

# A Christmas Letter

## LUKE 2

is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising and saying,

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

<sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us." <sup>16</sup> And they went and found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in a manger.



# St. Michael

## Lutheran Church

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO JESUS

### WELCOME!

- ❖ **INFORMATION CENTER:** Are you interested in Bible classes, Sunday School, youth activities or our J.O.Y. Group senior adult ministry? Stop by the Information Desk in the lobby—we want to meet and help you.
- ❖ **GUEST and HANDICAP PARKING:** For your convenience, parking is located across from the main church entrance and the west entrance door (4).
- ❖ **AUTOMATIC DOORS:** Two sets of automatic doors are available. One is located on the west entrance door (4) and the other is located on the main doors (2).
- ❖ **LISTENING DEVICES** for those who have difficulty hearing the service are available at the sound booth at the back of the sanctuary.
- ❖ **TODAY'S SERMON IS AVAILABLE ONLINE**, along with prior sermons and Bible studies, at [stmfw.org/sermons](http://stmfw.org/sermons).
- ❖ **ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE** at [stmfw.org/giving](http://stmfw.org/giving).
- ❖ **WE VALUE YOUR ATTENDANCE:** Please complete a connect card or visit [stmfw.org/iamhere](http://stmfw.org/iamhere).

### St. Michael loves new parents and small children!

- ❖ **WE WELCOME CHILDREN IN WORSHIP**, but if you need it, a nursery for children under age 5 is located in Room 24B. Please ask an usher for directions.
- ❖ **THE CRY ROOM** is our lobby. Please pull up a chair so that you may watch and listen to our worship service.
- ❖ **BUDDY BAGS** are available for small children in the lobby. You may pick one up prior to service and return on your way out. Enjoy!
- ❖ **CHANGING TABLES** are located in the family and women's restrooms adjacent to the lobby.
- ❖ **CHILDREN'S CHURCH** is for children 5 and under during the sermon at the 10:45a worship.

# Christmas Eve – The Nativity of Our Lord

December 24, 2023

7:00p and 11:00p

**PRESERVICE 7:00p/11:00p**

The Rose Carol

**Handbell Choir**

Fum, Fum, Fum

**7:00p**

Of the Father's Love Begotten

**Flute Choir**

## WELCOME

## INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

P: In the name of the Father,

**C: whose infinite love brings us here tonight.**

P: In the name of the Son,

**C: whose wondrous birth we celebrate tonight.**

P: In the name of the Holy Spirit,

**C: whose gift of faith enables us to believe this night and always. Amen.**

## HYMN

Of the Father's Love Begotten

**384**

(stanzas 1, 2, 4)

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Tonight we worship, remembering that in the birth of Jesus Christ, this is indeed the fullest display of the Father's love.

**C: The Son of God, Jesus, was born to rescue us from sin and darkness.**

P: He was born to die, to pay for our sins and offer to us forgiveness.

**C: Almighty God, on this Christmas Eve You reveal Your answer to my deepest need in life. Even before I could ask for a Savior for my sin, You provided what I needed the most. Forgive me for those sins of which I am aware and those that are known only to You.**

*(silence for personal confession and self-reflection)*

P: Confident of the love God shows us, we confess our wrongdoing and acknowledge our guilt before Him.

**C: Almighty God, have mercy on me, forgive my sins, and lead me to everlasting life through Jesus Christ. May Your love, begotten in the birth of Jesus, be born anew in me this night.**

**P:** Having confessed your sin, receive now the full assurance of God’s forgiveness for you through Jesus Christ. Because of His miraculous birth and His victorious resurrection, I announce to you the forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN**

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

**377**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**P:** Lord Jesus, You are here with us this night and we have come to worship You. Not only on this Christmas Eve, but always be at work in our lives so that like the angels, we may sing of Your glory; like the shepherds, we may go and tell others about You; and like Mary we may forever ponder the wonder of it all evermore and evermore.

**C: Amen.**

<b>THE BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT</b>		<b>Luke 1:26-38</b>
<b>ANTHEM</b>	Come Emmanuel	<b>Choir and Orchestra</b>
<b>THE BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT</b>		<b>Matthew 1:18-25</b>
<b>ANTHEM</b>	The First Noel	<b>Adult Choir</b>
<b>THE CHRISTMAS STORY</b>		<b>Luke 2:1-20</b>
<b>ANTHEM</b>	Adeste Fideles	<b>Adult Choir/Instrumentalists</b>

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE 7:00p**

**HYMN**

What Child is This  
(stanzas 1-3)

**370**

**SERMON**

“Special Delivery”  
Luke 2:1-20

**Pastor Dennis Goff**

**CHRISTMAS CREED**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

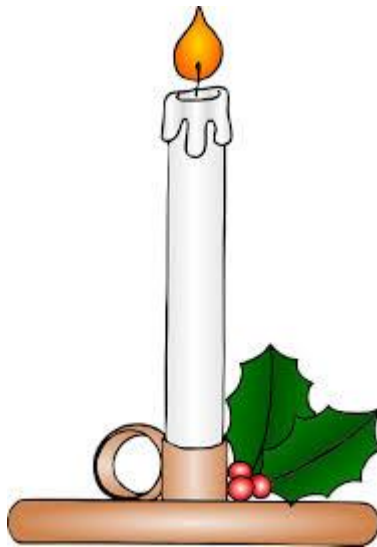
Behold Our God

**Adult Choir**

**PRAYERS**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

- The 7:00p worship service continues on page 6 with **THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**



## THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER 11:00p

### OUR COMMUNION PRACTICE

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives not only bread and wine but his true body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another (Matthew 26:26-28). Our Lord invites to his table those who have been baptized, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes (1 Corinthians 11:26). Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (1 Corinthians 11:28-30) and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor.

**If you need Communion delivered to you, please notify an usher or elder before the service begins.**

**Gluten free communion wafers are available by raising your index finger as Christ's body is distributed, signaling the elder that you wish to receive a prewrapped gluten free wafer.** The wrapping can be placed in the box at the end of the first pew with the individual cups. Individual cups, should be held until the chalice has passed. **Grape juice is available in the tinted cups in the middle of the tray for those who need to receive a non-wine alternative.** If you have some other allergy or need, please contact the church office so special arrangements can be made. Children or adults who have not yet been confirmed are invited to come forward for a blessing. As you do so, please cross yourselves by placing your arms over your chest.



*Join us for Worship*

*Christmas Day*

*10:00a*

*Saturday, December 30*

*5:00p*

*New Year's Eve*

*10:00a*

**St. Michael Winter Worship Schedule**

**Saturdays at 5:00p**

**Sundays at 8:00a and 10:45a**

**Adult Bible Study and Sunday School 9:30a**