



LESSONS *and* CAROLS

"Helping others receive grace, purpose and direction by proclaiming Christ's love."

17 East 27th Street
Scottsbluff, NE
(308) 632-8023
calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org

Sunday Morning Worship
10:00 a.m.
December 29, 2024

First Sunday of Christmas A Service of Lessons and Carols

Prayer Before Worship: God of all ages, in the birth of Christ your boundless love for your people shattered the power of darkness. Be born in us with that same love and light, that with all of creation we may sing new songs of gladness and walk in the way of peace. Amen.

(In preparation for our worship together, you are invited to take a moment of silence to offer your own prayers of worship and praise.)

KEY: ELW and any page number = Worship hymnal (cranberry),
OSB = Other Song Book (red), W&P = Worship & Praise (purple).

* Indicates please stand if able. Congregational responses are printed in **BOLD** type.

A Warm Welcome to all as we gather as God's people to worship our Lord. We pray our worship together would strengthen your faith and desire to know and serve the One who loves us with an everlasting love as made known to us in Jesus Christ.

***Visitors,** if you are worshipping with us in person or online today,
we are glad to have you with us.*

Prelude Music

Welcome and Announcements

‡WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS‡

Opening Dialogue

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.**

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

**In the Word was life,
and the life was the light of all people.**

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:

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

2. The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
now in flesh appearing!

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

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

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

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:

**Refrain: O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord**

***Confession of Sins/Assurance of Forgiveness**

(All may make the sign of the cross † the sign marked at baptism, as we begin)

Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome God's forgiveness, grace, and love.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

Forgive our lack of faith and trust.

Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

Forgive our neglect of the poor.

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

Forgive our selfishness and complacency.

With great joy the angels proclaimed, "Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy. Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." In † Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, our sins are forgiven. May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed, God's forgiveness is good news of great joy! **Amen.**

***Prayer of the Day**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

†GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US†

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.

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.

Song: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

**ELW # 272
v. 1, 4**

**1. Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.**

**4. O Savior, child of Mary,
who felt our human woe;
O Savior, king of glory,
who dost our weakness know:
bring us at length, we pray,
to the bright courts of heaven
and into endless day.**

Second Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

If the Assyrians come into our land

and tread upon our soil,

we will raise against them seven shepherds

and eight installed as rulers.

Song:

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ELW # 279

v. 1, 4

**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.**

**4. 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;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!**

Third Reading: Luke 1:26-35, 38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Song: "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

**ELW #265
v. 1, 4**

**1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady." Gloria!**

**4. Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!**

Fourth Reading: Luke 2:1-7

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.

Song: "I Wonder as I Wander"

WOV #642

**1. I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die.
For poor on'ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.**

**2. When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall,
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages it then did recall.**

**3. If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,
He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.**

**4. I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die.
For poor on'ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.**

Fifth Reading: Luke 2:8-16

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.

Hymn:

"Angels, From the Realms of Glory"

**ELW #275
v. 1, 4**

**1. Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**4. All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

Sixth Reading: Luke 2:21-35

²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. ²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God saying,

²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word, ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Song:

"That Boy-Child of Mary"

ELW #293

v. 1, 2

Refrain

**That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable,
a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.**

1. What shall we call him, child of the manger?

What name is given in Bethlehem? Refrain

**2. His name is Jesus, God ever with us,
God given for us in Bethlehem. Refrain**

Seventh Reading: Matthew 2:1-11

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;

⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Hymn:

"What Child is This"

ELW #296

v. 1, 3

- 1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!**

- 3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!**

Eighth Reading: Matthew 2:13-18

¹³Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child to destroy him."

¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

Song:

“Your Little Ones, Dear Lord”

ELW# 286

v. 1, 4

**1. Your little ones, dear Lord, are we,
and come your lowly bed to see;
enlighten ev'ry soul and mind,
that we the way to you may find.**

**4. Until at last we too proclaim,
with all your saints, your glorious name;
in paradise our songs renew,
and praise you as the angels do.**

Ninth Reading: John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Song:

“He Came Down”

ELW #253

1. He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.
2. He came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
hallelujah forevermore.
3. He came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
hallelujah forevermore.
4. He came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
hallelujah forevermore.

‡WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD‡

***Hymn**

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

ELW #276

**Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!**

**Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!**

The Prayers of the Church

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of peace.

You rule the earth with truth and justice.

Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary.

You share our humanity.

**Have mercy on the sick, the dying,
and all who suffer this day.**

Blessed are you, Son of God.

You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

**Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament
that we may bear your light to all the world. Amen.**

***Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(You are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another)

Offering

Tahnee Hutchinson

***Offertory Prayer**

Gracious and loving God, **we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessings for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

‡HOLY COMMUNION‡

Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.

***The Great Thanksgiving**

ELW Page 144

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 our thanks and praise.

Holy God, you sent forth your Son into the world to be our Savior. He is the light shining in the darkness; he is Emmanuel, God with us. In him all things are restored, and in him we have abundant life, joy and peace. Therefore, as those who rejoice in the redemption you have brought, as those who see, and hear, and leap for joy, we lift our voices unto you, joining with the angels and those who have gone before us, singing the song of the Kingdom:

***Holy, Holy, Holy**

(Tune: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!
Heav'n and earth cannot contain, All the glory of Your name!
Hail, Hosanna, God most high!
Blest, the one, who now draws nigh
In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing:
Hail, hosanna! Praises due, Be forever, Lord to You!**

***Words of Institution**

Holy One, the beginning and the end ... let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again.

... one God now and forevermore. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Invitation to Communion

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. All is ready and all are welcome.

Distribution of Communion:

Christ is truly present in the Lord's Supper with gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

All are welcome and invited to receive Holy Communion.

(Communion will be served continuously at two stations in the front of the church.

APPLE JUICE and GLUTEN FREE WAFERS are available. Just ask the server.

Children and others who are not yet communicants are invited to come forward for a blessing.)

Distribution Song: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

ELW #288

- 1. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**
- 2. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**
- 3. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***Post-Communion Prayer**

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine.
As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world.
In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

‡WE DEPART TO SERVE‡

***Benediction**

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

***Sending Song:**

“Go Tell It On the Mountain”

ELW #290

v. 1, 3

**Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

**1. While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. Refrain**

**3. Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain**

***Dismissal**

Go in peace and love. Emmanuel, God, is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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✚In Our Thoughts and Prayers✚

Prayers for healing: **Diane Chapman** (cancer treatment—Deb Brown’s cousin), **Sheila Miller** (health issues), **Colton** (PTSD- Laurie Ruzicka’s nephew), **Catherine Rahrs** (major medical issues—Val Rahrs’ mother), **Drew Selck** (surgery & chemo), **Randy Schafer** (hospice), **Carter & Family** (relatives of Janine Hergenreder), **Marcy Miller** (ongoing health issues), **Tom Smith** (illness), **Joni** (cancer-friend of Laurie Ruzicka), **Lynne** (illness from cancer treatment – friend of Laurie Ruzicka), **Susan and Camden** (healing - Chris Thomas’ daughter and grandson), **Everyone fighting depression** (Jim & Andi Dorn),

Prayers of comfort and peace: **For the family and friends of Richard Schaneman** (brother of Barbara Tallmon and Fran Johnson), **For the family and friends of Tim Hurst** (friends of Audrey Harvey).

Prayers for comfort and safety: **Jeffery Christeleit** (deployed—Brian & Jodi Christeleit’s son and Jim & Sheila Miller’s grandson). **Josh Kasting** (deployed – nephew of Cory & Gretchen Foster).



Jack Schmidt 12/31; Kathrine Fulk, 1/1

If we have missed your birthday, please let the office know. Thanks.



YOUR GIVING ONLINE

Scan the **QR code** to the right, go to our website: www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org and click on the **Give Online** button OR download the **Vanco Now App** on your smartphone. It’s safe and secure.



JANUARY FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

FOOD PANTRY: Cereal

BACKPACKS: 16oz Peanut butter

Containers are located in the hallway by the garden doors.

Thank you for your generosity.





Thank you to all of you for your support of the Angel Tree. You are giving these special little angels a wonderful Christmas this year by purchasing gifts and donating money to purchase gifts.

God Bless you all!

Thank you

Endowment Fund application forms are now available in the office. These funds may be used for outreach: Churchwide, Nebraska Synod, and local. The deadline is January 31, 2025.



Calling All EPIC Friends!

Sunday, December 29th

EPIC will meet right after the worship service **TODAY**, December 29th from 11:30am to 2pm for pizza, lesson, games, and planning. Come join us!

Laundry Love



Calvary hosts Laundry Love every 3rd month. Our next date to host is on Jan 18th. In preparation for that day, we will need quarters as well as dryer sheets or softener. So, save your quarters and drop them in the Laundry Bottle outside the pastor's office.

Sound System Operator Needed!!

We are in need of 1 or 2 people who would be willing to run the sound system during worship services, especially on Praise Team Sundays. If interested, please talk to Jim Dorn.



Celebrate New Year's Eve!

The Young at Heart Fellowship Group is planning a family New Year's Eve party this Tuesday, December 31. We'll play games, watch movies and more. Join us from 7 p.m. until midnight (if we all make it) in the fellowship hall. Sign up on the sheet outside the office to bring a snack.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastors Kathy

This Sunday – December 29

USHERS: Kent & Dawn Holub

LAY READER: Congregation

HEAD COMMUNION ASST: Vicki Howell

COMMUNION ASSTS: Barb Jensen &
Chris Thomas

POWERPOINT: Shawna Payne

ACOLYTE: Brody & Mattea Weitzel

MEDIA: Chris Jensen

AUDIO: Jeff Van Patten

ALTAR GUILD: Abby Newsom, Maunette
Loeks, Barb Jensen

PIANIST: Tahnee Hutchinson

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP: Volunteers
needed! Please contact Lynn Margheim!

Next Sunday – January 5

USHERS: Monty & Shari Copsey

LAY READER: Gretchen Foster

HEAD COMMUNION ASSTS: Barb Jensen

COMMUNION ASSTS: Deb Brown and
Marlene Downer

POWERPOINT: Maunette Loeks

ACOLYTE: Dakota Newsom and Dyllen
Pierce

MEDIA: Chris Jensen

AUDIO: Jim Dorn

ALTAR GUILD: Deb Brown, Tracy Steele,
Vicki Howell, Shari Copsey

ORGANIST: Tahnee Hutchinson

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP: Volunteers
needed! Please contact Lynn Margheim!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 29

10 a.m. – Worship

11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship

11:30 a.m. – EPIC

Tuesday, December 31

New Year's Eve

No Quilting

Wednesday, January 1

Happy New Year

Office Closed

Saturday, January 4

5:30 p.m. – Worship

Sunday, January 5

10 a.m. – Worship

11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship

DECEMBER 29, 2024
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER
CHRISTMAS



taking+
faith
home

Christmas peace is a way of life.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 2:41-52	The boy Jesus at the temple
Monday	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26	Hanna visits Samuel
Tuesday	Colossians 3:12-17	New life in Christ
Wednesday	Proverbs 1:1-7	How proverbs should be used
Thursday	1 Corinthians 4:1-5	Ministry of the apostles
Friday	James 3:13-18	Two kinds of wisdom
Saturday	Psalms 148	Let all things praise the Lord
Sunday	John 1:1-18	The Word became flesh

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Colossians 3:15 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, give us the grace to grow in your ways that we may love others with a peace that passes understanding through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, we thank you for this food that helps us grow and be healthy. Just as you were once a child, bring joy, love, and peace to all the children of the world. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. (Colossians 3:15)



MILESTONES
MINISTRY

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For a larger printable 'Taking Faith Home' go to our website calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org

DECEMBER 29, 2024
HYMN OF THE WEEK
*O Little Town of
Bethlehem*

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- How would you describe a relationship you have with a good friend?
- What words describe a person who lives a faith-filled life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Colossians 3:12-17.

From the gift of baby Jesus to the sharing of gifts at Christmas, there is lots to feel good about this time of year. This reading of Colossians helps us to make those good feelings into a faith-filled way of life. We are to clothe ourselves each day as followers of Jesus and experience the power of love in Christ through our daily relationships. We are to embrace a life where we don't have to be number one. In Christ we have everything we need to face each day ready and content. We can be calm because the storms of life have already lost their power. We can sing for joy because we are forgiven and are free to forgive others as a way of saying, "I love you." With gratitude and thanksgiving, we can teach and learn from one another without embarrassment or resentment. Christmas is present in this passage because it is filled with the love of God and an active pursuit of peace that will not end. We are to live our lives in such a way that we "let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts" (v. 15) and as a way of saying to God, "Thank you for Jesus."

Discuss: When is a time you have experienced the love of Christ through your relationships with others?

Pray: Loving God, in Christ you open for us a way of life filled with forgiveness, love, joy, and peace. For all that we celebrate this time of year, we give you thanks. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible readings and theme for this week, what can you do to show forgiveness and peace to someone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Christmas is a season of twelve days. St. Francis of Assisi is credited with making the first nativity scene on Christmas Eve in the year 1223. He is also known for his love of animals and birds and felt they should be remembered during Christmas because they were present at the birth of Jesus. Think or talk about what animals you think may have been present at that time. Then go on a walk outside and observe all the animals, both wild and domesticated, that surround you in your neighborhood.

Pray: Dear Lord, we praise you for all creation. We praise you for mountains and hills, for fruit trees and cedars, for wild animals and cattle, for creeping things, and flying birds. Amen.



MILESTONES
MINISTRY

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