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Description automatically generated **Kerkhoven Lutheran Church**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**Living and trusting in god’s amazing grace we welcome all to worship, learn and serve in celebration of Christ’s love.**

**First Sunday of Christmas**

**December 26, 2021 9:00 AM**

On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.

**Prelude**

**GATHERING**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS ELW p. 94**

In the name of the Father,

and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN “Good Christian Friends Rejoice” ELW # 288**

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice

with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say:

Jesus Christ is born today;

ox and ass before him bow,

and he is in the manger now.

Christ is born today!

Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice

with heart and soul and voice;

now ye hear of endless bliss:

Jesus Christ was born for this!

He has opened heaven's door,

and we are blest forevermore.

Christ was born for this!

Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice

with heart and soul and voice;

now ye need not fear the grave;

Jesus Christ was born to save!

Calls you one and calls you all

to gain the everlasting hall.

Christ was born to save!

Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**WORD**

### **First Reading: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26**

*Having dedicated her son Samuel to God’s service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband Elkanah come to the temple to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.*

18Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. 19His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. 20Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home.  
26Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

### The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm: Psalm 148 Reading Responsively**

1Praise the LORD!  
 Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
 praise him in the heights!  
**2Praise him, all his angels;  
 praise him, all his host!**

3Praise him, sun and moon;  
 praise him, all you shining stars!  
**4Praise him, you highest heavens,  
 and you waters above the heavens!**

5Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
 for he commanded and they were created.  
**6He established them forever and ever;  
 he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

7Praise the LORD from the earth,  
 you sea monsters and all deeps,  
 **8fire and hail, snow and frost,  
 stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

9Mountains and all hills,  
 fruit trees and all cedars!  
 **10Wild animals and all cattle,  
 creeping things and flying birds!**

### 11Kings of the earth and all peoples,  princes and all rulers of the earth!  **12Young men and women alike,  old and young together!**

### 13Let them praise the name of the LORD,  for his name alone is exalted;  his glory is above earth and heaven.  **14He has raised up a horn for his people,  praise for all his faithful,  for the people of Israel who are close to him.  Praise the LORD!**

### **Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-17**

*Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with new garments upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God’s gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.*

12As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 13Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. 16Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. 17And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation “Alleluia” ELW p. 142**

### **Gospel:   Luke 2:41-52**

*Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.*

41Now every year [Jesus’] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. 42And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. 43When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. 44Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day’s journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. 45When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. 46After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.” 49He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” 50But they did not understand what he said to them. 51Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.  
  52And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

### The Gospel of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON Our Father’s Business Pastor Tim Larson**

**HYMN OF THE DAY “Your Little Ones, Dear Lord” ELW # 715**

1 Your little ones, dear Lord, are we,

and come your lowly bed to see;

enlighten ev'ry soul and mind,

that we the way to you may find.

2 With songs we hasten you to greet,

and kiss the ground before your feet.

Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night

that gave you birth, our soul's delight.

3 Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord,

and to us all your grace accord;

true faith and love to us impart,

that we may hold you in our heart.

4 Until at last we too proclaim,

with all your saints, your glorious name;

in paradise our songs renew,

and praise you as the angels do.

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694-1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845-1925, alt.

**apostles’ creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.\***

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**THANKSGIVING**

**OFFERING INTERLUDE**

**OFFERTORY**  **“As the Grains of Wheat”** **ELW #465**

Offering plates will be brought to the altar during The Offertory.

*Refrain* As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill

were gathered into one to become our bread;

so may all your people from all the ends of earth

be gathered into one in you.

1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,

may we share the presence of your love. *Refrain*

2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come

when all creation shares this feast with you. *Refrain*

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Each portion of the prayers ends with “Merciful God”. Congregation response: “**receive our prayer”.**

**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.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

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

**SENDING 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.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

Let all their songs employ,

while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

repeat the sounding joy,

repeat the sounding joy,

repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sin and sorrow grow

nor thorns infest the ground;

he comes to make his blessings flow

far as the curse is found,

far as the curse is found,

far as, far as the curse is found.

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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

**Thanks be to God.**

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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**SERVING THIS MORNING**

Pastor – Timothy P. Larson

Musicians – Mariah Rudningen

Lector -

Ushers – James and Kris Cortez

Acolytes –

Greeter- Leif and Bonnie Carlson

***PRAYER CONCERNS:*** *(Periodically these prayer concerns will be moved to the prayer concerns list in the newsletter)* Phyllis Meyer, Lee Meyer, Doris Bakken, Phyllis Loven, Keith Lundberg, Andrea Raths, Kathy Schol, Dennis Doering, Calvin Carls

**Stewardship Snippet – First Sunday of Christmas,** **Colossians 3:12, 14 –**As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. *We all know that stewardship is about how we live so that we love God thoroughly and our neighbor as ourselves. This remarkable passage gives us a vivid image to help us get there. Wake each day and clothe ourselves in Christian character and love.. --Rob Blezard Copyright © 2021, Rev. Robert Blezard. Reprinted by permission.*

**Fellowship Hour:** Please join us for fellowship hour immediately following the worship service in the fellowship hall.

**December Outreach Project**: Today is the last Sunday for our December Outreach project. The outreach project is designated to receive the Noisy Offerings for the month of December was the Bethesda Homes Foundation to help to purchase a baby grand piano in honor of Pastor Bill. This piano will be used for worship services and musical enjoyment at the new Bethesda North Pointe chapel - a place that was so dear to Pastor Bill. Pastor Bill Miller's joyous voice could be heard throughout the many ways he influenced the musical fabric of our communities, and our personal favorite throughout the halls near Carrie's Chapel. His presence is sincerely missed by all at Bethesda but his memory continues to inspire our hearts each day. To date we have received $882.00 which will be presented to the Bethesda Foundation in January. If you would still like to make a donation you can use one of the KLC envelopes or a check indicating your desire that the funds be donated to the Bethesda Foundation.

**Pastor Michael Buller:** Pastor Buller and his family moved their final items into the parsonage on Wednesday, December 22. He begins his ministry at KLC on January 1, 2022 with his first Sunday service being January 2. Please introduce yourselves as you see activity around the parsonage.

**This Week . . . December 27, 2021 – January 2, 2022**

**Wednesday, December 29**

11:00 am KLC delivers Meals on Wheels

12:00 pm Deadline for articles or information for the newsletter

**Next Sunday, January 2**: **Second Sunday of Christmas**

9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion Service is both in person and Live Streamed

10:00 am Coffee Fellowship

**Snow Removal Bid:** The Board of Properties and Grounds is calling for bids for snow removal at the church. There is snow blower that is available for use in the storage shed. Bids should be submitted to a member of the board or drop off at the church office.

**Altar Guild:** The Altar Guild is in need or 2 additional people to work with another team member to prepare the sanctuary for worship each week. For more information contact Barb Norton: [barb@theinwell.com](mailto:barb@theinwell.com) or 320-894-2128. Thank you.

**KLC Office Hours for the Week of December 27-31:** Church office hour will be Monday - Thursday 9:00 -3:00 pm. The church office is closed on Friday. If you have questions or need assistance please call: Ann Hanson – 320-894-4464, if no answer please leave a message or send a text.

**Closing Fiscal Year 2021:** We will be closing the fiscal year 2021 books on December 29. Please have all donations and offerings into the church by that time. Thank you.

**On-Line Giving:** It is now possible to give your offering or a donation to KLC on-line at: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YNJM> This link will now be available on our Kerkhoven Lutheran Facebook page and is available on our new website (see link above).

**KLC Website:** You are invited to visit our website. It can be found at <https://www.kerkhovenlutheranchurch.com/>

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