

**WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!** We are excited to have you here this evening to share in our celebration of the Savior’s birth! If you do not have a church home, we would be delighted to tell you more about our church family. Just check the appropriate box on the Attendance Card that is in the pew rack in front of you or call the church office (922-1418) and ask for Pastor Brighton.

**COMPLETE NURSERY SERVICES** are provided during the worship service this evening. There is also a cry room where the service can be seen and heard. If you have any questions, an usher will be happy to assist you!

**THOUGHT BEFORE WORSHIP:** Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Jesus comes into a world that is troubled, out-of-control, and filled with fear. His birth—the fulfillment of God’s promise to send a Savior—made angels sing and shepherds rejoice. Tonight, we gather in a world unchanged from when Christ first came to earth. But we rejoice with the angels and shepherds because our loving Father God continues to send the Savior Jesus to us in, with, and under the Means of Grace. In a troubled world, God is in charge. In a world out of control, we have a Savior who defeated the ultimate power of sin on the cross. In a world with reasons to fear, we have the Lord Jesus who has promised never to leave us nor forsake us. Joy to the world! The Lord is come!

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**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC: Musical Offerings by the members of Mt Calvary.**

**THE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING**

**THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN: “Joy to the World” Hymn #387**  
*(Please turn and face the rear of the church as the music begins.  
Turn back toward the front of the church as the Processional Cross passes your pew.)*

**THE INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Every good and perfect gift is from heaven above,

**Coming down from the Father of lights.**

We gather to celebrate the good and perfect gift of joy.

**God’s Word does not return empty**

But accomplishes what He desires

**And achieves the purpose for which He sends it.**

Therefore, we go out in joy

**And are led forth in peace.**

The mountains and hills burst into song.

**And all the trees of the field clap their hands.**

In the town of David a Savior is born.

**He is Christ the Lord.**

This is good news of great joy

**For all the people!**

## **CONFESSION OF SINS AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Although this is a time of great joy, we remember that we are sinners in need of a Savior. Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

*(please kneel)*

Good and giving God, as much as we want Christmas to be the best of times, sometimes it is the worst of times.

**Some of us have spent too much money and we are worried sick about it.**

Others of us are struggling with our health, or the health of a loved one.

**Some are wrestling with old hurts that won't heal and new wounds that won't go away.**

Still others are missing loved ones this Christmas—

**Either because of distance, death or because of cruel design.**

Our hurts and lost hopes rob us of Christmas joy.

**And we dwell in the darkness of sin and unbelief. For the sake of Jesus, forgive us our sins. Amen.**

I bring you good news of great joy. Not for some of the people. Not for most of the people. Not for a lot of the people. This is good news of great joy for all the people. Joy and forgiveness are Christ's gifts to everyone! In the town of David a Savior is born. He is Christ the Lord! This is good news of great joy!

**For all the people! Amen.**

**CHRISTMAS HYMN OF PRAISE: "Angels We Have Heard on High" Hymn #368**

## **THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Gracious God, You constantly give us reason to rejoice and praise, but we especially praise You tonight because You sent Your Son into this troubled world to redeem us. During our troubles, bring peace through Your Word; when we sense that the world is out of control, bring confidence in Your faithfulness to us; in our fear, bring courage through Your righteousness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

**In His great mercy He has given us an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.**

In this we greatly rejoice

**And are filled with inexpressible and glorious joy!**

In the town of David a Savior is born.

**He is Christ the Lord.**

This is good news of great joy

**For all the people!**

**HYMN:****"What Child Is This"****Hymn #370**

(Lighting the Advent candles while the hymn is sung:  
Joe and Barb, Logan, Lucas and Brianna Jahnke.)

**THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 7:10-14** *(Isaiah prophecies the birth of the Savior.)*

<sup>10</sup> Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup> "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." <sup>13</sup> And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**THE ANTHEM:****"Away in a Manger"**

Sanctuary Choir

**THE EPISTLE READING: 1 John 4:7-16** *(God showed His love to us by sending His Son to save us. We show our love to God by loving each other.)*

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

<sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

<sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup> So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL: "Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising"**

*(Please turn and face the Processional Cross as it comes into the midst of the congregation.)*

**Come, your hearts and voices raising,  
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;  
Loudly sing His love amazing,  
Worthy folk of Christendom.**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**Glory to You, O Lord!**

## **THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20** *(Luke's account of our Savior's birth.)*

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who 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 God 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 made known to us." <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

<sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ!**

## **GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL: "*Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising*"**

*(Please turn and face the front of the church as the Processional Cross passes your pew.)*

**Gracious child, we pray, O hear us,  
From Your lowly manger cheer us,  
Gently lead us and be near us  
Till we join Your choir above.**

## **THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Pete LeBoriorous  
Director of Christian Education

## **THE HYMN FOR CHRISTMAS EVE:**

**"O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

**Hymn #379**

## **THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE:**

**"Christmas Joy!"**

Pastor David Brighton

## THE CHRISTMAS CREED

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, Who sent His Son to be my Savior;**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, announced by the angels, worshiped by the shepherds, adored by the Wise Men; Who lived to suffer, die and rise again, to free me from sin, death and the power of the devil;**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, Who has brought me to faith in the Christ of Christmas, and by Whose continuous work in my heart, I am ever led to lay before the feet of Christ the treasures of my worship, my life, my love; and to live under Him as my King, both now and forevermore. Amen.**

## THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Gracious heavenly Father, we adore Your divine goodness and praise You for the wonderful Gift of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus.

**Praise, honor and glory be to You, O Lord our God!**

For this eternal blessing, conceived out of Your love for us before the world began, accept our heartfelt thanks.

**Accept our offerings of praise in acknowledgment of Your love and mercy.**

As we kneel beside Your manger, Lord Jesus, assure us of Your continuing love and support.

**Fill our hearts with joy and thankfulness.**

Fill our lives with hope.

**Fill our minds with wonder at Your love and grace.**

Lord Jesus, hear our prayer to let Your light shine through our sharing, our service, and our support of others.

**Hear our prayer for peace among nations, reconciliation among people, hope among the poor and the lonely and the exploited. Make us willing instruments of peace and reconciliation and hope.**

This we ask in the name of our Savior, Christ the Lord.

**Amen.**

## THE GATHERING OF THE TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### THE VOLUNTARY

**+++ A VERSE TO PONDER IN YOUR HEART +++**

“But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons . . . So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir!” (Galatians 4:4-5)

### THE STORY OF SILENT NIGHT AND THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*(Only unlit candles should be tipped to receive the flame from those already lit. This prevents hot wax from spilling. If younger children will hold lit candles, parents should supervise them closely.)*

## THE READING

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." (Isaiah 9:2)

## THE CANDLELIGHT HYMN: "Silent Night, Holy 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.**

**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!**

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

**See, darkness covers the earth, and thick darkness is over the peoples.**

But the Lord rises upon you and His glory appears over you.

**Nations will come to the light, and kings to the brightness of the dawn.**

Go in peace and share the Good News – the mystery of new life and salvation from a baby, the baby Jesus, our King!

**Amen.**

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

*(The candles are extinguished.)*

## POSTLUDE

*May the peace and joy of the Christ Child fill your heart this Christmas!*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Our New Year's worship schedule** will follow the regular schedule with a New Year's Eve service on Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm and New Year's Day worship services on Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 and 10:45 am. There will be no Sunday School classes on New Year's weekend.

**Our Altar Flowers were provided this week** by Paul & Dottie Brown in memory of Dottie's son, Michael Ernest.

**Painless Contributing** - Great news! The online marketing firm, Amazon, is now offering to donate 0.5% of the amount of all orders to the charity of your choice, and it costs you nothing! Naturally, many of our members and friends may want to take advantage of this "free money" for our church. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/hdv9vhh> to learn how to activate this benefit, or just go to the church website and click the link. A notice about it appears in one of the slides at the top of the main page.

**Mt. Calvary has received a gift in memory of Josie Kong**, Evy Keyes' mom, from Dwight & Marlene Miller.

**2017 Offering envelopes are ready.** You can pick yours up on the tables near the information desk. If you want offering envelopes and don't find yours on the table, please call Jack in the office.



**The Flower Chart for 2017 is posted. Now would be a good time to get the weekend that you want reserved. Note: When you pay for flowers, please indicate this on your check or envelope.**

**Please return the Rough Wood and Rusty Nails yard signs and stands** to the Information Desk to be stored for future use. Thanks.

**Proposed By-laws Changes Available for Review** - At the January Voters Assembly, we will be looking at the proposed changes to our By-laws developed by our Constitution Review Committee over the last few months. Please see the copy on the Information Desk. It is also available to view or download at <http://mountcalvaryga.org/bylaws/>. Changes are indicated in red strikeout and yellow highlight.

**Great news!** The online marketing firm, Amazon is now offering to donate 0.5% of the amount of all orders to the charity of your choice, and it costs you (and our church) nothing! Naturally, many of our members and friends may want to take advantage of this "free money" for our church. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/hdv9vhh> to learn how to activate this benefit, or just go to the church website main page and click on "Amazon Smile" under "Announcements." An Amazon page will open and you can learn from there how to set it up. Just please be sure to designate Mount Calvary Lutheran Church as the beneficiary.

## **PRAYER CONCERNS**

**Walt & Cheryl Stafford**, who were in an automobile accident, but are okay.

**Phyllis Yeager**, Bob's mother, who has pneumonia.

**Laura Haas**, who is hospitalized and on a ventilator.

### **Keep In Your Prayers**

Monika Reynolds, Opal Key (Dianne Damron's mother), Ruth Brighton (Pastor's mother), Alyce Quillin, Margaret Jennings, Cameron Mastenbrook, Rosie Schulz, Erika Swaim (Marcia Brighton's mother), John White, Pastor Brighton, Bev Ellgass, Doris Snow, Deloris Denzine and Karen Johnson.

*(NOTE: Those listed under "Keep in your prayers" are removed from the list after eight weeks. If there is someone you would like to keep on the list for another eight weeks, please contact the church office.)*

### **Those Battling Cancer**

Those battling cancer: Barry Rice (Becky McVay's brother), Norma Young (Melinda Hopf's aunt), Kathy Grube, Mary Schwope (Michele Durbin's aunt), Jeannette Poniske (Fred Tamer's mom) and Bruce Oswalt (Krystal Ferguson's father).

### **Those Serving our Country in Dangerous Areas**

Aaron Gittner, Benjamin Brighton, Darrin Landis, Denver Yarbrough, Jonathan Fetchik and Christian Corbitt, for safety and good health as they serve our country in dangerous areas.

*A Christmas Prayer*  
*By Robert Louis Stevenson*

*Loving, Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
and the worship of the Wise Men.*

*Close the door of hate,  
and open the door of love all over the world.  
Let kindness come with every gift,  
and good desires with every greeting.  
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which  
Christ brings, and teach us to be merry  
with clear hearts.*

*May the Christmas morning  
make us happy to be Thy children,  
and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds  
with grateful thoughts,  
forgiving and forgiven.  
For Jesus, sake. Amen.*

## SERVING US TODAY

**PREACHER:** Pastor David Brighton. **LITURGIST:** Pastor David Brighton/Vicar Aaron Sterling.  
**ELDER:** Rob Crawford. **ACOLYTES:** Chris Crawford & Lynn Cook. **USHERS:** Laird Van Gorder,  
Brent Durbin & Dick Kesler. **ALTAR GUILD:** Sue Glaser, Barb Mabee, Ginger Martin, Kathy Robinson  
& Sharon Suckow. **LAY READER:** Bob Gerstenberger. **SLIDE PREPARER:** Gary Webb.  
**PROJECTIONIST:** Open.

## SERVING US NEXT WEEK

**ALTAR GUILD:** Cindy Branham, Anita McIntyre, JoAnn Smith & Arlene Zeuner. **LAY READERS:**  
Pruett Burge (Sat 6 pm), Bob Reynolds (Sun 8 am) and Roger Moeller (Sun 10:45 am). **GREETERS:**  
Open (Sun 8 am), and Open (Sun 10:45 am).

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Numbers 6:22-27 and Galatians 3:23-29

## ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

**Saturday – 46 Early – 76 Late – 132 Total – 254**  
**Karenni Service - 53**

## THIS WEEK AT MOUNT CALVARY

Tomorrow	No Sunday School <b>10:00 am Worship</b>
	12 am – 2 pm Helping Hands Christmas Dinner
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Church Closed</b>
	6:20 pm Evangelism Callers
	6:30 pm Women's Small Group
Thursday	10:00 am Ladies Bible Study
Saturday	5:00 pm Adult Bible Study
	6:00 pm Praise & Worship for New Year's Eve