

**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD 2022**  
**5:00 and 10:00 P.M. Divine Services**

“Be Born In Us Today: Bringing Light”



*“Nativity with St. Francis and St. Lawrence” By Caravaggio 1609*

**Christ the King Lutheran Church  
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI**

**CHRISTMAS EVE      December 24, 2022**

A Blessed Christmas to you! Welcome the Lord with us this evening as we worship Jesus, the Son of God and our Savior. Jesus is born for us all on this silent night in Bethlehem of Judea. His first cry announces to the world that the darkness of sin is dispelled with the shining light of His amazing love and grace. In Scripture, Word and song, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Light of the world.

**MINISTRY OF WELCOME**

At the time of the Offering, please sign our fellowship folder, pass it to your neighbor and greet one another with Christmas joy.

(Please turn off cell phones in preparation for the Divine Service.)

**YOUR PRIVATE PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP**

Ah, dearest Jesus, Holy Child, make Thee a bed soft, undefiled within my heart that it may be a quiet chamber kept for Thee. Amen.

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

The Wexford Carol – Irish Carol – Organ

On Christmas Night all Christians Sing – O.L. Russell – Organ

How Far is it to Bethlehem – M. Pooler - Choir

**PEALING OF THE BELLS**

**WELCOME**

***Joy to the World***

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room and heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

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**Invocation and Lighting of the Christmas Candle**

**P** In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

**P** On this holy night, we light the Christ candle on the Advent wreath as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Light of the world. The apostle John writes, "In Him was life and the life

was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:4-5).

**C Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. Fill our lives with Your life and light.**

P Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12).

**C Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. Help us by Your Spirit to reflect Your light and love in our lives.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask His forgiveness.

**C Almighty God, we live in the light of our Savior, but we are still tempted by the darkness of sin. We follow our selfish desires. We turn from Your Word to listen to the temptations of the world. We fail to love others as we should because we do not let Jesus’ light shine through our lives. Have mercy on us. Forgive our sins and turn our hearts and minds to the light of Jesus.**

P God has had mercy on us. By his death and resurrection, Jesus, the Light of the world, has overcome the darkness of sin, death and Satan. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

**C Lord, lead us to live as children of light!**

### HYMN

**Angels from the Realms of Glory**

**TLH 136, vv 1,2,4**

1. Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth; Ye who sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth: Come and worship, Come and worship;

Worship Christ, the newborn King.

2. Shepherds in the fields abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night, God with man is now residing, Yonder shines the Infant Light: Come and worship, Come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.
  
4. Saints before the altar bending, Watching long in hope and fear, Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His Temple shall appear: Come and worship, Come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.

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## **PRAYER** (In Unison)

Almighty God, at creation You spoke Your Word and light shattered the darkness. On this holy night, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, the Word made flesh. In Him, the light once again broke into the world made dark by sin. By his death and resurrection, Jesus brought to us life and light. Lead us, tonight and always, to walk by faith as children of light. We pray that Jesus' love will shine in our words and actions so that through our witness, others will come to know and worship Jesus as Lord. On this night when we celebrate His birth, hear our prayers and accept our praise in Jesus' Name. Amen.

## **HOLY SCRIPTURE**

### **Epistle Reading ... 2 Corinthians 4:1-6**

Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending

ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, Who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

### **CHOIR ANTHEM – He Shall Feed His Flock – J. Martin**

#### **HYMN**

#### **0 Little Town of Bethlehem**

**LSB 361 vv. 1, 2, & 4**

1. 0 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.
2. For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above While  
mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wond'ring  
love. 0 morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to all the  
earth!
4. 0 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; 0 come to us,

abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

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**THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL** (All Rise)

**Luke 2:1-20**

(Read Responsively)

**All:** And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

**Men:** Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.

**Women:** So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

**Pastor:** Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

**Men:** Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”

**Women:** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

**Pastor:** So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.”

**Men:** And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.

**Women:** And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.

**All:** Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

P The Christmas Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ!

## **HYMN**

**LSB 368**

### ***Angels We Have Heard on High***

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.
3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing; Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the

newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis  
Deo.

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## “Be Born In Us Today: Bringing Light”

**NARRATIVE I**

**PASTOR**

“Caravaggio’s Nativity: Light Penetrating the Darkness”

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

**LSB 380, vv 1+3**

1. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners  
reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of  
the skies; With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in  
Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the  
newborn King!"
3. Hail, the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of  
Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with  
healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by, Born that  
man no more may die; Born to raise the Sons of earth;  
Born to give them second birth. Hark! The herald angels  
sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

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**NARRATIVE II**

**PASTOR**

“Light Penetrating the Darkness is our story too this Christmas”

**HYMN**

**TLH 106 vv. 1, 4, & 7**

*The People That in Darkness Sat*

1. The people that in darkness sat A glorious light have seen;  
The light has shined on them who long In shades of death  
have been, In shades of death have been.
  
4. To us a Child of hope is born, To us a Son is given, And on  
His shoulder ever rests All power in earth and heaven, All  
power in earth and heaven.
  
7. Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, And make us Thine alone,  
Who with the Father ever art And Holy Spirit, one, And  
Holy Spirit one.

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### **NARRATIVE III**

**PASTOR**

“The Light of Christ Penetrating the Darkness of our lives calls for  
a Response of Faith”

### **HYMN**

**TLH 92 vv. 1, 3, & 4**

#### ***Now Sing We, Now Rejoice***

1. Now sing we, now rejoice, Now raise to heav’n our voice;  
He from whom joy streameth Poor in a manger lies; Not  
so brightly beameth The sun in yonder skies. Thou my  
Savior art! Thou my Savior art!
  
3. Now thro’ His Son doth shine The Father’s grace divine.  
Death o’er us had reigned Thro’ sin and vanity; He for us  
obtained Eternal joy on high. May we praise Him there!  
May we praise Him there!

4. Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'nly ground? Where the angels singing With all His saints unite, Sweetest praises bringing In heav'nly joy and light. Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

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## CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

### HYMN DURING OFFERING

LSB 370

#### *What Child Is This*

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary!
2. Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The babe, the son of Mary!
3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby;

Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

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## PRAYERS

- P Lord and Savior, through Your birth in Bethlehem, through Your life, death and resurrection, You brought the light of hope to the world. Comfort those who are suffering through illness or grief. According to Your will, bring them healing and hope through the promises of Your Word. Jesus, Light of the world,
- C Shine in us and through us. Teach us according to the wisdom of Your Word and lead us by the Holy Spirit to reflect the light of Your forgiveness and love.**
- P Lord and Savior, Word made flesh, You are the Light no darkness can overcome. By Your death and resurrection, You overcame the darkness of sin, death and the devil. You have brought us life and light, now and for all eternity. Jesus, Light of the world,
- C Shine in us and through us. Help us to be bold witnesses for You, so that others will come to trust in You for salvation and live in the light of Your love.**
- P Lord and Savior, through Baptism we were created anew as children of light, delivered from the domain of darkness and brought into Your kingdom. Jesus, Light of the world,
- C Shine in us and through us. Lead us to walk in love and to serve others in Your Name.**
- P Lord and Savior, Light of the world, hear our prayers and accept our praise.
- C Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER** (Chanted in Unison)

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed by 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

**(10:00 p.m. Service proceed to Collect for Christmas Night)**

## **THE CHRISTMAS COMMUNION (5:00 p.m. Service Only)**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **THE DISTRIBUTION**

### **CHOIR ANTHEM – Once in David's Royal City – H. Helvey**

**NOTE:** Holy Communion will be celebrated in continuous fashion. Please exit via the center aisle, come forward to receive the Host **AND PROCEED IMMEDIATELY** to receive the wine via chalice or individual cup. Place your empty individual cup in the receptacle provided in the side aisles as you return to your pew via the side aisle. Thank you!

### **HYMN DURING DISTRIBUTION**

**LSB 364**

*Away in a Manger*

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the [bright] sky looked down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord

Jesus, no crying He makes. I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay Close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care and take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

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## **GENERAL DISMISSAL**

### **COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS NIGHT** (In unison)

O God our Heavenly Father, Who calls to our remembrance the incarnation Of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ: Give us grace to keep this festival with pure faith and holy love; that while we join our voices with those who sang glory to God in the highest centuries ago, we may never forget to spread the Christmas Gospel of Your JOY and peace to ALL people, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord. Amen.

## **BENEDICTION**

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen!

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES** *Ushers will assist worshipers in lighting candles, beginning with the people on the center aisle.*

**CAUTION, PLEASE!** Always tilt the unlighted candle when lighting from your neighbor's candle to avoid dripping wax on clothing, furniture, or carpet. Parents are asked to take responsibility for their children's safety when holding a lighted candle. Please use extreme caution at all times. Thank you!

**CLOSING HYMN**

**LSB 363**

*Silent Night*

1. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar. Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar, Schiaf in Himmlischer Ruh, Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.
2. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright Round you virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.
3. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
4. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light Radiant beams from Thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

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**RECESSIONAL** Please extinguish your candle before you leave. Please take your candle home as a memento of this Christmas Service.

## **POSTLUDE – Glory to God in the Highest – G.B. Pergolesi**

### **Ringing of the Christmas Bells A Blessed Christmas to One and All!**

**Pastor**                      The Reverend Randy S. Boelter  
**Organist**                 Mr. Bruce Sininger  
**Choir**                        Christ the King Senior Choir

**POINSETTIAS** Our sincere thanks to the following for their gifts of poinsettia plants which helped beautify our chancel for the Christmas Holidays:

Mr. & Mrs. LeRoy Champine  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Dane  
Joanne Demos  
Adele Flannery  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Fleszar  
Kim Ford  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Gade  
Dr. & Mrs. John Hartzell  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Hauschulz  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Josefiak  
Dr. & Mrs. Mark Kusch  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Linsdeau  
Sue Mack  
Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Maiale  
Peter Noll  
Mr. & Mrs. Mimmio Padovini  
Richard Reardon  
Karen Shepard  
Stephen Wend  
Pastor Boelter

**Please pick up your poinsettias following tomorrow's 10:45  
A.M. Service.**



# CHRISTMAS EVE *Service*

## HOLY COMMUNION WILL BE CELEBRATED TONIGHT AT 5PM

We confess that in the bread and wine we truly receive Jesus' body and blood which were given and shed for the forgiveness of our sins and for the strengthening of our faith. Fellow Lutherans and those who have communed with us before may join us at the Lord's Table. If you are uncertain as to what you receive in the Holy Supper or hold to a different confession, we ask that you speak to pastor or one of the elders **before** coming to His Holy Table. This practice is instituted to do a responsible ministry to all who come to the Holy Supper, and to ensure that the Sacrament is taken to the soul's health of each communicant.

Communion will be celebrated tonight in Continuous fashion: come to the front via the center aisle, receive the Body and Blood in BOTH KINDS, and kindly return via the side aisle while you place your empty individual communion cup in the receptacle in the side aisle.

We ask all who desire to commune at our altar to examine their lives and hearts by answering the following questions tonight as God's Word directs:

1. Am I sorry for my sins? Psalm 51. Only penitent sinners should receive the reconciliation of God in Christ in the Sacrament with us.
2. Do I believe that I receive the true Body and Blood of Jesus in, with and under these forms of bread and wine? Jesus says: "This IS." I Cor. 10:16. We are to take Jesus at His Word of promise and receive the Supper in BOTH KINDS as Jesus instructs.
3. Do I believe that with the Body and Blood of Christ, I truly receive the actual remission of my sins? Jesus says: "...FOR the remission of your sins." Matthew 26:28.
4. Is there anyone with whom I need to reconcile before I receive the pardon of Christ in this sacrament? Matthew 5:23-24. Refusing to reconcile with other believers is an indication of an unloving heart that is not acceptable to God and not worthy to receive His heavenly, gracious gifts.
5. Do I promise to amend my sinful life with the power of the Holy Spirit as He works through Word and Sacrament in my life? John 8:11 and Ephesians 4: 22-24.

A "no" answer to any of these Biblical teachings and personal questions means that one's heart and faith life are NOT in line with God's Word, and therefore one is spiritually unprepared to receive Christ's heavenly gifts in the Sacrament. As Paul teaches us in Corinthians, one can either take the Sacrament to our soul's health, or to our soul's demise. If you have any questions, see the pastor or elders first. Again, we ask all who come forward to receive the Supper in BOTH KINDS. Both regular Hosts and Gluten Free Hosts are available, as well as regular wine and alcohol evaporated wine, which is located in the two center rings of our individual cup trays.

#### **REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

**Mike Mullinger**- who has been hospitalized at Grosse Pointe Beaumont Hospital the past week.

**Sheila Rice**- who had surgery for a brain tumor Monday.

Jane Park- recovering from a broken arm.

**Kathy Geffert**- rehabilitating at St. Anthony's Care Center in Warren, MI.

**Melissa Pieper**- who underwent surgery on December 23rd

**Those recovering from recent surgeries:** \_Jim Geffert, Faith Bowen, Karen Besler, Pastor Jim Elsner

**For Daily Care and strength:** Clifford Popp, Judy Piche and Julia Hingst.

**For those living with cancer:** Tom Harms, Roy Koepp, Lisa Zimmermann, Sheila Rice, Keith Josefiak and Eric Hingst.

**For all who travel this Christmastide.**

**For the Children and people of Ukraine-** who are displaced, homeless, hungry and cold.

**For our Congregation and Preschool-** that God would grant us His continued blessings upon our ministry.

**Giving thanks to God this season-** for a blessed Live Nativity, for three beautiful Christmas Concerts and for our Sunday School Children's Worship Service.

**Gratitude to God for our Sunday School Teachers-** for their continued faithfulness in teaching our children: Kim Ford, Christine Rhoton, Linda Jacobi, Deann Newmann, We also thank Jan Fleck- who has recently left teaching after many years of faithful service.

### LIFE QUOTES

"There is no more clear-pointed, rest-giving demonstration of the love of God for you than the gift of His Son." Paul Tripp, pastor, author, and conference speaker – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

### ALTAR GUILD

Serving with the Altar Guild for the month are Pam Zimmer and Betty Gade

### COLD WEATHER CLOTHING DONATIONS

THANK YOU for the overwhelming response for the donation of jackets, hats, gloves and many other items! The Michigan Veterans Association was very happy and excited to receive it! The donation boxes will remain in the stairwell all winter in case more items become available. Merry Christmas!

## ONE WEEK AGO TODAY:

8:15 Service: 34  
Communion: 31  
10:45 Service: 61  
Bible Classes: 7

## REMINDER

Christmas Day ONE SERVICE at 10:45 A.M. with Holy Communion.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR TOPIC for next Sunday January 1: "**Out of Egypt**" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook. "Out of Egypt I called my son." With these words the Gospel of Matthew reveals the rich and interconnected history of the young nation, Israel, and the young Savior, Jesus. Follow them on their journeys to discover the true Israel and what He means to your life today. (Matthew 2:13-23) Tune in to *The Lutheran Hour* every Sunday on WDFN (1130 AM) at 6:30 A.M., WRDT (560 AM) at 7:30 A.M. and at Noon, XM Satellite Family Radio Dial 170 at 1:00 P.M. or RealAudio on the internet at [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org).

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

On that Christmas day approximately two thousand years ago, Scripture tells how the angels, shepherds, and wise men all gave. The angels gave Jesus the gift of music as they told the world of Jesus' birth through their songs; the shepherds left their flocks to give honor to Baby Jesus; and the wise men brought Jesus gifts of gold, incense, and myrrh. They all gave because the world was receiving the best gift possible when God gave His Son Jesus.

## LEVEL I AND II CONFIRMATION CLASSES

begin Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 5: 30 P.M.

## ONLY ONE SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION

on January 1 at 10:45 A.M. No Sunday School and Bible Class will be held January 1. Classes resume January 8.