

Light of the World



*Unto you
is born this day...
a Saviour,
which is
Christ the Lord.*

— * —
LUKE 2:11

Saint Luke's Lutheran Church
5265 N. Union Blvd. Colo. Spgs., CO 80918
The Nativity of our Lord - Christmas Eve 2021

Welcome to worship at Saint Luke's Lutheran Church!

The Lord Says, *"Be still and know that I am God!"* The Atrium is for fellowship and conversation. Once you enter the sanctuary, you are invited to enter into silence, meditation, and prayer as we come into God's presence and prepare to worship. The following prayers may be useful in centering your thoughts, mind and heart.

Prayers of private devotion before worship

Dispel, during this time of worship, O Lord, the many distractions of the world; that I may be able, with a quiet mind, to receive the promptings of your still, small voice; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Send forth, O God, your good grace, and sanctify my soul, body, and mind; turn my thoughts to holiness, so that with a pure conscience, I may offer to you a worthy and acceptable sacrifice of praise; through the mercy and compassion of your only-begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your Holy, Good and Enlivening Spirit, now and always. Amen.

Prayer of private devotion after worship

O dear God, give us grace that, like St. Paul and St. Luke and other saints, we may highly prize our treasure, which is the same as theirs. Help us to cherish the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, above all else on earth, and to thank you from the heart that you have honored us with Him. It is pure grace that you have placed us in your green pastures, and have so richly provided us with the bread of heaven and the water of life. For these we owe you our hearty thanks. Keep us in faith and help us to walk in your ways, in love and service, until we enter into eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Please stand and face the processional cross, turning toward the front as it passes you.

THE ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be God: Father, Son (+) and Holy Spirit.

C: and blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

P: We hear in Hebrews 4, “Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the Heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor that we may celebrate with joy the Christmas feast.

P: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for His sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

A: When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

C: “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

A: And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain
Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

THE GREETING

P: Unto us a Child is born:

C: **Unto us a Son is given.**

P: And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God:

C: **Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

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

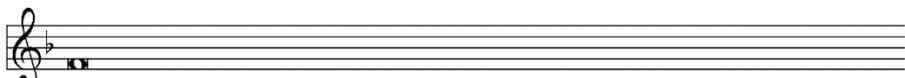
C: **And also with you.**

THE KYRIE

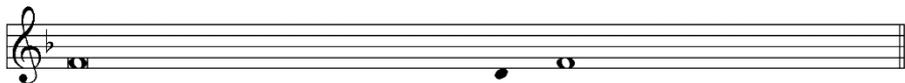
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **B** Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

B Lord, have mer - cy.



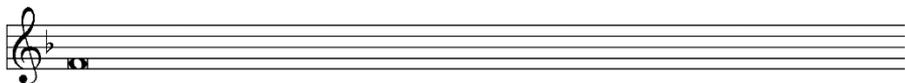
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



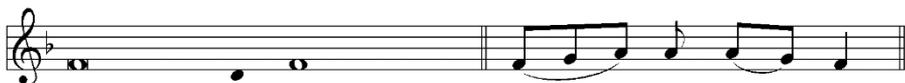
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



B Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

B Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **B** A - men

Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
 Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887–1958

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

☐ The Lord be with you. ☑ And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray. 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 only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please sit.

THE FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-6

9:2 The people walking in darkness see a bright light; light shines on those who live in a land of deep darkness. **9:3** You have enlarged the nation; you give them great joy. They rejoice in your presence as harvesters rejoice; as warriors celebrate when they divide up the plunder. **9:4** For their oppressive yoke and the club that strikes their shoulders, the cudgel the oppressor uses on them, you have shattered, as in the day of Midian's defeat. **9:5** Indeed every boot that marches and shakes the earth and every garment dragged through blood is used as fuel for the fire. **9:6** For a child has been born to us, a son has been given to us, authority rests upon his shoulders and he is called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 96



Sing to the LORD | a new song;*

sing to the LORD, all | the whole earth.

²Sing to the LORD and | bless his name;*

proclaim the good news of his salvation | day to day.

³Declare his glory a- | mong the nations*

and his wonders a- | mong all peoples.

⁴For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised;*

he is more to be feared | than all gods.

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;*

but it is the LORD who | made the heavens.

⁶Oh, the majesty and magnificence | of his presence!*

Oh, the power and the splendor of his | sanctuary!

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples;*

ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.

⁸Ascribe to the LORD the honor | due his name;*
bring offerings and come in- | to his courts.

⁹Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;*
let the whole earth trem- | ble before him.

¹⁰Tell it out among the nations: "The | LORD is king!*
He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he
will judge the peo- | ples 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.

¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the
LORD | when he comes,*
when he comes to | judge the earth.

¹³He will judge the | world with righteousness*
and the peoples | with his truth.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the | Holy Spirit; *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forev- | er. Amen.

THE SECOND LESSON: Titus 2:11-14

2:11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people. **2:12** It trains us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, **2:13** as we wait for the happy fulfillment of our hope in the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. **2:14** He gave himself for us to set us free from every kind of lawlessness and to purify for himself a people who are truly his, who are eager to do good.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN AND CANDLELIGHTING

Please stand. During the singing, the acolytes will go down the aisles and light the candles of those on the aisle, with flame being passed down the row. Please be careful not to tip lighted candles. As the cross processes into the congregation please turn toward the cross.

Silent Night

**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.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd Chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

2:1 Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus to register all the empire for taxes. **2:2** This was the first registration, taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria. **2:3** Everyone went to his own town to be registered. **2:4** So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David. **2:5** He went to be registered with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him, and who was expecting a child. **2:6** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **2:7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

2:8 Now there were shepherds nearby living out in the field, keeping guard over their flock at night. **2:9** An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were absolutely terrified. **2:10** But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid! Listen carefully, for I proclaim to you good news that brings great joy to all the people: **2:11** Today your Savior is born in the city of David. He is Christ the Lord. **2:12** This will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.” **2:13** Suddenly a vast, heavenly army appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

2:14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among people with whom he is pleased!”

2:15 When the angels left them and went back to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, that the Lord has made known to us.”
2:16 So they hurried off and located Mary and Joseph, and found the baby lying in a manger. **2:17** When they saw him, they related what they had been told about this child, **2:18** and all who heard it were astonished at what the shepherds said. **2:19** But Mary treasured up all these words, pondering in her heart what they might mean. **2:20** So the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; everything was just as they had been told.

After the reading.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

Please extinguish candles.

Please sit.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Joshua J. Hansen

After the sermon, a time of silence for reflection.

Please stand.

The First Noel

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it
 rev - erent - ly . . up - on . . their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . great light, and . . so it con -
 king was their . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . and stay right . . o - ver the
 there in his . . pres - ence their . . gold, and

Refrain

night that was so deep.
tin-ued both day and night.
star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
place where Je - sus lay.
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional
Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901

THE NICENE CREED

C: 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

A: Rejoicing in God's gift of grace, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all on whom the Light of Christ shines.

Please kneel if you are able.

After each petition:

A: Lord in your mercy:

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Hear our prayers, gracious God, as we live in the light of your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE OFFERING

A musical offering is made at this time as the tithes and offerings are received.

Please stand.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN: What Child Is This

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him. The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby; Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe the son of Mary!

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray. God with us:

C: You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



P: The Lord in His mer-cy, be with all of you.



C: And with your spi-rit the Lord be with you.



P: Now lift up your hearts, give thanks and praise.



C: With hearts full of joy our thanks-giv-ing we raise.

THE PREFACE

P: It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS

Please kneel if you are able.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
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.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Father in heaven, we gladly give you our thanks and praise. You have given to us a world filled with many wonders and with many different people. When the world was created, your Son was there. You chose Abraham and his children to be your people. Then, when the time was just right, you sent your Son into the world. He was born like us, and you named him Jesus, the One who would save your people.

C: We give you thanks, heavenly Father.

P: We praise you this night because of the great love you have for us. We thank you most of all for Jesus, who showed your love to those who were poor, sick, and helpless; He forgave people and taught us to forgive; He took children in his arms and blessed them. In His great love for us, He died on the cross and was raised up to bring new life to the world. Through Him you have made us your children.

C: Lord, thank you for this love.

P: Father in heaven, we ask that you send your holy and life-giving Spirit to us, that this bread and wine may be for us the joyous food from heaven, the body and blood of our Lord Jesus:

Who, on the night of His betrayal, took bread; when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said: Take and eat, for this is my body, which is given for you. Do this for my remembrance.

When supper had ended, He took the cup; when He had given thanks, He gave it to them and said: All of you, drink of this, for this cup is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for my remembrance.

With thankful hearts for the gift of your Son, we say:

C: Lord Jesus, you gave your life for us; you rose from death; and you will come to us in glory.

P: Heavenly Father, as you now invite us to your Son's Table, give us gladness as we eat and drink of this holy food your Son now gives to us.

We thank you for this, the best gift of all; and we pray that you will continue to care for all your children everywhere; until that day when Jesus will come again, giving new life and filling the world with his love.

C: With Jesus Christ and your Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, heavenly Father.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

THE FRACTION/BREAKING OF BREAD

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ is the true bread that has come down from heaven; he is our Emmanuel, God with us.

C: Lord, feed us with your love.

THE AGNUS DEI

Please remain kneeling until after the singing of the Agnus Dei

☒ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please sit.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRED ELEMENTS

All who are baptized, have received the Lord's Supper, and believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine are welcome to commune.

The center ring glasses of each communion tray contain alcohol-free wine for those who require it.

From Luther's Small Catechism we hear:

*What benefits do we receive from this sacrament? The benefits of this sacrament are pointed out by the words, "**given and shed for you for the remission of sins.**" These words assure us that in the sacrament we receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.*

*How can eating and drinking do all this? It is not eating and drinking that does this, but the words, "**given and shed for you for the remission of sins.**" These words, along with eating and drinking, are the main thing in the sacrament. And whoever believes these words has exactly what they say, forgiveness of sins.*

A private prayer before receiving Holy Communion:

Merciful Father, we do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat and drink the body and blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that we may live in Him and He in us, now and forever. Amen.

A private prayer after receiving Holy Communion:

Almighty God, you provide the true Bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that as I have received the Sacrament of His Body and Blood, He may abide in me, and I in Him, and that all who have received may be filled with the power of His endless life. By your grace, help me to walk worthy of my calling, and to learn to bring glory to your name in all things. Amen.

Please stand.

THE POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re- calls his prom- is - es and leads his peo- ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks- giv - ing. Al- le - lu - ia. Al- le - lu - ia.

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace!

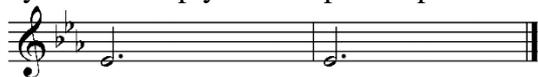
C: Amen.

A: Let us pray. Great and saving God, you have gathered your scattered people around gifts of grain and wine, the body and blood of our Savior Christ. As we, like the shepherds, return on our way, may we proclaim all we have heard and seen, praising you in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

P: God the Creator, who delights in you, Jesus the Savior, who is born for you, and the life-giving Spirit, who shines for you, bless you and keep you in hope and peace.



C: A - - - men.

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

THE SENDING

A: And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

C: Joy to the world, the Lord is come; Let earth receive her king!

A: Go in peace, serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!



Dear Co-Workers in the Gospel,

On behalf of the whole staff we thank you for attending worship this Christmas Eve. It is our hope and prayer that you have a blessed and safe Christmas season. May Christ's presence give you a sense of hope and joy as you go forth from worship tonight.

As we reflect on this past year and anticipate the year to come, let us all give thanks with a grateful heart for the many blessings we have received this year. Above all else we thank God for bringing us together as a congregation with a renewed strength and purpose for mission and ministry.

In Christ,

Pastor Josh Deaconess Katy

James + Joro

Katy

Our Beautiful Poinsettias have been provided by:



Dave & Ellen Baese in memory of Jerry Kimble & Stephanie Criss

Al & Dorothy Beck in memory of their parents

Mary Lou Butler in memory of John

The Byrd Family in memory of Betty & Swede Nelson, Everett Byrd,
Eric Holway, and Sylvia Castle

Jerry & Lynnette Carnal in memory of Janet Hays & Lourdes Tan
Gaddi

Maggie Carpenter to the glory of God

Tom & Bonnie Clark in honor of Colleen Hopwood & Rebecca Clark

Bill & Dawn Dieter in honor of their kids and grandkids

Roger & Cathy Hyttinen in honor of Lauriebeth, Corey & Brandon
Peterson, and Matt Hyttinen

The Kipps Families in memory of Nellie & Linden Kipps and Dorrie
& George Fitchett

Margaret Loucks to the glory of God

Andrea Ried in memory of April Ried

Ellie & Frank Rosenberg in memory of Justine & Wallace Turner,
and Agnes Hewitt

Kristy Yates in honor of Ron & Connie Yates

SAINT LUKE'S

Lutheran Church

MISSION STATEMENT & MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP

*Saint Luke's Lutheran Church is called to **Welcome** people to faith in Jesus Christ, **Equip** us for a faith that works in real life, and **Send** us into the world to make a difference with the heart and mind of Jesus.*

As a disciple of Jesus Christ at Saint Luke's Lutheran Church, to the Glory of God I am called to:

- **Pray** daily
- **Worship** weekly
- **Read** the Bible
- **Serve** at and beyond Saint Luke's
- Be in **Relationship** to encourage spiritual growth in others
- **Give** of my time, talents, and resources