

Greetings from Parkland's Pastoral Staff

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) Christmas is the first of the three great festivals of the Christian Church year. It is the festival of the Father and His love for us. It points us toward Easter and His Son's atonement for all our sins at Calvary. It is followed by the third and last, Pentecost, when the good news was given to all nations in God the Holy Spirit. Jan and I hope that yours will be a thrice-blessed year.

Pastor Steven and Janice Sparley



People of Parkland,

I've been serving as your pastor for about a year and a half now. As I continue to serve you in the years to come, I hope to continue to get to know you better as I share the good news of how Jesus came to save us with you. I leave you with verse 4 of Hymn #133: "O Come, All Ye Faithful":

*Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!*

Pastor Matthew Lehne



Merry Christmas!

For 25 years, Abraham waited, sometimes impatiently, for the Lord to fulfill His promise that Abraham would be a father. And as the years drew on, it seemed more and more impossible as Sarah grew older. And yet, when the time had fully come, Isaac was born. Certainly, nothing is impossible with God. As we ponder the miracle and mystery of the incarnation of God, the enfleshment of God, our human reason can know the concept, but fails to grasp the "how". And yet, the impossible-for-us, is possible with God as Jesus *was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary*. It has been our family's joy and blessing to boldly confess this mystery along with you each week this past year. Thank you for your love and support.

Peace be to you and yours in our incarnate God, the Lord Jesus Christ,

Pastor Samuel, Anna, Abel, Elisha, Matthias, Boaz, Ezra, and Moriah Gullixson

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS AND CANDLE LIGHT

Christmas Eve, 2025

5:00 & 11:00 PM

Parkland Ev. Lutheran Church

** Indicates the congregation may stand.*

1. PRELUDE

* 2. PROCESSIONAL HYMN | ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY #139

*Duet: Once in royal David's city
 Stood a lowly cattle shed
 Where a mother laid her Baby
 In a manger for His bed.
 Mary was that mother mild,
 Jesus Christ her little Child.*

(The congregation shall then rise and face the processional cross and all sing)

2. He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

3. Jesus is our childhood's pattern;
Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless;
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feeleth for our sadness,
And He shareth in our gladness.

4. And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that Child, so dear and gentle,
Is our Lord in heav'n above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

5. Not in that poor lowly stable
With the oxen standing by
We shall see Him, but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where, like stars, His children crowned,
All in white shall wait around.

* THE INTROIT AND LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

(READ RESPONSIVELY)

P: When all was still and it was midnight,
Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.
C: The Lord reigns, He is clothed with majesty.

MINISTERING TO US

OFFICIANT/LECTOR	REV. MATTHEW LEHNE
LECTOR	REV. SAMUEL GULLIXSON
PREACHER	REV. STEVEN SPARLEY

MUSICAL OFFERINGS

ACCOMPANIST	5 PM MICHELLE MINTON
ACCOMPANIST	11 PM ALBERT HARRIS
VOCAL DUET	MICHELLE MINTON & PAULINE SUNDBY



PLEASE JOIN US!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 | CHRISTMAS DAY

THE FESTIVAL OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

10:00am – Festival Communion Service

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31 | NEW YEAR'S EVE

THE SERVICE OF
CORPORATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

6:30pm – with Individual Absolution and Holy
Communion

1. Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin mother and Child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. 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!

3. 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.

4. Silent night! Holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

* THE BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
Amen.

(The Congregation shall rise and face the processional cross)

* RECESSIONAL | THE NUNC DIMITTIS

(SUNG BY THE CONGREGATION A CAPELLA)

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace
according to Thy word,
For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation:
which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
A Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore.
Amen.

The Lord said to Me,
"You are My Son, today I have begotten You."
When all was still and it was midnight,
Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.

* INTRODUCTION & PRAYER

P: ... These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of
Heaven, in the words which Christ Himself has taught us:
C: Our Father....

The Almighty God bless us with His grace. Christ give us the joys of
everlasting life, and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the
King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

A Carol | O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

110:1, 7

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

7. O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.



After each lesson, the congregation shall respond: Thanks be to God.

FIRST LESSON | GENESIS 3:8-15

*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that the
Seed of the woman will bruise the serpent's head.*

CAROL | HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING #125: 1, 2, 4

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 th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"	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 th'incarnate Deity! Pleased as Man with man to dwell; Jesus, our Immanuel! Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
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4. Come, Desire of Nations, come,
Fix in us Thy humble home;
Rise, the woman's conqu'ring Seed,
Bruise in us the serpent's head.
Adam's likeness, Lord, efface;
Print Thine image in its place;
O to all Thyself impart,
Formed in each believing heart.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"



SECOND LESSON | GENESIS 22:15-18

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

CAROL | LET THE EARTH NOW PRAISE THE LORD #165:1 - 5

1. Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who hath truly kept His word And the sinners' Help and Friend Now at last to us doth send.	2. What the fathers most desired, What the prophets' heart inspired, What they longed for many a year, Stands fulfilled in glory here.
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*NINTH LESSON | ST. JOHN 1:1-14

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

CAROL | A GREAT AND MIGHTY WONDER #113:1, 2

1. A great and mighty wonder, A full and holy cure: The Virgin bears the Infant With virgin honor pure! Repeat the hymn again: "To God on high be glory And peace on earth to men!"	2. The Word becomes incarnate And yet remains on high, And cherubim sing anthems To shepherds from the sky. Repeat the hymn again: "To God on high be glory And peace on earth to men!"
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HOMILY | ST. LUKE 2:1-14

"TWO FAITHFUL FATHERS"

THE OFFERING |

* SPECIAL PRAYERS & THE COLLECT

Let us pray: O God, You gladden our hearts with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold Him when He shall come to be our judge; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

Amen.

PASSING OF THE LIGHT | SILENT NIGHT

#140

As the acolyte brings a lit candle to your pew, dip your candle so that it lights from the acolyte's candle in order to reduce the potential of spilling wax.

Please carefully watch young children.

At this time we will also sing "Silent Night." Sung by all.

8. Welcome to earth, Thou noble Guest,
Through whom the sinful world is blest!
Thou com'st to share our misery;
What can we render, Lord, to Thee!

10. Were earth a thousand times as fair,
Beset with gold and jewels rare,
It yet were far too poor to be
A narrow cradle, Lord, for Thee.

13. Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be
A quiet chamber kept for Thee.



***EIGHTH LESSON | ST. MATTHEW 2:1-11**

The wise men follow the star to Jesus.

CAROL | AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD # 168:1, 4, 5

1. As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led by Thee.

4. Holy Jesus, ev'ry day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

5. In the heav'nly country bright
Need they no created light;
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,
Thou its Sun which goes not down.
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King!



3. Abram's promised great Reward,
Zion's Helper, Jacob's Lord —
Him of twofold race behold —
Truly came, as long foretold.

4. Welcome, O my Savior, now!
Hail! My Portion, Lord, art Thou.
Here, too, in my heart, I pray.
O prepare Thyself a way!

5. King of glory, enter in;
Cleanse it from the filth of sin,
As Thou hast so often done;
It belongs to Thee alone.



THIRD LESSON | ISAIAH 9:2, 6-7

The prophet foretells the coming Savior.

CAROL | THE PEOPLE THAT IN DARKNESS SAT # 153:1, 4- 7

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.

5. His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor,
The God by all adored,
The God by all adored.

4. To us a Child of hope is born,
To us a Son is giv'n,
And on His shoulders ever rests
All pow'r in earth and heav'n,
All pow'r in earth and heav'n.

6. His righteous government and pow'r
Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based,
His reign shall have no end,
His reign shall have no end.

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.



FOURTH LESSON | ISAIAH 11:1-4

The Prophet Isaiah foreshadows the peace that Christ will bring.

CAROL | LO, HOW A ROSE E’ER BLOOMING

Solo: Pauline Sundby Arr. by Mark Hayes

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As men of old have sung.
It came, a flower bright,
Amid the cold of winter
When half-gone was the night.

2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind:
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
She bore to men a Savior
When half-gone was the night.

3. This Flower, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death He saves us
And lightens every load.



*FIFTH LESSON | ST. LUKE 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

CAROL | NOW HAIL THE DAY SO RICH IN CHEER # 131:1, 2

1. Now hail the day so rich in cheer,
When for each earthborn creature
The Son of God from heav’n draws near,
And takes our human nature;
For of a Virgin born is He;
And Mary, by the Lord’s decree,
Is now become a mother.
O see the miracle of love:
That God Himself, from heav’n above,
Came down to be our Brother!

2. To us is born a blessed Child,
To us a Son is given;
Born of a Virgin undefiled,
He is our hope of heaven.
Had not this Child to us been born,
We all had been in sin forlorn;
He is our sole salvation.
All thanks, Lord Jesus Christ, to Thee,
That Thou art pleased a Man to be;
Save us from condemnation.



*SIXTH LESSON | ST. LUKE 2:1-7 (KJV)

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

CAROL | AWAY IN A MANGER

Duet: Michelle Minton & Pauline Sundby Arr. by Stephen DeCesare

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the heavens 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 side until 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 fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.



*SEVENTH LESSON | ST. LUKE 2:8-16 (KJV)

The shepherds go to the manger.

CAROL | FROM HEAVEN ABOVE

123: 6 - 8, 10, 13

6. Now let us all with gladsome cheer
Follow the shepherds and draw near
To see this wondrous gift of God,
Who hath His only Son bestowed.

7. Give heed, my heart, lift up thine eyes!
Who is it in yon manger lies?
Who is this Child, so young and fair?
The blessed Christ-child lieth there.

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