

# St. James Lutheran Church

1741 S State Street  
Greenfield Indiana 46140

Our congregation's mission statement is to bring people to Christ,  
encouraging relationships with Him and others.



## CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 2022

**Meditation:** Come to the manger. Breathe Him in. Allow His presence to be your only present. It is enough. Feel the power of His gift. Walk hand in hand with Jesus.



1741 S. State Street  
Greenfield, IN 46140  
Phone: 317-462-7340  
Email: [office@stjamesnalc.org](mailto:office@stjamesnalc.org)

### **Welcome to St. James Lutheran Church**

The mission statement of our congregation is:

*To bring people to Christ, encouraging relationships with Him and others.*

*Rev. Dr. Richard Blue, Jr.  
Diane Witte, interim organist*

#### **TO ALL GUESTS...**

- **THANKS** for joining us for worship today. We hope your experience will be one of being touched by God and of being enriched through our experience of fellowship. **Please fill out the Connection Card found in your bulletin and place in the offering plate.** And please come again!!
  - **PARTICIPATE**
    - The worship service is printed in the bulletin and can also be viewed on the video screen for your convenience. Bulletins are emailed to all members each week.
    - **Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices during the worship service.**
    - The service is streamed live and available online afterward on YouTube. Links can be found on the [St. James website \(www.stjamesnalc.org\)](http://www.stjamesnalc.org) and [Facebook page](#).
  - **COMMUNE** — All baptized Christians who believe that Jesus Christ is present with his body and blood in the bread and wine are invited to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's Table. The ushers will direct those receiving the sacrament down the center aisle to the altar rail. **If you require gluten free host, please let the servers know.**
  - **NEED ASSISTANCE?**
    - **Hearing devices** are available for those who have trouble hearing through the loudspeaker system.
    - Hand sanitizer is available on the tables in the Narthex and in the pews.
- Please feel free to ask an Usher for assistance, they will be happy to help you.

## Order of Service

+++++

**Prelude (Please Stand)**      *Special Music by Diane Witte*

**Welcome**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Rejoice! Merry Christmas to everyone!

**A: Merry Christmas to you also!**

L: Christ our Savior is born.

**A: God's Light is poured into the world.**

L: O Come, let us celebrate this wonderful gift.

**A: Let us praise God with shouts of joy and singing!**

**Prayer of Confession**

P: Let us confess our sins to God.

C: Gracious God, you have sent your Son to us to show us the way. Even when we have turned our backs, followed our own paths, you offer us Light. Forgive us when we are so willful and stubborn. Forgive us when we think more about ourselves and our comforts than we think of reaching out to others. Remind us again that Jesus witnessed to us the Light of Love that serves, guides and heals. Thank you for loving us so much that you would give us this most precious gift. And when we again falter and fail, lift us again with your gentle touch. Pour the Light into our lives once more, that finally, we will fully understand the power and depth of your love for us. AMEN.

## Words of Assurance

P: It is interesting, O God of Miracles and Light, that we think of Christmas Day as the final destination for the journey on which we have embarked. Advent was the time of preparation, a time to examine our lives, our hopes, our fears. It was a time to place our trust in your never-failing love and to move again toward you, through the darkness to your Light. We are exhausted from our preparation for this season. The demands of the world have been heavy. But we are here to hear again the powerful reminder of your love which was intended for us throughout all of time. In the beginning of all creation your Light was given to illuminate the majesty of this place; your light shined forth through the lives of the prophets, and most especially through Jesus your Son.

We are bathed in that light on this day and reminded that this journey has now begun. For once the light has been given, it cannot be hidden....it pours out of those whom it has touched. Send us forth into this world in service to the Light.

Healing and Comforting God, we have spoken aloud and within our hearts the names of people and situations which need your loving touch. Our hearts ache for those who are ill and for those who mourn. We feel that we cannot do enough for them, but we trust in your comforting love to be with them on this journey. For those who feel lost and alone, seeking God, we ask that you help us to reach out to them with your good news of great and abiding love. For all the situations in our world this day, where there is warfare, oppression, strife, all the hideous ways in which your beloved people can suffer, God, please lay your hand of healing love on them. Help them to feel your powerful presence with them, guiding and strengthening. We offer the things we have spoken with our lips and hearts in confidence of your eternal love and in the name of Jesus Christ. AMEN.

## **Opening Hymn**

## **Joy to the World LBW #39**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
While field and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

## **Pastoral Prayer**

**P:** The celebration of Christmas has just begun. Even though many of us have gone through the gift giving and receiving, have feasted with family and friends, there is yet another gift which has been given. You, O Loving God, have wrapped the gift of your Son Jesus Christ around our lives. The light of your love through him is shining brightly. It is not a harsh light, but a multitude of bright colors that remind us of the wondrous ways you love us. Open our hearts and spirits as we hear the words of your holy scriptures, and the beautiful music. Bring us to you with such joy that it will seem as though our feet aren't even touching ground. AMEN.

## **CALL TO WORSHIP AND ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

**LEADER:** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

**ALL: O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.**

**L:** His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

**A: All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.**

**L:** What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

**A: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness.**

**L:** All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

**A: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.**

**L:** It is the light of Jesus Christ.

**A: Make a joyful noise to the Lord; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

**L:** All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

**A: He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being,  
and he sustains all things by his powerful word.**

L: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

**A: Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy.**

L: And 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.

**A: To all who received him, who believe in his name,  
he gives power to become children of God.**

(Light four advent candles and the Christ candle)

L: How beautiful are the feet of the those who bring good news,  
who announce salvation, who share the gospel of Jesus Christ!

**A: O Come, let us adore him!**

***FIRST READING***

Isaiah 9:2-7 (pew bible page 593)

The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness  
a light has dawned.

<sup>3</sup>You have enlarged the nation  
and increased their joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as people rejoice at the harvest,  
as warriors rejoice  
when dividing the plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For as in the day of Midian's defeat,  
you have shattered  
the yoke that burdens them,  
the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor.

<sup>5</sup>Every warrior's boot used in battle

and every garment rolled in blood  
will be destined for burning,  
will be fuel for the fire.  
<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.  
The zeal of the LORD Almighty  
will accomplish this.

Pastor: The Word of God for the People of God

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL**

Luke 2: 1-20 (pew bible page 880)

### **The Birth of Jesus**

**2** In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while<sup>[a]</sup> Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be

afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise and Glory to You, Oh Lord!**

**Message for our Younger Disciples**

**June Gries**

**The Message**

**Rev. Dr. Richard Blue Jr.**

**Offering** Special music by Diane Witte

**Offering Prayer**

P: Holy One, as we celebrate the arrival of the Christ Child, it is our prayer that these monetary offerings will be an acceptable way to honor you. Since we are well aware that you, O God, are the giver of all good things in this world, we humbly offer to give back to you a sizeable share of these blessings. Amen!

**Prayers Of God’s People**

Heavenly Father, we give You thanks that Your Son, the eternal Word, has become flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Extend His praise into all the world, that with us many would come to hope in His steadfast love.

**C: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Send forth men to publish Your peace and bring us Your good news of happiness. Keep them faithful to declare Your gracious reign in Christ. Bless the work of missionaries at home and abroad, that all the ends of the earth may see Your salvation.

**C: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

As our families gather in this holy season, give us patience, that we may be slow to judge and quick to forgive. Comfort the lonely with Your presence, and help us extend the welcome of our homes and the friendship of Your grace. Make us mindful of those less fortunate, who celebrate this blessed feast in poverty and want, and teach us to be generous. Accept with our offerings the living sacrifice of our bodies to Your service and our voices in praise and thanksgiving.

**C: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Your Son upholds the universe by the word of His power. Grant our nation to walk humbly before You. Bless our soldiers who stand watch this day. Keep them in safety as they serve us, and uphold their families while they are apart.

**C: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father, guard and keep all who are sick, lonely, overwhelmed by grief or poor in spirit, [especially \_\_\_\_\_,] that they may be comforted and healed according to Your good and gracious will. Let them look to Jesus Christ and be reminded that He is the light no darkness can overcome.

**C: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Grant that we may come worthily to receive the body and blood of Jesus with faith in His bodily presence for us, that we may depart with grace upon grace from His fullness.

**C: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We thank You, Lord God, for all Your people who have gone before us and now rest in Your presence. Keep us faithful with them until that day when You make all things new; for You live and reign with Christ and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Holy Communion**

***Special Music by Diane Witte***

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

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

### **Lord's Prayer**

P: Let us pray the prayer he taught his disciples

**All: 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.**

### **Benediction**

**P:** Go now, bringing the joy of God's love with you to all that you meet. Remember that God is with you in all you do. Rejoice, dear people, for God's Light has come for the whole world. Go in peace and may God's glorious peace always go with you. AMEN.

### **Closing Hymn**

### **Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

**LBW #60**

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;  
Peace on earth, and mercy milk, God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations rise; Join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim, 'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

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

**Dismissal:**

Pastor: Go in Peace and Share the Good News!

**All: Thanks be to God!**

<b>Worship Volunteer Schedule</b>		<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>New Year's Day Sunday 1/1/2023 9:30am</b>
	<b>Christmas Eve Service 12/24 7pm</b>	<b>Sunday 12/25 9:30am</b>	
<b>Assisting Minister</b>		Christian Gries	Tracey Guffey
<b>Lector</b>	Dawn Hahm	Christian Gries	Maggie Bode
<b>Ushers</b>	Diana Clements-Scott	Diana Clements-Scott	Jim Jackson Deb Jackson
<b>Greeters</b>	Alan & Jeanette Berkshire	John & Joan Shaw	Alan & Jeanette Berkshire
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Diana Clements-Scott	Diana Clements-Scott	Diana Clements-Scott
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Karen Bell	June Gries	Karen Bell
<b>Acolyte</b>			Luke Stearns
<b>Sound Technician</b>	Ronald Kissell	Ronald Kissell	Ronald Kissell
<b>Video Technician</b>	Dan Ivers	Dan Ivers	Neal Guffey
<b>Bread Baker</b>	Karen Bell	Karen Bell	Jane Hale
<b>Women's Bible Study Snacks</b>	_____	No Women's Bible Study 12/26	No Women's Bible Study 1/2/23
<b>Slide Creators</b>	Terry and Phil	Richard Bell	Sophia Stearns
<b>Children's Sermon</b>		June Gries	Tracey Guffey
<b>Counters (Monday)</b>		Christian Gries Ron Westerfeld	Maggie Bode Cindy Gregory