concordia church



Christmas Day

December 25, 2023

concordia church

Love God. Love Your Neighbor.

www.concordiafaith.org

773-281-1225

Concordia on Seeley

3855 N. Seeley

Sunday mornings:

10:00am Worship (In-person & virtual options)

Join the 10:00am livestream on Sunday mornings or view recordings of our past services on our YouTube channel.

YouTube **Concordia Church Chicago**

Welcome, and thank you for worshipping with us this morning.

Holy Communion happens at every service and is open to all baptized.

Restrooms are located downstairs.

Hand sanitizer and face masks are available in the back of the sanctuary should you need them.

Questions? Contact Desirae, Parish Admin, at dcontreras@concordiafaith.org

Prelude

Blessing of the Nativity Scene

P: O Lord our God, with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable, we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us with your holy presence, and inspire us to help those who have no place to dwell. Be with us that we might share Christ's love with all the world, for he is our light and salvation. Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever. **Amen**.

Proclamation of the Birth of Christ

A: Today, the twenty-fifth day of December, unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image.

Several thousand years after the flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant. Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt.

Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as King; in the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel.

In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome.

The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; the whole world being at peace, Jesus Christ, the eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, and nine months having passed since his conception, was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary.

Today is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

Opening Hymn ELW #275 "*Angels from the Realms of Glory*



Dialogue

A: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

A: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.
C: We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

A: To us a child is born, to us a son is given.
C: In him is life, and the life is the light of all people.

Opening Prayer

P: The Lord be with you
C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.
C: All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Carol ELW #270 "*Hark the Herald Angels Sing*"

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

First Reading — Isaiah 52:7-10

7 How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
8 Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.
9 Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
10 The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Carol — ELW #270 "*Hark the Herald Angels Sing*"

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Second Reading Titus 3:4-7

[4]When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, [5]he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. [6]This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, [7]so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
L: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Carol ELW #270 *"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"*

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 we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth.

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"



Gospel Reading

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel — John 1:1-14

[1]In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2]He was in the beginning with God. [3]All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being [4]in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. [5]The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

[6]There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. [7]He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. [8]He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. [9]The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

[10]He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. [11]He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. [12]But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, [13]who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

[14]And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — Rev. Nicholas Zook

Hymn of the Day

ELW #267 "*Joy to the World*"



Nicene Creed

C: We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through Him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.,
we acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Responsive Prayer

A: Glory to God in the highest
C: and peace to God's people on earth.

A: Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.
C: Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

A: Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.
C: Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

A: Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.
C: Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

A: Let us pray to the Lord.
C: Lord, hear our prayer.

Offertory Anthem — "*Silent Night*" arr. Walters

We encourage you to use this time for reflection & gratitude as we prepare for communion.

Offering

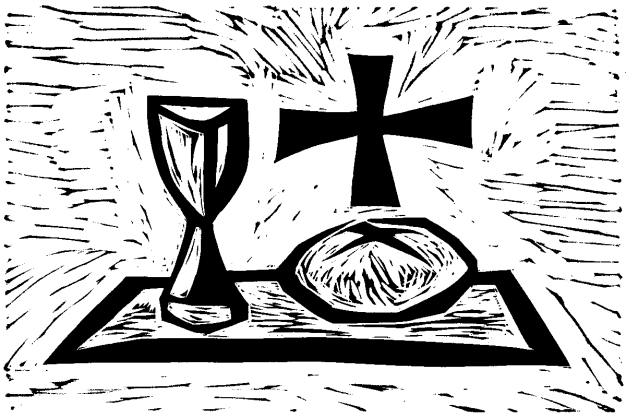
Thank you for supporting our ministries with our financial gifts. Scan the QR code to the left to easily make a one-time gift or establish a recurring gift.

Liturgy of the Eucharistic Meal

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.



P: We give you thanks, Father,
through Jesus Christ,
your beloved Son,
whom you sent
in this end of the ages
to save and redeem us
and to proclaim to us your will.
He is your Word,
inseparable from you.
Through him
you created all things,
and in him you take delight.
He is your Word,
sent from heaven
to a virgin's womb.
He there took on our nature
and our lot and
was shown forth as your Son,
born of the Holy Spirit
and of the virgin Mary.
It is he, our Lord Jesus,
who fulfilled all your will
and won for you a holy people;
he stretched out his hands
in suffering
in order to free from suffering
those who trust you.
It is he who,
handed over to a death
he freely accepted,
in order to destroy death,
to break the bonds
of the evil one,
to crush hell underfoot,
to give light to the righteous,
to establish his covenant
and to show forth
the resurrection,
taking bread and
giving thanks to you, said:
Take and eat;
this is my body, broken for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
In the same way he took the cup,
gave thanks, and
gave it for all to drink, saying:
This is my blood
poured out for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Remembering, then,
his death and resurrection,
we lift this bread and cup
before you,
giving you thanks that
you have made us worthy
to stand before you
and to serve you
as your priestly people.
And we ask you:
Send your spirit
upon these gifts of your church;
gather into one
all who share
this bread and wine;
fill us with your holy spirit
to establish our faith in truth,
that we may praise
and glorify you
through your Son, Jesus Christ.
Through him
all glory and honor are yours,
Almighty Father,
with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church
both now and forever.
C: Amen

The Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil,
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Communion

We invite all who are baptized in Christ to come forward for communion. All are welcome at the Lord's table. Parents of young children are asked to let the pastor know if they want their child to receive communion or a blessing.

Communion is served by continuous table around the altar, and you are asked to take a place as openings appear.

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray.
Emmanuel, God with us, you grace us with life and breath and give us bread for the journey. Send us out in service to this world that you love, telling the amazing news of your coming to be Savior and Lord of all.
C: Amen.

Closing Hymn ELW #288 "*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*"



Blessing and Dismissal

P: Let us bless the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

P: 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 the Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.
C: Amen.

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Announcements

Support the **ministries of Concordia Church** through your offerings. There are multiple ways for you to give:

1) Mobile: Text 'Concordia' to 73256 and follow the link or scan the QR code here
2) Online: Visit www.onrealm.org/concordiafaith/give
3) Via cash or check left in the offering plate or mailed to the church at:

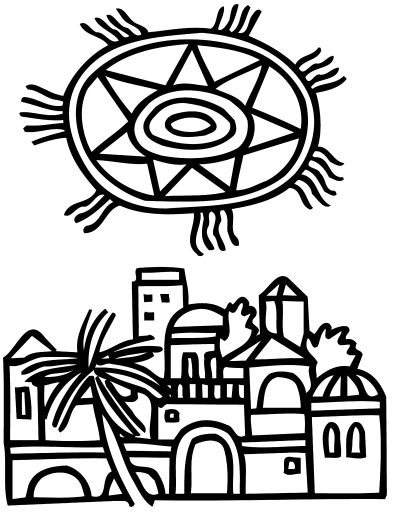
   3855 N Seeley Ave
   Chicago, IL 60618

Worship on Sunday, December 31st will be pre-recorded and available for virtual viewing only. There will be no in-person worship on this Sunday. You can find the service December 31st on our website, www.concordiafaith.org OR on our YouTube channel—Concordia Church Chicago.

Check your inboxes for a special Christmas greeting from Concordia Church! This greeting includes a link to the recording of our Christmas Spectacular from this year—watch and be delighted by Lakeshore Brass & guests vocalists for this merriest of concerts!

The church office will be minimally staffed December 25th-January 2nd. If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Zook at (773) 805-8191.

Support Concordia Church's partnership with the Common Pantry through your donations of food or toiletry items or a monetary gift to this worthy cause. All donations will help sustain a "Take What you Need" food pantry in the lobby of Swedish Covenant Hospital for patients upon their discharge. Bring item donations to the church at any time. Text 'Concordia' to 73256 and choose the 'Social Impact' fund to give electronically.



A Christmas Prayer

Let us pray that strength and courage abundant be given to all who work for a world of reason and understanding ✣ that the good that lies in every man's heart may day by day be magnified ✣ that men will come to see more clearly not that which divides them, but that which unites them ✣ that each hour may bring us closer to a final victory, not of nation over nation, but of man over his own evils and weaknesses ✣ that the true spirit of this Christmas Season—its joy, its beauty, its hope, and above all its abiding faith—may live among us ✣ that the blessings of peace be ours—the peace to build and grow, to live in harmony and sympathy with others, and to plan for the future with confidence.

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

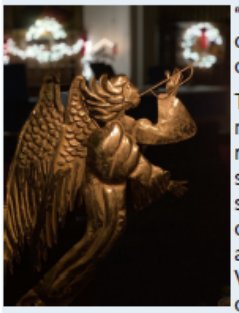
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December 2023

From Pastor Zook—A Christmas Reflection

"You are the light of the world....Let your light so shine upon others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" Matthew 5:14a, 16



"Let your light so shine..." These words spoken over the newly baptized member of the church are accompanied by a candle held by their sponsor and serve as a lifelong reminder of their special calling to be God's lights in a dark world.

The midnight blue of Advent reflects the darkening reality of shorter days, and longer, colder nights as we approach the end of the year. The twinkling lights of Christmas act as a bright reminder of the promised joy and peace Christ's advent brings to the whole world. In a similar way, the strains of church music, carols, anthems and songs of praise lift darkened spirits into the light of God's presence. This Advent and Christmas, we are blessed to bring our gifts of light and love and fellowship and worship to our church and to our neighbors and friends in even more ways than we have before with an on-line release of Advent Vespers of music and scripture every Wednesday, a Christmas Brass concert, Christmas Eve concert and candlelight service.

And...reaching into the coming year and reaching out to new neighbors, a special concert on January 14th at our Avondale site on Whipple inviting the asylum seeker refugees at Brands Park to join us for a luncheon, concert and gift of winter clothing and supplies.

Last year, we looked forward to celebrating 125 years of Concordia's ministries. Here, at the end of 2023, we again find ourselves looking forward, not backward, to what we are yet called to in ministry. You and I, we are called be lights for those who walk in darkness. The smallest candle light overcomes the greatest darkness. Shine, Jesus, Shine on me.

From the Church Council President—Our Christmas Appeal

This year, 2023, was a year of celebration and gratitude. We celebrated the 125th Anniversary of Concordia Lutheran Church, our church. We initiated Second Sunday Concerts and greeted our neighbors, members and friends with the gift of music. We supported our partners in their efforts to feed the hungry and at Concordia Place, we, with gratitude, said farewell to Brenda and hello to Grace.

As we begin the next chapter in the book of Concordia Ministries, your support is ever more important. As you make up your gift list for this Christmas, please add Concordia. Your gift, large or small, means more music, more community service and more vitality for your congregation.

Let's keep the light shining brightly. A light that brightens the pathway of hope, love and peace.

Merry Christmas!

Daniel Formeller

Scan this QR code to easily make your gift electronically! Be sure to choose 'Holidays' from the dropdown menu.

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A Concordia family of ministries serving people and communities

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Concordia Ministries

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Concert & Luncheon

Sunday, January 14, 2024 at 12pm

in the Swartz Pavilion at Concordia on Whipple

3300 N Whipple St.

We need your support!

also including:

Winter clothing drive

Children's book drive
(English & Spanish books)

Volunteers needed to:

- organize clothing for giveaway
- organize books for giveaway
- set up tables & chairs for event
- greet and host at event
- lead children's activities
- clean up following event

To sign up to volunteer, scan the QR code!

SCAN ME

To donate to this event, visit https://concordiafaith.org/give

For more information or to get involved, connect with Desirae Contreras at dcontreras@concordiafaith.org.

Partnering Together:

Advocate Aurora Faith & Health Collaborative
Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northwestern University
Concordia Place
Concordia Church

Copyright Information:

Below is a list of all the songs that we are using in today's liturgy with their copy right information located with them.

Opening Hymn **ELW #275 "*Angels from the Realms of Glory*"**

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

Carol **ELW #267 "*Joy to the World*"**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Closing Hymn **ELW #288 "*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*"**

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795–1856

Notes on the Liturgy:

1. All liturgical music is from ELW, Setting 4
2. The Liturgy is printed from **The Evangelical Lutheran Worship** and is used with permission.
3. The offertory prayer, introduction to the prayers and conclusion are taken from **Sundays and Seasons**, Augsburg Fortress, 2019, and used with permission: license number 23952.
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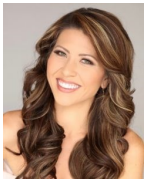
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