

Bill Lauster
In memory of Shar Lauster

Judy Lewis
In memory of all our loved ones who have passed

Tom and Rachel Marquardt
In memory of our dads, Elmer and Bill

Gayle and Don Merritt
In celebration of all our blessings

Elizabeth Namarra
In memory of mom and dad

Dolores and Kirby Patterson
In memory of Dale Patterson and Alvina Patterson

Joyce Rowley
In memory of John Rowley

Kim Schoffstall
In memory of John Schoffstall and Rob Schoffstall

Tom and Kris Simon
In honor of our families, and in memory of loved ones who have passed.

Earl Simons
In memory of Ruthanne Simons

Verle and Ethel Smith
In honor of the Smith family

Carol Stejskal
In memory of husband, parents, and in-laws

Jay and Diane Stejskal
In memory of Terry Stejskal and Larry McConnell

Bryan and Wendy Toenies
In celebration of the beautiful holiday season

Ali and Isak Tranvik
In gratitude to our parents

Mark Trease
In memory of Karma Kay Trease

Mark Trease
In memory of Scott A. Wells and Markus J. Wuollet



Candlelight

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church - December 24, 2025 - 4 pm

Merry Christmas - Welcome to Cross of Glory!

We invite all those worshipping onsite to pick up a candle on the table outside the sanctuary, which we'll use at the end of the service. If you're worshipping online, please gather a candle as well as bread and wine/juice for Communion. Finally, if you are visiting Cross of Glory today, we invite you to fill out a "Welcome Card" located in your pew and place it in the offering plate so that we can further extend a welcome to you. To all those who are gathered on this holy night: we're grateful for your presence as we proclaim the Good News that Jesus Christ—the Light of the World—is born!

Gathering

PRELUDE

CoG Kids

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: I bring you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born, this day, a Savior.

All: Unto us, a child is born; unto us, a son is given.

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

All: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them a light has shined.

Leader: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

All: Let us go now and see this thing that has taken place.

Leader: Let us see and hear and sing and proclaim, let us worship God Emmanuel, let us adore Him: Christ, the Lord!

All: Amen!

MUSIC

O Come, All Ye Faithful

#283

Please stand as you're able

Verse 1

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye,
O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him,
Born the king of angels.

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

Thank You

...TO THOSE WHO ADORNED OUR SANCTUARY FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON. WE CELEBRATE, REMEMBER AND HONOR THOSE NAMED BELOW:

Cheryl and Gail Anderson

In memory of Sidney and Marian Anderson, Vicky Townsend, and our four legged friends

Dan and Julie Aulwes

In memory of our parents

Bill, Dawn, Ryan, and Chad Bailey

In memory of Ruthanne Simons

Don and Karen Earnest

In memory of family and friends

Deb Groettum

In memory of John Groettum

Marcy Hartlage and family

In memory of Gil Hartlage

Dave and Nancy Hengel

In memory of moms, dads, son, son-in-law, sisters, and brothers

Kim and Gary Jacobson

Robert Jacobson beloved father

Marcia Janasz and family

In memory of Chet Janasz, sister Karen, Michael, parents and friends

Harvey Johnson and Family

In memory of Patricia Johnson

Abby, Isabelle, and Lauren Kelley

In celebration of our Cross of Glory family

Arlene Kosek and family

In memory of Richard Kosek, parents and loved ones

Peter and Lori Kosek and family

In memory of Marla Wahlquist, Jodi Haus, Richard Kosek

(continued)



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Coffee

All are welcome to linger as you're able for a cup of hot coffee, cookie, and brief time of fellowship after worship this evening.

Life Together at Cross of Glory

At Cross of Glory, we believe we're called to share God's gift of life together. From Bible study to neighborhood get-togethers, the worship team to the golf team, community gardening to community meals, there are lots of ways to do so. We invite you to take part! Learn more at www.crossofglory.us.

Worship

Join us for worship each Sunday at 9:30 am. Services are also livestreamed via Zoom and recordings are posted to our website.

Make a Gift

Your Christmas offering empowers us to shine God's light through a variety of ministries in our congregation and broader community. To make a contribution, leave an offering in the plates located outside the sanctuary, mail a check, or make an easy, secure online gift via our website. Thank you!

Carols Sing-Along

Join members of all Wildfire churches for a Christmas carol sing-along event at Wicked Wort Brewery in downtown Robbinsdale on Monday, Dec 29th from 6-8 pm. Join us for a fun night of fellowship and fun as we continue to sing the Christmas story!

Holiday Food Drive

Help us collect food to share with neighbors in Brooklyn Center through CEAP and CAPI. Non-perishable items can be dropped off through the end of the month in the cart near the Welcome Desk.

Pastoral Care & Prayer

If you're in need of care, prayer, or conversation, reach out to the office to be connected with the pastor or our Care & Visitation Team. We also invite you to stop by our Community Prayer Wall located outside the sanctuary.

Verse 2

The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
now in flesh appearing! *(Refrain)*

Please be seated

Verse 3

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens
of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest! *(Refrain)*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: On this silent night when we gather to celebrate the birth of God Emmanuel, we confess that our own noise has drowned out the melody of God's redeeming love. On this silent night, we confess our sins together:

All: God-With-Us, we confess that we have failed to live in your love. We have rejected those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden in whom you dwell. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, so that your justice and mercy and love would be born anew in us. Amen.

P: Hear the good news of great joy: Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. You are God's beloved children, † forgiven in Christ, and freed to live in God's love.

A: Amen.

At this time, all children who are interested in taking part in the Procession of Light are invited to gather in the back of the sanctuary. During the next song, "Joyous Light," kids will process with battery-powered candles to the front of the sanctuary and place them across the front rail, where they'll be a reminder of God's presence with us. Afterwards, kids can return to their seats.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

PROCESSION OF LIGHT & LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*** Please stand as you are able ***

MUSIC Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory #561

Verse 1

Joyous light of heav'nly glory,
loving glow of God's own face,
you who sing creation's story,
shine on ev'ry land and race.
Now as evening falls around us,
we shall raise our songs to you.
God of daybreak, God of shadows,
come and light our hearts anew.

Verse 2

In the stars that grace the darkness,
in the blazing sun of dawn,
in the light of peace and wisdom,
we can hear your quiet song.

Love that fills the night with wonder,
love that warms the weary soul,
Love that bursts all chains asunder,
set us free and make us whole.

Verse 3

You who made the
heaven's splendor,
every dancing star of night,
make us shine with gentle justice,
let us each reflect your light.
Mighty God of all creation,
gentle Christ who lights our way,
loving spirit of salvation,
lead us on to endless day.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Let us pray together...

All: God Emmanuel, you come among us to grant us peace, offer us hope, fill us with joy, and embody love. Illuminate our hearts with your light, and empower us to live out the good news of the birth of your Son; in the name of Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

*** Please be seated ***

Word

SCRIPTURE READING

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,

Isaiah 9:2-7

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Ali Tranvik

Director of Choirs: Keith J. Williams

Worship & Tech Director: Mark Trease

Kids' Message: Kris Simon

Vocalists: Kris Simon, Kim Jacobson, Laura McClanahan

Guitar: Steve Sebald, Josh Smith

Prelude: Joel, Adalyn, and Melody Sebald, Archer Dahl

Greeters: Gordy and Maggie Johnsrud

Readers: Judy Lewis

Communion Servers: Judy Lewis, Kim Schoffstall, Carolyn Nottingham Davis

Ushers: Cheryl Anderson, Gayle Merritt, Tom Simon, Steve Ferley

Acolyte: Joel Sebald

Crucifer: Markia Marquardt

Prayers of the People: Carolyn Nottingham Davis

Tech Team: Ryan Bailey, Dawn Bailey & Bill Bailey

Ministers: The people of Cross of Glory

I Will Light Candles this Christmas

A poem by Howard Thurman

I will light Candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.



Pastor: One candle is but a flicker, but our many flames join together to reflect one light, Jesus Christ, the light of the world, who shines in the darkness.

MUSIC **Silent Night** **#281 vss 1-3**

Verse 1
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.

Verse 2
Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!

Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Verse 3
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.

BLESSING

P: Our candles reflect the star that led the magi, the angels who shone in the night sky, and the light of Christ who is come. Let your light shine as you go forth tonight, knowing that the presence of God † accompanies you, the peace of Christ dwells with you, and the love of the Holy Spirit never leaves you.

All: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace, Christ is born!
A: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

MUSIC CREDITS

The Order of Service is from Evangelical Lutheran Worship which is commended for use in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when
dividing plunder.
For 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.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His 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 onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Leader: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MUSIC **Joy to the World** **#267**

Verse 1
Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n
and nature sing.

Verse 2
Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods,
Rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Verse 4
He rules the world
with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness

And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-20

*** Please stand as you are able ***

P: The Gospel according to Luke the second chapter.

ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.

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

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

and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'
When 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.' So they went with

MUSIC

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

#276

Verse 1

Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

Verse 2

Flocks were sleeping,
shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

MUSIC

Away in a Manger

#277

Verse 1

Away in a manger,
no crib for a bed.
The little Lord Jesus
laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky
looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus
asleep on the hay.

Verse 3

Be near me, Lord Jesus;
I ask you to stay
close by me forever
and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children
in your tender care
and fit us for heaven,
to live with you there.

COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: Emmanuel, God with us, you fill us with bread for the journey. Send us out into the world that you so love, to extend the grace we've received and to share the bread we've been given, in the name of Jesus Christ, the bread of life.

All: Amen.

Sending

CELEBRATION OF LIGHT

We will now light candles, reminding us of the light of Christ that is given to us this night, and the light we're called to take forth into the world. The flame will be passed to you by a neighbor, and we invite you to share it with another neighbor after yours is lit. Candles may remain lit through the end of the service.

When lighting, please hold the unlit candle over the lit candle

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

ALL: 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.

HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: Jesus shows up in a lowly manger, and in the simple gifts of bread and wine. Come, meet Christ in this meal.

P: The body of Christ is given for you.

A: Amen.

P: The blood of Christ is shed for you.

A: Amen.

Come to the table, where God's gifts of grace and love are poured out for all, and where all are welcome. If you're worshipping onsite, you're invited to come forward when an usher cues your row. You'll be offered bread from the first server (gluten-free option available), and grape juice at the second station. Communion is served intinction-style: you may dip the bread into the juice. If you'd like to take communion in your seat, simply cue an usher and we'd be glad to bring it to you.

MUSIC

What Child Is This?

#296

Verse 1

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!

Verse 3

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!

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

P: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

*** Please be seated ***

MUSIC

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

#270

Verse 1

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem:

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Verse 3

Hail the heav'n-born
Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth,
Born to give us second birth.
(Refrain)

KIDS' MESSAGE

Kids are invited up to the front to help lead a song.

Hallelu, hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah **Jesus is born**
Jesus is born **Hallelujah**
Hallelu, hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah **Jesus is born**
Jesus is born **Hallelujah**
Jesus is born **All: Jesus is born!**
Hallelujah

SERMON

MUSIC

This Little Light of Mine

Verse 1 (solo)

This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine
Let it shine.

Verse 2

Shine throughout the darkness,
I'm gonna let it shine
Shine throughout the darkness,
I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine
Let it shine

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MUSIC

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

#752

The song below is sung at the beginning and ending of prayers. All kids willing to help lead are invited to come forward to do so at this time; congregation, follow the kids for corresponding actions.

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Spoken between each petition:

Leader: Your children pray...

ALL: Hear our prayer.

OFFERING

God's love moves through the offering we joyfully share. We invite you to leave an offering in the plates as they are being passed or scan the QR code here to make a secure, online gift, so that we might share God's love here in our congregation and throughout the wider community. Thank you!



SPECIAL MUSIC God the Son Bergthold/Taylor/Redman/Trotter

Traditional

Verse 3

Everywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine
Everywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine
Let it shine.

Verse 4

Jesus is the Light,
I'm gonna let it shine
Jesus is the Light,
I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine
Let it shine.

OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Generous God, you have given us the gift of new life, the gift of community, and these gifts of bread and wine that become the meal of your grace. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and joy to all the tables of our lives.

All: Amen.

Table

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

A: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant...lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

SONG OF PRAISE

To the tune of "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Verse 1

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of hosts, all praise be given!
All your glory fills the earth,
all your power fills the heavens.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Verse 2

Blessed is the child who comes,
bringing love and light divine.
Blessed is the one who's here,
in the bread and in the wine.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Pastor: On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.