

Communion Practice: We believe that Christ is truly present in Holy Communion and, as we try to be faithful to Christ in the serving of this Sacrament, we ask that everyone be examined and instructed by the Pastor before receiving Holy Communion. All confirmed members of this parish, who have been regularly examined by the Pastor, are welcome to partake of the Holy Eucharist today. We also welcome the members who are in good standing of any of the parishes served by the Bishop, Pastors, and Deacons of The Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America (ELDoNA), and who have spoken to the Pastor prior to the service. Members of other Lutheran parishes or other denominations are kindly asked to refrain from communing today. The Pastor would be glad to make an appointment with anyone to discuss our teachings and/or our parish.

A Prayer upon Entering Church

Almighty, Ever-Living God, grant that I may gladly hear Thy Word and that all my worship may be acceptable unto Thee; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

A Prayer before Communion

Dear Savior, upon Thy gracious invitation I come to Thine Altar. Let me find favor in Thine eyes that I may approach Thy Table in true faith and receive the Sacrament to the salvation of my soul. Amen.

A Prayer after Communion

O Thou blessed Savior Jesus Christ, Who hast given Thyself to me in this holy Sacrament, keep me in Thy faith and favor; as Thou livest in me, let me also live in Thee. May Thy holy Body and Blood preserve me in the true faith unto everlasting life. Amen.

A Prayer at the Close of the Service

Grant, I beseech Thee, Almighty God, that the Word which I have heard this day may through Thy grace be so engrafted in my heart that I may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Scripture quotations are from the Revised Version of the Holy Bible (1895) with Apocrypha. This work is in the Public Domain.



The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord
December 25th, 2022

Sts. Peter & Paul Ev. Luth. Church, U.A.C.

A Parish Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America

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“Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy.” St. Luke 2:10

The Order of Divine Service

The Prelude	<i>“Gelobet sei ’st du, Jesu”</i>	Johann Pachelbel
The Ringing of the Bell		
<i>Stand</i>		
The Processional Hymn	<i>“A Great and Mighty Wonder”</i>	TLH 76
Silent Prayer	<i>(Prayers are located on back cover)</i>	ASBH p. 7
The Invocation		ASBH p. 7
The Confession of Sins		ASBH p. 8
Versicles	<i>(All may kneel)</i>	ASBH p. 8
Confession and Absolution		ASBH p. 8-9
<i>Stand (if kneeling)</i>		
The Introit	<i>(Congregation joins Pastor on Gloria Patri)</i>	ASBH p. 53
The Kyrie		ASBH p. 10
The Gloria in Excelsis		ASBH p. 10-13
The Salutation		ASBH p. 13
The Collect for the Day		ASBH p. 53
Collect Amen		ASBH p. 14
<i>Sit</i>		
The Epistle		Titus 2:11-14
The Gradual		ASBH p. 53
<i>Stand</i>		
The Sequence Hymn	<i>“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”</i>	Δ ASBH 66
The Gospel		St. Luke 2:1-14
The Athanasian Creed		ASBH p. 39-40
<i>Sit</i>		
The Hymn	<i>“O Jesus Christ, All Praise to Thee”</i>	ASBH 5
The Sermon	<i>She Brought Forth Her Firstborn Son</i>	
<i>Stand</i>		
The Offertory		ASBH p. 18-19
	<i>(An Alms Basin is located next to the bulletins for any Offerings)</i>	
The General Prayer		ASBH p. 19-20
The Lord’s Prayer		ASBH p. 20
<i>Sit</i>		
The Hymn	<i>“All Praise to Thee, Eternal God”</i>	TLH 80
<i>Stand</i>		
The Exhortation		ASBH p. 21
The Lavabo		ASBH p. 21
Silent Prayer	<i>(Prayers are located on back cover)</i>	ASBH p. 21
The Preface		ASBH p. 22
The Proper Preface		ASBH p. 23-27
The Sanctus and Benedictus		ASBH p. 27-28
The Lord’s Prayer		ASBH p. 29
The Verba Domini	<i>(All may bow when the Pastor genuflects)</i>	ASBH p. 30

The Pax Domini	<i>(All may bow and cross themselves)</i>	ASBH p. 31
The Agnus Dei	<i>(All may kneel)</i>	ASBH p. 31-32
<i>Sit</i>		
The Distribution	<i>(Prayers are located on back cover)</i>	
The Hymn	<i>“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”</i>	TLH 85
<i>Stand</i>		
The Nunc Dimittis		ASBH p. 33-35
The Thanksgiving and Collect		ASBH p. 35-36
The Hymn	<i>“Now Praise We Christ, the Holy One”</i>	TLH 104
The Salutation		ASBH p. 36
The Benedicamus		ASBH p. 37
The Benediction		ASBH p. 37
The Triple Amen	<i>(First Setting)</i>	ASBH p. 37
The Recessional Hymn	<i>“O Gladsome Light, O Grace”</i>	TLH 101
<i>Sit</i>		
The Postlude	<i>“Vom Himmel hoch”</i>	Johann Gottfried Walther

Announcements

ASBH = Augustana Service Book and Hymnal: 2022 Supplement.

TLH = The Lutheran Hymnal

Δ—indicates a hymn ending in a Doxological stanza; please stand.

Christmas Season Schedule

December 26th	<i>The Festival of St. Stephen, Martyr</i>
December 27th	<i>The Festival of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i>
December 28th	<i>The Festival of the Holy Innocents</i>
January 1st	<i>The Festival of the Circumcision and Name of our Lord</i> Divine Service 10:00 a.m.
January 6th	<i>The Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord</i> Private Confession 4:30 p.m. Divine Service 5:00 p.m.

In Our Prayers:

- For all those who are sick or infirmed, especially, *Peggy Holder, Jo Kope, Betty Ramsey, Brandon Dennie, Nellie Noegel, Katie, Dan, Angelo, Kelly, Judy Horn, Mike Miller, Barbara Miller, Rev. Mark Mueller, Paul Meadows, Vince Bost, Bill Kope, Barb Eisold, Ray Heilener, Martin Kope, Sally Kope, Bruce Carter, and Vito Gerardi.*
- For the *Friends and Family* of *Jack Davis*, who was called to his eternal home this past week.
- For our bishop, the *Rt. Rev. James D. Heiser.*
- For the parishes served by our diocese, and those in our international fellowship, especially, *St. Boniface Ev. Lutheran Church, Nile, MI;* and her pastor, the *Rev. John Rutowicz.*
- For our seminary, *St. Ignatius Lutheran Theological Seminary.*
- For our seminarians, *Ben Henson* and *Jacob Henson.*
- For our catechumens, especially *Nikolas Likourentzos.*
- For the moral and spiritual support of those involved with our mission in Knoxville, TN, especially, *Ana Heiser, Nikolas Likourentzos, Deacon Smithey, Sherrill Smithey, Bobby Eisold, Barb Eisold, and Bob Eisold.*
- For those struggling with addiction, especially, *Thomas Allred, Brennan David, and John Monahan.*
- For all those who serve in the military, especially, *Nicholas Silva.*
- For *Nikolas Likourentzos* and *Ana Heiser* who announced their engagement to be married.
- For those near death.
- For those celebrating a birthday this week.
- For those celebrating an anniversary this week, especially *John and Venessa Landt.*
- For those traveling this week.

Announcements

Daily Readings for the Octave of the Feast of the Nativity

	Morning	Evening
Today	Romans 1-3; Luke 2:22-32	Romans 4-6; Hebrews 2:9-16
Monday:	Romans 7-9; John 1:15-18	Romans 10-12; Micah 4:1-8
Tuesday:	Romans 13-14; Luke 2:15-20	Romans 15-16; Isaiah 32:1-8
Wednesday:	1 Cor. 1-3; Luke 2:22-24	1 Corinthians 4-6; Isaiah 46:3-13
Thursday:	1 Cor. 7-9; Luke 2:25-32	1 Corinthians 10-12; Isaiah 49:1-13
Friday:	1 Cor. 13-14; Matt. 2:13-15	1 Corinthians 15-16; Isaiah 55:1-13
Saturday:	2 Cor. 1; Luke 4:16-21	2 Corinthians 2; James 4:13-17

Praying the Psalter Daily in Matins and Vespers:

	Morning	Evening
Today:	Ps. 19, 45, 85, 119:89-128	Ps. 89, 110, 132, 119:129-176
Monday:	Psalms 19, 45, 85, 120-125	Psalms 89, 110, 126-132
Tuesday:	Psalms 19, 45, 85, 133-135	Ps. 89, 110, 132, 136-139
Wednesday:	Psalms 19, 45, 85, 140-141	Ps. 89, 110, 132, 142-143
Thursday:	Psalms 19, 45, 85, 144	Psalms 89, 110, 132, 145
Friday:	Psalms 19, 45, 85, 146	Psalms 89, 110, 132, 147
Saturday:	Psalms 19, 45, 85, 148	Psalms 111, 149-150

Book of Concord Readings for the Week:

Monday:	The Large Catechism, I.183-198
Tuesday:	The Large Catechism, I.199-216
Wednesday:	The Large Catechism, I.217-231
Thursday:	The Large Catechism, I.232-247
Friday:	The Large Catechism, I.248-264

Reciting the Catechism Daily:

Sunday:	The Ten Commandments
Monday:	The Apostles' Creed, The Lord's Prayer
Tuesday:	Holy Baptism, The Office of the Keys and Confession
Wednesday:	The Sacrament of the Altar

Thursday: The Prayers

Friday: The Table of Duties

Saturday: Christian Questions with Their Answers

Hymns for the Week:

Morning: ASBH 5—“O Jesus Christ, All Praise to Thee”

Evening: TLH 85—“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

Calendar for the Octave of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord

Today: The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord—White

10:00 a.m. Divine Service

Monday: The Festival of St. Stephen, Martyr—Red

Tuesday: The Festival of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist—White

John and Venessa Landt’s Anniversary

Wednesday: The Festival of the Holy Innocents—Red

Thursday: Within the Octave of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord—White

Friday: Within the Octave of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord—White

Saturday: Within the Octave of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord—White

New Year’s Eve

**Next Sunday: The Festival of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus/
The First Sunday after Christmas (Commemorated)
—White**

New Year’s Day

10:00 a.m. Divine Service and Bible class in
Simpsonville, SC and Knoxville, TN (Deacon Smithey)

3:00 p.m. Divine Service in Augusta, GA

The Lutheran Herald

The December issue of “The Lutheran Herald,” the devotional booklet of the ELDoNA, is now available. It can be found on Facebook at: <http://tinyurl.com/LutheranHerald> and on the diocesan website: eldona.org. There are also printed copies in the back of the nave for your use and distribution.

An Excerpt from Luther’s Writings

“But what happens in heaven concerning this birth? As much as it is despised on earth, so much and a thousand times more is it honoured in heaven. If an angel from heaven came and praised you and your work,

would you not regard it of greater value than all the praise and honour the world could give you, and for which you would be willing to bear the greatest humility and reproach? What exalted honour is that when all the angels in heaven can not restrain themselves from breaking out in rejoicing, so that even poor shepherds in the fields hear them preach, praise God, sing and pour out their joy without measure? Were not all joy and honour realized at Bethlehem, yes, all joy and honour experienced by all the kings and nobles on earth, to be regarded as only dross and abomination, of which no one likes to think, when compared with the joy and glory here displayed?” *A sermon by Martin Luther, from his Wartburg Church Postil, 1521-1522.*

To Read in Preparation for this week’s Festivals:

Today—The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord

Epistle: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: St. Luke 2:1-14

December 26th—The Festival of St. Stephen, Martyr

Epistle: Acts 6:8—7:60

Gospel: St. Matthew 23:34-39

December 27th—The Festival of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Epistle: 1 John 1:1-10

Gospel: St. John 21:19-24

December 28th—The Festival of the Holy Innocents

Epistle: Revelation 14:1-5

Gospel: St. Matthew 2:13-18

January 1st—The Festival of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus

Epistle: Galatians 3:23-29

Gospel: St. Luke 2:21

Festival of St. Nicholas
66. Of the Father's Love Begotten

Aurelius C. Prudentius, †413, cento
Tr., John M. Neale, 1854, and
Henry W. Baker, 1861

Divinum mysterium
Plain-song tune, 12th century

1. Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ed
2. Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed

Ere the worlds be - gan to be,
When the Vir - gin, full of grace,

He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,

He the Source, the End - ing He,
Bare the Sav - ior of our race,

Of the things that are, that have been,
And the Babe, the world's Re - deem - er,

And that fu - ture years shall see
First re - vealed His sa - cred face

Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

3. O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing;
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

4. This is He whom Heav'n-taught singers
Sang of old with one accord;
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the Long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.

Δ5. Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore.