

Christmas Eve 2019

*We cordially welcome all who are worshipping with us this evening.
May our Lord Jesus Christ grant you the will and the wisdom
to renounce the world and to live as His follower and disciple.*

Visitors, you are invited to share your names and addresses
in our Guest Book in the entryway of the church.



St. John Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

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Mission Statement: To be an anchor of hope in Christ!

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure...

Hebrews 6:19



The Amazing Story of Christmas

Narrator: McKenna

Welcome everyone to Bethlehem! Let us open our eyes and ears and listen to the story of when Christ was born.

Hymn 379: *O Come All Ye Faithful*

PART I: Mary & Joseph

Narrator: Avery

Mary and Joseph, a pitiful sight.

So tired and dirty, they gave me a fright.

Sickly or dying? What was the matter?

“A room in the inn?” Impossible chatter!

“My rooms are all taken; not one empty bed.

There’ll not be a room in all Bethlehem,” I said.

But their eyes told a story of hunger and need.

I couldn’t avoid them, so I tried a good deed.

I cleaned up the stable: Rachel cooked up a meal.

We helped all we could, at least, that’s how I feel.

For we noticed that Mary was expecting – and soon!

So we prepared for delivery right under the moon.

The child came so quickly. His face seemed a light.

As if God had shone God’s presence so bright.

Joseph said softly. “It’s Jesus, my friend.”

God sent him among us to bring to an end

fear and hatred, darkness and sin.

Instead God gave light, to let God’s love in.

PART II: The Animals

(Ellery, Evelyn, Rylee, Max, Charlotte, Kylie)

Narrator: Ellery

My animals were calm, quieter than normal.

They often were noisy, and never too formal.

They always were eating, or else they were sleeping.

The stable required continuous sweeping.

But on Christmas night, they were strangely in awe

at the sight of the babe and all that they saw.

It’s as if they were aware that God had just hushed them,

Had fed and watered and carefully brushed them.
They knew, I believe, that God had been able
to work a miracle there in that stable.

Kids Sing: *Away in a Manger*

PART III: Angels

(Kylie, Eva, Elise, Amerika)

Narrator: Kylie

We won't often see angels in flight.
But on the first Christmas, they lit up the night.
They appeared to the shepherds and, boy, were they scared!
"Angels!" cried one. "Will any lives be spared?"
"Are they here to destroy us? Is our time on earth up?
Have we seen our last day? Have we drunk our last cup?"
But "Peace on earth; goodwill to all"
was the angel's sweet song; that was their call.
With a light show that dazzled all who did see,
the angels hallelujah'ed and sang out with glee.
"To Bethlehem, shepherds!" the angels directed.
"To see Jesus the Christ, whom God has perfected."
"Go worship the Lord and follow his ways.
And you'll find Christmas joy for all of your days."

Hymn 368: *Angels We Have Heard On High*

PART IV: Shepherds

(Elise, Sam, Andrew, Logan)

Narrator: Elise

The shepherds, I told you, were scared and stunned.
"Too much hard work or too much hot sun!"
That's what they thought; that's how they explained.
Perplexed and afraid, they loudly complained.
But the angels' song calmed them, and then they believed.
They rejoiced when they knew and they were quite relieved.
They went to the stable and worshiped the Lord.
Then they left and began to spread the good Word.

Hymn 363: *Silent Night*

PART V: Wise Persons & Star
(Emerson, Blake, Kai, Ellery)

Narrator: Emerson

The star that shone brightly led Wise Persons at night
To Bethlehem's stable, to the manger's strange light.
They came bearing gifts, in worship and love,
praising God for God's wonders from heaven above.
The Wise Men were kings and they knelt on my straw.
It was the oddest of things that ever I saw.
If kings bring him treasure, then maybe you, too, can worship
with pleasure the person of Jesus, who came to us all.
So worthy of praise, for he brings us God's call."
"I am the way, the truth, and the life,
Come to God for healing from strife.
Come unto me, all you who labor
And I'll give you rest forever to savor."

Prayers: Pastor Riddle

Offering

CONCLUSION

Narrator: Bella

T'was the very first Christmas and there in the manger,
The Christ-child was born; it couldn't have been stranger.
Shepherds saw angels; Wise Men, a star.
They came to see Jesus; they came afar.
They knew he was special – God's very own son,
He came to the earth to love everyone.
He grew up in time, the Savior, the Lord,
To be worshiped each day, to be loved and adored.
So now at Christmas we all take delight.
In the gifts that God gave us that first Christmas night.
In the gifts we receive and the ones that we give,
Let us never forget, it's in Christ that we live.

Closing Hymn 387: *Joy to the World*

Merry Christmas!
There are goody bags after the service for all the children.