

LAMB OF GOD
LUTHERAN CHURCH



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January 7, 2024

**Today's theme:
For All People**

Welcome, guests! God’s love welcomes you—no matter who you are or where you come from— and so do we. We believe that Jesus Christ is the true Savior of all people. By his perfect life, innocent death, and triumphant resurrection he saves all sinners even without our help. Jesus Christ makes us special people, right with God and ready for life! We learn this from the Bible, God’s authentic message of grace and guidance for us. Whether you are a first-time guest or a curious observer with little religious background, we are delighted to share our worship with you. Please come back and worship with us again.

If you would like to know more about Lamb of God, visit our website www.lambofgodlafayette.com, like us on Facebook, Instagram and/or YouTube. Lamb of God is a congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod WELS (www.wels.net) est.1850.

Children’s “My Worship Notes” are included in another document. They can be used by children of any age to keep notes during the service.

Prepare To Meet Him! On Christmas Eve the angel told the shepherds, “I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people” (Luke 2:10). One wonders if those words struck those Jewish shepherds as odd. For centuries, God had given special attention to one nation—Israel. There were Jewish religious leaders who taught that only members of that special people would be saved. Not according to the Christmas angel! The birth of the Savior was good news for all people.

Today we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord. Epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning “reveal.” When the Savior was born, he was first revealed to Israelites: the shepherds, Simeon, Anna. But today, the Lord miraculously guides foreigners across countless miles, so the Savior could be revealed to them as well. How did the magi respond? “They were overjoyed” (Matthew 2:10). Epiphany is sometimes known as “The Gentiles’ Christmas.” We Gentiles (non-Jews) rejoice in the good news that this Jewish baby is not just the Savior of Jews. He is for all people—the Savior of the world.

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

The Star Proclaims the King is Here

CW 374

Please stand.

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

Amen.

CONFESSION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

ABSOLUTION

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

CW 190

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

HYMN

Glory to God in the Highest

CW 191

THE WORD

[Like Mary, we sit at the feet of Jesus to hear his Word (Luke 10:39).]

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord God, by the leading of a star, you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated.

FIRST READING

Numbers 24:15–17a

[God compels the heathen magician Balaam to prophecy that out of the nation of Israel would come one who would shine like a star for all peoples to see.]

¹⁵Then he spoke his message:

“The prophecy of Balaam son of Beor,
the prophecy of one whose eye sees clearly,
¹⁶the prophecy of one who hears the words of God,
who has knowledge from the Most High,
who sees a vision from the Almighty,
who falls prostrate, and whose eyes are opened:

¹⁷“I see him, but not now;
I behold him, but not near.
A star will come out of Jacob;
a scepter will rise out of Israel.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN (PSALM OF THE DAY)

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Psalm 72E



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
2 He comes with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
3 Kings shall bow down be - fore him and gold and in - cense bring;
4 O'er ev - 'ry foe vic - to - rious, he on his throne shall rest,



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
to help the poor and need - y and bid the weak be strong,
all na - tions shall a - dore him, his praise all peo - ple sing.
from age to age more glo - rious, all bless - ing and all - blest.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free,
to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light
To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend,
The tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;



to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are pre - cious in his sight.
his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.
his name shall stand for - ev - er—that name to us is Love.

SECOND READING

Romans 11:13–15, 28–32

[Paul writes about his passion for sharing the good news with all people.]

¹³I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry ¹⁴in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them. ¹⁵For if their rejection brought reconciliation to the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

²⁸As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies for your sake; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, ²⁹for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, ³¹so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. ³²For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

[It has been a tradition in the Christian church to stand for the reading of the gospel for the past 2,000 years. Just as subjects rise when a king speaks, we rise out of respect for the words of our King.]

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 2:2

Alleluia!

Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?

We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

[Magi from the east are miraculously led to their Savior, and they worship him.]

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁴When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

6“ ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

7Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

9After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. 12And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Children are invited to sit in the front of the sanctuary.

HYMN OF THE DAY

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

CW370

SERMON

based on Matthew 2:1-12

Guided by the Star

CONFESSION OF FAITH

† Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word. Christians composed the Nicene Creed in the fourth century to defend the Bible's teachings that both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are true God, equal to the Father in one eternal, undivided Trinity.

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,**

who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[The Prayer for the Church includes prayers for our brothers and sisters in our congregation. Since we belong to something bigger than ourselves, the Christian Church, we pray for the needs and struggles of all God's people on earth.]

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. [Especially bless . . . *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

OFFERING

If you wish to give an offering:

- place it in the offering plate
- scan this QR code
- text any dollar amount to **84321**
- mail a check to the church—1893 E 600 North, West Lafayette, IN 47906
- go to the church website www.lambofgodlafayette.com and click **GIVE** in the upper right corner.



THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 200

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[Matthew 26:26-28, 1 Corinthians 11:24,25 - †As he speaks the Words of Institution, the minister both proclaims the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's use.]

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

HYMN

Lamb of God

CW 202

DISTRIBUTION

DISTIBUTION HYMN

As with Gladness Men of Old

CW 372

PRAYER

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE BLESSING

[The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them" (Numbers 6:27).]

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

Acknowledgments

Setting Three from Christian Worship

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Serving at Worship (1/7)

Vacancy Pastor: Bruce Marggraf

Piano: Liz Schmidt

Usher/Greeter: Dawn Sanders / Rob Smith

Acolyte: Mitchell Becker

Livestream: Dave & Aiden Graves

Serving Next Week (1/14)

Vacancy Pastor: Bruce Marggraf

Piano: Liz Schmidt

Usher/Greeter: Hartzell family

Acolyte: TBD

Livestream: TBD

Refreshments: TBD

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Sun, Jan 7
- Bible Study – 9:15am
 - Worship Service – 10:30am
 - Catechism class – after service
 - Take down Christmas decorations – after service
- Wed, Jan 10
- Purdue Campus Ministry (WALC room #3090) – 8pm
- Thu, Jan 11
- Mornings with Mommy 10-11am

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult Bible Study – Sunday's at 9:15am

We will read the gospel of John starting at the beginning, discuss what St. John wrote, and apply it to our lives today. Most Christians know John 3:16 by heart, but how many of us have studied the rest of this wonderful gospel book? Come and learn with us, your faith will be strengthened!

Contact information for Pastor Marggraf - If anyone needs to contact him for any reason.

- Cell phone number: (262) 246-2320
- Email: bjmarggraf@aol.com

Would you like to receive the weekly email update from Lamb of God? If so, please provide your email in the Friendship Register on your row or contact the church office at loginlafayette@gmail.com.

The next **Mornings with Mommy (MwM)** will be held on **Thursday, January 11th** from **10-11am**. Click on the QR code to register or go to the Lamb of God website at:



MwM

<https://lambogodlafayette.com/ministry/mornings-with-mommy/>.

- Jan 11 – Winter Days – Snowflakes, Hats and Mittens
- Jan 25 – Fun with Food

Ladies Bunco Night – Jan 19th at 6:30pm at Cheryl's – Scan the QR code to register.



Bunco

PRAYER REQUESTS

"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

For all those in our midst who may be dealing with grief, including Don Correll on the passing of his sister, Mary, and Deb Turley on the passing of her mother, Gail Rathgeber; for those dealing with physical ailments, including, Denise Gilmore (Diane Brady's sister), Kyle Correll, (son of Judy and Don), Jim Holmes and Joan Bonnet; for all those who are suffering from abuse in the home, that they might seek help.

For Lamb of God, that the Good Shepherd will lead and sustain the congregation through the vacancy and that he will provide another shepherd soon.

For peace within Israel and in her relationships with regional and world nations.

That the Holy Spirit would work in the hearts of all those who join us for worship each Sunday. That our Lord would give us the means to show the love of Christ as we support our neighbors in need.

That as we pray "give us our daily bread" our Almighty King would grant us good government, honest and faithful leaders, judges, a strong armed forces to defend and protect us, health of body and mind, good neighbors, godly spouse, godly children and Christian friends.