

WELCOME to St. James Lutheran Church

We ask you to, if you wish,

PRINT THE ATTACHED BULLETIN...to follow along with Sunday's Service.
As you are worshipping from home, you are invited to set aside a sacred space for worship.
Light a candle and set out your bread and wine.

Worship Service - Streaming live @ 9:30am or watch later!



Click on image OR

FB Search: Saint James Lutheran Church of Columbus, Montana



Click on image or the link below to be directed to our website:
www.lutheranchurchcolumbusmt.org

****On the website, scroll down to "Click here for the St. James FB link"**

To our faithful followers at home or wherever you are, PLEASE let us know you are watching by writing a post or give your name. We'd love to hear from you!

THIS SUNDAY: Join us for fun & fellowship!

St. James' Annual Progressive Dinner

Sunday, December 10th 11:00am

First stop – Pastor Tonia will host at the Parsonage with potluck appetizers, then off to the church for the potluck main course, hosted by Leanne Sekora & Pat Lofing and ending at the Morse's for potluck desserts and carols!

Thank you for signing up for your potluck dish to bring to the appropriate house!!
Reminder: Join us at all three "homes" or come to just one or two!



St. James Lutheran Church

205 E 1st Ave. N. Columbus, MT 59019
Leader: Pastor Tonia Fisher (406) 656-9557
Email: toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.com

Our Mission: "We worship together, grow in faith,
share our faith and serve with the love of God"



Sunday December 10th, 2023 –

2nd Sunday in Advent - "Unto Us a Child is Born"

Welcome, Announcements & Opportunities for Serving

“Happy are those who hear the joyful call to worship, for they will walk in the light of your presence, LORD...You are their glorious strength. It pleases you to make us strong.” (Ps 89:15,17)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you alland also be with you.

Let us stand, as you are able, and prepare our hearts for worship

Call to Worship for PEACE: “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

Vs 1 & 2 only



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Lighting the 2nd Candle of Advent: Pastor Tonia & Donna Zeigler, LPA

WE SING: ***to the tune of "O worship the King, All Glorious Above!"*

The candle of peace shines bright with God's plan; The wolf will lie down and dwell with the lamb. Our guns and our weapons, our hatred and war, Will give way to gardens that heal and restore.

GATHERING

Confession & Forgiveness

Everlasting God, You love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness which make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

Assurance of God's Love

Gathering Hymn: ELW #264 "Prepare the Royal Highway"



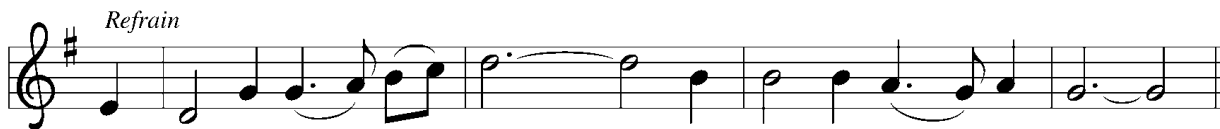
1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

Hear the 1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her she has served her term, her penalty is paid, and she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Word of Wisdom, Word of God. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

Read Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 responsively by whole verse

¹You have been gracious to your land, O LORD; you have restored the good fortune of Jacob. ²**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.** ⁸*I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.* ⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.** ¹⁰*Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.* ¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.** ¹²*The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.* ¹³**Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

Hear the 2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. ¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Word of Wisdom, Word of God. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

Please stand, as you are able, to welcome the Gospel

The Gospel Acclamation: ELW #151

We sing: Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

The Gospel according to Mark:

We sing the response after the announcement: **"Glory to you, O Lord"**

Mark 1:1-8

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" ⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his

waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Gospel of the Lord:

We sing the response after the conclusion: **"Praise to you, O Christ"**

Sermon: "Preparation & Proclamation"

Reflection Hymn: "O God of Peace, You Sent Us John"

to the tune "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

- Vs 1** O God of peace, you sent us John who called, "Prepare the way!"
He challenged all we counted on and promised your new day.
He cried out in the wilderness and made the pathway straight.
He filled the valleys, smoothed the roads, and taught us how to wait.
- Vs 2** We wait for Christ and look around at all that is not good.
We see the crooked places found in our own neighborhood.
We see within this land we love the children cast aside.
May we who long for peace be moved to answer when they cry.
- Vs 3** We hear the words that John proclaimed as we await Christ's birth.
We long for peace to come one day and fill this troubled earth.
Could it be that we're called to be peacemakers in our day?
By doing so, O God, may we again prepare the way.

Apostle's Creed ELW #105

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the

Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven.

He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

After each petition: P: Lord, in Your mercy, C: hear our prayer

After last petition: All: AMEN.

Passing of the Peaceand we say: **and also with you.**

MEAL

....we thank you for your faithfulness to St. James in sharing your tithes and offerings and allowing us to do God's work with our hands.

Bread & Wine and Our Gifts are brought forward..... *while we sing*

The Offering Hymn: ELW #487 "What Feast of Love" ***to the tune "What Child is This"*

What feast of love is offered here? What banquet come from heaven?

What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?

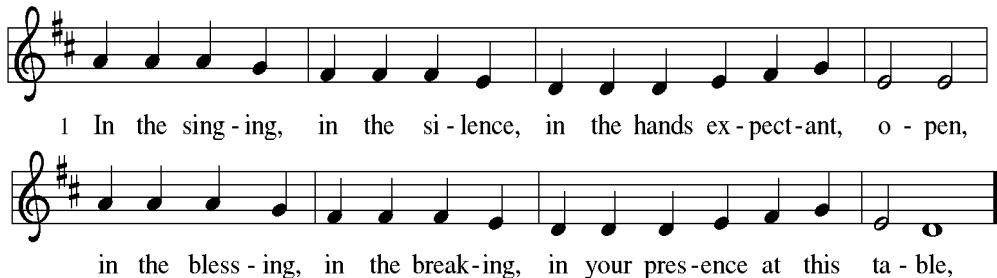
This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven.

Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!

Offering Prayer

Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

Table Setting Hymn: ELW #466 "In the Singing" **1st vs only- no refrain



1 In the sing-ing, in the si-lence, in the hands ex-pect-ant, o - pen,
in the bless-ing, in the break-ing, in your pres-ence at this ta-ble,

Great Thanksgiving ELW #153

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise**

...we join their unending hymn:

(C) sings: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might; Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer ELW #154

Mystery of our Faith. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Invitation to Communion

In this meal of bread and wine, we believe Christ is truly present forgiving sin, reconciling us to God and one another, and giving new life. Christ is host. Christ is the one who invites us to the table even while it is properly understood as the meal of the baptized. All are welcome at the Lord's Table.

As communion is distributed, you are invited to sing the following hymns:

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

- 1 God rest ye merry, gentlemen let nothing you dismay
Remember, Christ, our Savior was born on Christmas day
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray

Refrain:

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O tidings of comfort and joy!

- 2 In Bethlehem, in Israel this blessed Babe was born
And laid within a manger upon this blessed morn
The which His Mother Mary did nothing take in scorn **Refrain:**

- 3 "Fear not then", said the Angel "Let nothing you affright
This day is born a Savior of a pure Virgin bright
To free all those who trust in Him from Satan's power and might" **Refrain:**

ELW #249 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Prayer after Communion..... and we say: **Amen.**

SENDING

Benediction..... and we say: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: ELW #259 "Fling Wide the Door"



1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's
3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true
4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen



comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his
king's com - mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the
wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
 scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows
 hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
 on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
 to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and
 Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -
 Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We



praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
 wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.
 a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.
 praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

Dismissal: Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God.**

Music Published by Permission, CCLI #11445215 Worship Service recorded by Permission, CSPL #168651

**Thank
YOU**

...to those who decorated our church for Christmas.
Reminder: We welcome your gift of poinsettias to adorn our altar.

...to Donna Zeigler for helping Pastor Tonia during our Advent Candle Lighting.

...Carrie & Evelyn Williams and Betty Ames for the wonderful coffee hour last Sunday!

December Mission offerings.....

~ Your continued support benefits

ELCA Charities

i.e. World Hunger & Relief; Freedom in Christ; Good Gifts



Happy December Birthday

Pete Hegg 12/4; Sydne Wanner 12/6; Maureen Hemphill 12/7;
Nancy Stennerson 12/7; Rusty Stennerson 12/8; Larry Goehner 12/14;
Carrie Williams 12/14; Sarah Norslien 12/14; Peggy Herzog 12/23;
KayDel Shelton 12/26; Lisa Kem 12/29



Happy December Anniversary

Cindy & Steve Smith 12/7; Danny & Betty Ames 12/26;
Don & Peggy Herzog 12/26; Steve & Denise Cowan 12/28.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING

December 2023 Altar Guild: Sheri Luepke

December 2023 Cleaner(s): Leanne Sekora & Pat Lofing

December 2023 Reader(s): Maureen Hemphill

December 10th, 2023 Communion Helper(s): Will someone sign up to help this Sunday?

Thank you, Brian & Sheri Luepke for helping with communion last Sunday

December 10th, 2023 Usher(s): Will someone sign up to help this Sunday?

Thank you, Carrie Williams for ushering last Sunday.

December 10th, 2023 Gate Keepers: Brian Luepke & Leslie Mullin

2023 Musician(s): Marge Sunvold & Betty Ames

Thank you for your prayers and generosity. May the Lord bless you and give you peace.

“Your faith in God’s mission for St. James is unshakeable.”

Comparison view of YTD financials: (A I = Actual Income; A E = Actual Expenses)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Actual totals
A I:	5,750;	6,767.26;	6,445;	17,107.20;	9,715;	4,692.47;	7,083;	4,758;	4,907;	10,440.00	4,665	= \$82,329.93
A E:	8,078.28;	7,756.78;	8,448.60;	8,431.02;	6,629.30;	7,488.61;	8,209.49;	7,399.94;	6,752.14;	8,388.63	7,092.09	= \$84,674.88

We are BELOW on Income for meeting YTD EXPENSES minus \$2,344.95

FOR YOUR REVIEW AND PRAYER.....

December 3rd Offering gratefully received \$1,995.00

Total received so far this month \$1,995.00

Continued reminder of how to give your monthly tithe or offering to your church.....

Mail your offering to the church; Take your offering to the parsonage; Auto pay thru your bank and [Tithe.ly](https://tithely.com).

[Tithe.ly](https://tithely.com) (click on this “Tithe.ly” link – takes you directly to St. James’ account to sign-up)

Remember that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8)

*For new prayer requests, please contact **Pastor Tonia**. Text or call her at (406) 656-9557 or email her at toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.com*

PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER...

For those hospitalized, in nursing homes and homebound, and those battling cancer or other illnesses.

We offer continued prayers for:

Your healing and wisdom Lord for Bob Hemphill; Bill Strickland; Pastor Tonia; Joy & Larry Goehner; Jim Dickey; Merridy Gauthier; LaNita Maurer; Steve Cowan; Ken & Pete Hegg; Gary Lofing; Joan Elser Bonny Rouse;

Those living with cancer: Father Eric Fenton; Kaci Thomason; Brian Wanner; Bob Rouane; Aracelii Enano; Ashley Foster; Jenny Hansen Cheff; Shane Fouhy; Jim Wilson & Sandy Yoder’s daughter in law, Lola.

Those with COVID and those dealing with its lasting effects.

The children of the world, this is a big request, but God is big. Children who are food & home insecure.

Victims of violence and of natural disasters.

**Please pray for all of those who serve in our military domestically & overseas,
As well as their spouses and children.**

We certainly hope you are

Having Fun with Faith...

We hope you are enjoying the series of "Children's Worship Bulletins", which are *found on our website.*

www.lutheranchurchcolumbusmt.org

These games are geared toward all age levels, so, everyone can join in the fun!

PLEASE FORWARD & SHARE these bulletins with your kids, grandkids, friends & friend's friends!!!



Every Tuesday,

Bible Study is held at St. James 2:00pm.

We study the upcoming Sunday lessons.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

Every Wednesday, continue to watch for the Word(s) on Wednesday email with a copy of Pastor Tonia's weekly message or watch recorded on our FB page. Print the Bible WORDsearch Puzzles. Enjoy!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES TO REFLECT GOD'S LOVE TO EACH OTHER AND TO OUR NEIGHBORS

MORE Community Events for St. James:

- Every Monday we are invited to join:
 - ~The Stillwater Youth Center for coffee and visiting from 8-10am.
- Every Tuesday we are invited to attend:
 - ~ The Women's Adult Group at the Stillwater Youth Center at 9:30am and/or 7:00pm for an inductive study on Revelation
 - ~ Absarokee Quilting Group – 10am in the basement of the Cobblestone building. Knitters, crocheters and embroiderettes are welcome.
- Every Wednesday we are invited to join:
 - ~ Social Hour at the Columbus Senior Center at 9:30am
 - ~ The Stillwater Youth Center for coffee and visiting from 8-10am



For more information,
see the "Table Posters"
at St. James.

Join the fun this week.....

BINGO is EVERY WEDNESDAY!



FUTURE DATES:

➤ **Tuesday December 12th -**

**Chorus Practice 6:00pm @ Absarokee
Cobblestone School Event Center**

**This is our last practice before the 2nd performance
of the “Christmas Cantata!”**

➤ **Friday December 15th –**

Columbus Parade of Lights

**** 2023 Theme: Favorite Christmas Carol/Song.
Pictures with Santa – 4pm @ Columbus Fire
Parade starts @ 6pm**

*Route has been adjusted to go along Pike Ave and then turn up Quarry St. to go past Meadowlark
and end at CHS parking lot.*



Other events in Columbus:

Christmas Carnival – Dec 15th -17th and Dec 21st – 23rd

“Deck the House” Contest –

Online: Register your house by Dec. 8th – Get your map Dec 15th

www.columbuscommunityfoundation.org

Dec 15th – 31st to VOTE!

Winner announced on FB.

FYI....



*It's that time
of year again...*

**KIDS' CHRISTMAS
SHOPPING DAY**

SUNDAY
17
DECEMBER
1 TO 3 PM

FOR STILLWATER
COUNTY KIDS IN
GRADES K-5
\$3 FOR UP
TO 5 GIFTS
STILLWATER
PAVILION

*Parents enjoy
coffee & cookies
while kids shop!*

➤ **Sunday December 17th –**

Council Meeting immediately after worship

You are invited to.....

“A Christmas Musical Cantata”

Directed by Sharron Bruesch and accompanied by Marge Sunvold

The Stillwater Community Chorus

(with members from Columbus, Absarokee, Rapelje, Molt and Park City)

will have two performances this December!

****2nd PERFORMANCE:**

Sunday December 17th 1:30pm

@ the Cobblestone School Event Center - Absarokee

**** Doors open ½ hr before event Everyone Welcome.**



**Share your poinsettia's to adorn our altar
on Christmas Eve.**

Come celebrate with us....



***The 4th Day of Advent and
The Birth of our Lord
Christmas Eve Service***

One service on:

Sunday December 24th @ 4:30pm