COON VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH

**“We are a family of God, striving to enrich**

**the lives of all through the love of Christ”**

Welcome to worship! The service of Lessons and Carols takes us through the Scriptures which tell the story of sin entering into the world with Adam and Eve’s rebellion, the Prophetic promise of the Messiah and the birth of Jesus, Son of God, who is the fulfillment of God’s promise to reconcile the world to God.

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please stand

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Beloved in Christ, as we celebrate the great festival of Christmas,
let us prepare our hearts so that we may be shown its true meaning.
Let us hear, in lessons from Holy Scripture,
how the prophets of Israel foretold
that God would visit and redeem the waiting people.
Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns,
that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled.
Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
will bring all peoples and all things
into the glory of God's eternal kingdom.

**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. Let us Worship God.**

**GATHERING SONG** #283 O Come All Ye Faithful

Please be seated

**LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**FIRST LESSON Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19**Adam and Eve rebel against God;

CAROL #254 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

**SECOND LESSON Genesis 22:15-18**God promises to Abraham that by his descendants all the nations of the earth will obtain blessings.

CAROL #257 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Verses 1,2)

**THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9:2,6-7**
The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness.

CAROL #272 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (Verses 1,2)

**FOURTH LESSON Micah 5:2-5a**
The king is coming and will usher in a reign of justice for the poor and peace for all God's creation.

CAROL #279 O Little Town of Bethlehem (Verses 1, 3, 4)

**FIFTH LESSON Luke 1:26-35,38**The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to Gods promised Son, whose kingdom will never end.

CAROL#265 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (Verses 1, 2, 4)

**SIXTH LESSON Luke 2:1-7**Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born!

CAROL #281 Silent Night, Holy Night!

**SEVENTH LESSON Luke 2:8-16**The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world and find him lying in a manger.

CAROL #300 The First Noel (Verses 1, 2)

**EIGHTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-11**

The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus.

CAROL #296 What Child Is This (Verses 1, 3)

**NINTH LESSON John 1:1-14**
John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

CAROL #292 Love Has Come

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** #277 Away in a Manger (Verses 1, 3)

**RESPONSIVE PRAYER**

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

**Your Word, Jesus, is truth.**

In his light, draw all to the manger

**to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.**

In his light, draw all to the manger

**To sing for joy with the angels.**

In the brightness of his life,

**cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.**

It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

**In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.**

Let us pray together as Jesus taught us

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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.**

**BLESSING**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

**Praise God, all creatures here below!**

You are the shepherds telling the story.

**We tell it in the streets across the land.**

You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

**We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.**

You are the angels announcing peace.

**We live with joy and go now in peace.**

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,

**bless you now and forever. Amen.**

**BELLS**

**SENDING SONG** #267 Joy to the World (Verses 1,4)

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

**Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE Mary Schultz



**COON VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Lessons and Carols**

**December 31, 2023**

**~**Bulletins are in honor of Janice Bender’s 50th birthday!

**~**One Poinsettia is in memory of Judy Denison from Ilene Gustofson

All additional poinsettias are in memory of Judy Denison from Pauline Aspenson

**Worship Leader:** Julie Nelson

**Readers:** Nancy King, Ron Moilien, Brian Rude, Karen Rude

**SCHEDULE**

**TUESDAY: 10:00a/**Ruth Circle

**THURSDAY: 9:00a/**Naomi Circle

**FRIDAY: Annual Report Deadline**

**NEXT SUNDAY: 9:00am/**Worship with Holy Communion; **10:00/**Sunday School, Coffee Fellowship, Confirmation; Finance Committee Meeting

**Holiday office hours: Pastor Jim will be off the week of Dec. 26-Jan. 2, (he will be on-call for emergencies). Jamie will be on vacation and the office will also be closed Dec. 25, 26, 28, 29-Jan. 2. The office will be open on Dec. 27 from 9:00-11:00am. In this time if there is an emergency or urgent request, please contact Pr. Jim or Jamie. Thank you for allowing us this time away during the holidays!**

**Offering envelopes are available. They are located on a table in the Dining Room.** Please pick them up for family, friends or neighbors!

**Coon Valley Lutheran Church**

**www.coonvalleylutheranchurch.org**

**Interim Pastor:** Jim Scaife

**Office Administrator:** Jamie Thomas, jamiel@mwt.net

**Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:00a-4:00p**

Office452-3772/Cell 317-0007

**Treasurer:** Becky Lusk, treasurer1005@mwt.net

**Organist:** Mary Schultz

**Indoor Custodian:** Tracy Stellner

*\*We are always so happy to include you and our CVLC family in our prayers. If you feel your name, or the name of a family member can be removed from this list please contact Jamie.* *Thank you!*

**We remember in prayer:**

**†** *Those hospitalized this past week:*

**†** *Our members whose names we lift up in prayer today:* Corrine Appleman, Beverly Bagstad, Clifford Bakkum, Brian Berg, Richard Brose, Herby Cornell, Jeanne Ebli, Kira Foster, Phyllis Galstad, Jeri Harbaugh, Bonnie Holey, Donna Ihle, Verlin Ihle, Todd King, Mike Kellogg, Jim Knutson, Margaret Lee, Russell Lee, Aaron Leisso, Larry Lichtie, Aaron Marx, Bud Miyamoto, Marianne Myhre, LuEtta Nelson,Romaine Nelson, Sandy Nelson, Cathy Ofte, Lisa Olson, Sandra Onshus, Eunice Quast, Lori Roach, Melanie Role, Ellen Runice, Jojo Satona, Bob Schulze, Mary Schultz, Billie Slater, LaVonne Stendahl, Susan Strangstalien, Joyce Temp, Teri Tomten.

**†** *Our members who are currently in health care facilities & Assisted Living:*

Tip Bagstad, Inez Beck, Rachel Berg, Carl Daffinrud, Evelyn Dahlen, Joanne Fletcher,

Betty Gilbertson, Erma Graupe, Lenore Henley, Carl Holte, Bob Moilien, Irene Nestingen, Annie Olson, Beatrice Olson (Alden), Betty Sanders.

**†** *Those who grieve**:* Family and friends of Judy Denison, Mark Hutson in the death of his mother Frances

**†** *Our members who are currently home bound*

**†** *All those in need of God’s healing and help*

**†** *Family and friends of our members*

**FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 3:8-15, 17-19**

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.”

He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.”

The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

And to the man he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

**SECOND LESSON: GENESIS 22:15-18**

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, “By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.”

**THIRD LESSON: ISAIAH 9:2, 6-7**

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. 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. 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 zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**FOURTH LESSON: MICAH 5:2-5a**

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

**FIFTH LESSON: LUKE 1:26-35, 38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

**SIXTH LESSON: LUKE 2:1-7**

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.

**SEVENTH LESSON: LUKE 2:8-16**

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 Savior, 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 favors!” 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 haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

**EIGHTH LESSON: MATTHEW 2:1-11**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**NINETH LESSON: JOHN 1:1-14**

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. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.