

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

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Pastor David M. Deal 610- 346-8314

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Christmas Eve -- December 25, 2015 -- 7:30 PM

Proclamation of the Birth of Christ

Many ages from the time when God created the heavens & the earth,
and then formed man and woman in his own image;
long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as
a sign of the covenant;
twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham
and Sarah;
thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt
and Miriam danced in freedom;
eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges;
one thousand years from the anointing of David as king;
in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by
the prophets;
in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the founding of
the city of Rome;
the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;
while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace,
Jesus Christ, eternal God, Son of the eternal Father,
desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming,
Being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months of growth in the
womb of his mother –
Now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God
made flesh.

CHRIST
THE SAVIOR
is BORN!

WELCOME to all who are here to worship with us on this holy
night! If you are visiting, please sign the guest book in the
Narthex.

PLEASE NOTE: We will be using the red Evangelical Lutheran
Worship hymnal for carols and hymns. The asterisk (*) indicates to
please stand if you are able.

Preparatory Worship - Organist/Pianist

* **Gathering Song** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” **ELW #270**

* Greeting

P: Today Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia!

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

C: And also with you.

* **The Prayer of the Day** (Lay Worship Assistant)

Please be seated after the prayer.

Choir Anthem “May We Enter the Stable” Hugh Livingston, Jr.

The First Reading (Lay Reader) **Isaiah 9:2-7**

Psalms Anthem – Choir – “Gloria Deo” –Mary Lynn Lightfoot

The Second Reading (Lay Reader) **Titus 2:11-14**

* **Gospel Acclamation** “O Come All Ye Faithful” (vs 1) **ELW #283**

* **The Christmas Gospel** **Luke 2:1-20**

Sermon “Where Does the Nativity Lead Us?”

* **Hymn of the Day** “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” **ELW #282**

* The Nicene Creed

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;
By the power of the Holy Spirit
He became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
And was made man.

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.
With the Father and the Son, he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.

*** The Prayers of Intercession**

Response: P: Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

*** The Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

After sharing the Peace with those around you, please be seated.

Offering

Choir Anthem "Nativity Carol" John Rutter

*** Offertory Hymn** "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" **ELW #276**

*** Offering Prayer** (Lay Worship Assistant)

L: Good 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 blessing 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.

P: Amen.

*** Introduction to Holy Communion - The Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

*** Preface for Christmas**

P: ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn,
shouting:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

*** Eucharistic Prayer for Christmas** *(Said by Pastor)*

*** The Lord's Prayer** *(spoken in unison)*

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; 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.

*** Lamb of God** *(spoken in unison)*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
Grant us peace.

*** Invitation to Communion**

The mystery hidden for the ages is revealed for us in this
meal. Come, behold and receive your God.

Hymns During Distribution of Bread and Wine:

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ELW #279

"Away in a Manger"

ELW #277

* **Communion Blessing** *(Said by pastor after all have communed)*

* **Hymn of Thanksgiving** “Joy to the World” **ELW #267**

* **Prayer after Communion** (Lay Worship Assistant)

L: We give you thanks, O God, that in this bread and cup of Christ’s very life, you give us food for our journey. As you led the magi by a star, as you brought the holy family home again, guide us on the way unfolding before us. Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

* **Blessing** (Pastor)

P: May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

C: Amen.

P: May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.

C: Amen.

P: May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

C: Amen.

P: And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

* **Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

* **Candlelight Closing:** *For the lighting of the candles, please wait for the acolyte to extend the candle to the first person seated on the aisle. Extend your unlighted candle to the person with the lighted candle nearest you. Children may snap their glowsticks.*

* **The Closing Hymn** “Silent Night” **ELW #281**

1. Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!
3. Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant streams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

The Congregation extinguishes the candles and leaves the worship space.

Serving in our worship this evening:

Acolytes and Communion Assistants Alaina Apgar,
Corinne Ashmore, Sharron Streletz, and Steven Streletz
Council Communion Assistants
Lay Worship Assistant. Jessica Lehr
Greeters Jim and Lois Altemose
Altar Guild and Communion Bread: Barb & Makenzie Naska,
Beth and Luke Snyder
Head Usher Cheryl Mesko
Counters Church Council Members
Organist/Choir Director Carolyn Williams
Parish Secretary Ann Wong
Custodians Dianna Streletz and Norma Fox

Christmas Eve Bulletins are sponsored by Bob and Nancy Fox in memory of the birthday of Irene Fox and in honor of the birthdays of Ruth Behm and Andrea Fox.

The Christmas Eve Food Basket is given by Lois and Jim Altemose in memory of their parents and Bob Litzenberger.

THANK YOU to the Choir Director; Choir; Altar Guild; Worship Assistants; Volunteers who prepared the Sanctuary and provided the greens and Christmas flowers; and all who came to worship tonight!

Council Communion Assistants are Lynn Gaun, Joe Hlavaty, Cheryl Mesko, and Val McGinn.

Counters are Ken Anderson and Val McGinn.

Christmas celebration continues!

SUNDAY, December 27 – First Sunday after Christmas

No Sunday School!

10:30AM Service of Lessons and Carols



Christmas Flowers 2015

Thank you to the people listed below, who participated in the purchase of the beautiful Poinsettias and cyclamen for Christmas. You have helped to make our church look very festive for this holy Christmas Season. Please remember to take the plants home with you after the service this evening.

Member	In Memory of	In Honor of
Mary & Helen Dungan	William Dungan & Robert Allebach	
Valerie McGinn	Sue Kehler	
Leo & Betty Fox	Our daughter, Nancy L. Hart	
Shirley Fenstermacher	My sister, Nancy L. Hart	
Edward Xander	Nancy Jean Xander	

Member	In Memory of	In Honor of
Kenneth & Virginia Hager	Our son, Dale K. Hager	
Lois & Jim Altemose	Loved ones	
Pastor David M. Deal	Harold G. Deal, Jr.	
Mark Harwick	Loved ones	
Beth, Luke & Brendan Snyder	Loved ones	
Dot Peterman	My parents, Ruth & Charles Eliassen, & my husband, Ronald Peterman	
Martine King	My parents, John & Helen King, & friends, Cheryl, Bonnie, & Ann	
Carolyn Williams	Evelyn, Virgil & Ronald Overdorff	
Ben & Tanya Naska	John Stachel & Theresa McConnell	
The Humphreys Family	Bill Humphreys	
The Rhine Family	James Rhine	
George & Betty Kreitz	Loved ones	Our children, grandchildren, great grandchildren
Barbara & Ben Naska	Loved ones	Our children & grandchildren
Jayne & Jim Miller	Kathleen & John Sugg	Elizabeth Miller
Faye & Tim Gadwell	Grammie Helen Nicholas	Mimi & Pappy Jim Altemose Grace Helen & Cora Fay
Helen Dungan		Mary Dungan
Wayne & Cheryl Mesko		Our children & grandchildren
The Mueller Family		Opa & Grandpa Mueller, Grandma & Grandpa Snyder



