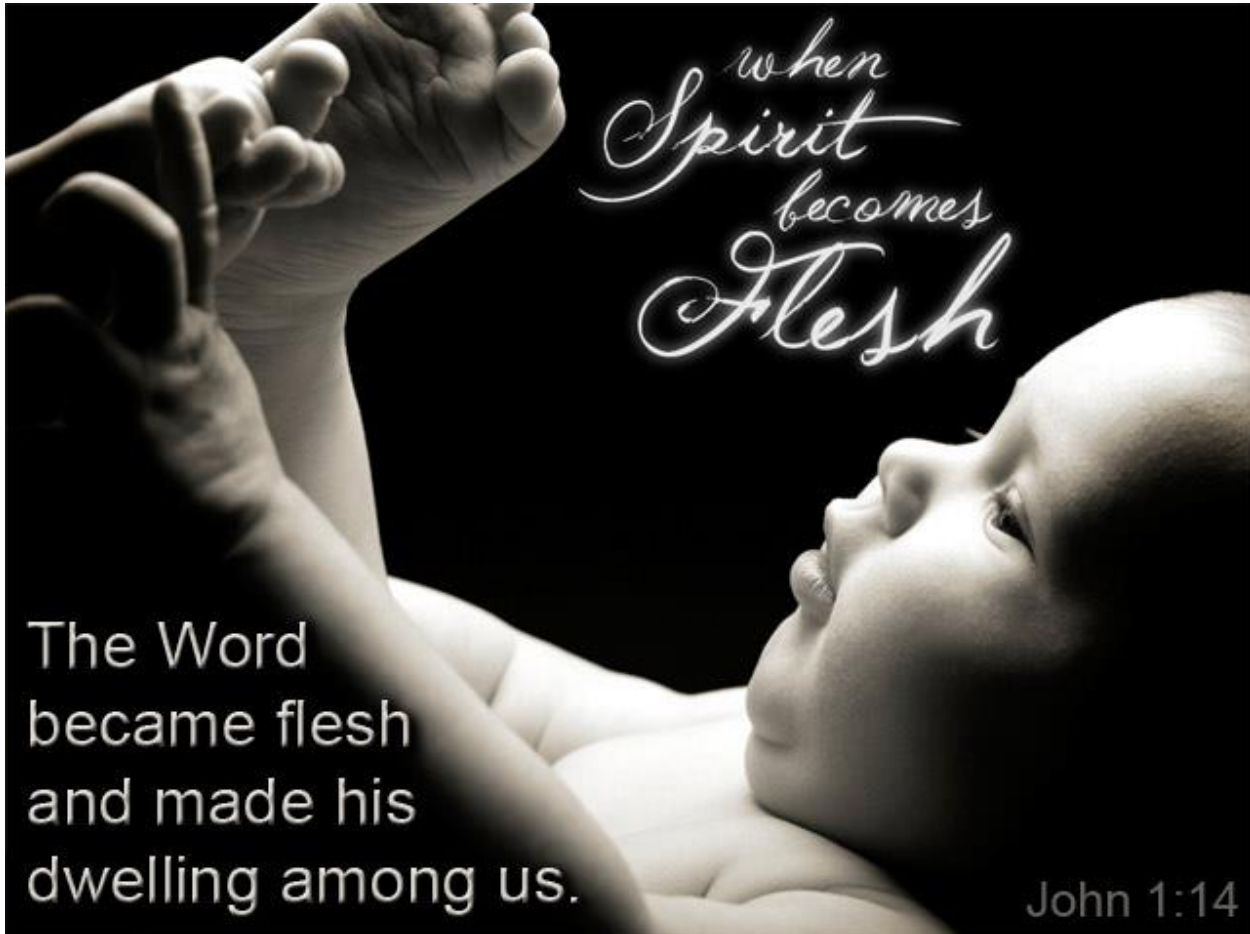


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"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD / CHRISTMAS DAY
DECEMBER 25, 2022

December 25, 2022
Nativity of our Lord / Christmas Day

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

SONG: *Joy to the World* (ELW 267)

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.

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.

THE MEANING OF THIS DAY

On this Christmas morning we take time from our family celebrations to remember what we're celebrating. The people of God gather to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. John's gospel tells of the Word that dwells among us, full of grace and truth. The meaning of Christmas is made clear: the light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it. Immanuel, God-with-us, is come into the world. Let us adore Him! Nourished by God's Word and the meal of Holy Communion, we move out to share the light with our families and neighbors.

CHRISTMAS LITANY

Listen! Do you hear the sounds of joy?
Have you heard the messenger's good news?
The Word was with God from the beginning.
In Jesus, the Word has come to dwell among us.
Break forth into singing, people of God!
Your comfort and your salvation are at hand.
In Christ, we are empowered as God's children.
We are gifted with grace and truth.
Sing a new song and marvel at God's ways.
Make a joyful noise through all the earth.
We celebrate the true light that enlightens us.
We rejoice in the gift of new life.

SONG: *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (ELW 283)

1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels: Refrain

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: Refrain

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We pray together: **Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here 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 Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

GOSPEL: John 1: 1-14

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

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

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

¹⁴And 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.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE PASTOR BARB

SONG: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (ELW 270)

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!"

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

Refrain

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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast
love

**Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all
people.**

Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the
age.

**Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or
homeless.**

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

**Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to
all the world.**

SONG *In the Bleak Midwinter* (ELW 294)

3 What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man
I would do my part;
yet what I can give him--
give my heart.

OFFERTORY

Thank you, God, for the Word that came to live among us, bringing life and a vision of glory. **Thank you for your steadfast love and faithfulness even when we have not listened or responded to your will. You have given us the greatest gift, your Son. We respond to you by returning to you what you first gave us, our time, talent, money and our selves. Grant that we might learn to give freely. Teach us how giving changes us. We give thanks for your unceasing love through this tiny child. Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray the prayer Our Savior taught us:
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Receive Jesus, the light of the world.

COMMUNION CAROLS

We will sing 1st verse of familiar carols

COMMUNION

The body of Christ given for you.
The blood of Christ shed for you.

TABLE BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. To us, watchful and waiting, a gift has been slipped into our midst.
A tiny child, born in a manger, a gift of peace to troubled souls, a gift of joy to sad hearts and cautious lives. We thank you for Jesus, present today in the bread and wine of this Holy Communion. Glory to God in the Highest. Amen.

BENEDICTION:

May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.
May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.
May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world. And
the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon
you and remain with you always. Amen.

SONG: *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (ELW 290)

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. Refrain

3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain

SENDING FOR SERVICE:

Jesus, the Word made flesh has come into the world. Rejoice and share the Good news!
Thanks be to God. We will!

EXTINGUISH CANDLES

SONG: *Away in a Manger* (ELW 277)

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

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SERVING TODAY

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Organist	Doug Mummert
Head Usher	Barbara Aldrich
Acolyte	Barbara Aldrich
Lector.....	Wayne Norman
Securing Offering	Ilona Laney & Janice McEntire
Communion Set-Up.....	Peggi Norman
Communion Clean-Up	Peggi Norman
Communion Bread	Janice McEntire
Communion Assist	Ron Coldsmith & Janice McEntire
Attendance last Sunday	72

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the Glory of God in loving memory of J. Austin and Nellie Hess given by their children and families.

Welcome Visitors! We welcome you to our worship service. We hope your visit with us will be a time of blessing. If you have any concerns, please talk to the Head Usher. We invite you to worship with us again!

For now, the offering plate will continue to be placed in the back of the church in front of the Baptismal Font. Thank you for your continuing support of the ministries of Solomon's as we join God in the work of sharing Christ's love.

Prayer requests for the following *Kathy Wishard, Peggi Norman, John Fickling, Doc Ensinger, Chole, Jan Horst, Sr. Barbara Barry, Greg Steinour, Betty Amt, Tana Vance, Jim and Carole Darr, Tracy Fredericks, Lanny Haugh, Heather Carman Shull, Jenny Barnes, Ray Rotz, Matthew, Lexi and Brooke Bowen, Sarge and Barb Weaver, Patricia Furry, Tina Smith, Nancy Marshall, Milissa Fogle, Marie Dovey, Beth Floyd, Jean Jackson, David Johnson, Joe and Karen Wolfinger, Jennie Matthews, Patricia Yetter, Carol Locke, Linda Wepking, Frances Kramer, Darrell Veilleux, Ukrainian Nation, Peace for the World.* If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire. **Please Be Aware: At the beginning of the year, the Prayer Request List will start anew. If you would like to remain listed on the next month's list, or if you would like to have your name removed from the list before the end of the month, please call the office.**

Office Hours for Pastor Barb are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon or call for an appointment.

Cancellation Notification: In the event of inclement weather, Solomon's will announce worship services are cancelled on the following platforms: Solomon's Facebook page, Solomon's Website, and on the church voicemail **BY 7:30 AM**. Remember for events like Mid-Week Bible Study, if the schools are closed for weather, then the event is cancelled. Please always use your own judgement about whether you feel safe driving given the road conditions in your neighborhood. One part of the county may be cleared while another is not!

Pastor Barb will be on vacation December 26 - January 1. If you are in need of emergency pastoral care, notify Ron Coldsmith, congregation president.

No Kids or Adult Sunday School on Sunday's December 25 & January 1st.

Spiritrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary has Discount Cards available for \$3.00 each. The cards are good through June 30, 2023. If interested see Becky Pecha.

Youth Party Sunday January 22, 2023 - We will have a Youth Party after Church on January 22nd. Lunch Menu: Make your own pizzas, chips, veggie tray, cookies, chocolate covered pretzel rods and drink. We will make a craft. There will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the Sunday School room.

Apple Butter - We still have Apple Butter for sale. Please see Zoe Mummert if you're interested.

Communion Cards – in order to maintain accurate records, we ask that each member fill out a communion card **only once per calendar year**, at a service when you partake of Holy Communion.

2023 Altar Flower Chart is posted in the cloakroom off the church entryway. The cost of the two vases will be \$50.00 per week. You will continue to provide Kimberly with the information for the bulletin prior to the week before the Sunday you choose. Include the cost of \$50.00 with the bulletin information. If you would like to save money by asking someone else to share the cost, you are welcome to do so. When you sign-up for a Sunday, you will be responsible to obtain the bulletin information for you and your friend and forward it to Kimberly.

Where do you see God? Solomons will use Advent this year to help open our eyes to notice God active in our lives today. Each Sunday of Advent, we'll take time during the sermon to write our "God moments" on a piece of paper and place them in the bag by the door when we leave. On Christmas Eve, we'll place the box under the Advent Wreath with a prayer of Thanksgiving for the many ways in which God is present. You can also call the church office to add your God moments to the box.

You are invited to Bible Study from 10 to 11 each Wednesday in the Conference Room of the Fellowship Center. This year we are praying through the Psalms. Each week is stand-alone so come when your schedule permits. Christian Ed is a life-long journey of discovering who God is and who are as followers of Jesus. Making time to learn God's Word is a mark of discipleship. Hope to see you there!

Hurricane Relief: In response to Hurricane Ian, Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is partnering with the Florida-Bahamas, Southeastern, North Carolina and South Carolina synods, as well as Lutheran Services Carolinas, to provide both immediate and long-term support. LDR anticipates relief will include water, food supplies, tarps, cleaning materials and other needs for those who have lost or damaged homes. **Please hold the victims and relief workers daily in your prayers.** Pray that God will deliver comfort to those who mourn and strength to those working diligently to provide aid. **Prayerfully consider a generous donation to provide tangible support. Make your check out to Solomons Lutheran Church with the memo space clearly marked "Hurricane Relief." If you are using cash, clearly mark the envelope. Thank you for your care and support of God's people.**

Choir Practice - Thursdays at 7:00PM.

Sunday School is in Session - Adult Sunday School classes begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Sunday School room. Children's Church will be held during morning worship and will meet downstairs at 10:20 a.m. Confirmation Class will be held at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room in the Fellowship Center.

Power Pack Meals: The Power Pack Meal program at New Franklin Elementary School is up and running. Currently 24 students are being sent home each Friday with food to last them through the weekend. The need for donations is great. Any individual size container of vegetables, fruit, breakfast items, meals (mac & cheese, Chef Boyardee, etc.), juice pouches, Yahoo chocolate drink, 8 oz. bottle water are welcome. Please place your donation in the gray Social Ministry tote in the Sunday School room. Monetary donations are welcome, make your check payable to Solomon's with Power Pack Meals in the memo line.

Sign-up Sheets for worship assistants for 2023 are on the side table in the Sunday School room. Communion: bread, set-up, clean-up, and assistant will be on a monthly basis. If you can't commit to the entire month, please see if you can share the month with someone else. Acolytes and Lectors are on a weekly basis. If you find you can't fulfill a chosen date, please call someone to take your place. Let Kimberly in the office know so the bulletin and newsletter info stays up to date. Thank you for your commitment to help provide opportunities for meaningful worship at Solomons. Kimberly will publish the schedule for each month in the newsletter.

Bulletin Announcement Forms are in both pamphlet racks. Please submit all bulletin announcements to the office by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday for inclusion in the bulletin.

Council Minutes, Monthly Financial Statement and Committee Minutes are available in the library for anyone to read.

**DECEMBER 25, 2022
CHRISTMAS DAY**

The glory and power of God is here.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 1:1-14	The Word became flesh
Monday	Isaiah 52:7-10	Let Zion rejoice
Tuesday	Hebrews 1:1-12	God has spoken by a Son
Wednesday	Isaiah 62:6-12	Salvation of Zion
Thursday	Psalms 97	The glory of God's reign
Friday	Titus 3:4-7	Maintain good deeds
Saturday	Psalms 98	Sing praises to the Lord
Sunday	Matthew 2:13-23	The escape to Egypt

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*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. **John 1:14 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of hope, peace, joy, and love, we thank you for your glory, power, and might as shown to us in the humble birth of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you who feed shepherds and kings alike, we thank you for this food, a sign of your glory, power, and might that is shown to us in Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the glory of Jesus' birth shine brightly in you today.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- How does someone overcome the fear of darkness?
- How does Jesus bring you from fear and darkness into joy and light?

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Angels We Have Heard on High



DEVOTIONS

Read: John 1:1-14.

John's introduction of Jesus points to a world of contrasts between darkness and light, that is, between the power of fear and deception and the light of God that brings grace, and truth. The arrival of Jesus, the Word that became flesh and now dwells among us, sheds light on what true power and real life looks like: it's the glory of grace and truth. Grace is that divine gift of underserved kindness. In John truth is more than facts. It is a way of life lived in relationship to Jesus, who is "*the way, the truth and the life*" (John 14:6). Jesus comes to shed light on that which brings God's glory and creates goodness and life. Through the Word that became flesh, all created life has come into being. Powers that live in darkness are not life-giving. The good news to hear this Christmas—and always—is that Jesus' light overcomes darkness. Jesus is the source of all that is life-giving, that which is full of grace and truth for all. It is the power worth knowing and trusting.

Discuss: Where have you seen the powers of darkness at work in the world? Where have you seen the powers of grace and truth at work in the world?

Pray: **God of glory and might, we thank you for your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the light of the world, who brings your grace and truth to conquer all the darkness of sin and evil. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you help others to have hope in the God of grace and truth?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

During the four weeks of Advent, we prepared our hearts and minds for the day of Jesus' birth and his coming again. Light the four candles of hope, peace, joy, and love on the Advent wreath. Then light the white one, the Christ candle, in the center of the wreath. This week, we focus on God's unconditional love for us and our love for one another. Dim the lights in the room and have a moment of silence to gaze upon the candles.

Leader: ***The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*** (John 1:5)

All: **Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord, the light of Christ that gives us hope, peace, joy, and love.**