



OPEN DOORS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WELLS CAMPUS

595 1st Ave SW, Wells, MN 56097
507-553-5453 | opendoorsumc@bevcomm.net
Worship: 9:00 am | Coffee: 8:30 & 10:00 am

KIESTER CAMPUS

116 N. 3rd St., Kiester, MN 56051
507-294-3300
Coffee: 10:00 am | Worship: 11:00 am

Pastor: Chris Leistra | Office Phone: 507-553-5453;
Cell Phone: 920-765-3665 | Email: pastorumc@bevcomm.net | Web Site: www.opendoorsumc.org

December 24, 2022 – Christmas Eve – 7:30 pm

Please turn off or silence your cell phone.

A Service of Lessons and Carols

(* indicates when to stand. You may remain seated if standing creates a problem for you.)

Welcome to Christmas Eve worship as we hear “good news of great joy”: “Unto you is born this day ... a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11, ESV).

– Gathering in Faith –

Gathering Music

Welcome & Announcements

* *Opening Carol* “Joy to the World” # 246

Advent Lighting Ceremony “Lift Up Your Eyes”

Musical Introduction – Praise Team sings verse, then the congregation sings response:

(Sung Response) **Lift up your eyes and see the light surround you;**

with radiant hope, illuminate the night.

Lift up your voice and sing, let earth and heaven ring,

lift up your eyes and see the everlasting light.

Litany

Reader: For anyone who has walked in darkness, a new light has dawned!

People: O come, let us adore him!

Reader: For anyone who has ever felt forgotten, a new light has dawned!

People: O come, let us adore him!

Reader: For anyone whose patience has been put to the test, a new light has dawned!

People: O come, let us adore him!

Reader: For anyone in search of the way, the truth, and the life, a new day has dawned!

People: O come, let us adore him!

Candle Lighting – The Light of Christ

Reader: Tonight we light all the candles as we open our eyes to the glory of Christ’s birth.

As we light the **first candle**, we celebrate the hope that transcends our hurting world.

The **second candle** celebrates the peace that tears the veil of hostility and division. The

third candle celebrates the love that covers our guilt. As we light the **fourth candle**, we

celebrate the joy that can dry every tear. The flame of the **Christ candle** opens our eyes

to God’s everlasting light, as we celebrate the way to worship Christ, our newborn King.

Sung Response (same as above)

Prayer (unison)

Reader: Let us pray together:

All: Lord Jesus, tonight we join the angelic choir proclaiming glory to God in the highest. In a world where people seek the perfect gift to give, we rejoice because you’ve already given it. As you lit up the sky that first Christmas, continue to illuminate our world with your presence. We pray on this Christmas Eve that you will guide our every step, hear our every prayer, and delight in every praise as we come and worship Christ, our newborn King. Amen.

– The Birth of the Savior –

Introduction

Tonight is the night we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Let us hear again the glad story of how God chose to come among us and to keep the promises that he made to the world – promises to Abraham and Sarah – to Moses and Miriam – and to David and all the prophets – the promises to raise up an everlasting king and in him to bless the world and open the gates of heaven to all who believe in him and trust in his word.

FIRST LESSON:..... Luke 1:26-38 Sandy Youngblom

The Angel Visits Mary

Song: "Still, Still, Still" Chime Choir

SECOND LESSON:..... Luke 1:39-45 Alice Oleson

Mary and Elizabeth

Carol: "What Child Is This?" Praise Team

THIRD LESSON:..... Luke 2:1-7 Deb Lackey

The Birth in Bethlehem

Carol: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #230, vs 1-2

FOURTH LESSON:..... Luke 2:8-14 Kent Viesselman

The Angels and the Shepherds

Song: "Who Would Send a Baby" Women's Quartet
By Mary Kay Beall and John Carter

FIFTH LESSON:..... Luke 2:15-20 Kim Meyer

The Shepherds Worship

Carol: "The First Noel" # 245, vs 1-2

SIXTH LESSON:..... Matthew 2:1-11 Chris Leistra

The Gifts of the Magi

Carol: "The First Noel" # 245, vs 3-5

SEVENTH LESSON:..... John 1:1-14 Wanda Kothlow

The Word Made Flesh

Carol: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" # 234, vs 1-3

– We Respond to God's Word –

Giving with a Thankful Heart

Offering may be placed in the green chest (W)/offering plate (K) at the back of the sanctuary at this time, or on your way in or as you leave. *Thank you!*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving pg. 9

The Lord's Prayer (unison) # 895

Receiving the Gifts of Bread and Cup "Mary, Did You Know," Jan Johanson, piano

You are invited to come forward to receive this gift of God's love in Christ as instructed by the pastor. Everyone is welcome to the Lord's table in the United Methodist Church, as Christ's act of love is offered to all. After you have communed, please return to your seats by the side aisles. If coming forward is difficult for you, signal the communion servers who come to the back of the sanctuary and overflow room – they will be happy to bring communion to you. Thank you.

Prayer after Receiving

The Lighting of the Candles

The Light of the World has come to give us his light for our lives.

While we sing the next Christmas Carol, the aisle candles will be lit. Glow-stick candles will be passed out to all. To activate, bend the candle until you hear a crack and give it a little shake. On the last stanza of each verse of "Silent Night, Holy Night," please raise your candle high.

Carol "Silent Night, Holy Night" # 239
Christmas Reflection Pastor Chris Leistra

* Benediction

* Hymn for Going Forth "Let There Be Peace on Earth" # 431

* Postlude – Go in peace with the love of Jesus in your heart.

We welcome small children – help yourself to the "Busy Bags" in the back. The nursery is open for your convenience. It is located on the south side of the entryway. The TV may be turned on to watch the service.

Keep in your prayers this week: Bev Niebuhr, Joan Christian, Alan Yokiel; all those grieving, hurting, and lonely; all those struggling with challenging life situations; all those serving in the military and their families.

Announcements

Thank you for worshiping with us tonight. May you have a blessed Christmas. Thank you also to everyone who participated in this service in some way - whether through music, or readings, or projection graphics, or lighting candles - it has truly made this worship the experience of being the family of God together.

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Thank you for sharing the beautiful poinsettias!



Given By

Diane & Elizabeth Bathke, Edgar & Carrell Bathke and
Mike & Christine Buer & Family other Loved Ones
Margaret Courier Loved Ones
Roesler Families Ralph & Wilma Roesler
Sherry Asmus
Sarah & Doug Hankerson
(And others not known at time of printing.)

In Memory of

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The Advent offering this year will be staying close to home and helping people right here in Faribault County who are at the poverty level and in an emergency situation. Through the Salvation Army, we can directly reach people who need emergency financial assistance with lodging, rent, heat and utilities, gas, car repairs, or emergency prescriptions. Make someone's life a bit easier with an Advent offering to the Salvation Army of Faribault County. Make your checks out to Open Doors UMC and use the special Advent offering envelopes or write "Advent Offering" in the check memo line.

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Mitten Tree: Thank you for your donations of mittens, gloves, caps & scarfs placed on the Mitten Tree for those in need.

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Kitchen Campaign Update: With donations for the kitchen remodel received to date and some pledges scheduled to come in over the next year, WE HAVE REACHED OUT GOAL of \$25,000!!! THANK YOU EVERYONE who has contributed!!! If you have a moment and haven't seen the beautiful make-over, you should go to the basement to take a look.

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Wednesday Night Suppers are coming back! Yes, enjoy a night away from the kitchen and out with friends at church! The first night will be **Wednesday, January 11**, in our new kitchen. John & Melissa Kruse will start us out as cooks and we're looking for others to volunteer to cook. Serving will be from 5:00-6:00 each Wednesday and we'll ask for a free-will donation. And please consider volunteering as a Wednesday night cook!

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Community Prayer Group and Bible Study – There is a group that meets every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. for prayer in the Hospitality Room of Open Doors UMC and you are invited. Following at 10:00, there is a Bible Study that is also open to all. They are studying the book of John. Just bring your Bible. (They will NOT be meeting December 28.)

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UHD Hospice invites you to **Light Up A Life** throughout the month of December. Remember your Loved One and support Hospice by purchasing a bulb for the local Hospice Memorial Tree. Donation forms are available at each church.

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Painting Class – We’re going to continue with the painting class after Christmas and are hoping a few more people will take the opportunity and join the group. The class meets on Mondays in the basement Youth Room at the Wells Campus from 9-11am. Jim Dalton teaches the class. It is open to acrylic or watercolor painters. Your supplies for the first day are provided so you can see if it is something you want to continue and invest in. Hope to see you there!

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Sunday School – Sunday School classes will not meet on December 25 or January 1. **Offering envelopes** are ready for you to pick up in the entryway. If you would like a box and you don’t find your name, contact Sarah in the church office. Envelopes are also available for your children upon request.

Jan./Feb. Upper Room daily devotionals are available to pick up in the entryway or north hall. Start your new year off right with daily devotions.

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THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 25–Christmas Day
 9:00am Worship – Pre-recorded and available on YouTube and www.opendoorsumc.net.

Monday, December 26
 Office Closed for Holiday
W 9:00am Painting class

Tuesday, December 27
 9:00am Coffee with Pastor at The Bean
 5:00pm Jamaica Mission Team meeting at Youngblom’s

Wednesday, December 28
W 9:00am Staff meeting
 10:30am Worship at The Shepherd’s Inn

Sunday, January 1
WK 9:00am JOINT Worship in Wells
 10:00am Coffee

Monday, January 2
 Office Closed for Holiday
W 9:00am Painting class

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Pastor.....Rev. Christopher Leistra
 Pianist.....Jan Johanson
 Greeters/Ushers Dave & Shari Petersen
 Acolyte Makinlee Gossen
 Cross Bearer.....Jaiden Gossen
 Advent Candles Gossen Family
 Praise Team..... Deb Lackey, Sherry Asmus, Ryen & Jaiden Gossen
 A/V.....Sarah & Sabrina Hankerson
 Projection.....Brett Hankerson

Birthdays This Week:

Dec. 25 Barb Halvorsen
 Dec. 26 Beverly Niebuhr, Aaron Johnson, Faye Lackey
 Dec. 29 Olivia Bird
 Dec. 31 Cindy Hagen
 Jan. 1 Elizabeth Bathke

Christmas Eve – Saturday, Dec. 24

4:00 p.m. in Wells – Family Service
 5:30 p.m. in Kiester – Traditional Service of Lessons & Carols with Communion
 7:30 p.m. in Wells – Traditional Service of Lessons & Carols with Communion. This service will be live-streamed to Open Doors UMC Facebook, website, and YouTube.

Christmas Day – Sunday, Dec. 25

9:00 a.m. Online. No in-person worship, instead, a Christmas worship service will be pre-recorded and available to watch at 9:00 a.m. on YouTube and our website www.opendoorsumc.org. Reflect on Christ’s birth in the comfort of your home with family around.

Bevcomm Cable Schedule, Ch 990:

Tuesday, Dec. 27, 11:00am & 8:00pm will be the Christmas Day recorded service.
 Friday, Dec. 30, 6:00pm will be the Christmas Eve evening Lessons & Carols service.



**Christmas
 Worship
 Schedule**