

December 25th, 2021
The Nativity of Our Lord



8470 Landen Drive Maineville, Ohio

*At Abiding Word
We gather around the Word (worship)
We grow in the Word (education)
And we share the Word with the world (outreach).*



Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wisconsin Synod
513.677.9357 abidingword.com

Pastor -Troy Jacobs

937.503.3333 welstroyjacobs@yahoo.com

Welcome!

To all who have gathered here this morning we welcome you in the name of Christ our Lord. Through him we have access to God in boldness and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12) Join us for coffee after the service. To allow for social distancing, please don't linger in front of the kitchen and bathroom.

Lutheran Worship

The Lutheran church is a liturgical church. Lutherans believe that the gospel is not only the good news that Jesus has saved sinners, but also the power God uses to create and strengthen faith in Jesus. Lutheran worship places the gospel in central focus in an order of service called the liturgy. Through the sermon, Lord's Supper, in specially selected Bible readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and confessions, the liturgy points to Jesus as the Savior of all.

DIALOGUE FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

- M:** I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.
Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord.
- C:** **Glory to God in the highest!**
- M:** Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
- C:** **O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the heavens.**
- M:** Give thanks to the Lord of lords, to him who alone does great wonders, who by his understanding made the heavens, who spread out the earth upon the waters, who made the great lights – the sun, to govern the day, the moon and stars to govern the night.
- C:** **Great is the Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.**
- M:** But our iniquities have separated us from our God; our sins have hidden his face from us, so that he will not hear. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. We look for deliverance, but it is far away.
- C:** **For our offenses are many in his sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our sins.**
- M:** The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.
- C:** **From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
- M:** “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord our Righteousness.”
- C:** **Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.**
- M:** Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.
- C:** **Let the name of the Lord be praised forever and ever. Alleluia!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: It is with great joy that we celebrate the birth of our Savior from sin. Even amidst our joy, we do remember that our sin is the reason he came. With humble hearts then, let us bow before our God in repentance and seek his forgiveness:

C: Father in Heaven, forgive my lack of focus on your love and the sending of your Son during this Christmas season. I know that I am weak, even at Christmastime—a most important time for my faith. Forgive these particular sins and all that I have done wrong—through Jesus, my Savior. Amen.

M: Today I can say to you with great joy that your Savior has come! In Him you have full forgiveness of your sins. You are the people upon whom God's favor rests!

C: Glory to God in the highest! Amen!

M: In the peace of forgiveness let us join in singing the song of the angels:

C: *Sing to the tune of (CW 63)*

Glory be to God above! Glory to the Lord we love!

Blessing, worship, thanks and praise Sing we now and all our days!

Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

Lord, You take our sin away; Send Your mercy now we pray.

Lord, You take our sin away; Listen to the prayer we say.

Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

O Lord God, be glorified By Your Church both far and wide!

Now we sing adoringly, Praise to You, great Trinity!

Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray

C: Almighty God, grant that the birth of your one and only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PSALM 98

The congregation will sing the refrain to the tune of As with Gladness Men of Old. Pastor will read the verses of the Psalm.

**C: To the Lord a new song sing; Praise our God with songs of joy.
He has done a wondrous thing. All on earth, your songs employ
To the Lord a new song sing; He has done a wondrous thing!**

M: Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**C: To the Lord a new song sing; Praise our God with songs of joy.
He has done a wondrous thing. All on earth, your songs employ
To the Lord a new song sing; He has done a wondrous thing!**

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn— shout for joy before the LORD, the King.

Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy; let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

**C: To the Lord a new song sing; Praise our God with songs of joy.
He has done a wondrous thing. All on earth, your songs employ
To the Lord a new song sing; He has done a wondrous thing!**

OLD TESTAMENT*Exodus 33:18-23; 34:5-7*

¹⁸ Then Moses said, “Now show me your glory.”

¹⁹ And the LORD said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. ²⁰ But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.”

²¹ Then the LORD said, “There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. ²² When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen.”

⁵ Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. ⁶ And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷ maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.”

NEW TESTAMENT*Romans 8:31,32*

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

HYMN: WE PRAISE YOU, JESUS AT YOUR BIRTH**359**

GOSPEL *John 1:1-18*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning.

³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

⁶ There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' " ¹⁶ From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

NICENE CREED

C: We believe in one God,	<i>Dt. 6:4</i>
the Father, the Almighty,	<i>2 Cor. 6:18</i>
maker of heaven and earth,	<i>Is. 51:13</i>
of all that is, seen and unseen.	<i>Col.1:16</i>
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,	<i>1 Cor. 8:6</i>
the only Son of God,	<i>Jn. 3:18</i>
eternally begotten of the Father,	<i>Heb. 1:2,5</i>
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,	<i>Jn. 1</i>
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.	<i>Jn. 10:30</i>
Through him all things were made.	<i>Jn. 1:3</i>
For us and for our salvation,	<i>1 Th. 5:9</i>
he came down from heaven,	<i>Jn. 6:38</i>
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,	<i>Lk. 1:35</i>
and became truly human.	<i>Gal. 4:4</i>
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.	<i>Mk. 15:15</i>
He suffered death and was buried.	<i>1 Cor. 15:3-4a</i>
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.	<i>1 Cor. 15:4b</i>
He ascended into heaven	<i>Ac. 2:33-34</i>
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.	<i>Heb. 1:13</i>
He will come again in glory	<i>Mt. 25:31</i>
to judge the living and the dead,	<i>2 Tim.4:1</i>
and his kingdom will have no end.	<i>Lk. 1:33</i>
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,	<i>Job 33:4</i>
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,	<i>Jn. 15:26</i>
who in unity with the Father and the Son	<i>Jn. 4:24</i>
is worshiped and glorified,	
who has spoken through the prophets.	<i>2 Pet.1:25</i>
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.	<i>Mt. 16:18; Eph. 2:19-20</i>
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.	<i>Eph. 4:5; Ac. 2:38</i>
We look for the resurrection of the dead	<i>1 Cor. 15:21-22</i>
and the life of the world to come. Amen.	<i>Rev. 22</i>

HYMN: SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

337

Sermon on Exodus 33:18-23; 34:5-7

OFFERING

THE HYMN RESPONSE: *Sing to the tune of (CW 335)*

**Create my nature pure within And make my heart averse to sin;
Let Your good Spirit not depart, Nor hide Your presence from my heart.**

**I cannot live without Your Light, Cast out and banished from Your sight;
Your holy joys, my God, restore And guard me that I fall no more.**

**Oh, may Your love inspire my tongue! Salvation shall be all my song;
And all my powers shall join to bless The Lord, my strength and righteousness.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, accept the thanks of your grateful people for your love to us. We praise and glorify you for the appearing of your Son and for the blessed promise that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Help each of us enter into the true joys of this day and welcome the Savior into our hearts. Grant also, O Father, that the whole earth may come to know and believe in him who is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. We pray that people everywhere, from pole to pole and from east to west, may acknowledge Mary's child as Lord and Savior, the incarnate God.

Grant that the glad tidings of the true Christmas may be borne into each home this day, and that all children and parents may know the greatest gift of all, the Child of Bethlehem. Teach all to subdue pleasure in earthly gifts before the wonder of this heavenly gift.

Look with compassion on all who are in any want or need this day. We lift up for your compassion the lonely and forsaken, the sick and the troubled, the sorrowing and dying. Bring to their remembrance the comfort of Christmas. Grant them faith that you are the deliverer of your people, the helper in every necessity, the health of the sick, and the hope of the dying.

Special prayers of thanksgiving or intercession may be spoken here

Finally, Lord, give each of us the assurance that in Christ you are near to all who call on your Name. All this we pray in the name of Jesus, in whom alone is the hope of salvation. Amen.

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

HYMN: INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

339

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM WELS MISSIONS!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulders, and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

Can you hear the excited children’s voices? Can you see the expectation and joy-filled faces of God’s littlest believers as they recite these familiar words? We learn in Isaiah about God’s priceless treasure given in perfect love to his children. In a world that is often filled with pain, confusion, anger, and sadness we, as believers, can hold strong to the promises of God. He sent his Son to be perfection for us and to suffer for our sins, and we thank him for this priceless gift.

Our WELS home and world missionaries and those in their mission fields wanted to share a message of thanks for your prayers, encouragement, and financial support [in this special video](#). It is because of God working through people like YOU that we are able to share this priceless gift in 64 different countries and 132 home mission congregations across North America. We are so grateful.

Let's raise our voices together in song as we worship the Christ child this Christmas season and thank our Heavenly Father for fulfilling the promises of old.

Together with you, we sing with joy and gratitude celebrating our Prince of Peace!

WELS Home, World, and Joint Missions

WELS Home, World, and Joint Missions Year in Review - 2021

- 100 MISSIONS IN 10 YEARS**
WELS HOME MISSIONS 2023-2033
GOAL SET BY HOME MISSIONS AT SYNOD CONVENTION
- 25** CAMPUS MINISTRIES RECEIVED FUNDING
- 132** HOME MISSION CONGREGATIONS SUPPORTED
- 9** NEW HOME MISSION STARTS AND ENHANCEMENTS APPROVED
- 25** CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRIES SUPPORTED THROUGH HOME MISSIONS
- 45** MISSION GROUP LEADERS BEING MENTORED IN EAST ASIA
- 41** WORLD MISSIONARIES
- 64** COUNTRIES WHERE WORLD MISSIONS CONDUCTS OR IS EXPLORING GOSPEL OUTREACH
- 48** NEW MISSION STARTS IN LATIN AMERICA THROUGH ACADEMIA CRISTO
- 60** YEARS OF THE CENTRAL AFRICA MEDICAL MISSION
- 20** ACTIVE PASTORAL STUDIES INSTITUTE STUDENTS IN NORTH AMERICA
- 8** PEOPLE-GROUP MINISTRIES RECEIVED FUNDING THROUGH JOINT MISSIONS
- \$37,908** IN TASTE OF MISSIONS OFFERINGS
- Taste of MISSIONS**
- 6.11.22** SAVE-THE-DATE FOR TASTE OF MISSIONS IN MEQUON, WIS.
- 5** NEW HOME AND WORLD MISSIONARIES COMMISSIONED AT TASTE OF MISSIONS 2021

Learn more at wels.net/missions

WELS
Clergy. Love. Our Calling.

Christmas—God’s Gift to You

Galatians 4:4,5

“When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.”

It’s the moment for which children wait so excitedly: the time for tearing open Christmas presents. It’s thrilling to see their excitement and joy to find out what lies beneath the bow and paper. But often, just as quickly as the excitement erupted, it begins to disappear. When the flying bows and paper settle, feelings of disappointment and ingratitude so often start to surface. The moment everyone so eagerly looked forward to becomes yet another disappointment.

For so many, the Christmas season and celebration ends up like the boxes strewn across the floor—empty. Because, eventually, the decorations are taken down, the parties end, and life goes back to normal.

But this won’t be the case when we remember what Christmas is really about. Christmas is the celebration of the gift of God’s one and only Son, a gift he gave to the world. It’s the gift that I need, that you need, that this whole world needs. You see, this world—including you and me—is wrapped and covered in sin. It is this covering of sin that leaves us empty and disappointed and looking for more gifts and other presents that we hope will fill the void. But they can’t.

It is only through the gift of God’s Son, and his life and death that removes from you the ugly covering and wrapping of your sins. Jesus did not come to be placed under a Christmas tree, but to hang upon a tree, not as an ornament, but as the one who would die upon it to pay for all of your sins. His perfect, innocent life and death are gifts he offers to you to make you his perfect and holy child and heir of heaven.

Christmas is so much more than presents placed beneath a tree. It’s the sure and certain fulfillment of God’s most treasured gift to you—your Savior from sin, Jesus Christ.