

✝ CHRISTMAS EVE ✝

December 24, 2024



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St.
West Allis, WI 53214

✚ Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church ✚

1665 South 57th Street | West Allis, Wisconsin 53214

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Pastor: Joseph M. Berg

Organist: Linda Loeffel

Phone: 414-810-3392

Church Choir: Lois Buske

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Children's Choir: Peter Hermanson

About Our Worship Service

Welcome in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Our message is as old as God's Word to mankind: Jesus Christ, crucified and risen to take away our sins. We gather for the Divine Service not merely for the sake of ritual or tradition. Nor do we come to worship primarily to give something back to God. Rather, we meet together to hear and receive what God has done for us. In Word and Sacrament, our gracious Lord gives those who believe in him forgiveness of sins, unity with him in new life, and the promise of eternal salvation in heaven! Through this same gospel he motivates and equips us to follow his holy will for our lives. We hope that you are comforted with the message of Jesus Christ's love for you as you worship today. Please join us again soon!

Visitors

Thank you for joining us for worship! Please read the following notes about our congregation. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please speak with the pastor.

Our Practice of Closed Communion

If you have not communed with us before, please read the notes printed later in this bulletin under the section titled "Our Holy Communion Practices."

Restrooms

Restrooms are located in the downstairs fellowship hall. A wheelchair accessible restroom is located at the front of the church, through the doors to the left of the chancel.

Guest Book

If you feel comfortable doing so, please sign our guest book located in the narthex so we can have a record of your visit.

Parent's Room

Parents with crying children are welcome to use the parent's room, located off the narthex.

Chair Lifts

Chair lifts are located off the northwest entrance for those who need to go to the fellowship hall on the lower level but have difficulty with stairs.

Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024



Christmas
The Gift of God

In the season of Christmas, we receive the gift of God. That does not simply mean we receive the gifts God gives. When we look into the manger, we see that God *is* the gift. In the person of Jesus, God gave us himself. And because our God became true man and did everything necessary for our salvation, he is able to give us so many other Christmas gifts: forgiveness, hope, peace, a place in his family, and eternal life in heaven!

Christmas Eve
God Gives Heaven's Best Gift in Earth's Unlikeliest Place

When the President of the United States visits a city, he does not stay at a discount motel. He stays in some fancy hotel with luxury accommodations. Moreover, when making such trips, the President's agenda generally does not include him spending time with common, ordinary people. He meets with heads of state – powerful, important people. If that is the case when the President makes a visit, what should we have expected when the Son of God came to earth? Not the event of Christmas Eve! Jesus was born into our world far from power, mired in poverty, and absent of any earthly fanfare. The first guests he received were not kings or emperors, but humble shepherds.

Because God put heaven's best gift in earth's unlikeliest place, there will always be room at the manger for you. You will not need to stand in line, wait your turn, or prove yourself worthy first. Instead, you can know with certainty that God gave this gift – and all the gifts he brought with him – “to you.”

Festival of Lessons and Carols

Welcome to God's house in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Please enter the sanctuary quietly so you and others can prepare your hearts for God's worship service.

A personal prayer for before worship is printed on the first page of the blue hymnal.

Please be sure to take a candle from the narthex to be used towards the end of the service.

Please also read the "Candle Lighting Instructions" printed later in this bulletin.

There will be no pre-service announcements.

Our worship begins with the tolling of the bells, followed by the opening hymn.

Preparation

Preservice Music

- "Silent Night, Holy Night" Edith Hermanson, flute
Allison Hermanson, trumpet
- "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" Edith Hermanson, flute
Beatrice Hermanson, piano
- "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Beatrice Hermanson, piano
- "God Loved the World So That He Gave" Edith Hermanson, piano
- "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Mara Leyrer, piano
- "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" Kaia Leyrer, piano
- "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Kaia Leyrer, piano
Mara Leyrer, piano
- "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" Theodore Peterson, violin
- "Silent Night, Holy Night" Otto Peterson, violin

Tolling of the Bells

Opening Hymn

354 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Stanza 1 Children's Choir

- 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:

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

Stanzas 2-4 Congregation



2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,



born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes!
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!



On - ly - be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther:
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est:



Refrain
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Please stand for stanza 4 and direct your attention to the processional cross as it is brought to the chancel

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;
 Je - sus, to thee_ be all glo - ry giv'n!
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:
Refrain
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711-1786 Tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711-1786, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Opening Verses

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. (*Isaiah 9:2a, NIV*)

The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. (*John 1:5, NIV*)

On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. (*Isaiah 9:2b, NIV*)

We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (*John 1:14b, NIV*)

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given. (*Isaiah 9:6a, NIV*)

In him was life, and that life was the light of men. (*John 1:4, NIV*)

Bidding Prayer

Dear people of God, in this Christmas season, it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us –the Christ Child lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall into sin to the glorious redemption brought to us by this holy child.

But first, let us pray for people all over the world who would delight with us to know the good news of Jesus Christ and who would join with us in singing his praises. Let us pray for the people of this city and for all those in our own congregation.

And, because this would please our Lord, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who are sad, the lonely and the unloved, and the elderly and the little children. We especially remember all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, those who do not love him, and those who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Finally, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light than we, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, who died in faith, and who live before the throne of God and praise him each day in his temple. We confess that we are united with them as we are united with one another.

To sum up all these petitions, let us pray as Christ himself taught us.

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.

Please be seated

Lessons and Carols

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15

The Seed of the woman will crush the serpent's head.

A lesson from the book of Genesis, chapter three.

⁸ They heard the voice of the LORD God, who was walking around in the garden during the cooler part of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹ The LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

¹⁰ The man said, "I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself."

¹¹ God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?"

¹² The man said, "The woman you gave to be with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

¹³ The LORD God said to the woman, "What have you done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent:

Because you have done this,
you are cursed more than all the livestock,
and more than every wild animal.
You shall crawl on your belly,
and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put hostility between you and the woman,
and between your seed and her seed.
He will crush your head,
and you will crush his heel.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Carol



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore his
 2 He leaves his heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, is born an
 3 He veils in flesh his pow'r di - vine a ser - vant's
 4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, puts on our



high - est throne; to - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain and
 in - fant small, and in a man - ger, poor and lone, lies
 form to take, in want and low - li - ness must pine who
 hu - man frame, and in re - turn gives us his realm, his



gives us his own Son, and gives us his own Son.
 in a hum - ble stall, lies in a hum - ble stall.
 heav'n and earth did make, who heav'n and earth did make.
 glo - ry, and his name, his glo - ry, and his name.

- 5 He serves that I a lord may be—
 a great exchange indeed!
 Could Jesus' love do more for me
 to help me in my need,
 to help me in my need?
- 6 For us he opens wide the door
 of paradise today.
 The angel guards the gate no more;
 to God our thanks we pay,
 to God our thanks we pay.

Second Lesson

Isaiah 9:2,6,7

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

A lesson from the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter nine.

- ² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned.
- ⁶ For to us a child is born.
To us a son is given.
The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders.
He will be named:
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.
- ⁷ There will be no limit to his authority
and no end to the peace he brings.
He will rule on David's throne and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness
from now on, into eternity.
The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Carol

350 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness!



peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,



with th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

Refrain



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847

Text and tune: Public domain

Third Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel announces to Mary the birth of a son.

A lesson from the Gospel of St. Luke, chapter one.

²⁶ In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women."

²⁹ But she was greatly troubled by the statement and was wondering what kind of greeting this could be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, because you have found favor with God. ³¹ Listen, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Listen, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age even though she was called barren, and this is her sixth month. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible for God."

³⁸ Then Mary said, "See, I am the Lord's servant. May it happen to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Carol

328 "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's de - cre:
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her Im - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame:
 a bless - ed vir - gin moth - er you shall be.
 "To me be as it pleas - es God," she said.
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail," said he to meek and low - ly Mar - y,
 Your son shall be Im - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "My soul shall praise and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name."
 and Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say,



"most high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!
 most high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored maid - en, Glo - ri - a!
 "Most high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!

*Text: para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924, alt.; Basque, c. 18th cent. Tune: Basque, c. 18th cent.
 Text and tune: Public domain*

Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

recited by the Children's Choir

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

A lesson from the Gospel of St. Luke, chapter two.

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. **3** And everyone went to register, each to his own town. **4** And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child.

6 And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Carol

333 *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

Stanza 1 Children's Choir

- 1** O little town of Bethlehem,
 how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
 the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
 the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
 are met in thee tonight.

Stanzas 2-3 Congregation



2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!



while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.



O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,



and prais - es sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.

Stanza 4 Children's Choir

4 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;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!

Fifth Lesson

Luke 2:8-20

recited by the Children's Choir

The shepherds go to the manger.

A lesson from the Gospel of St. Luke, chapter two.

⁸ There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: ¹¹ Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind."

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Now let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Carol

346 *"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

Stanzas 1-2 Children's Choir

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,
 sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
 echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
 gloria in excelsis Deo.

- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
 Why your joyous strains prolong?
 What the gladsome tidings be
 which inspire your heav'nly song?
 Gloria in excelsis Deo;
 gloria in excelsis Deo.

Stanza 3 Congregation

3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain
 Glo - ri - a
 in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a
 in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: tr. *The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, 1862, alt.*; French Tune: French
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sixth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi are led by the star to Jesus.

A lesson from the Gospel of St. Matthew, chapter two.

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, ² “Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ He gathered together all the people’s chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet:

⁶ You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel.”

⁷ Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him.”

⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. ¹¹ After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Carol

347 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing
 3 Ma - gi, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing
 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the



flight o'er all the earth; once you sang cre -
 o'er your flocks by night, God with us is
 vi - sions beam a - far; seek the great de -
 long in hope and fear, sud - den - ly the
 Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your



a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 now re - sid - ing; yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 sire of na - tions, you have seen the Sav - ior's star.
 Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear.
 voic - es rais - ing to th' e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship,



wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Candle Lighting Instructions

The pastor will light his candle from the Christ Candle.

He will pass the light to the ushers.

The ushers will walk down the center aisle and light the candles of those sitting closet to the aisle.

As the light comes to you, please hold your unlit candle to the flame.

Only tip the unlit candles. Never tip the lit candles.

While your candle is lit, please keep it upright so the wax dripping is minimized.

Please do not bring lit candles onto the carpet.

Once your candle is lit, hold it to the person next to you so they can light their candle from yours.

In this way we symbolize how Jesus – the Light of the world – brings light to a world darkened by sin as his gospel spreads from one person to the next.

After all the candles have been lit...

The church lights will be dimmed.

The pastor will lead the congregation in the candle lighting dialogue.

Candle Lighting Dialogue

Please stand at the direction of the pastor.

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. (1 John 1:5,6, NIV)

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, **and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.** (1 John 1:7, NIV)

As the light of these candles illumines our faces, it reminds us of Christ, our Light, the Child in the manger at Bethlehem, a Savior suffering our death on the cross, and soon to come from his throne on high as Judge of all. He is our Light here on earth and the eternal Light who enlightens heaven, where there is no need for candle or sun. Rejoice! The Light of the World has come!

Prayer

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that Light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

May he who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with such joy that comes from the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the † Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Please be seated

Closing Hymn

337 "Silent Night, Holy Night"

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,
all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight. Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

*Text: tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885; Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848
Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787-1863 Text and tune: Public domain*



Please join us over the next two weeks as we continue to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord!

Christmas Day - Wednesday, December 25, 10:00 am

First Sunday after Christmas - Sunday, December 29, 10:00 am

Second Sunday after Christmas - Sunday, January 5, 10:00 am

Epiphany of Our Lord - Monday, January 6, 7:00 pm

The services will be live streamed on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@nainlutheran/streams



You may extinguish your candles as the lights are turned back on.

Please place your candle in one of the containers in the narthex as you depart.

There will be no post-service announcements and you will not be ushered out. You may depart at any time.

A personal prayer for after worship is printed on the first page of the hymnal.

If you haven't done so already, please write your name in the Friendship Register before you leave.

If you have an offering, you can place it in the collection box located in the narthex.

Thank you for joining us as we together worshiped our Triune God. The Lord be with you this week!

Nain is a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

For more information about our synod, please visit its website: www.wels.net

Special thanks to:

Linda Loeffel for playing organ

The Sunday School students of the Children's Choir for reciting and singing

Peter Hermanson for directing the Children's Choir

*Nain's Sunday School teachers – Peter Hermanson, Ashley Leyrer, and Jessica Reichardt,
for their work in preparing the students to participate in worship*

*Allison Hermanson, Beatrice Hermanson, Edith Hermanson, Kaia Leyrer, Mara Leyrer,
Otto Peterson, and Theodore Peterson for playing preservice music*

Abigail Peterson for directing the preservice musicians and for playing violin

Jerry Loeffel and Michael Kraft for serving as ushers

Mark Buske for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream



*Scripture taken from: The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version™ (EHV™)
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Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from Christian Worship

*Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New
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The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is believed to have originated in Germany, as a folk custom. The evergreen branches symbolize God's unending love for us, and eternal life found in Christ. The four candles set in the wreath represent the four Sundays in the season of Advent. The lighting of the candles each week in Advent marks the growing anticipation for the birth of Jesus Christ, who is the Light of the World.

The color of the candles is significant. Some churches use three purple or violet candles on the first, second, and fourth Sundays to remind us that Advent is a season of repentance. Other churches use three blue candles on these Sundays to symbolize our hope and expectation at the coming of Jesus, especially his second coming in glory on the Last Day. A rose or pink candle is often used on the third Sunday, historically observed as Gaudete (Rejoice!) Sunday as a reminder that Advent is also a time of joy. The fifth candle, if used, is white. It is lit on Christmas Day and symbolizes the perfection and purity of God's gift to sinners: his righteous Son, Jesus Christ.

Some traditions associate a theme with each candle. One tradition is as follows...

The **Prophecy Candle** – Also called the Hope Candle, this purple/violet or blue candle symbolizes the Old Testament prophecies of Christ's coming.

The **Bethlehem Candle** – Also called the Peace Candle, this purple/violet or blue candle symbolizes the birth of Jesus to the Virgin Mary in the town of Bethlehem.

The **Shepherds' Candle** – Also called the Joy Candle, this pink or rose-colored candle symbolizes the coming of the Savior into the hearts and lives of believers, like he did with the shepherds at his birth.

The **Angels' Candle** – Also called the Good News Candle, this purple/violet or blue candle symbolizes the final glorious coming of the Savior with all his angels on the Last Day.

The **Christ Candle** – This white candle symbolizes the day of Jesus' birth, the coming we've been waiting for, the advent of Jesus, the Light of the World.