

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

8:30 AM

December 28, 2025



An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream

Our Lord was born to redeem us

AS WE GATHER

The killing of the baby boys in Bethlehem heard in today's Gospel underscores the sin-filled world into which Jesus was born. Long ago Joseph, the son of Jacob, learned to see the Lord's hand even in sorrowful circumstances. What was meant for harm, the Lord used for good. We learn to speak these words only by faith. Though the firstborn sons of Bethlehem suffered the ultimate cost because of Jesus, through Herod's atrocity the prophet's word was fulfilled. "Out of Egypt I have called My Son."

Once more we are reminded that nothing can prevent God from accomplishing His purpose, especially when that purpose is redeeming us from sin. Hidden in Bethlehem's sorrow is the mercy of God.

WELCOME – Pastor Christopher Fairbairn

RINGING OF THE BELL



A Great and Mighty Wonder



1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:
 2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,
 3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,
 4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,
 5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!
 And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.
 Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.
 The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.
 And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

Refrain



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Isaiah writes: I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord,
 the praises of the Lord,

**People: according to all that the Lord has granted us,
 and the great goodness to the house of Israel**

Pastor: that He has granted them according to His compassion,

People: according to the abundance of His steadfast love.

Pastor: For He said, "Surely they are My people,
children who will not deal falsely."

People: And He became their Savior. *Isaiah 63:7–8*

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Holy and gracious God,

People: I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask for Your forgiveness. Deliver me in Your mercy and restore me by Your grace that I amend my sinful life. Bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 63:7–14* (Although the Israelites have rebelled, God will help them.)

Praise for Deliverance

⁷ I will tell of the Lord’s unfailing love.

I will praise the Lord for all he has done.
I will rejoice in his great goodness to Israel,
which he has granted according to his
mercy and love.

⁸ He said, “They are my very own people.
Surely they will not betray me again.”
And he became their Savior.

⁹ In all their suffering he also suffered,
and he personally^[a] rescued them.
In his love and mercy he redeemed them.
He lifted them up and carried them
through all the years.

¹⁰ But they rebelled against him
and grieved his Holy Spirit.
So he became their enemy
and fought against them.

¹¹ Then they remembered those days of
old when Moses led his people out of
Egypt.

They cried out, “Where is the one who
brought Israel through the sea,
with Moses as their shepherd?
Where is the one who sent his Holy Spirit
to be among his people?”

¹² Where is the one whose power was
displayed
when Moses lifted up his hand—
the one who divided the sea before them,
making himself famous forever?

¹³ Where is the one who led them through
the bottom of the sea?
They were like fine stallions
racing through the desert, never
stumbling.

¹⁴ As with cattle going down into a
peaceful valley,
the Spirit of the Lord gave them rest.
You led your people, Lord,
and gained a magnificent reputation.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

FIRST READING Galatians 4:4–7 (*Through Christ we are God's adopted children.*)

⁴ But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law.
⁵ God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. ⁶ And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father." ⁷ Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** Matthew 2:13–23 (*The Holy Family eludes Herod's murderous plot.*)

Reader: Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said,

People: **"Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him."**

Reader: And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

People: **"A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."**

Reader: But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying,

People: "Rise, take the Child and His mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead."

Reader: And he rose and took the Child and His mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that He would be called a Nazarene.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CATECHISM *The Second Article*

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: What does this mean?

People: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
 2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
 Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
 He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
 Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
 Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
 All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
 Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

MESSAGE



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Lord our God, there was sorrow and mourning in Bethlehem in the times of the patriarchs and under Herod's rule. Be with those near and dear to us who are enduring pain and suffering, illness, or distress during this holy season. Remind them of the peace Your Son brought to earth, Your never-failing presence during their times of trial, and the eternal joy that awaits all who call out to You in faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Receive our thanks, O Lord, for establishing Your Church and giving to her faithful pastors who preach Jesus Christ and faithful church workers who aid the cause of Your kingdom in their vocations on our behalf, and raise up those who will heed Your call to service in the next generation. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, bestow Your blessing upon our own land and all the nations and those who lead the peoples, that they pursue the causes of peace and justice, punish the evildoer, and honor those who do good, especially for the sake of those least able to defend themselves. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, You are the strength of the weak, the peace of the troubled, the comfort of the grieving, and the hope of the dying. Hear us on behalf of the sick and those in any need, that You deliver them according to Your gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

If you brought your offering today, you are welcome to leave it in the offering box you will find at the back of the church. **Thank you.**

We invite our guests and members to fill out our Friendship Card during worship, which is found on the back of the pew. Please leave your card at the end of the pew near the center aisle as you leave.

Offertory



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
 Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
 Come and behold Him Born the king of angels:

Refrain:

***Oh, come, let us adore Him, Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!***

Highest, most holy, Light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing!

Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God In the highest:

Refrain

“...to you is born this day
in the city of David a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2:11

BENEDICTION

Pastor: As our heavenly Father provided protection and direction for the Holy Family, so may He guide and protect You, His adopted sons and daughters, throughout Your pilgrimage on earth, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be and abide with you now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

THE INVITATIONS

Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav' n - ly song?
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.



Need some PRAYER? Anyone who desires special private prayer with a pastor or a Stephen Minister may do so by coming forward after service to one of the front pews.

Our Vision — a place to come for comfort, support, answers, opportunities to serve, and to strengthen a salvation relationship with Jesus



WHERE WE SERVE

Preacher/Officiant
Music Director
Family Life
Elder

Pastor Christopher Fairbairn
Paul Ventimiglia
Jeanette Koch
Mark Potter

Greeter

Hasse Family

Welcome Center

Pat McGuigan

Ushers

John Hasse
Charleen Hill
Bob McGuigan
Pat MGuigan

Coffee Hour

Elders

Counters

Dave Tischler
Jan Paver

Tech Team

Thomas Kutz

Bible Study and Small Group Opportunities

WEDNESDAYS: Women’s Bible Study- Wednesdays @ 9:30am in the church Parish Hall.

SUNDAYS: Join us for bible study and fellowship @ 9:45am in the church Parish Hall.

SATURDAYS: Men’s Bible Study – Every 1st and 3rd Saturday @ 9:00am – Parish Hall

Attendance Last week: 12.21.2025– Attendance – 8:30am –109 + 11:00am –101 = 210

Communion - 72

Remember Our Shut-Ins

Christina Rohn
Waltonwood #240
27475 Huron Circle
Novi, MI

28	DEC, SUN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All day ● 8:30 – 9:30am ● 8:30 – 9:30am ● 9:45 – 10:45am ● 11am – 12pm ● 7 – 9pm 	<p>NO SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK (Day 7/12)</p> <p>Worship</p> <p>Worship w/ Communion</p> <p>Sunday School & Youth Bible Study</p> <p>Worship</p> <p>Adult pick up basketball - check notes for availability school gym</p>
29	DEC, MON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All day 	NO SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK (Day 8/12)
30	DEC, TUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All day ● 10am – 2pm ● 6 – 7pm 	<p>NO SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK (Day 9/12)</p> <p>School Hot Lunch - Kitchen</p> <p>Bible Quizzing Practice - Parish Hall</p>
31	DEC, WED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All day ● 9:30 – 10:30am 	<p>NO SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK (Day 10/12)</p> <p>Ladies Bible Study -Church Parish Hall</p>
1	JAN, THU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All day ● 10am – 2pm ● 4:30 – 5:30pm ● 5:45 – 7pm 	<p>NO SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK (Day 11/12)</p> <p>School Hot Lunch - Kitchen</p> <p>Choir Practice</p> <p>Bell Choir Rehearsal - church</p>
2	JAN, FRI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All day ● 7 – 9pm 	<p>NO SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK (Day 12/12)</p> <p>AA Mtg. church parish hall</p>
3	JAN, SAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All day 	Men's Bible Study Parish Hall



Altar Flowers

Two vases in honor of our wedding anniversary from Chuck and Beth Hempel.

Please arrange to pick up your flowers after the 11 am service

A **mission trip euchre card game fundraiser** will take place on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026, 6:30-9:00 pm. Twelve members of our congregation have committed to participating in an eyeglass clinic in El Salvador in April. The cost of the trip is about \$3,000 per person. This fundraiser will help defray the cost for our participants. If you are new to the game, we are happy to instruct. There will be appetizers, beverages, snacks and prizes. The cost is \$15 per person, \$5 for youth. Please mark your calendar and join us for an evening of fun and fellowship.



OUR NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome former members Steven and Kathleen McFall. Kathleen was baptized at St. Paul in 1995. Also, joining us is Jason, Kathleen and Steven's son. Jason was also baptized and confirmed here. Jason has two sons, Jackson age 7 and Liam age 9. We look forward to getting to know them better, and many people have already welcomed them back.

We enjoyed the opportunity to serve at Family of God on Wednesday, December 17. Pat McGuigan made the meal of ham, hashbrown potatoes, green beans and cranberries, it was yummy. Some of us enjoyed a ham slider at the end of the meal. We served around 80 meals including seconds and the attendance was a bit low with a couple of children the smiles and conversation are always good. Matt, Marcy, Sophia and Joe Treder drove down and served with Pat, Julia and myself. It was good food, good company and enjoyed by all. We took down 120 brownies made by several bakers of the church and a tray of cupcakes left over from the Advent lunch meal. Chris Henning purchased beverages and cuties. A big thank you to Pat for taking on 3 or 4 meals a year plus all the other things she does for our church and the community we live in. We are signing up for another year of serving 2 to 3 meals a month at Family of God. We can't do it alone, thank you for all your help. Merry Christmas and we are looking forward to enjoying a happy new year with our church family.

Another MOST eyeglass mission trip is currently being planned for April 11-18 2026 at a mission church in the town of Pasaquina in El Salvador. MOST has only recently established a presence in El Salvador, and we are excited to be among the first MOST missions to that country. We are establishing an email contact list for anyone who would like to be kept informed as we go forward with the planning. The list is not only for "goers", people considering going on the trip, but also for "senders", people who might want to be involved with supporting the team with fundraisers, etc. There is no commitment so if you would like to be kept informed, please forward your email address to Chris Burgess at chris.burgess917@gmail.com.

As we celebrate the miraculous gift God gave us in His son's birth, let us think of others during this Christmas season. For the month of December, Women In Christ is highlighting an LWML mission grant that provides funds to assist in the ministry of the Orphan Grain Train in the amount of \$18,000. The Orphan Grain Train has volunteers in 27 locations across the United States who gather clothes and other relief supplies for destitute people around the world. Their motto is "Sharing resources and bringing Christ's name and character to needy people both far and near." Please keep the Orphan Grain Train in your prayers.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE 2025

(H/C = Holy Communion)

12/28/2025 - Worship – 8:30am & 11:00am - Sunday**12/31/2025 – New Years Eve Service – 6pm – Wednesday (H/C)****1/1/2026– CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED – Thursday**

Another tradition of CHRISTMAS CAROLING occurred on Sunday, December 21st, 2025. We had twenty people sing their hearts out as we braved the cold afternoon with our cozy red scarves and jingle bells. Fortunately the roads were clear and the weather was good to travel through the communities of Northville, Novi, and South Lyon. We visited Allen Terrace, Jean Pichan, Richard and Karen Schneider, Christina Rohn, and Ted Schultz. Many thanks to the Norton family who publicized the event and provided detailed maps for our carpools. They also invited three guests who aren't members of our church. The Hoffmeier's provided gift bags for the shut-ins and a supper back at the Fellowship Hall afterwards. The Hoffmeier's and Jan Faerber have been carolers since the 1980's when the group went on the school bus driven by Ken Lehl (Jan's father) the school principal. **If you would like to join us next time - put Sunday, December 20, 2026, 3:00 - 6:00 on your calendar. You'll find it very rewarding and fun!**

