Jordan Evangelical Lutheran Church



December 31, 2023
9:15 a.m.

How to contact us:

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Church Hospital ID #256

WiFi: JLCGuestOne (no password required)



Welcome and Merry Christmas!

We pray that the Child of Bethlehem will find a welcome in your heart and in your life, that you may know the wonder of being loved unconditionally, cherished unceasingly, and saved everlastingly.

Announcements & Worship Matters

Prelude: In the Bleak Midwinter -Gustav Holst, setting David Lasky

Gathering Song Joy to the World Lord is Joy the world, the come! Let earth re to Joy Sav - ior reigns! all 2 earth, the Let their to the and No more let sin sor row grow nor thorns in -He rules the world with truth makes and grace and the king; heart him ceive her let 'ry ev pre pare while hills, songs em - ploy, fields and floods, rocks, and fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings his righ - teous tions prove the glo - ries of sing, and heav'n and na - ture room and heav'n and na - ture plains re - peat the sound-ing re - peat the sound-ing joy, flow the curse is found, the curse is far as far as ness and won-ders of his love, and won-ders of his and heav'n and na - ture sing, and sing, and heav'n. and heav'n and na ture sing. joy, re peat, re peat the sound - ing joy. found, far far the curse found. as, as is love, of and won ders, won ders his love. heav'n and na-ture sing.

Dialogue

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

By day and night he shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus is the light of the world

Jesus is the light of our lives.

Sing to God a new song!

A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Opening Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness – a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts.

Amen.

Lessons and Carols

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

1 In the beginning when God created he heavens and the earth, ² the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ¹⁴ And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

Hymn



Second Reading: Micah 5:2-5a
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.

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

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

⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

Once in Royal David's City

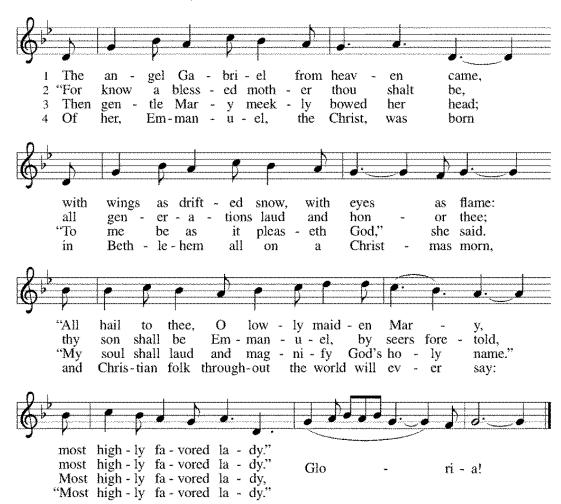


Third Reading: Luke 1:26-35, 38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He 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. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The 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.

³⁸ Then 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.

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



Fourth Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Angels, from the Realms of Glory



Fifth Reading: Luke 2:8-20

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,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

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

On Christmas Night



Sixth Reading: Matthew 2:1-11

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "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." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They 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.

In the Bleak Midwinter



Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894 Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874-1934

Seventh Reading: John 1:1-14

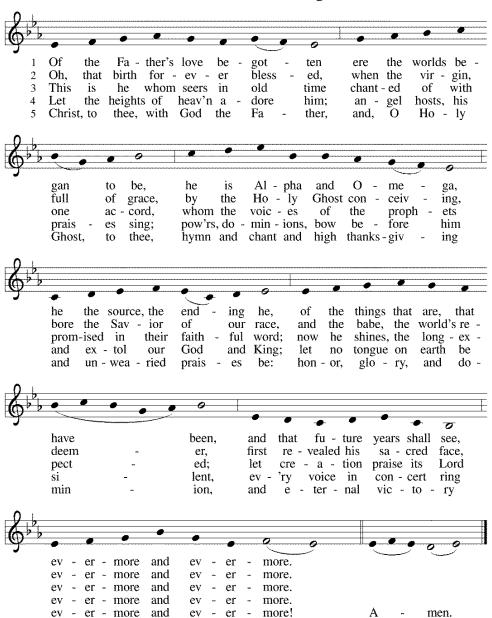
1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light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

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

¹⁴ 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.

Of the Father's Love Begotten



Nicene Creed

In the words of the Creed, let us confess our faith:

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Responsive Prayer

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth. Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

In his light, draw all to the manger to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to sing for joy with the angels.

In the brightness of his life

cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.

It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

Offering: Still, Still -Austrian carol, setting Paul Manz

All who are able are invited to stand

Offering Prayer

God with us: You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray as our Lord taught us:

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

Blessing

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God, all creatures here below!

You are the shepherds telling the story.

We tell it in the streets and across the land.

You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.

You are the angels announcing peace.

We live with joy and go now in peace.

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song

Go Tell It on the Mountain



Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!

Peace to God's people on earth!

Go in peace, Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Toccata -Johann Pachelbel

JELC NEWS for the Week of Dec. 31 - Jan. 6

THIS WEEK (Dec. 31 - Jan. 6)

TODAY (31)

-6:30pm, AA Meeting

MON (1) Church Office closed



TUES (2)

- -1:30pm, Game Day, M 6/8
- -5:30pm, Basketball, Family Ctr.
- -7:30pm, Volleyball, Family Ctr.

WED (3)

- -6:15pm, Friendship Ringers
- -6:30pm, Canon Choir
- -7:00pm, Badminton, Family Ctr.

THU (4)

- -5:00pm, Youth Lacrosse, Family Ctr.
- -7:00pm, Volleyball, Family Ctr.

FRI (5)

- -4:00pm, Youth Badminton, Family Ctr.
- -9:30pm, Volleyball, Family Ctr.

SAT (6)

-1:00-4:00pm, Family Ctr. reserved

SUN (7) Council Installation @ both services

- -9:15am, New Member Class
- -9:15am, Sunday School/Circle of Faith
- -9:30am, Chorale
- -11:30am, Sunday School Teachers' Mtg.
- -6:30pm, AA mtg., Social Hall

Attendance 12/24/23

9:15am – 100

4:00pm - 140

7:00pm - 185

Sponsors

Bulletins are given in honor of grandson, Chase Parker's 18th birthday, by Larry & Donna Hahn.

THANK YOU to Dave Mancke for leading this morning's worship service while Pr. Dody has this day off.

Don't forget to pick up your envelopes in the Memory Room, if you haven't already!

Say a Prayer & Send a Card & Pay a Visit

Fellowship Community: Lillian Semmel,

Donald Laudenslager

Lehigh Commons: Janet Stettler

<u>Parkland Manor:</u> Paulette Bassler, Shirley Wertman <u>Heather Glen:</u> Sonny Laudenslager, Herb & Anna Bieber <u>Home:</u> Margaret Smith, Reed Klotz, Dale Gogel, Richard Seltzer

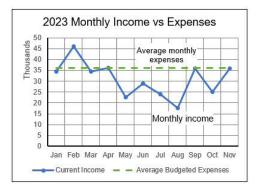
Please keep these people in your prayers: Helen Shollenberger, Susan Mancino, Gladys Harkins, Kim Demarest, Dean Shollenberger, Lester Knipe, Nat Hager, Lori Kocher, Lisa Williams, Kim Friend, Bethany Friend, Jon Conrad, Barry Dorney, Rumpun Heller, Ted DuBois, Donna Stark, Nancy Troutman, Kathy Attieh, Jim Siegfried, Carolyn Flemish, Robin, Carol Kuhns, Glenn Hahn, Karen Hahn, Hope Marie Grace & family, Jenan, Roger Shambough, Jennifer Adam, Elsie Wascavage, Kris, Roger, Connie, Remy Sedlock, Lisa Bowman

Birthdays this week: Shirley Hamm, Aaron Wertman, Nicholas Wertman, Jean Wisler, Vicki Christianson, Gene Hahn, Christopher Hamil, Todd Heller, Sandra Hamil, Delbert Koch, Kyle Christianson, Linda Hendricks, Lyndsey McGrevy

Anniversaries this week: [none]

Average weekly expenses: \$8,331 Current annual surplus/(deficit): \$(54,073)			
Weekly collections			
Dec 3-9	\$8,018		
Dec 10-16	\$4,907		
Dec 17-23	\$6,029		

\$26.869



New Member Classes

will be held each Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in the Pastor's office, beginning January 7th - January 21st. Anyone interested in becoming a new member or renewing membership should contact the church office, prior to January 7th.

Dec 24-30

SPONSORSHIPS

Altar Flowers: Jan. 7, 14, 28; Feb. 4, 18, 25; Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Altar flowers may be sponsored for \$40/2 vase, or *\$20/1 vase*; Bulletins for \$20.

HOW TO RESERVE YOUR SPONSORSHIPS: Contact Donna Hahn at 610-295-9148 or dhahn16@gmail.com with your choice of dates(s) and sponsorships(s). Please indicate when reserving your date whether you wish to pick up the flowers after the last service or want them taken to shut-ins. If no preference is given, flowers will be taken to shut-ins.

Checks may be made payable to JELC and either mailed or dropped in the offering plate.

SPONSORSHIP POLICY: Flowers and other sponsorships may be reserved no earlier than one year from the chosen date. If you wish to reserve the same weekend for the following year, you may do so the day after the current year's sponsorship. No dates will be held; the first request for a date (within the one year limit) will be taken regardless of the previous year's sponsor.

Worship Assistants

DATE	12/31	1/7	1/14	1/21
Altar Guild	9:15-K Leonard	8:00-J Murphy, B Albright	8:00-J Murphy, B Albright	8:00-J Murphy, B Albright
		10:30-D Wenhold	10:30-L Daniels	10:30-K Leonard
Lector	9:15-K Boardman, C Flemish,	8:00-R Shafer	8:00-A Russell	8:00-C Dorney
	D Mancke	10:30-C Flemish	10:30-D Mancke	10:30-J Siegfried
Acolyte	9:15-O Wozniak	8:00-	8:00-	8:00-
		10:30-	10:30	10:30-
Ushers	9:15-Stettler family	8:00-	8:00-	8:00-
		10:30-Heckman family	10:30-Heckman family	10:30-Heckman family
Bell Toller	9:15-B Lutterschmidt	8:00-	8:00-	8:00-
		10:30-	10:30	10:30-
Video	9:15-T Daniels	10:30-D Clark	10:30-T Daniels	10:30-O Wozniak
SAT	9:15-K Boardman	8:00-	8:00-	8:00-
		10:30-	10:30-	10:30-

Please look at the dates we have no one scheduled and give a call to the name listed below for the area(s) you can help with!

Altar Guild/Lynn Daniels |jd2137@aol.com // Lectors/Julie Boscia Julie.boscia@gmail.com // Acolytes/Stephany Heckman sgarbeglio@yahoo.com // Ushers /John Weremedic miner70@ptd.net // Bell Toller/Sandie Hamil hamilsre@gmail.com // SAT/Doug Clark d.clark854@gmail.com // Video/Tom Daniels tkdaniels@ptd.net

Coming Soon – our annual Sweet Dreams collection drive for the 6th St. Shelter

Please consider taking advantage of January Sales to purchase <u>new</u> twin sheet sets, <u>new</u> twin mattress pads, and/or <u>new</u> pillows for the needs of the shelter families. Donations may be placed in the "Sweet Dreams" box in the Memory Room through the month of January, 2024. Thanking you in advance for your generosity and support of the 6th St. Shelter.

Cemetery Grave Prices & Lotholders Meeting

are due to increase January 1, 2024. If you would like to purchase one or more graves, please contact Bruce Stettler at 610-730-8228 or brulou9@gmail.com. *The Annual Cemetery Lot Holders Meeting* will be held Jan. 21, 2024 after the 10:30 Service in Room #8.

2024 Offering Envelopes & Year End Contributions

Please stop by the Memory Room to pick up your/your family's boxed offering envelopes at your earliest convenience. We also welcome help from those who are able to deliver additional boxes to friends or shut ins. Contributions for 2023 need to be submitted to the church office no later than Dec. 31, 2023, in order to receive credit for the 2023 fiscal year. Any offering postmarked after Dec. 31, 2023, will be considered as 2024 income.

Second Congregational Meeting, Sunday, February 4^{th*}

Following one service at 9:15 a.m. (in case of inclement weather, meeting will be Feb. 11)

Annual reports will be reviewed, and other congregational business conducted.

Please have your annual committee reports into the church office by Jan. 21st.

Reports will be distributed on Jan 28th, one week prior to the Second Congregational Meeting on February 4th.

All groups are encouraged to submit a report to gain a better overview of all activities at Jordan.



Herbert J. Bieber, 95, passed away on December 24th, at Heather Glen where he resided. He was the husband of Anna Bieber for 69 years and was a longtime member of Jordan, active on council and many committees and projects. In addition to his wife, he is survived by daughter, Carol Wendling (Roger), son, Dale, grandchildren Tiffany and Justin, and great grandchildren, Bert, Lucas and Derek.

The service was last Friday. Please remember Herbie and his loved ones in your prayers.

Please note that worship services return to the regular 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. schedule beginning January 7th. Sunday School also resumes at 9:15 a.m. on January 7th.