LUTHERAN CHAPEL



REVELATION 20:1-3, 11-15 & 21:1-8 AND LUKE 2:22-40

"THE SONG OF SIMEON AND CELEBRATING THE CHRIST CHILD"

The spiritual exercise of commendation, the hope to see God's plan before us, and the song of faith now and forever are before us as the Twelve Days of Christmas unfold.

1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 31, 2023

lutheranchapelchurch.org (704) 864-6491

LUTHERAN CHAPEL DECEMBER 31, 2023 1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF THE WORD

BOLD indicates congregational responses. * Indicates that all who are able should stand to honor God.

GATHER

WELCOME

Who are you? We are children of God (1 John 3:2). What is our mission? The mission of Lutheran Chapel is to share God's love.

PRELUDE

"Communion"

Richard Purvis

ELW #290

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

P: We gather together in the name of the Father, + the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Refrain o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where; Go tell it on the moun - tain, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born! go While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by 1 night, earth 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when. lo. a - bove the hum-ble Christ was 3 Down in lone - ly man - ger the born: a



Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt. Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

LITANY

Psalm 85, Luke 2

P: Blessed is he who comes as king, who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

P: I will hear what the Lord God has to say-

C: a voice that speaks for peace.

P: Peace for all people and for his friends

C: and those who turn to him in their hearts.

P: His help is near for those who fear him,

C: and his glory will live in our land.

P: Blessed is he who comes as king, who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

***THE NICENE CREED**

All are invited to confess our faith in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If you have not received the gift of baptism or would like to affirm your faith in Jesus and join His mission here, please indicate on the attendance registry and talk to an usher or the pastor.

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



© Text: Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955 Tune: ST. PETER'S NORWALK, Stephen R. Johnson, b. 1966 Setting: Steven F. Wente, b. 1952

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

C: Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

All children who want to come forward for the Children's Message at the front of the church are welcome to do so. Let the little children come unto our Lord always!

FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 61:10-62:3

To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that God's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. ^{62:1}For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest. until her vindication shines out like the dawn. and her salvation like a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalm Settings for the Church Year: Revised Common Lectionary* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress. May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.Praise the Lord, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.Praise the Lord, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord, who commanded, and they were created,

Who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.

Refrain

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps; Fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will; Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars; Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;

Refrain

Sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

Young men and maidens,

old and young together.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,

whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!

Refrain

STORY OF SALVATION LESSON

REVELATION 20:1-3, 11-15 & 21:1-8

The vision of the end is both terrible and beautiful. Jesus, who was, who is, and who is to come, will put all things right. Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!

¹Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. ²He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, ³and threw him into the pit, and locked and sealed it over him, so that he would deceive the nations no more, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be let out for a little while.

¹¹Then I saw a great white throne and the one who sat on it; the earth and the heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them. ¹²And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Also another book was opened, the book of life. And the dead were judged according to their works, as recorded in the books. ¹³And the sea gave up the dead that were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and all were judged according to what they had done. ¹⁴Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire; ¹⁵and anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. ⁷Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children. ⁸But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, the murderers, the fornicators, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

STORY OF SALVATION TIMELINE

The timeline below offers an overview of the Story of Salvation lesson and Bible in a Year readings from Genesis to Revelation. <u>The + marks where we are now</u>. A memory verse for the week is in bold. Claim the gift for yourself!

Creation : Fall : Promise : Exodus : Conquest : Judges : Kings and Prophets : Exile : Restoration : 2nd Temple : JESUS : Apostles : Last Day : + New Creation

*GOSPEL

LUKE 2:22-40

Those who are able may stand to honor Christ during the reading of the Gospel. Response after announcement:

C: Glory to you, O Lord

Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,

according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child

to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

"The Song of Simeon and Celebrating the Christ Child"

Promise at the End: All Shall Be Made New

Song of Simeon

The Law is an aspect in the Word that shows our brokenness, sin and need for Jesus' saving power: I put trust in my own powers, worldly standards and worldly powers. It really is all up to me alone, right? Wrong.

The Gospel is an aspect in the Word that gives strength, wisdom and hope in Jesus' ultimate saving power: The Name above all names, Jesus, is given for us to trust and call upon in prayer and praise, now, at the hour of our death, and beyond.

So What? Sing the Song of Simeon in your night prayers. Let go of worry - in Christ ultimately all shall be well.



*HYMN OF THE DAY

"I Wonder As I Wander"



Words and Music: Appalachian Carol Adapt. by John Jacob Niles

PRAYER

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Jubilate! Bells are Ringing"

Hark! The vesper hymn is stealing o'er the waters soft and clear. Nearer yet and nearer pealing, soft it breaks upon the ear. Jubilate! Amen. Farther now and farther stealing, soft it fades upon the ear.

Now like moonlight waves retreating to the shore it dies along. Now like angry surges meeting breaks the mingled tide of song. Jubilate! Amen. Hark, again like waves retreating to the short it rings along.

Once again sweet voices ringing louder still the music swells. While on Christmas carols winging comes the chime of vesper bells. Jubilate! Amen! On the Christmas carols winging rings the chime of vesper bells.

Malachi 3:10, Matthew 23:23, 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

CHANCEL CHOIR & CHAPEL RINGERS

Ellen Foncannon

The first Noel the angels did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay. In fields where they lay keeping their sheep on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Jubilate! Amen! Born is the King of Israel.

***OFFERTORY**

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"



***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

C: Blessed are You, O God, maker of all things. Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered in feeding the world with Your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

AM: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence may be kept. Each prayer will conclude: Lord in Your mercy, and the congregation may respond **Hear our prayers.**

Prayers are commended in Jesus' Name.

AM: All these prayers and whatever else You see that we need we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem to save us.

C: Amen.

1 Timothy 2:1-4

(In Unison)

Psalm 51

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray: 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.

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE

"This is the Feast"

Revelation 5:12-13; 19:5-9





SENDING

***BENEDICTION**

Numbers 6:24-26

P: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the Name of the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"



Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"God Will Take Care of You" W. S. Martin / arr. P. Keveren

+ + + + + + +

THOSE SERVING AT LUTHERAN CHAPEL TODAY

Ministers	People of Lutheran Chapel
Pastor	Michael Comer
Administrative Assistant	Kim Rundzieher
Director of Music	Kathie Riebe
Assistant to the Director of Music Ministries	Juan Vizcarra
Assistant Minister	Sylvia Fogle
Lector	Jenny Williamson
Acolyte	Bryson Lineberger
Crucifer	Lillian Robinson
Head Ushers	Steve Clark and Ervin Hoffman
First Aid/AED/CPR	Ervin Hoffman
Council Members of the Month	Steve Ritchie & Nancy Witman



PARISH NEWS

NURSERY ATTENDANTS BY REQUEST: If your family is in need of a nursery attendant during the 10:00 service, please let our ushers know and they will contact one of our standby attendants.

RESTROOMS: Restrooms are located on the bottom floor of the Sanctuary. Additional restrooms are located in the Educational Building and *do not require the use of stairs*. If needed, please see an usher for assistance in locating them.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES: 2024 offering envelopes for members of the church are now available and can be found on the table next to the stairs leading up to the balcony. For those who regularly give online or through a financial institution, please contact Kim in the church office if you still would like your envelopes.

2024 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR: If you'd like to donate altar flowers in 2024 the following Sundays are still available: April 7 & 14, July 7, September 29, and October 20. Please call or text Susan Lewis at 704-914-8451 to sign up.

2024 CONGREGATIONAL BIBLE STUDY: *All are invited to take up the Story of Salvation Bible Study as gift and discipline in 2024.* This will cover major biblical stories from Genesis to Revelation using traditional Lutheran Bible study tools such as the plain sense of Scripture, Law and Gospel, meditation, etc. In-person studies will be on Sundays at 9AM in Sunday School beginning January 7, Thursdays at 11AM beginning January 11, on-line at lutheranchapelchurch.org in the Daily Prayer section, and as printed copies in the prayer racks located in the narthex and educational building. Claim the gift of God's Word for yourself.

ESTHER CIRCLE: Esther Circle will meet in the Fellowship Hall on **Monday, January 8** at **10am.**

REBECCA CIRCLE: Rebecca Circle will gather for dinner at <u>Hickory Tavern</u> on Monday, January 8 at 6pm.

DAILY PRAYER

A HOME ALTAR ALTERS THE HOME!: Each morning and evening, pray to the LORD. Sunrise, sunset and at meals are times for daily prayer (*Psalm 1*). A simple order is: Sign of the Cross + Psalms +Bible in a Year + Canticle + Hymns +Prayers + Blessing.

FEAST OF PSALMS: Christmas

	<u>Sunday</u>	Monday	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
AM	2,8	29, 34	65, 72	93, 96	99, 100	111, 114	132, 146
PM	9, 19	40, 45	89, 90	97, 98	103, 110	116, 121	147, 148

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR - Week 1 December 31 to January 7, 2024

- 12/31 Morning Reading: Revelation 22—Evening Reading: Malachi
- 01/01 Morning Reading: Matthew 1—Evening Reading: Genesis 1, 2, 3
- 01/02 Morning Reading: Matthew 2—Evening Reading: Genesis 4, 5, 6
- 01/03 Morning Reading: Matthew 3—Evening Reading: Genesis 7, 8, 9
- 01/04 Morning Reading: Matthew 4—Evening Reading: Genesis 10, 11, 12
- 01/05 Morning Reading: Matthew 5:1-26—Evening Reading: Genesis 13, 14, 15
- 01/06 Morning Reading: Matthew 5:27-48—Evening Reading: Genesis 16, 17
- 01/07 Morning Reading: Matthew 6:1-18—Evening Reading: Genesis 18, 19

Morning: "Song of Zechariah" (Luke 1:68-79) Evening: "Song of Mary" (Luke 1:46-55)

Traditional Song:	"Away in a Manger"	ELW #277
Sing a New Song:	"King of Kings"	W&P #80

PRAYER LIST FOR FELLOWSHIP: Steve Bell, Faye Anne Boyette, Shirley Bradley, Buddy Carothers, Steve Clark, Kathy Finch, Ervin Hoffman, Henry Hoffman, Susan Jackson, Leon Moretz, Carlton Peacock, Nancy Rankin, Doug Rhyne, Bill & Kay Robinson, Pat & Barbara Robinson, Joe Veale, and Myra Weaver

FRIENDS OF THE FELLOWSHIP: Sheila Abernathy, John Austin, Sam Bell, Rick Belton, Deborah Carpenter, Jeff Cobb, Doris Coggins, Mary Collins, Carol Coutant, Tucker Doyne, Jameson Franklin, Mark Harrelson, Wade Huss, Michael Jemison, Rick Knowles, Bill Lankford, Pastor Terrell Long, Pastor Charles McManus, Scott Moose, Paul Nordberg, Rita Pasour, Randy Reel, Dakota Shuford, Christy Carpenter Smith, and Charlene Sorenson

To share concerns and updates for the prayer list you can contact the church office (704-864-6491) or call/text Pastor Comer (704-787-6439).

This QR code goes straight to the Daily prayers page on the website that list the commemorations for the week.



Wednesday, January 3 ~ NO Evening Service

Thursday, January 4 ~ NO Bible Study

Sunday, January 7 ~ Holy Communion ~ Epiphany Sunday

Genesis 1:1-2:3 and Matthew 2:1-12 "Beginnings"

CHURCH ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 - SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2024

Sun-31	8:30 am	Fellowship
	9:00 am	Bible Study/Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Chancel Choir
	8:00 pm	Faith Group (Fellowship Hall)
Mon-01	Happy New	Year!
Tues-02	10:00 am	Clothing Closet Workday
	7:00 pm	Men's Comm. Bible Study (Conference Room, Chapel, Classrooms)
Wed-03	5:30 pm	Chapel Ringers
Fri-05	9:00 am	Men's Comm. Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
	3:30 pm	Set-up for Chancel Choir Luncheon (Kitchen/Fellowship Hall)
Sat-06	9:30 am	Hungry Peeps Support Group (Chapel)
	12:00 pm	Chancel Choir Luncheon (Kitchen/Fellowship Hall)