

# ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the  
**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**  
welcomes you!

December 24,  
2025



Christmas  
Eve

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY

“SHINE” CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP: 6:00 PM (1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAYS-CHAPEL)

### SUNDAY

THE DIVINE LITURGY: 9:00AM

EDUCATION HOUR: 10:30AM

**105 EAST “D” STREET BELLEVILLE, IL 62220**

**EMAIL: [WORSHIP@STMARKBELLEVILLE.ORG](mailto:WORSHIP@STMARKBELLEVILLE.ORG)**

***THE REV. BRIAN M. ROBISON, PASTOR***

***THE REV. RONALD C. NEUSTADT, PASTOR EMERITUS***

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+ **To parents with small children:** We are glad your family is worshipping with us today! “*Quiet Bags*” (supplies & activities for use by small children) are available in the Welcome Area. If you or your child need a break from the service, feel free to use the Welcome Area/narthex (the service is audible over the speakers).

+ An **accessible Restroom** is available off the Welcome Area/Narthex next to the **accessibility lift** to the lower level. **Parish Hall and additional Restrooms** are located on the lower level of the main church building. The stairway is off the entrance foyer. An usher will be happy to assist you with the lift.

+ **Assistive listening devices** and **low vision items** are available. Please ask one of our ushers for assistance.

+ **Land Acknowledgement:** This church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the **Quapaw, Myaamia, Kaskaskia, and Kickapoo** peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and still call this land home.

## PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

“Carol of the Birds” *Bas-Quercy* Recorder: Peggy Andersen  
“Midnight Stars Make Bright the Skies” *Huan-sha-xi* Piano with bells  
“On This Christmas Night” *by Mary Kay Beall* Women’s Chorus

**PRELUDE** “O Holy Night” *arr. D. Bish* Evelyn Duncan, organ

## WELCOME

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *Please STAND as you are able*

Blessed be the one God - Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit - Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

Tonight on Christmas Eve we gather with families all over the earth in the presence of the Most High. **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.**

As we have been filled by light, let us enlighten.

**As we have been found, let us seek out the lost.**

As we have been liberated, let us set the captives free.

**For to us a child is born, One whom God sends to bring peace and light, freedom and reconciliation. Thanks be to God!**

## GATHERING

*The assembly turns to face the cross as it enters. You may bow as it passes, honoring the mystery of our salvation.*

**GATHERING HYMN** “O Come All Ye Faithful” **ELW 283**

**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!**

**2 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,**

**sing, all ye citizens of hea-ven above!**

**Glory to Go-d i-n the- hi-ghest: [Refrain]**

**3 See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,**

**leaving their flo-cks, dra-w ni--gh in awe;**

**we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps: [Refrain]**

**4 The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,**

**born of a vir-gin, a mortal he comes;**

**Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]**

## GREETING

Tonight Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia! 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!**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

### “Angels We Have Heard on High”

ELW 289



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.



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o;

glo



ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De

o.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is SEATED.*

## WORD

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest... <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>For 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. <sup>7</sup>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 onward and forevermore.

The Word of the Lord.      **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 96 “All People That On Earth Do Dwell” *Tune: Puer Nobis/“On Jordan’s Bank”*

**1 All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing to the Lo-rd with cheerful voice;  
him serve with mirth, and praise forth tell;  
come ye before him and rejoice. →**

**2 Oh, enter then his gates with praise;  
approach with jo-y his courts unto;  
praise, laud, and bless his name always,  
for it is seemly so to do.**

**3 For why? The Lord our God is good:  
his mercy i-s forever sure;  
his truth at all times firmly stood,  
and shall from age to age endure. →**

**4 To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
the God whom hea-v'n and earth adore,  
from us and from the angel host  
be praise and glory evermore.**

### SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

<sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.      **Thanks be to God.**

### ALLELUIA VERSE *The assembly STANDS to welcome the gospel.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## **GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20**

A reading from the Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as recorded by the evangelist Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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 and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> 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 in the guest room.

<sup>8</sup> Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> 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: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.** *Please SIT*

**SERMON**

*“Death Takes a Holiday”*

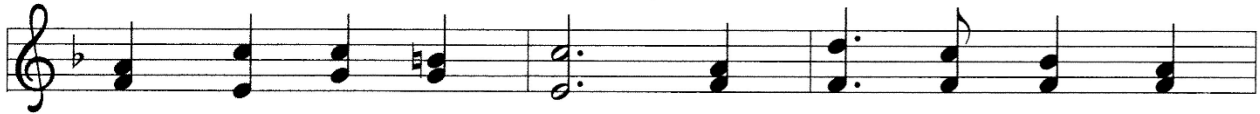
**The Rev. Brian M. Robison**

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1 While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, all  
 2 “Fear not,” said he, for might - y dread had  
 3 “To you, in Da - vid’s town this day, is  
 4 “The heav’n - ly babe you there shall find to



seat - ed on the ground, the an - gel of the  
 seized their trou - bled mind: “Glad tid - ings of great  
 born of Da - vid’s line the Sav - ior, who is  
 hu - man view dis - played, all hum - bly wrapped in



Lord came down, and glo - ry shone a - round.  
 joy I bring to you and hu - man - kind.  
 Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign:  
 swath - ing bands, and in a man - ger laid.”

5 Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith  
 appeared a shining throng  
 of angels praising God, who thus  
 addressed their joyful song:

6 “All glory be to God on high,  
 and to the earth be peace;  
 good will to all from highest heav’n  
 begin and never cease!”

**CREED** *sung to the tune of Greensleeves/“What Child is This?”*



We be - lieve\_ in God al - might - y, Au - thor of all things that be.  
 We be - lieve\_ that Je - sus suf - fered, scourged and scorned and cru - ci - fied;  
 We be - lieve\_ in God’s own Spir - it, bond - ing all the saints with - in



Mak - er of\_ the earth and heav - ens, Keep - er of\_ the sky\_ and sea.  
 tak - en from the cross, was bur - ied, True Life there had tru - ly died.  
 one church cath - o - lic, one church ho - ly, where for - give - ness frees\_ from sin;



We be - lieve\_ in God’s Son, Je - sus, now for us\_ both Lord and Christ,  
 We be - lieve\_ that on the third day Christ was raised up from the grave,  
 in the bod - y’s res - ur - rec - tion, for the break - ing of\_ death’s chain



of\_ the Spir - it and of Mar - y born to bring a - bun - dant life\_ -  
 then as - cend - ed to God’s righthand. He will come to judge and save\_ -  
 gives the life\_ that’s ev - er - last - ing, This the faith that we have claimed\_

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The response to “Hear us, O God,” is “Your mercy is great.”

**PEACE** The assembly is invited to share a greeting of God’s peace with one another. Following **the Peace**, you may be **seated** for a few moments

**OFFERING** Should you wish to leave an offering today, it may be placed in the wooden box on the table near the baptismal font at any point during or after the service.

### BELL CHOIR ANTHEM

“Carol of the Bells”

Ukrainian

### OFFERING PRAYER

*Assistant:* Let us pray together... **God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

### OFFERTORY “I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve”

ELW 271



I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve! His prais-es then I sing;  
he o-pens now for ev-'ry one the pal-ace of the king.

### GREAT THANKSGIVING (Tune: “I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve”)

The Lord be wi-th you. **And with you.** Lift up your hear-ts to pray.

**We lift them u-p unto the Lord, for we thank Go-d this day.**

For at the bir-th of time your Word brought light into- our strife.  
And now the Wor-d breaks through the dark, takes on our hu-man life.

**I am so gla-d each Christmas Eve, the night of Je-sus’ birth!**  
**Then like the su-n the star shone forth, and angels sa-ng on earth**

The night before he died, our Lord had sup-per wi-th his friends.  
He broke the bre-ad and took the cup, and giving tha-nks he said:  
“This is my bo-dy bro-ken; this cup, my blo-od for you;  
And when you ea-t rememb’ring me, forgiveness flo-ws to you.”



## THE LORD'S PRAYER *traditional*

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.**



## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

**LAMB OF GOD** (*Tune: "I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve"*) *Please SIT*  
**O Lamb of Go-d, who bears our sin and gives our spir-its ease;  
Have mercy o-n us, Lamb of God, and fill our hea-rts with peace.**

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*Communion is open to everyone. In this sacrament, we believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. At this service, communion will be served from around the altar rail. At the usher's direction, please come forward and kneel at the altar rail.*

- ✘ *After receiving the bread, you may take an individual cup or drink from the chalice.*
- ✘ *You may return to your seat after communing.*
- ✘ *Those who do not wish to commune may come forward for a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate this preference.*
- ✘ *Reception of the Eucharist under one kind (bread or wine) is valid communion for those who must avoid either for health reasons.*
- ✘ *If you are unable to go to the altar for communion, please notify an usher or the pastor, so that communion may be brought to you in your pew.*



“Away in a Manger”

ELW 277



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord  
2 The cat - tle are low-ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked  
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look  
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn-ing is nigh.  
your ten - der care and fit us for heav-en, to live with you there.

CHANCEL CHOIR

“Angels’ Carol”

by John Rutter

After the distribution is complete, please **STAND** as you are able for the blessing.

TABLE BLESSING

The Body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Canticle after Communion:

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

ELW 288, v. 2



2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!



He has o - pened heav-en’s door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.



Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Assistant:* Let us pray together...

**Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.  
May we treasure this gift  
and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence.  
Move us to discover the wonders of your love  
in the everyday moments of our lives,  
through Christ born in us. Amen.**

## CANDLE LIGHTING

### “Silent Night, Holy Night”

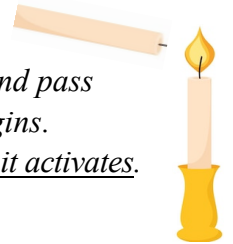
ELW 281

*The choir sings verse 1 in German, then the congregation joins in with verse 1 in English.*

*The acolytes will come along the aisles with torches. Please light your candles from the torch, and pass the flame to others down the pew. For those with electric candles, activate them as the hymn begins.*

*For those who have candles without an obvious switch, please tighten the bottom of the candle until it activates.*

*You are encouraged to raise your lighted candles during the last line of each 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.
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!
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.

*At the conclusion of the song, please **carefully** extinguish your candles so as not to blow wax onto the pews.*

*As you leave tonight, please place your candles in the baskets in the narthex or return them to an usher*

## BLESSING

May the triune God - glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter - bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy. Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Joy to the World”

ELW 267



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



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.

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!

**And peace to God's people on earth!**

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

**Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

*Arranged by D. Bish*

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

**Presider & Preacher:** The Rev. Brian M. Robison + **Assisting Minister:** Charlie Duncan

**Chalice Bearer:** Mike Murakami + **Crucifer & Lector:** Corbin Monfre

**Tech Minister:** Melanie Robison + **Ushers:** TBD + **Safety Volunteer:** Jan Richards

*Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas from St. Mark!*

*Please join us as we continue the Christmas celebration with services tomorrow, December 25 at 10:00am, and a service of Lessons and Carols this Sunday, December 28, at 10:00am.*

# ST. MARK CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



Given By	In Memory Of or In Thanksgiving For
Mark & Patty Bearth	
Lorraine Crannage	Donald Crannage
Frank, Jan, Jeni & Clark Dressel	Larry & Pat Likness, Erwin & Frieda Dressel
Charlie & Evelyn Duncan	Andrew Duncan
Art Engelage	
Kathy Evans	Wil & Jean Martens
Mary Hill	Larry Hill
Greg & Nancy Guenther	
Ann & Greg Martens	
Linda Ness	Dwight Ness
Mary Skifton	Frank, Lucille, & Al Nork; Lenny Mueller, Marylou Kockmann
Wilma Shroat	Richard & Gary Shroat
Bonnie Schaefer & Kathy Bamvakais	Darrell & Darlene Wurdinger, Barbara Wurdinger