



CHRISTMAS EVE
December 24, 2023
9:00 pm

Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 27; 101 S. Main Street
Woodsboro, MD 21798
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woodsborolutheranchurch.com
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Serving God and Community

Reverend Sean DeLawder

Gary Schwartz, Organist
Carolyn Miller, Vocalist
Bernadette Harper, Special Guest Musician
Nancy Swain, Office Administrator



Welcome to Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church

WELCOME! We are delighted that you have joined us for worship today. If you are visiting with us for the first time, we invite you to sign our guest book at the entrance to the sanctuary. Our ushers are happy to assist you in any way. The Pastor would love to meet you so please introduce yourself. Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We are blessed by your presence today.

Holy Communion is open to everyone who wants to experience the presence of Christ in this sacrament. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. Both wine and grape juice are offered. Gluten free wafers are available. Prepackaged communion cups with wafer are available on request, let the usher know if you prefer a prepackaged communion cup.

The December bulletins are sponsored to the glory of God and in honor of our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren by Peggy and Donald Trimmer.

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God and Wishing our Church Family Blessings at Christmas and Always by John and Pat Nash.

Lay Reader: Mitzi Smith
Recording Assistant: Donna Droneburg
Ushers: Mitzi Smith and Robin Rippeon
Flower Coordinator: Pat Nash

December 24, 2023 9:00 PM
Christmas Eve

GATHERING

**Please stand as able Congregation responses are in bold.*

PRELUDE

**O Little Town Of Bethlehem
The Holly and the Ivy
What Child Is This**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the Holy One of Israel,
the Word made flesh,
the Power of the Most High,
✠ one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gathered in the name of Jesus,
let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.
Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Gracious God,
**in Christ Jesus you come among us
as light shining in darkness.**
We confess our failure to welcome this light.
**Forgive us and renew our hope,
so that we may live in the light of your grace,
and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.**
I bring you good news of great joy for all the people:
To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord.
Your sins are forgiven in ✠ Jesus' name.
Amen.

***GATHERING SONG**

#270 – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

***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.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

in unison

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³You 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.

⁴For 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.

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

⁶For 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.

⁷His 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.

Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks Be to God

PSALM

Psalm 96

¹Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the
peoples with equity."**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,
for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

SECOND READING:

Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith — ²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever!
Amen.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks Be to God**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL:

Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

Glory to you, O Lord

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

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

Praise to you, O Christ

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

#282 – It Came upon the Midnight Clear

***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.

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

This night the eternal Word of God is born in us. We pray for Christ's light of life to take flesh in the church, the creation, and all people of God.

A brief silence.

We bring to the manger our longing for the visible unity of the church of Jesus Christ, that undivided it proclaim the one whose birth brings good news of glad tidings to all people. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We bring to the manger hope for the well-being of creation, that every valley be exalted and every rough place be made plain so that every living thing may flourish. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We bring to the manger a vision of the reign of the Prince of Peace, that the nations, tribes, and peoples of this world will see and cherish in each other the very image of Christ, whose scepter is mercy and whose judgment is love. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We bring to the manger concern for those who have no place to lay their heads this night and for those who dwell in the shadow of loneliness, despair, illness, or death. We come begging that the child for whom there was no room will open the doors of our hearts to the needs of our neighbors and ourselves. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We bring to the manger all people who, like the holy family, gather with children in the splendor of this most holy night, that the gift of faith be lavished on another generation. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We bring to the manger the hopes and dreams of all the years, that with Mary and Joseph, angels and archangels, saints and martyrs, loved ones of every time and every place, our prayers and praises join in a common song uniting heaven and earth in a single peace. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into your outstretched arms, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world.

Amen.

***PEACE** The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OUR OFFERING FOR GOD'S WORK

Gesu Bambino – Bernadette, Carolyn & Gary

***OFFERTORY HYMN**

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

***OFFERING PRAYER**

**Savior of the nations, come.
Make your home here in us.
Feed us with your love,
that our faith shine ever new and
our lives reveal your light.
Amen.**

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE FOR THE DAY

Pastor Sean



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor Sean

***THE 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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.
Share in the feast of salvation.

SPECIAL MUSIC

A Star To Guide Me

DISTRIBUTION:

Pastor Sean

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

On this day, O God, you gave us
Christ the Son to save us.
As you sent the one foretold,
send us now with good news for all people.
Let the gladness of this feast have no end
as we share with others the joy that fills us;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING

SPECIAL MUSIC

#281 – Silent Night, Holy Night!

***BENEDICTION**

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you
and scatter the darkness from before your path.
Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

***SENDING SONG**

#290 – 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

Hallelujah

WOODSBORO EVANGELICAL PRAYER LIST

Carolyn Abrecht, Arvella (Artie) Anders, Kelli Angleberger,
Amanda Blank, Jessica Bowers, Juanita Bowers, Mack Burdette,
Joan Chesser, Sophie Castro-Davis, Peggy Carey, Nancy Creager,
Scotty Easton, Steven Griffin, Philip Hoekman, Paul and Ann Hutter,
Bob Hyde, Jana Inskeep, Robert and Sandy Measell, Kasey Melville,
Kathleen Milander, Sue Millione, Millie Miller, Patrick Moseley,
Ronnie Myers, John Nash, Ken Palmer, Chester Redmond,
Charlotte Shaffer, Mitzi Smith, Mike Stottlemeyer, Ralph Swain,
Lincoln Tiemann, Donald Trimmer, Tammy and Steve Wentz, and
Pastor Harry Wolpert



Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church Christmas 2023



*The lovely poinsettias adorning our sanctuary
are given to the Glory of God*

In Loving Memory of:

Chip and Maxine Murray, and Amon and Ruth Esworthy, by Ed and Peggy Esworthy

The Houck Family and Hartsock Family by Joann Houck

Sterling Lenhart Jr. from Doris and the Kids

My wife, Teresa, by Roger

My parents, Roger “Chick” and Cleo Myers, and my in-laws, Richard and Grace
Flanigan,

by Roger

Our Parents, Siblings, and Friends by John and Pat Nash

Ruth and Paul Beall, Sr.; Paul Beall, Jr.; and Bill Beall, John and Audrey Reeve;

by Dwight and Diane Reeve

My Husband, Rayue, by Doris Rippeon

My husband, Donald C. Smith, My parents, Charles H. and Elizabeth M. Hahn, and

My sister, Dr. Dolores Y. Bachtel, by Nancy O. Smith

Our Parents by Mitzi and Gary Smith

Our parents, Thelma and Charles Trimmer and Kitty and Bill Powell,

by Peggy and Donald Trimmer

In Loving Honor of:

My mom, Doris Lenhart, from Marilyn

My grandchildren, Karstyn and Parker (Boomer) Smith and Emmy Kenny, by Roger
Myers

My children and their spouses, Megan and Collin Kenny, Katy and Dan Smith, and
Matt and Emily, by Roger

Our Daughter and Grandchildren, by John and Pat Nash

Our children and grandchildren, by Dwight and Diane Reeve

My children, their spouses, and grandchildren, by Doris Rippeon

Our grandsons, Benjamin and Miles, by Mitzi and Gary Smith

Our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, by Peggy and Donald Trimmer



WELC ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTE: In order to keep your membership active, you must take communion, and complete and submit a card once per year.

Pastor Sean's Weekly Office Hours – Every Thursday from 10:00am-2:00pm. Please feel free to stop by to say hello, give feedback or if you need pastoral care. As always, Pastor Sean can be reached throughout the week at welcpastorsean@gmail.com or 301-606-3632.

Worship Service Social – Join us for coffee, snacks, and fellowship on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month prior to our worship service.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services – This evening at 9:00pm.

Free Community Dinner – The first Tuesday of each month from 5:00 – 7:00 pm in the social hall. The next dinner is Saturday, January 20, 2024 in cooperation with St, Paul's Lutheran Church of Walkersville. All are welcome so invite your family and friends. Volunteers are always needed. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Sean.

The 2024 Flower Chart is posted in the narthex. Please consider volunteering to furnish flowers for Sunday worship. Contact Pat Nash at 301-639-9102.

Year-to-Date Offerings – Thank you very much for your continued support. The updated year to date offering as of December 4, 2023, is \$73,105.55 with an annual budgeted amount of \$115,000.00. Again, we appreciate your financial contributions and ongoing support.

Council Meeting – TBD in the upstairs Conference Room 6:30pm.

Bulletin Sponsorship – If you wish to sponsor bulletins for a specific month, the amount is \$40.00. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex next to the Altar Flower Dedication chart.

Council Approved Financial Reports and/or Minutes - If you are interested in receiving a copy of either/both, please contact Nancy Swain 301-845-4533.

Community Partners will be collecting items for their Caring Closet program. December's focus will be on **Personal Care** – lotion (hand, body), and chap stick (non-medicated). Your donations are greatly appreciated.

WELC Food Collection – The Latest from the GVCS Food Bank - All donations are greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the food bank at 301-845-4229 (Leave a message and your call will be returned.) or email at GVFB21w@gmail.com. Thank all of you for your continued support!

Currently, the greatest needs are:		
Cereal	Peanut Butter	Spaghetti Sauce
Canned Fruit	Boxed Crackers	Baked Beans
Macaroni-N-Cheese	Canned Pasta	Canned Tuna

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chapel's All You Can Eat Breakfast Buffet – Saturday, January 6th, 7-11:00am. Take your family and/or friends and enjoy a delicious breakfast (Adults - \$10.00, Children (5-10) - \$5.00). Please contact Chris Beard at 301-418- 0148 if you have any questions.

Woodsboro Seniors' Luncheon Meeting – We are planning to go to Ledo's Pizza, 1293 Riverbend Way, Frederick, MD at 11:30 am – Wednesday, January 17th. Invite a friend. If you are interested in going, please call Doris at 301-304-5244. New members are always welcome.



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