

Our Father's Lutheran Church



Our Father's Lutheran Church
3903 Gilbert Ave SE, Rockford, MN 55373
Phone: 763-477-6300
Email: office@ourfatherschurch.org
www.ourfatherschurch.org

Office Hours: Closed

Pastor Aaron: on vacation

Brittini & Melissa: By appointment,
Brittini@ourfatherschurch.org and melissa@ourfatherschurch.org

Rev. Aaron Fuller, Pastor

Tammy Jarvi, Director of Music

Melissa Ungaro, Coordinator of Internal Ministry & Administration

Brittini Bronczyk, Coordinator of Community Outreach

Lindsey Bervig, Director of Sunday School

Tiffany Distad, Coordinator of Engage & Confirm

Sunday, December 25th, 2022

Christmas Day

WELCOME TO OFLC!

We are pleased that you decided to join us in worship this morning. We hope you'll feel at home here, and God's presence! We have a few helpful notes for you on the service to do that:

All hymns are in the red hymnal in the pew in front of you, or under your pew seat. You can find them using the number next to the hymn in the order of service.

The **bold** text indicates parts of the service where the whole congregation is invited to speak together.

Communion is celebrated every Sunday, and you are invited to come to the rail to celebrate with us. We believe it is Christ's table and all that is required is for you to desire to receive this amazing gift of forgiveness and love. We do have other options if health and safety are concerns of yours. Just let the pastor or service coordinator know before the service.

Offering is not required to be with us in worship today, but we greatly appreciate any contribution you wish to make! If you wish to do so, you can place it in the basket at the end of your pew, or in the plate at the back of the sanctuary. If you need assistance, a service coordinator will be happy to help you!

Here at OFLC, we don't have pre-scheduled worship assistants. We allow folks to help out as the Spirit leads them, and that includes visitors as well! If you'd like to take part in worship, please see Pastor Aaron or a service coordinator before the service and they'll be happy to involve you!

Acknowledgements:

- All copies of music are from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal, downloaded from www.sundaysandseasons.com, and authorized for use via copyright license.

- Christmas Day litany created by Fran Pratt. www.franpratt.com/litanies/2015/12/25/litany-for-Christmas-day

OFLC FINANCIAL GIVING UPDATE:

November Total Contributions	\$ 37,197
November General Fund Contributions (minus give to the Max)	\$ 11,486
November Designated Funds Contributions	\$ 3,312
Avg household giving per month to cover expenses	\$ 211
Avg household giving per month to restore general fund	\$ 291
General Fund Balance (minus Give to the Max & ERC)	\$ 2,667

Total contributions include ERC refund and Give to the Max. Regular giving was below 2022 goals by about \$5,000; however, this was mitigated by funds raised during Give to the Max (\$22,399). OFLC is significantly behind restoring the general fund to cover emergency expenses by \$15,333.

Interested in getting more news about what's going on at Our Father's Lutheran? Contact our church office at 763-477-6300 or office@ourfatherschurch.org to be added to our monthly and weekly newsletters.

BLESSING & SENDING

Go tell it on the mountain! As Christ came bringing love, joy, peace, and hope to this world, so Christ through the Holy Spirit brings the same to you this day. Be blessed to be a blessing to others as you live and share this good news!

Amen.

Go in peace, serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

THIS WEEK AT OFLC:

There are no scheduled activities at OFLC the week of December 26 through December 31st. If you need access to the church, please contact Brittni.

Pastor Aaron will be on vacation December 26th through January 1st. For pastoral emergencies, contact Pam Hoekstra, Council President.

Interested in learning more about OFLC or becoming a member? Please contact Pastor Aaron at pastoraaron@ourfatherschurch.org

Sunday Jan. 1st:
Morning Worship: 9:00 am

PRELUDE

WELCOME & INSTRUCTIONS

CHRISTMAS DAY LITANY

L: Gracious, generous God: On this day we celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ, Your Son, Your Self in human form.

A We celebrate the Son of God.

L: We are transfixed by the story of Jesus.

L: We looked for a warrior;

A: You sent a baby.

L: We looked for royalty;

A: You were born to peasants.

L: We looked for power

A: You showed us meekness.

L: We looked among rulers and politicians;

A: You were found among cattle and shepherds.

L: We looked for military victory;

A: You gave us resurrection.

L: We looked for riches;

A: You gave us selflessness.

L: We looked for a king;

A: You gave us a servant.

L: We worship Jesus, the humble hero of God's Redemption Story. May we become more sensitive to the themes of that story

A: seeking peace, embracing vulnerability, humbling ourselves, looking for glory in lowly places.

L: May we recognize our part in the story,

A: our place as Christ-followers, our calling to gentleness and

humility,

our opportunities to give our most profound gifts.

L: May we grow ever more like Jesus, and live in the light of His presence and example. Amen

OPENING SONG

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je-sus Christ is born to-day;
now ye hear of end-less bliss: Je-sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je-sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be-fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for-ev-er-more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev-er-last-ing hall.



Christ is born to-day! Christ is born to-day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING SONG

Go Tell It on the Mountain



Go tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev-'ry-where;



go tell it on the moun-tain that Je-sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si-lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a-bove the earth
3 Down in a lone-ly man-ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



be-hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho-ly light.
rang out the an-gel cho-rus that hailed our Sav-ior's birth.
and God sent us sal-va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

The church in every land makes a joyful noise to herald your coming, O God. We give thanks for poets, musicians, and hymn writers who give voice to our praise, and for all who lead the church's worship. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

This day dawns with new hope for all living things, and from ocean depths to mountain peaks the earth rejoices. Inspire in us an urgent zeal to protect the planet and renew its resources. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Bring heavenly peace to this world and an end to armed conflict. Raise up leaders in every nation who will honor human rights and establish equal justice for all people.

Give courage to all who speak out against oppression and advocate for the powerless.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Guard the lives of any in danger, especially those who work to protect others. Lead any who are in desperate circumstances to sanctuary, help, and safety. Grant rest to the weary and soothe those who are troubled. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Bless all who gather to worship on this holy day. Be present at our tables and celebrations, and watch over those who travel. Sustain charities, outreach ministries, and food pantries that give generously to people in need. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

In Christ we have beheld your glory, full of grace and truth. We give thanks for those in every generation who reflect the light of Christ. May their witness shine forth in our time. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts

A: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

A: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

GOSPEL [PLEASE STAND]

LUKE 2:8-20

The gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O LORD.**

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & SERMON FOR ALL AGES

MUSIC MINISTRY

GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

During this time, if you wish to make a contribution to today's offering, you may do so by placing it in the basket at the outside end of the pew, and passing it to the inside of the pew, closest to the center of the sanctuary. Service coordinators will collect the offering and bring to the front at the conclusion of music ministry.