

**READINGS AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS**  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2011**

Pre-Service Voluntary:

*“La Nativité de Notre Seigneur”*  
*“The Nativity of Our Lord”*

– A. Chauvet

Welcome / Announcements

† **WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP** †

Prelude:

Variation on *“Angels from the Realms of Glory”* – F. Videro

† **READINGS AND CAROLS** †

**THE FIRST READING** Nancy Hain **Genesis 22:15–18**

<sup>15</sup>The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, <sup>16</sup>and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup>I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, <sup>18</sup>and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

**THE FIRST CAROL**

**#275: *“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”***

**THE SECOND READING** Pastor Tim Craven **Isaiah 9:2–7**

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>You 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.

\*Please stand if you are able

<sup>4</sup>For 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.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For 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.

<sup>7</sup>His 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.\

## **THE SECOND CAROL**

**#290: "Go Tell It on the Mountain"**

**THE THIRD READING** Dorothy Hutchinson **Matthew 2:1–6**  
In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of  
Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>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." <sup>3</sup>When  
King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with  
him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the  
people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.  
<sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written  
by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>'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."

## **THE THIRD CAROL**

### **#279: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

## **THE FOURTH READING**      Kim Craven      **Luke 2:1, 3–7**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph 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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And 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.

## **THE FOURTH CAROL**

### **#278: "Away in a Manger"**

## **THE FIFTH READING**      Betty Weik      **Luke 2:8–16**

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before 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; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

## **THE FIFTH CAROL**

**#282: *"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"***

### **THE SIXTH READING**

Carl Tobias

**John 1:1–14**

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

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

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

<sup>14</sup>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.

## **THE SIXTH CAROL**

**#283: *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"***

## † We Offer to God †

### **\*The Prayers of Intercession**

P: Filled with wonder and joy that God's gift of grace has been given in the Son born for us, let us pray for the church, the good creation, and the needs of all.

*A brief silence.*

P: O God, strengthen your church in times of testing and trial, and give courage and vision to bishops, pastors, lay leaders, teachers, and all who minister in your name. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: O God, save all species in danger of extinction because of human neglect and greed. Restore your creation from the smallest cell to the shining stars, that the universe may praise your name. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: O God, in your love and compassion carry the children of the world to safety. Protect the young and vulnerable in every nation (*especially*), and console the families of children lost to war and violence. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: O God, have mercy on those who cry out to you in any distress. We lift to you our sisters and brothers who are sick, grieving, troubled, hungry, cold, in pain, or without joy (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: O God, make this congregation a sanctuary of acceptance for all, that together we may share your dream of peace. Bless those gathered here, those who are absent, and those we have yet to

welcome. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Into the manger of your love, holy God, we lay our prayers, trusting in your promise made known to us in Jesus the Christ, our brother and Savior.

**C: Amen.**

**\*THE PEACE**

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

**ORGAN OFFERTORY:**

Pastorale on "*Adeste Fidelis*"

– C. W. Cassler

**\*OFFERING CAROL**

**#281: "Silent Night, Holy Night!"**

Stanzas 1 & 3 only

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Let us pray.

**C: 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. Amen.**

† We Celebrate the Lord's Supper †

**\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord**

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

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*THE SANCTUS CAROL**

**#289:** *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

Stanza 1 only

**\*THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!**

**\*TRADITIONAL 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.**

**\*DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**\*THE AGNUS DEI CAROL**

**#296:** *“What Child Is This”*

Stanza 1 only

**All Baptized Christians Are Invited To Receive Holy Communion. We Ask Parents to Bring Their Non-communing Children with Them to the Communion Rail. Please Approach The Rail Using the Chancel. Please pick up an empty cup in the chancel. After Receiving Communion, Exit By Way Of The Side Door.**

During Communion

**Carol 269:** *“Once in Royal David’s City”*

**Carol 300:** *“The First Noel”*

\*Post Communion Blessing

\*Post Communion Canticle Carol:

**Carol #270:** *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

Stanza 1 only

\*Post Communion Prayer

**P:** Let us pray.

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in his meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

**† WE LEAVE TO SERVE †**

**\*BENEDICTION AND BLESSING WITH SUNG "AMENS"**

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**C: Amen. Amen. Amen.** (sung responsively)

**\*SENDING CAROL:**

**#267:** *“Joy to the World”*

## DISMISSAL

**P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord with joy.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** *Variation on "Joy to the World"* – W. Held

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

**Acolyte:** Meg Barr

**Communion Assistants:** Dave Haldeman & Kim Craven

**Scripture Readers:** Nancy Hain, Pastor Tim Craven, Dorothy Hutchinson, Kim Craven, Betty Weik, Carl Tobias

**Nursery:** Nancy Heiser

**Greeters:** Richard and Betty Weik

**Ushers:** Kristi Leonhard (Head), Tess Freeman, Shari Weaver, Gail Harker, David Haldeman (alt.)

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**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented to the Glory of God by The Freeman Family in Honor of Jesus' Birthday.

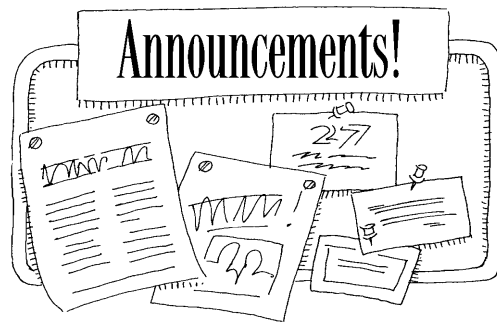
**\*Welcome to all!** If you have come as a visitor, we hope that you'll leave as a friend who's been blessed by worshiping in this house of God. We encourage you to join us again.

**\*Hearing Assistance Units Are Available** for anyone who has difficulty hearing. Prior to worship, please contact an usher if you wish to use one of the units during worship.

**\*Worship Bags For Children** are available on the first pew in the back of the church. Please take one during worship. Just return the bag, crayons, and storybook – the rest can be kept. Thank you!

Please visit Mellingers Evangelical Lutheran Church on Facebook or visit us on the web at [www.mellingers.org](http://www.mellingers.org)!

Office Hours  
Monday - Thursday  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



**Pastor's Contact Information**  
Home: (717)738-3838  
Mobile: (717)468-9049  
Work: (717)336-8800

\* Call anytime on cell phone

**PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH SECRETARY FOR AVAILABILITY BEFORE SCHEDULING EVENTS AT THE CHURCH!**



***\*In the event of wintry snow and/ or ice please call the church at 336-8800 after 7:00 am on Sunday morning to verify whether or not church will be canceled.***

### † **ACTIVITIES** †

**TODAY'S ACTIVITIES:** 9:00 am Readings and Carols with Holy Communion; Coffee Social Time Following Service.

**THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES: Monday:** 9:30 am Women in Prayer; 7:00 pm Boy Scouts; **Tuesday:** 7:00 pm Cub Scouts; **Thursday:** 6:00 pm Free Community Meal at Trinity Lutheran Church in Ephrata; 6:45 pm Chancel Choir; **Saturday:** 5:00 - 5:30 pm Evening Prayer (Vespers).

**ACTIVITIES FOR JANUARY 1, 2012–Name of Jesus:** 9:00 am Holy Communion; Coffee Social Time Following Service.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR JANUARY 1, 2012– Name of Jesus:** Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 8; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 2:15-21.

### **WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

- **Reflective Service of Evening Prayer (Vespers):** Saturdays 5:00 to 5:30.

- **Needed:** *Lay Worship Leader, Acolyte, Candlebearer or Crucifier. Anyone interested in participating in worship as a leader in this way should contact Pastor Tim or the Church office.*

### **ALTAR FLOWER/BULLETIN DEDICATION CHARTS**

*The 2012 altar flower and bulletin dedication charts are posted for you to start your dedications.*

### **COMMUNION CARDS**

*If you have communed and not completed a communion card, please do so now in order to update our records. Thank you in advance for your time and cooperation with this matter.*

### **MISSION SUPPORT**

*On Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 the church council voted unanimously to use funds from the money market to pay 3 months of Mission Support and 3 months of Hunger Appeal in which we are behind due to a shortfall in budgeted giving receipts.*

### **POINSETTIAS**

*Poinsettias may be picked up after today's service.*

### **PRAYER CORNER**

**PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (717) 336-8800 OR SEND AN EMAIL TO [mellingerslutheran@gmail.com](mailto:mellingerslutheran@gmail.com) IF YOU HAVE AN UPDATE FOR PRAYER CORNER. Thank you!**

**PRAYER CORNER:**

Please keep the following people in your prayers this week:



**EPHRATA HOSPITAL:** Nevin Kieffer

**JOHN HOPKINS HOSPITAL:** Lyman Hainley

**PLEASANT VIEW (Manheim):** Verna Snyder

**REHAB IN INDIANA:** Kathleen Jeffers

**HERSHEY MEDICAL CENTER:** Dave Emberger

**HURRICANE/TROPICAL STORM/EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS:**

Halligan Family, Ed Leed Jr. Family (Sayre, PA)

**CHURCH MEMBERS AT HOME:** Alicia Brubaker, Mary Burkholder, Kim Craven, Lorriane Eberly, Barbara Fetter, Bessie Fetter, Vivian Gehr, Sue Gray, Georgette Haldeman, Kathryn Hertzog, Ann Jones, Elva Leisey, Piper Leonhard, Lottie Leshner (w/son Ron), Pauline Martin, Judy Meckley, Ruth Messner, Ginger Mohler, Readith Petery, Shirl Tobias, Betty Weik, Deb Zerbe, Clair Adams, Leonard Gehman, Sam Heiser, Richard Keller, Jeff Moyer, Tim Pannebecker, Luke Showalter, Ernie Shimp, Jay Weaver, Larry Weaver, Ron Weinhold, David Wilhide, Alvin and Ella Hollinger Michael & Marvin Showalter, Harry & Joan Wentzel Sr.

**FAMILY & FRIENDS AT HOME:** Norma DeLong, June Eberly, Susan Farr, Ruth Gregg, Donna Harpster, Katie Hartlove, Susan Hartman, Shirley High, Kathleen Kearney, Libby Kern, Caryll Lausch (staying w/daughter Lori Moyer), Bobbie Loose, Kelly Means, Amanda Meek, Art Mellinger, Rebecca Miller, Jean Newell, Fawn Sensenig, Becca Sprinkle, Lela Trout, Clyde Brown, Corey Ehret, Mark Larocca, Richard Lefevere, Pastor Greg Lindsay, Marvin McGallagher, Eugene Moyer, Ray Starks

**We pray for friends and family at home. If you have family or friends in need of prayer, please contact the office. Then contact the office WEEKLY regarding the status of those we are praying for.**

**GRIEVING FAMILIES OF:** Julie Hoyer, John Smith, Alice Hehnly, Dwayne Wentz, Paul Leisey Jr., Mark Ulrich, Pastor Paul Blank, Robin Plank, Dave Nolt, Verna Buchter, Dale Weik, Jr., Howard E. Allen, Jr, Evelyn Hauck, Elva Meckley, Pauline Wealand, Amanda Baum

**ARMED FORCES:** Jeff Barnett, Eric Clavier, Steven Fassnacht, Jason Freeze, Shane Horning, Adam Lausch, Patrick Thompson, Chris Weidman,  
**Troops in Afghanistan** –Michael Guigley

**PRAYER MENTOR PROGRAM:** Emily Fassnacht, Zachary Freeze, Douglas Leed, Jameson Walters, Owen Weaver

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	<b>12/18/2011 9:00 am Service</b>		
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>225</b>		
<b>General Receipts</b>	<b>\$4,375</b>		
<b>Capital Fund</b>	<b>\$0</b>		
<b>Capital Fund Repay</b>	<b>\$0</b>		
<b>Bldg./Repair Fund</b>	<b>\$80</b>		
<b>Receipts Compared to Budget As of 12/18/2011</b>			
<b>General Funds</b>			
<b>Adopted Yearly Budget \$233,345</b>			
	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Over/(Under)</b>
<b>MTD</b>	<b>\$14,047</b>	<b>\$15,873</b>	<b>(\$1,826)</b>
<b>YTD</b>	<b>\$205,362</b>	<b>\$228,054</b>	<b>(\$22,692)</b>
<b>Other Funds</b>			
	<b>Month To Date</b>	<b>Year To Date</b>	
<b>Building &amp; Repair</b>	<b>\$590</b>	<b>\$4,625</b>	
<b>Capital / Building Fund</b>	<b>\$120</b>	<b>\$2,430</b>	
<b>Repay Capital Loan</b>	<b>\$20</b>	<b>\$1,262</b>	
<b>Organ Pipes</b>	<b>\$250</b>	<b>\$5,870</b>	
<b>Sanctuary Improvements</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,275</b>	
<b>Computer/Office Equipment</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,900</b>	

# taking <sup>+</sup>faith home

DECEMBER 24-25, 2011



## bible readings

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS:



These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Saturday	Luke 2:1-7	The birth of Jesus
Sunday	Luke 2:8-20	Angels appear to shepherds
Monday	Psalms 96	Let the earth be glad
Tuesday	John 1:1-14	The Word became flesh
Wednesday	Hebrews 1:1-9	God's firstborn has come
Thursday	Isaiah 9:6-7	For us a child is born
Friday	Revelation 21:1-5	God is making everything new
Saturday	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13	A time for everything
Sunday	Matthew 2:1-12	Wise men from the East

## scripture +

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **Isaiah 9:6 (NLT)**

### SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

**A Prayer for the Opening of Gifts:** Lord God, we gather today as a household to celebrate the gift of your son, Jesus. Be with us as we give gifts to one another. Draw us closer to you and one another, and fill this home with love, peace and joy. Amen.

**Christmas Mealtime Prayer:** God, thank you for this special day; bless all we do and all we say. May we each enjoy your blessings great as Jesus' birth we celebrate. Amen.

**A Christmas Blessing to Give:** May God's gift of Jesus bring peace and joy to you. May Jesus come into your heart this Christmas. Amen.



### CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Remember a time when you received some good news. Share your memories.
- What was the "good news" that the angel of the Lord brought to the shepherds outside of Bethlehem? (see Luke 2:10-12).
- Is the birth of Jesus "good news" for you? Why?

### DEVOTIONS:

Before you open your Christmas gifts have a household member read the Christmas story from Luke 2 or from a Bible storybook. Ask each person to share his or her favorite part of the story. Then, say together the "Prayer for the Opening of Gifts" on the other side of this page.

### SERVICE:

Write the names of your household members on slips of paper and randomly distribute (make sure no one gets their own name!). Ask each person to perform a "gift of service" for the person named on his or her slip as part of your household Christmas gift-giving.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

As a Christmas Day activity, act out the Christmas story from Luke 2. Gather various items to serve as costumes and props and assign one person as narrator. Take video or photos of your impromptu performance.

Traditions draw people closer together and create meaningful memories. Consider adopting or adapting some of these tradition ideas to help your household celebrate Christmas together.

- Sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus on Christmas Day.
- Drive around looking at Christmas lights on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day evening.
- Invite a person or family to come for "shared leftovers" on Christmas Day evening.
- Watch a DVD of the Christmas story on Christmas Day (e.g. "The Nativity" movie).
- Look through the Christmas cards you have received and choose a number of people to phone on Christmas Day.

**Results of the Election Held on 12/5/2011  
80 Ballots Cast**

**2012 Budget** – 70 Yes, 1 No, 8 Abstain

**2012 Council Elected**

Tess Freeman – 77 Votes

David Haldeman – 77 Votes

Gail Harker – 77 Votes

Randy Brubaker – 75 Votes

Sam Heiser – 67 Votes

Ron Gehr – 63 votes

Also receiving votes

Skip Hutchinson – 4, Nancy Eberly – 2

1 vote each: Scott Brubaker, Dave Barr, Dave Weidman and Troy  
Adair