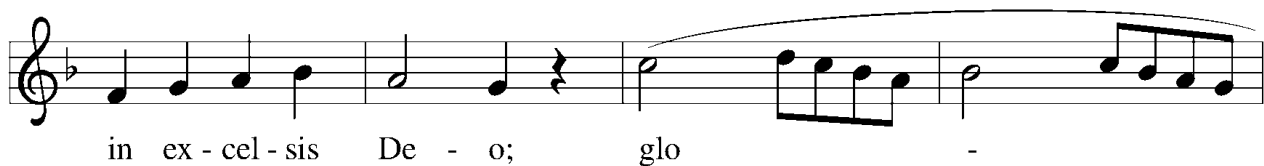
SONG: ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH



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.



GOSPEL

Luke 2:41-52

Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.

The Holy Gospel, according to Saint Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴¹ Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹ He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

repeated; see above

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY: GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS REJOICE



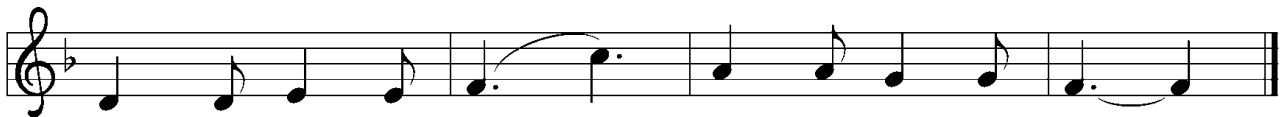
- 1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



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!

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 petition concludes:
Lord, in your mercy
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 al - so with you.

5



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks, to the

8



Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise!

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS (Holy, Holy, Holy)



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

During the Eucharistic Prayer, which includes Jesus' words instituting the Lord's Supper, the congregation prays the following responses:

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

...

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

...

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.



LORD'S PRAYER

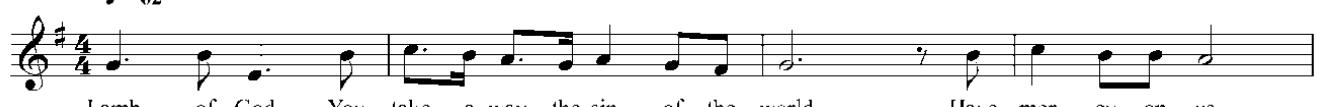
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
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.


LAMB OF GOD – Advent Lamb of God

$\text{♩} = 62$




Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world. Have mer - cy on us.

5



Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world. Have mer - cy on us.

9



Lamb of God you take a-way the sin. Grant us peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC – I WONDER AS I WANDER

Chorus

I wonder as I wander out under the sky
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor ornery people like you and I
I wonder out under the sky

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing
A star in the sky or a bird on a wing
Or all of God's angels in heaven to sing
He surely could have had it
Cause He was the King

I wonder as I wander out under the sky
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor ornery people like you and I
I wonder out under the sky
I wander out under the sky

ADVENT POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE - Alleluia

Voice 1

Al - le - lu_ ia Al - le - lu_ ia Al - le - lu_

Voice 2

Al-le-lu_ ia! Al-le-lu_ ia!

11

ia Al - le - lu_ ia! You give us Your-self, Your

Al-le-lu_ ia! Praise You! Al-le-lu_ ia! Al-le-lu_ ia! Praise You!

18

flesh and for-give-ness; fed and ful-filled, we look for Your light. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al-le Al-le Al-le-lu i - a!

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

SENDING

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG – JESUS MESSIAH

V1, C, V2, C, B, C, E

Verse 1

He became sin who knew no sin
That we might become His
 righteousness
He humbled Himself and carried the
 cross
Love so amazing love so amazing

Chorus

Jesus Messiah Name above all
 names
Blessed Redeemer Emmanuel
The Rescue for sinners
The Ransom from heaven
Jesus Messiah Lord of all

Verse 2

His body the bread His blood the
 wine
Broken and poured out all for love
The whole earth trembled and the
 veil was torn
Love so amazing love so amazing

Bridge

All our hope is in You
All our hope is in You
All the glory to You God
The Light of the world

Ending

Jesus Messiah
Lord of all
The Lord of all
The Lord of all

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. **Thanks be to God.**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

The band is led by our Minister of Music, Glenn Hoffman, and includes Jim Gregory on keyboard & Karen Archbold on vocals.

The Sound Board is run by Steve Castle.

	Today	Next Sunday, Jan. 5
Assisting Minister	Sylvia Lux	Open
Reader	Stephanie Blocksom	Lyn Nore
Acolyte	Open	Open
Livestream Operator	Rich Kittilstved	Open
Altar Guild	Jessica Allen	Morgan Studer
Nursery Care	Anya Verik	Open
Ushers	Amber Blakley, Jenny Platt	Open
Greeters	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.

Our liturgy music – the music that repeats weekly and forms the scaffolding of our service – was composed by our Music Minister, Glenn Hoffman. Thank you, Glenn, for composing such faithful music for us this Advent season!

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- **Go Tell It On The Mountain** – by John W. Work, © Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain
- **King Of Kings** – Words and Music by: Sophie Conty and Naomi Batya, Public Domain
- **Angels We Have Heard On High** – by Edward Shippen Barnes and James Chadwick, Public Domain
- **Good Christian Friends, Rejoice** - by John Mason Neale, Public Domain
- **I Wonder As I Wander** – Public Domain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MINISTRY TEAMS are forming next month. Are you interested in contributing to our [Christian Learning](#) or [Worship Ministry](#) teams? If so, contact Pastor Chris or Becky Suchomel, our Ministry Board President.

JEWISH-LUTHERAN DIALOGUE EVENT, “Wrestling with Luther’s Legacies,” is coming to New Joy on Wednesday, February 5. Martin Luther was a faithful 16th century church reformer, but he also demonized Jews and Judaism. His words exacerbated a long tradition of Christian hatred of the Jews, and gave fuel to the fire of 20th century Nazi Germany’s genocide against the Jews. How do we understand Luther’s legacies? This dialogue event will begin to explore that question from Christian and Jewish perspective.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES –are you or someone you know interested in joining New Joy Lutheran Church? We hold new member classes once/year each January/February. Classes are held immediately worship for several weeks in January and February with newcomers and “oldcomer” established church members. The class also includes a dinner at Pastor Chris’ house. Please let Pastor Chris or Nicole Williams, Parish Administrator (office@newjoy.org), know if you’re interested in joining. Full details to be announced after the start of the New Year.

COFFEE HOUR is shared on the first Sunday of the month, and on other special occasions. If you would like to help with our monthly Coffee Hour, please reach out to Kristi Kittilstved.

SHARING GENEROUSLY PLEDGES – We are still receiving pledges of financial support for 2025. Can you make a pledge of financial support? Your statement of intent to give helps us plan our budget for 2025. Pledge cards are available at church. Questions? Reach out to Jessicah Duckworth or any member of the Sharing Generously Team.

ANNUAL MEETING – Each January we conduct the business of the church. On Sunday, January 12 following worship we will hold a Budget Hearing for all members of New Joy to review the proposed budget for 2025. On Sunday, January 24, following worship we will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting. All reports on our ministry together are due to Nicole Williams by January 10th for publication in our Annual Report.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR



It's a quiet week at New Joy.

<p>Today, Sunday, December 29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship, 9:30am, The First Sunday of Christmas • <i>Nursery provided for children aged 5 and under during worship</i>
<p>Monday, December 30</p>
<p>Tuesday, December 31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy New Year's Eve
<p>Wednesday, January 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy New Year
<p>Thursday, January 2</p>
<p>Friday, January 3</p>
<p>Saturday, January 4</p>
<p>Sunday, January 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship, 9:30am, The Second Sunday of Christmas • <i>Nursery provided for children aged 5 and under during worship</i>

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

