

Origin of the Christmas Tree

The first Christmas tree didn't appear in America until 1843. The German immigrant who set it up was almost run out of town by his irate Pennsylvania neighbors. But it's no wonder that it was a German Lutheran who introduced the Christmas tree to Americans. Some three hundred years earlier, as the story goes, Martin Luther was walking through a forest on a snowy evening. The stars shone brightly, causing the snow on the boughs to glisten like diamonds. Luther reflected on the beauty before him and suddenly realized that trees are at the heart of the gospel story. He cut one down, dragged it for the Advent season, sparking a German love affair with Christmas trees. If you enjoy your Christmas tree, you can thank a German immigrant for bringing Luther's tradition to Pennsylvania during December of 1843. Martin Luther saw in the Christmas tree the true reason for the season: A Savior was born in a manger to be nailed to a tree outside Jerusalem thirty-three years later carrying our sins and taking our punishment upon himself so that we might be forgiven by the grace of God. this year, as you decorate your tree and enjoy its beauty, think about this: the best gift is not placed under a tree but was hung on one. "I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. (1 Corinthians 2:2)

Christmas Benediction

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the Magi, and the peace of the Christ child.

Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. Amen.

Pilot Knob Lutheran Church *Where Truth is Discovered!*

“Hope Was Born”



Preaching God's Inerrant Word Since: 1875

Welcome to our Service

Rev. Robert Snitzer

2391 330th St, Forest City, Iowa 50436

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LUTHERAN CHURCHES

Church: 641-581-3070 Home: 641-585-2791

www.pilotknob.org pastorbob@pilotknob.org

PILOT KNOB LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2021 4:00 PM Pastor Bob Snitzer

Pianist Val Johanson

Welcome/Announcements

**Lighting the Christ Candle

*Hymn The First Noel Vs. 1-3 #265

Opening Prayer

Old Testament Lesson (Pew Bible 922) Micah 5:2-5

Hymn Angels We Have Heard on High Vs. 1-4 #278

*Gospel Lesson (Pew Bible 1014) Luke 2:1-20

Hymn What Child is This #281

Sermon **Hope Was Born**

Hymn Let There Be Peace On Earth **Overhead**

*Christmas Creed

I believe in God the Father, Creator of all things, who sent His Son as my Savior.

I believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, announced by angels, worshiped by the Wise Men, who lived to suffer, die, and rise again to free me from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

I believe in the Holy Spirit who has brought me to faith in Christ, and by whose continuous work in my heart I am ever led to lay before the feet of Christ my worship, my life, my love, to live under Him as my King both now and forevermore. Amen.

Offering

Special Music Rachel Snitzer O Holy Night

*Offertory Emmanuel #243

Distribution of Light

*Pastor will light a candle from the Christ Candle and the ushers will light theirs from the pastor's candle. Worshipers are cautioned **not to tip a burning candle**, lest hot wax spill.*

*Hymn Silent Night! Holy Night! #253

*Christmas Prayer (Unison)

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate, and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift, and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be the children of God and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiven and forgiving, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

*Benediction

Extinguish candles

*Closing Hymn Joy to The World #270

**FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN

L: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
C: and the government will be on his shoulders.
L: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.
C: Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.
L: With righteousness he will judge the needy; with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

C: And He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips, he will slay the wicked.

Isaiah 9:6-7; 11:4 (NIV)

*Indicates when to stand

**Lighting the Christ Candle

One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman; he grew up in another obscure village where he worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty. He never wrote a book, he never held an office, he never went to college, he never visited a big city, he never travelled more than two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He did none of the things usually associated with greatness; he had no credentials but himself. He was only thirty-three.

His friends ran away, one of them denied him. He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial; he was nailed to a cross between two thieves, while dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing, the only property he had on earth

When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone and today Jesus is the central figure of the human race and the leader of mankind's progress.

All the armies that have ever marched, all the navies that have ever sailed, all the parliaments that have ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned put together have not affected the life of mankind on earth as powerfully as that one solitary life. Dr. James Allan © 1926.

Let there be peace on earth

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me
Let There Be Peace on Earth
The peace that was meant to be
With God as our Father

Brothers all are we
Let me walk with my brother
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.

With ev'ry step I take
Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment and live
Each moment in peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me



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PILOT KNOB LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christmas Program 9:00AM

December 22, 2019

ADORNING JESUS

Pilot Knob Lutheran Church
Where Truth is Discovered!
*“Sunday School Christmas
Program”*

Prelude	Sandy Damm & Abby Jordan
Opening/Welcome	Pr. Bob
Opening Song	Good Christian Men Rejoice
Revealing Jesus more than a baby	Pr. Bob
First Ornament and Reader	Zade & Kesley
Second Ornament and Reader	Ella & Sherry
Third Ornament and Reader	Levi & Cole
Song	One Small Child
Fourth Ornament and Reader	Emmanuel & Rachel S.
Fifth Ornament and Reader	Cooper & Naomi
Sixth Ornament and Reader	Kazra & Cathy
Piano Solo	ZadeSwanson
Seventh Ornament and Reader	Shilo & Devon
Eighth Ornament and Reader	Kazra & Betty
Ninth Ornament and Reader	Zade & Bobbi
Song	O Little Town of Bethlehem
Tenth Ornament and Reader	Ella & Nick
Eleventh Ornament and Reader	Cooper & Greg
Piano Solo	Kazra Swanson
Twelfth Ornament and Reader	Joslyn & Pr. Bob
Song	Let There Be Peace on Earth
Closing Prayer	

WELCOME

In this hour, through His love, may
your heart know joy: through His
peace may your life be blessed,
and may you respond to the hope
He offers as we worship together.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday 24, 4:00 Christmas candle light service.

Sunday 29, 9:00 Morning Worship. Sermon: **Aftermath**

You are invited to remain for birthday cake following the program.

PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING

President Trump, Israel, AALC, Spiritual Awakening, Christ family, Law Enforcement, Persecuted Christians, Luke & Ruth Schroeder (WMPL; Philippines) Care Center: Deanna Jordan

Have a Merry Christmas



Teach About Jesus with The Legend Of The Candy Cane

Following God

Did you know you can teach about Jesus with the legend of the candy cane to your kids? Every year as Christmas nears, candy canes show up in stores and millions are purchased and consumed each year. While candy canes are no doubt delicious, they are more than just a pretty, tasty sweet to enjoy around Christmas.

The legend of the candy cane shows that the candy cane was designed to be a [delicious reminder of what Christmas is all about](#) – Jesus. While there are several similar legends surrounding the candy cane, here is one of my favorites.

The Legend of The Candy Cane

According to the legend of the candy cane, this candy was first created back in the 18th century. At that time, in certain areas of Europe, there was said to be a ban on public displays of Christianity. Christians were oppressed and no Bibles or crosses could be owned at the time. One man found this oppression distressing and wished he could share the love of Jesus and the joy of Christmas with the rest of the world. When Christmas came around, children didn't get to see nativity scenes or enjoy learning about the truth of Christmas. As a candy

maker, this man prayed to find a way that he could offer local children a Christmas gift that would allow him to [communicate the real story of Christmas](#).

His prayer led to an idea--The Candy Cane.

- **The Shepherd's Staff:** He chose to make the candy cane in the shape of a shepherd's staff. After all, Jesus is the shepherd to his followers and the Bible notes that the "sheep" would hear His voice and follow him (*Psalm 23:1, John 10:11, John 10:27-30, Isaiah 40:11*).
- **The Letter J for Jesus:** Not only was the candy cane in the shape of a staff, but when held upside down, it formed a "J," which stood for Jesus (*Luke 1:31, Matthew 1:21*).
- **He is A Rock:** The candy maker chose hard candy for the candy cane, which was done to remind children that Jesus was our "rock," dependable and strong (*Psalm 31:3*).
- **By His Stripes:** Wide red stripes were added to the candy cane, representative of the crucifixion and the blood Jesus shed for our sins.
- **Red-His Shed Blood:** Through his blood, we are given salvation and life (*Revelation 1:5, John 3:16, Luke 22:20*).
- **White-Purification from Sin:** There are also white stripes on the candy cane, which represents the holiness, and purity of Jesus, who was sinless (*I John 1:7*).
- **Sweet Fragrance of Christ:** Peppermint was the flavor that the candy maker chose for the candy cane. Peppermint was very similar to hyssop, which was used for sacrifice and purification in the Old Testament, [reminding us of the sacrifice that Jesus made for us](#). It also reminds us of the spices brought by the Wise Men when they came to visit Jesus (*Psalm 51:7, John 10:29, Matthew 2:11*).

- **Broken For Us:** Of course, when the candy cane is eaten, it is often broken, which the candy maker meant as a reminder that when Jesus was crucified, his body was broken (*I Cor. 11:24*).
- **Love of Christ:** The candy cane was also made to be given as a gift, representing the love of Jesus when he gave us the gift of salvation.

Although no one is quite sure if the legend of the candy cane is really true, **the beauty of the legend is such a reminder of God's love for us around Christmas.** In this legend, it was a way that the candy maker could tell the children the story of Christmas and still today, we have candy canes as a reminder of the real reason we celebrate Christmas. In our family we love the book [The Candymaker's Gift - The Legend of The Candy Cane](#) by David Haidel to help reinforce this story.

PILOT KNOB LUTHERAN CHURCH Christmas Program Service

<u>December 23, 2018 4:00 AM</u>	<u>Pastor Bob Snitzer</u>
Pianist	Sandy Damm
Welcome	
Reading: The Angels	Pr. Bob
Hymn	O Come All Ye Faithfull #249
Angel comes in	Alivia, Brooklyn, Kazra
Reading: The Shepherds	Pr. Bob
Hymn	While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks Vs. 1, 3, #272
Shepherds come in:	Emmanuel, Cooper
Reading: The Gifts	Pr. Bob
Hymn	We Three Kings Vs. 1, 2, 3, 4 #288
Kings come in	Levi, Shiloh

Offering		
Special Music	The Little Drummer Boy	Devon, Mya
Reading: An Insignificant Town		Pr. Bob
Hymn	O Little Town of Bethlehem Vs. 1, 2, 4	#250
Mary and Joseph		Zade, Ella
Sunday school sings	Away in the Manger	
Reading: Mountains		Pr. Bob
Hymn	Go Tell it on the Mountain (Refrain SS & Verse 3 congregation)	#258
Postlude		

Welcome to Pilot Knob Lutheran Church

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Pilot Knob Lutheran Church, AALC. We pray that your worship here this morning will be uplifting and help you better understand the relationship we have with God through Jesus Christ.

If you have any questions about receiving Jesus by faith and beginning a relationship with God, please speak with the person who invited you, another member of the congregation or the Pastor before you leave this morning. We will be happy to help you discover the truth about starting a new life with Jesus today! Once again, welcome and may God richly bless our time here this day.

Announcements

Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 4:00

Sunday, December 30, 9:00 Worship No Sunday School

PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING

Joel Jr., (cancer), Israel, AALC, President Trump, Law Enforcement, AALC, Christ family, Persecuted Christians, Luke & Ruth Schroeder (WMPL; Philippines)

Serving This Sunday

Greeter: Rick & Cathy

Reader:

Ushers: Derek & Randy S.

Sound/Computer: Rick & Don

Custodians: Don & Bobbi E.

Acolyte:

Computer/Sound **Dec. 24** Russ & Greg

Serving December 30

Greeter: Leland & Naomi

Reader: Rick

Ushers: Derek & Randy

Sound/Compute: Cathy & Derek

Custodians: Russ, Marty & Emily

Acolyte: Mya

FINANCIAL REPORT

Weekly need: \$2080.00

Last week's offering: \$6,575.25

***Offering to date: \$9,323.25**

Monthly need: \$8,322.00

Ingredients

One 14.1-ounce box refrigerated rolled pie crusts, such as Pillsbury

1 large egg

One 21-ounce can cherry pie filling

Fresh rosemary sprigs, for garnish

2 tablespoons confectioners' sugar

Directions

Special equipment:

2 1/2-inch round plain-edged cookie cutter, 2-inch round plain-edged cookie cutter, 1 1/2-inch Christmas tree cookie cutter

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Unroll one of the pie crusts onto a cutting board. Using a 2 1/2-inch plain-edged round cutter, cut out 8 circles from the crust. Place the circles on the parchment-lined baking sheet. Discard the remaining dough.

Unroll the second pie crust onto the cutting board. Using the same 2 1/2-inch round cutter, cut out 8 more circles. Then, use a 2-inch plain-edged round cutter and cut out 8 smaller circles from the larger circles on the board. Set aside the rings. Using a 1 1/2-inch Christmas tree cutter, cut out 8 small trees from the smaller full circles. You should now have eight 2 1/2-inch full circles, eight 2 1/2-inch rings and eight small Christmas trees of dough.

Beat the egg with 1 tablespoon of water. Use your finger or a brush to brush the edge of the 2 1/2-inch circles. This will help the rings adhere during baking. Lay the rings on top of the egg-washed circles. Working carefully, spoon 3 cherries into the center of each tart. Place a tiny tree on top of each tart over the cherries. The trunk of the tree should be touching the outer ring. Using your finger or a pastry brush, brush the pie-crust ring and tree with the egg wash. Bake the tarts until the dough is golden brown, about 15 minutes. Allow to cool completely.

Create a bed of rosemary on a platter or cake stand and arrange the baked tarts on top of the rosemary. Dust with confectioners' sugar and enjoy!

CHRISTMAS TREE TARTS

Level: Easy Total: 45 min Active: 30 min Yield: 8 tarts

December 23, 2018 Sunday School Program

Reading #1 O Come All Ye Faithful

There is a sense of urgency in the air. Imagine a child tugging at your hand insistently saying: Let's go, let's go, let's go. In a similar way imagine someone pulling at your sleeve or grabbing your hand half dragging you along as they run through the crowd, repeatedly saying, come, come on, you've got to see this!

While patience is a virtue, in the case of the angel's announcement impatience is a wonderful thing. Who could stand by and wait to see and worship the one who fulfilled the promise of the coming Son of God? We are invited by the angels to sing with them, to sing with our families, to sing with other believers and with all that we have - worship Christ our Lord.

Reading #2 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks.

It's exciting to be the first to know: The first to know that someone is going to have a baby, the first to receive the birth announcement or the first to receive a wedding announcement. The shepherds had a job that often prevented them from worship. They worked long days and dark nights herding and protecting sheep – used for wool, food and sacrifice. They were looked down upon by the religious elite because of their lack of worship.

Then came the special announcement of the birth of God's savior. Who should hear it first? Priests? Rabbis? Jewish teachers? No! It was to the unexpected- the lowly shepherds watching their sheep by night. They were the first to hear and the first to share this wonderful news of the savior's birth.

Reading #3 We Three Kings. (The Gifts)

When it's your birthday you don't give gifts to others, rather you become the recipient of gifts. On the first Christmas it was both. God gave us the gift of Emmanuel, God with us. Then sometime later astronomers, referred to as Magi, came to worship the new born king and offered gifts. Not toys, underwear or socks, but items with profound significance, such as:

Gold: Gold was given because it represented royalty. It announced that this child is that of a king and the child of a king – the divine King.

Frankincense is a substance that represented deity. This gift proclaimed that the baby lying in the manger was no ordinary child – he was God in human flesh.

Myrrh – was a substance commonly used in burial, while this child was the King of Kings, while he was God of the universe, and all of life, he would also die by the hands of his very own creation. While this would normally be a tragic ending, it was the very reason he was born; to rescue us from eternal death.

OFFERING/SPECIAL MUSIC

Reading #4 O Little Town of Bethlehem

You can drive through some towns in America and see a sign bearing the birth place of one of America's presidents. It may be a large city, or it could be a small town with no other claim to fame.

That was Bethlehem – an insignificant town other than being the birth place of Israel's greatest king; King David. Because the promised future king whose reign will never end was from the family of David, it is only proper for him to be born in Bethlehem, the City of David.

No one expected anything great to come from Bethlehem, so on that first Christmas night the town was quiet, resting peacefully while the light of Christ was shining with brilliance.

May the light from obscure Bethlehem shine brightly in your life.

****SS Sings – Away in The Manger**

ANNOUNCE:

**** SS sings refrain and congregation sings the verses.**

Reading #5 Go Tell it On the Mountains

In the bible the mountains often represent the holy presence of God. Recall Moses receiving the Ten Commandments and later from where he viewed the promise land. Jesus was transfigured on a mountain, and also daily went up on a mountain to pray before dawn.

A mountain also provides a great back drop to speak as it reflects the voice of the speaker to people far and wide.

Upon learning of the birth of our Savior we are called to tell others across the hills and everywhere that Jesus Christ is Born.

Origin of the Christmas Tree

The first Christmas tree didn't appear in America until 1843. The German immigrant who set it up was almost run out of town by his irate Pennsylvania neighbors. But it's no wonder that it was a German Lutheran who introduced the Christmas tree to Americans. Some three hundred years earlier, as the story goes, Martin Luther was walking through a forest on a snowy evening. The stars shone brightly, causing the snow on the boughs to glisten like diamonds. Luther reflected on the beauty before him and suddenly realized that trees are at the heart of the gospel story. He cut one down, dragged it for the Advent season, sparking a German love affair with Christmas trees. If you enjoy your Christmas tree, you can thank a German immigrant for bringing Luther's tradition to Pennsylvania during December of 1843. Martin Luther saw in the Christmas tree the true reason for the season: A Savior was born in a manger to be nailed to a tree outside Jerusalem thirty-three years later carrying our sins and taking our punishment upon himself so that we might be forgiven by the grace of God. this year, as you decorate your tree and enjoy its beauty, think about this: the best gift is not placed under a tree but was hung on one. "I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. (1 Corinthians 2:2)

Announcements

Sunday 29, 9:00 Morning Worship. Sermon: **Aftermath**

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New

Year to all!

Pr. Bob and Barb Snitzer

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“Peace On Earth?”



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PILOT KNOB LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2020 4:00 PM

Pastor Bob Snitzer

Pianist

Val Johanson

Welcome/Announcements

Lighting of Christ Candle

*Hymn

Hark The Herald Angels Sing

#277

Opening Prayer

Old Testament Lesson

(Pew Bible 681)

Isaiah 7:10-14

Hymn

Let's Worship and Adore Him

#247

*Gospel Lesson

(Pew Bible 955) Matthew 1:18-25

Hymn

What Child is This

#281

Sermon

Peace on Earth?

Hymn

Let There Be Peace On Earth

Overhead

***Christmas Creed**

I believe in God the Father, Creator of all things, who sent His Son as my Savior.

I believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, announced

by angels, worshiped by the Wise Men, who lived to suffer, die, and rise again to free me from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

I believe in the Holy Spirit who has brought me to faith in Christ, and by whose continuous work in my heart I am ever led to lay before the feet of Christ my worship, my life, my love, to live under Him as my King both now and forevermore. Amen.

Offering

*Offertory

Emmanuel

#243

Distribution of Light

*Pastor will light a candle from the Christ Candle and the ushers will light theirs from the pastor's candle. Worshipers are cautioned **not to tip a burning candle**, lest hot wax spill.*

*Hymn

Silent Night! Holy Night!

#253

*Christmas Prayer (Unison)

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate, and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift, and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be the children of God and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiven and forgiving, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

*Benediction

Extinguish candles

*Closing Hymn

Joy to The World

#270

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN

L: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,

C: and the government will be on his shoulders.

L: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

C: Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

L: With righteousness he will judge the needy; with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

C: And He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

Isaiah 9:6-7; 11:4 (NIV)

Serving This Sunday

Reader: Sherry F.

Ushers: Billy/Zade/Randy

Sound/Computer: Cathy/Derek

Custodians: Elbert's

Acolyte: Taylor

Serving Next Sunday

Reader: Don E.

Ushers: Billy/Zade/Randy

Sound/Computer: Rick/Steve

Custodians: Vickie

Acolyte: Devon

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taking our punishment upon himself so that we might be forgiven by the grace of God. this year, as you decorate your tree and enjoy its beauty, think about this: the best gift is not placed under a tree but was hung on one. "I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. (1 Corinthians 2:2)

One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman; he grew up in another obscure village where he worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty. He never wrote a book, he never held an office, he never went to college, he never visited a big city, he never travelled more than two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He did none of the things usually associated with greatness; he had no credentials but himself. He was only thirty-three.

His friends ran away, one of them denied him. He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial; he was nailed to a cross between two thieves, while dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing, the only property he had on earth

When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone and today Jesus is the central figure of the human race and the leader of mankind's progress.

All the armies that have ever marched, all the navies that have ever sailed, all the parliaments that have ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned put together have not affected the life of mankind on earth as powerfully as that one solitary life. Dr. James Allan © 1926.

Let there be peace on earth

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me

Let There Be Peace on Earth
The peace that was meant to be
With God as our Father

Brothers all are we
Let me walk with my brother
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.

With ev'ry step I take
Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment and live
Each moment in peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me

1. 277 Hark the Herald Angels
2. 281 What Child is This
3. 253 Silent Night
4. 270 Joy to The World

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Dr. James Allan © 1926.

Serving Tonight

Greeter:
Reader: Pastor Bob
Ushers: Derek & Randy S.
Sound/Computer: Russ & Greg
Custodians: Don & Bobbi E.
Acolyte: Mya

Serving Next Sunday, 30th

Greeter: Leland & Naomi
Reader: Rick
Ushers: Derek & Randy
Sound/Compute: Cathy & Derek
Custodians: Russ, Marty & Emily
Acolyte: Mya

PILOT KNOB LUTHERAN CHURCH

WHERE TRUTH IS MADE KNOWN

“A CLUELESS WORLD”

WELCOME

In this hour, through His love, may your heart know joy; through His peace may your life be blessed, and may you respond to the hope He offers as we worship together.



Rev. Robert Snitzer

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PILOT KNOB LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2016

Pastor Bob Snitzer

Prelude
Welcome

Val Johanson

Advent Scripture/Candle (Pew Bible 681) Isaiah 7:10-14
*Opening Hymn Angels We Have heard on High #278

***Call to Worship**

P: God always fulfills the Divine promises. God has been faithful from the beginning of time to this present age.

C: *God is faithful. Sometimes, we - in our human weakness – doubt God's faithfulness.*

P: We are grateful for men like Simeon who help us understand that when we wait upon God we are never disappointed. God may not always answer our prayers as we would like them answered, but God is always faithful! God always knows what is best in our lives.

C: *Yes, God is always faithful! God always fulfills his divine promises. God knows what is best for us. Praise God for Simeon. Praise God for sending the light of Christ into the world. We pray for patience to watch and wait so that we, too, may behold the glory of the Lord.*

*Hymn It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (Vs. 1, 2) #251

*Prayer:

First Lesson (Pew Bible 1209) 1 John 4:7-16

Hymn It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (Vs. 3, 4) #251

*Gospel Lesson (Pew Bible 955) Matthew 1:18-25
Away in a Manger #261

Hymn What Child Is This? Vs. 1 #281

Hymn What Child is This? Vs. 2,3 #281

***Christmas Creed**

I believe in God the Father, Creator of all things, who sent His Son as my Savior.

I believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, announced by angels, worshiped by the Wise Men, who lived to suffer, die, and rise again to free me from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

I believe in the Holy Spirit who has brought me to faith in Christ, and by whose continuous work in my heart I am ever led to lay before the feet of Christ my worship, my life, my love, to live under Him as my King both now and forevermore. Amen.

Offering
*Offertory

Hymn Silent Night, Holy Night #253

*Prayer

*Lord's Prayer

*Benediction

Closing hymn Hark! The Herald Angels Sing #277

*Indicates when to stand.

Sunday 1, 9:00 Morning Worship. Guest speaker: Pr. Joe Marsh

Christmas Candlelight Service

December 24, 2018

Pastor Bob Snitzer

Pianist

Val Johanson

Personal Prayer Upon Entering

Prayer: Almighty God, you made this night shine with the beauty of the true light. Grant that on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus'

presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Welcome

Lighting the Christ Candle **A Holy Birth**
Hymn **Angels We Have Heard on High** **#278**
Old Testament Lesson (Pew Bible 681) Isaiah 7:10-14
Hymn It Came Upon a Midnight Clear Vs. 1, 2 **#251**
Gospel Lesson (Pew Bible 955) Matthew 1:18-25
Hymn of Preparation It Came Upon a Midnight Clear Vs. 3, 4 **#251**

Sermon **A Clueless World**

Christmas Creed

I believe in God the Father, Creator of all things, who sent His Son as my Savior.

I believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, announced by angels, worshiped by the Wise Men, who lived to suffer, die, and rise again to free me from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

I believe in the Holy Spirit who has brought me to faith in Christ, and by whose continuous work in my heart I am ever led to lay before the feet of Christ my worship, my life, my love, to live under Him as my King both now and forevermore. Amen.

Offering/Offertory

Welcome to Pilot Knob Lutheran Church

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Pilot Knob Lutheran Church, AALC. We pray that your worship here this morning will be uplifting and help you better understand the relationship we have with God through Jesus Christ.

If you have any questions about receiving Jesus by faith and beginning a relationship with God, please speak with the person who invited you, another member of the congregation or the Pastor before you leave this

morning. We will be happy to help you discover the truth about starting a new life with Jesus today! Once again, welcome and may God richly bless our time here this day.

Distribution of Light

*Pastor will light a candle from the altar and the ushers will light theirs from the pastor's candle. Worshipers are cautioned **not to tip a burning candle**, lest hot wax spill.*

Hymn **Silent Night, Holy Night** **#253**

Christmas Prayer (Unison)

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate, and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift, and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be the children of God and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiven and forgiving, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Benediction

Extinguish candles

Closing Hymn **Joy to the World** **#270**

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN

L: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,

C: ***and the government will be on his shoulders.***

L: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

C: ***Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing***

and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

L: With righteousness he will judge the needy; with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

C: *And He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.*

Isaiah 9:6-7; 11:4 (NIV)

PILOT KNOB LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24, 2012 Pastor Bob Snitzer

Prelude Deanna Jordan
Welcome
Advent Scripture Luke 2:6-7

Opening Hymn O Little Town of Bethlehem Vs. 2 #250
Advent Announcement

Call to Worship

P: On this holy night, we remember again the God-authored drama that unfolded in a small unimportant town called Bethlehem.

C: *We remember the ordinary people that were the main characters in God's unique drama – a peasant girl, a young carpenter, a harried innkeeper, the outcast shepherds, and a group of star watchers from the East.*

P: The setting, too, was unusual. A straw-littered stable, a rough crude manger where the animal ate, None of us would have chosen these things to set the stage for the arrival of God's promised Messiah.

C: *Christmas reminds us that God does not choose the extraordinary or the important in order to accomplish God's divine purposes. But God chooses average people like us to do the work of the kingdom. Let us take time in our busy lives to "ponder" the Christmas event as Mary did. Let us receive the Christ into our ordinary lives so that we may receive the Christmas truth into our hearts, and allow God to guide us each day of our lives.*

Hymn O Come All Ye Faithful #249

Prayer: Almighty God, you made this night shine with the beauty of the true light. Grant that on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson Back of bulletin
Second Lesson 1 John 1:1-14
Hymn One Small Child (vs. 1,3) #280

Gospel Lesson Matthew 1:18-25
Hymn of Preparation It Came Upon the Midnight Clear #251

Sermon **THE INCARNATION OF LOVE**

Christmas Creed

I believe in God the Father, Creator of all things, who sent His Son as my Savior.

I believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, announced by angels, worshiped by the Wise Men, who lived to suffer, die, and rise again to free me from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

I believe in the Holy Spirit who has brought me to faith in Christ, and by whose continuous work in my heart I am ever led to lay before the feet of Christ my worship, my life, my love, to live under Him as my King both now and forevermore. Amen.

Offering
Special music O Holy Night Sandy Damm & Rachel Snitzer

Distribution of Light

*Pastor will light a candle from the altar and the ushers will light theirs from the pastor's candle. Worshipers are cautioned **not to tip a burning candle,** lest hot wax spill.*

Hymn Silent Night, Holy Night #253
(Vs. 1 sung by Janelle Davis)

Christmas Prayer (Unison)

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate, and

open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift, and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be the children of God and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiven and forgiving, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Benediction

Extinguish candles

Closing Hymn Angels We Have Heard on High # 278

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN

L: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,

C: and the government will be on his shoulders.

L: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

C: Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

L: With righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

C: And He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

Isaiah 9:6-7; 11:4 (NIV)

Announcements

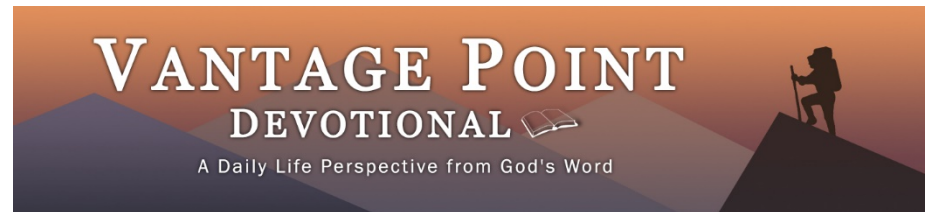
January 1, 9:00 AM Morning Worship, guest speaker Pr. Joe Marsh. Sermon: SECURITY IN AN INSECURE WORLD.

Pray for the Following

Spenser Olson (infant), Ed Davis, Emery Jo, Economy, Louis & Dorothea Escobedo, President, AALC, **[Armed Forces-** Justin Gerdes, Doug Wiegel]

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to all!

Pr. Bob and Barb Snitzer



What are your plans for the holidays? By now, many Americans have purchased airline tickets to go visit relatives for Christmas; while those on the other end are dressing up their guest rooms. Maybe you'll be part of a traditional festival at church, or sing The Messiah with your city's symphony orchestra. Or Christmas might just be a much-too-quiet day at home so you will join with others in the city center to feed the homeless and disadvantaged.

And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

Luke 1:35

(Read below)

Mary had plans one spring day. She was engaged to a caring man who worked hard and would provide for her. She had celebrated with Elizabeth, her cousin, when she discovered she was pregnant. Mary was a humble, devout and faithful Jewish girl, tending to the customs of her faith. Her plans were simple: marry Joseph and raise up a good Jewish family. Then her plans were interrupted! And what an interruption it was. An angel visited her, and you know how the story of the birth of Jesus unfolded after that.

It was a miracle! God was intervening in the history of the world!

Many would say that the world today needs another miraculous intervention from God. But, look around you. He has been and is at work in and through the lives of humble, devout and faithful followers of His Son, Jesus. The response from you is not to be so committed to your own plans that you miss His divine interruptions.

Pray that this Christmas, God will have His way in your life, interruptions included. Pray for leaders in Washington to know Jesus and then to follow Him.

12/2019

Herod's Last Request

When Herod came to dinner we locked up the silver cutlery— though king of God's own chosen nation he had a certain reputation. Quite a few later remarked on how his chariot was parked: it didn't really do much harm, just set off the odd car alarm (and anyway they never use wing-mirrors on BMWs). One thing we were grateful for— his guards remained outside the door. They said they didn't mind it snowing and whiled away the time by throwing javelins at next door's cat(the neighbor's curtains twitched at that). We set an extra place or two for the Ethiopian eunuchs who he brought along to taste his food. I said his timing's very good, dropping by on Christmas Day— we were entertaining anyway. Herod chewed the turkey fat and chatted about this and that— the cost of temple services, the relative advantages of burnt offerings over frankincense— we seemed to have his confidence and in a weak, unguarded minute (just like me to drop us in it) I brought up, casually aside, the subject of infanticide. Remembering John the Baptist's head I was concerned at what I'd said but then we saw, to our surprise, a

twinkle came in Herod's eyes. "Why, don't you know what brought me here? Well, then I must make it clear! I've come to pay my compliments to fellows with a common sense. Don't you think that we might be in the same business, and me? I kill by violence, you neglect— and here earned my deep respect for I can only be selective: your methods are much more effective. Just let an open sewer stink, give him no clean water to drink or basic medical supplies and see how quickly one child dies! By careful acts of selfishness you have created such a mess you now eliminated about—" (he took his calculator out)"—thirty thousand every day!" He smiled and put the thing away. "You can destroy whole continents simply by indifference. But though I like what you don't do, your actions are impressive too. You take the mineral resource, the inexpensive labor force, most of the profits they can earn and then you leave them in return Coca-Cola and Big Mac, debts they never can pay back, spare change you feel good in giving, cardboard packaging to live in. A hundred million children now sleep on the planet's streets somehow apprenticed into useful trades like prostitution, drugs

and AIDS— though I'm both cruel and sadistic I can't compete with that statistic, nor with the armaments I know you've built to keep the status quo. I just had swords and knives and spears but after nineteen hundred years you have such powerful weapons their cost alone kills millions! However population climbs you can destroy it fifty times and fight it on a dozen fronts while you don't feed it even once. That's big league stuff compared to me who butchers a baby boy or three. There's nothing more I need to do— I'll leave my murdering to you. A toast is called for now, I think. This Christmas evening let us drink to all the damage that's been done by looking after Number One!" He raised his glass up to his head — the wine it held was rich and red— and looking round from face to face he said "But we should say a grace! Give thanks to those in direst need who starve so we can overfeed and die to do us sinners good. We eat their flesh and drink their blood. Do this, as oft as you remember, at least once every December." Then Herod laughed, and drained his wine. Somehow I couldn't stomach mine, yet though he smiled, his eyes were grim— something clearly unsettled him. "I murdered boys aged two or less, and this was done

under duress. If you should want to place the blame then put the Magi in the frame: if I had not been so deceived by those wise men, then I believe much blood would never have been spilled. I only needed one child killed. My motive was quite rational: stability in Israel depends on keeping sweet somehow whoever's emperor just now. This story of a new-born king could only be unsettling: he was a danger, patently, to national security and threatened also therewithal my throne, my life, my soul, my all. So —proving that my word is good— I went just as I said I would to worship at his incarnation. He had my total dedication. Everything was sacrificed until I found the baby Christ. And did you think I'd failed? Oh no. Though it took thirty years or so my people got the brat at last and strung him up and held him fast and made quite sure that he was dead. And there he should have stayed. Instead something went wrong. I don't know how, I just know he is not dead now and like a nightmare in my brain it happens time and time again—with lives for stables, hearts for mangers, he is born to total strangers and so I cannot rest secure until the child is found once more and the botched work of Calvary is completed finally. That's

why I'm here, and why I stay, for now ten billion times a day those nails are hammered deeper in by each act of your human sin and, though each time the God man dies somehow he manages to rise, still there may be—I don't despair— evil enough to hold him there. If Christ is born again in you is he not often murdered too? Surely someone hates enough to overcome this power of love? I depend on you, you see. Please, finish off this job for me.”

If Jesus had never been born ...

Tim Wildmon - Guest Columnist - 12/22/2011



If Jesus Christ had never been born, you would not be reading this column. If Jesus Christ had never been born, there would be no United States of America. After Jesus left this earth, Christianity spread from the Holy Land to modern-day Turkey to Greece and Italy and then covered the rest of Europe. In fact, Christopher Columbus wrote that his discovery of the New World was inspired by "...the Holy Spirit, because he comforted me with rays of marvelous inspiration from the Holy Scriptures." Indeed, if it were not for Christmas, we would not be living in the greatest country and most generous country in the history of mankind.

In 1950, President Harry Truman gave a speech to the Attorney General's conference. This is what he said: "The fundamental basis of this nation's laws was given to Moses on the Mount. The fundamental basis of our Bill of Rights comes from the teachings we get from Exodus and Saint Matthew, from Isaiah and Saint Paul. I

don't think we emphasize that enough these days...."

Truman's message reminds me that there was a day that many reading this can remember, when the Christian value system was the common value system that governed our country. It fostered self-control and served as the basis of our laws. It was understood. It did not matter if you were a Republican or Democrat, liberal or conservative, Christian or not (Truman was a Democrat, by the way). Today, if a President of the United States were to say the very same thing Truman said in 1950, he would be called a member of the "religious right" and publicly ridiculed for trying to mix church and state.

If Jesus Christ had never been born, obviously, there would be no Christmas celebration or even a "holiday season." Think about it. Thanksgiving Day is based in America's Christian roots. New Year's Day is based on a calendar that measures time from the birth of Jesus Christ. Or, as our Founding Fathers wrote: "In the Year of Our Lord."

The American economy depends heavily on people buying other people Christmas gifts each year. That is why the idea of "holiday" shopping is so ridiculous. No one buys gifts to celebrate Thanksgiving Day. The kids don't run downstairs at 5:00 a.m. on New Year's morning. Overwhelmingly, Americans exchange gifts with friends and family precisely because it is Christmas. Ask American retailers and they will tell you -- it's the most wonderful time of the year. It is hypocrisy of the highest order for retailers to make their living from Christmas sales, and yet be too politically correct to even acknowledge that fact in their advertising, pretending that people are "holiday" shopping.

Christmas in America has always been special. That is why it is so offensive to see an obvious attempt by secularists to remove Christmas and replace it with some generic "holiday" celebration. The governor of Rhode Island changed the name of a

Christmas tree to a holiday tree. Last year in Tulsa, the annual Christmas Parade was renamed "Winterfest." Examples like these are popping up more and more every year as secularists fret over potentially offending some tiny minority.

This is all about getting rid of our country's Christian heritage in the name of multiculturalism and political correctness. "Don't offend non-Christians," is the argument. Well, what about vast majority of Americans -- Christians -- who are offended by those trying to get rid of the true meaning of Christmas?

The truth is, as President Truman noted, one cannot appreciate America without appreciating our Christian heritage -- and Christmas is a part of celebrating our Christian heritage.