



## Union Lutheran Church

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December 22, 2024

6:30 p.m. Christmas Program

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Welcome to Union Lutheran Church! We are a Christian faith family, gathered to love God and love our neighbors. All are welcome, no matter where you are in your faith journey, young or old, rich or poor, contemporary or traditional, female or male, and no matter your walk of life. We extend the same invitation that the Samaritan woman made to her village as they questioned her about Jesus, *“Come and See”* (John 4:7-30). If you are searching, wondering or hoping for God, we invite you to Union Lutheran Church, to *“Come and see that the Lord is good!”*

We worship every Sunday at 10:30 a.m., preceded by 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages.

## ORDER FOR PROGRAM

*The Prince of Peace* Christmas Program from Union Lutheran Church Archives  
Unknown Author and Year ~ Adapted 2024 for ULC Christmas Program

Invocation (Matthew 28:19)

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

Prayer (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

P O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel! (Prayer comes from stanza 4 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*)

C Amen

Hymn: *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

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 angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

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

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

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*

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847

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### Scene 1: The Prophecy

Hymn: *Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain* Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Text: Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

Tune: *French processional, 15<sup>th</sup> cent.*

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Hymn: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

**1**            **Lo, how a rose is growing, A bloom of finest grace;  
The prophets had foretold it: A branch of Jesse's race  
Would bear one perfect flow'r Here in the cold of winter  
And darkest midnight hour.**

Text: German, 15<sup>th</sup> cent; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943  
Tune: Alte Cathilische Geistliche Kirchengesang, Koln, 1599  
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### Scene 2 – The Announcement

Hymn: *While Shepherds Watched their Flocks by Night*

**1**            **While shepherds watched Their flocks by night  
All seated on the ground The angel of the Lord came down  
And glory shone around And glory shone around**

George Frideric Handel, Nahum Tate  
CCLI Song #32008  
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### Scene 3: The Shepherds Response

Hymn: *Joy to the World*

**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.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748  
Tune: George F. Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.  
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Hymn: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

**3**            **Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain***

*Refrain*            **Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864  
Tune: French carol  
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Hymn: *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

**1**            **It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.**

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876, alt.  
Tune: Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900  
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Hymn: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**2** For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.  
**O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!**

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

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Hymn: *Away in a Manger*

**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.**

Text: North American, anonymous, 19th cent.

Tune: American, 19<sup>th</sup> cent.

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Hymn: *O Come All Ye Faithful*

**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*

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

Text: attr. John F. Wade, c. 1711-1786

Tune: attr. John F. Wade, c. 1711-1786

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#### Scene 4: The Wisemen Worship

Hymn: *O Holy Night*

**2** Led by the light of faith serenely beaming  
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming  
Here came the wise men from Orient land  
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger  
In all our trials born to be our Friend

*Refrain* **He knows our need To weakness is no stranger  
Behold your King Before Him lowly bend  
Behold your King Before Him lowly bend**

Adolphe Charles Adam, John Sullivan Dwight, Placide Cappeau

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## Scene 5: We Find Peace

Hymn: *Silent Night, Holy Night!*

- 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.**

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

Tune: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863

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Lighting of the Candles (*John 1:1-5; John 8:12; John 12:44-46*)

*The minister lights her candle from the Christ Candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world (Jesus Christ) of whom John's gospel speaks. Please only tilt the unlit candle towards the flame of a lit candle which is held straight up and down. Once your candle is aglow with the flame, then keep it upright at all times. Resist the impulse to tilt your candle to light the next person's candle. The person next to you will then tilt their unlit candle to your candle. Use caution and avoid hair, clothing, and other flammables. Also use caution with the hot melted wax. Parents, or other adults, please assist small children.*

Hymn: *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

- 1**            **Let there be peace on earth And let it begin with me  
Let there be peace on earth The peace that was meant to be  
With God as our Father Brothers all are we  
Let me walk with my brother In perfect harmony**
- 2**            **Let peace begin with me Let this be the moment now  
With ev'ry step I take Let this be my solemn vow  
To take each moment And live each moment  
In peace eternally Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me**

Jill Jackson, Sy Miller

CCLI Song #93690

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Prayer

- P**            **Let us pray, Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of Your Son, Jesus, whose entry  
into our world we celebrate today. Fill our hearts with the peace that only He provides.**

**C Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (**Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4**)

**P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:**

**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**

Benediction

**P May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.**

**C Amen.**

Dismissal (**Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 28:19-20**)

**P For unto us a child is born...**

**C And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**P Union Lutheran Church go and share the Good News!**

**C Jesus Christ will come again!**

*Everyone is invited to enjoy the refreshments following the program!*

Union Lutheran Church would like to express our most sincere gratitude to everyone who volunteered their time, resources, and participation to make this year's Christmas Program a success!



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## Union News

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### This Week's Schedule

Tuesday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

*The church office will be closed Tuesday, December 24-Thursday, December 26, in observance of the Holiday.*

Please join us for **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**

Tuesday, December 24, **4:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary (informal) and/or

**7:40 p.m.** Prelude Music **8:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary

as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ!

Wednesday, Dec. 25 Christmas Day

*In observance of the Holiday: Catechism Confirmation, Belles & Beaus, and Chancel Choir will not meet this week.*

Thursday, Dec. 26 **12 noon-4:00 p.m.** Eagle Family Christmas (*Old Pine Center*)

Friday, Dec. 27 2025 January Messenger & Handouts printed

### Sunday, December 29

**9:30 a.m.** Sunday School

Ruth Cares for Naomi ~ Ruth 1:1-18; Romans 8:31-39

*“Where you go I will go ... Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.”*  
(Ruth 1:16)

Rabbit Hole Adult Sunday School Class

Ruth Cares for Naomi

Drew Wise Adult Sunday School Class

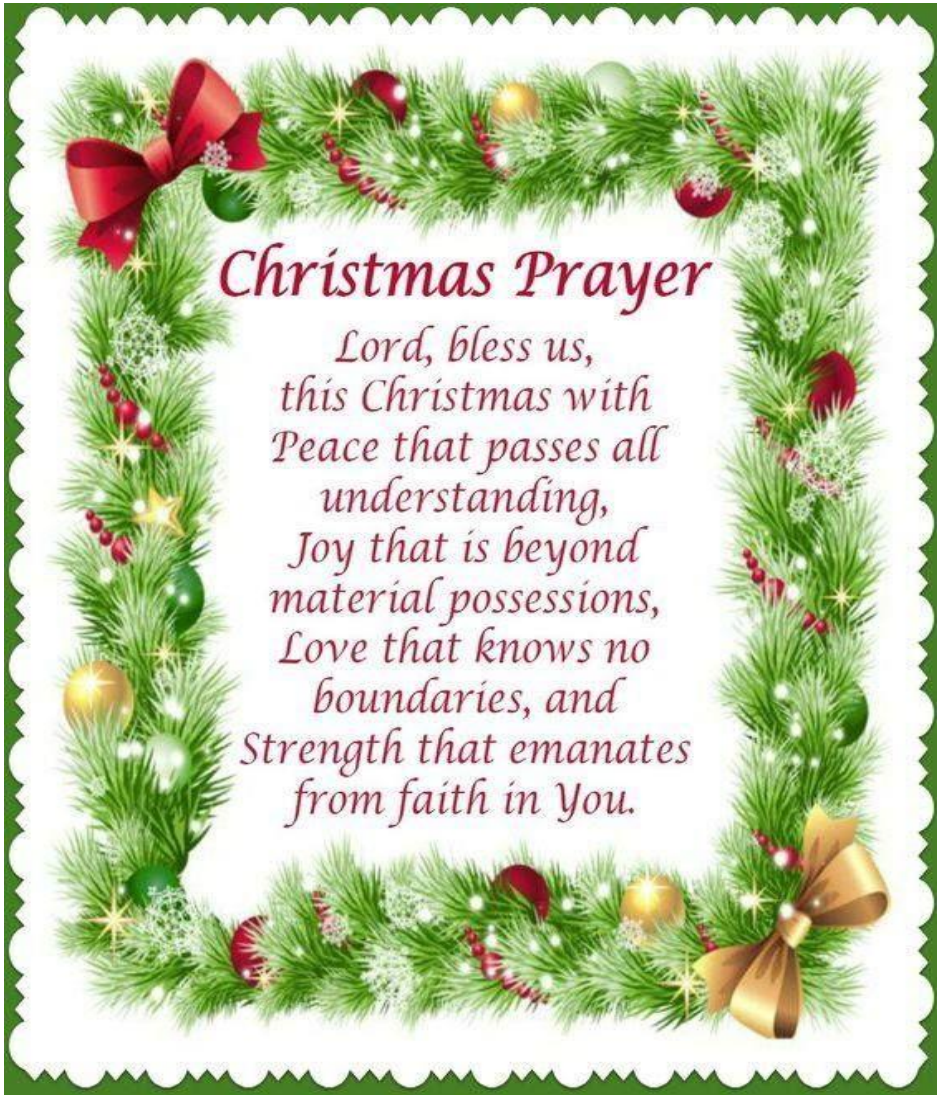
David's Son ~ Luke 4:14-21, 18:31-43

**10:30 a.m.** Lessons & Carols

**1:00 p.m.** Cauble Family Christmas (*Old Pine Center*)

*In this season of gift giving to family, friends and those less fortunate, we hope you will also consider a financial gift to Union. It is through the donations of every individual and family in the congregation that we are able to carry on our work.*

*Deadline to receive credit for financial offerings/gifts for 2024 is next Sunday, December 29.*



## *Christmas Prayer*

*Lord, bless us,  
this Christmas with  
Peace that passes all  
understanding,  
Joy that is beyond  
material possessions,  
Love that knows no  
boundaries, and  
Strength that emanates  
from faith in You.*