

**St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church**  
**Sermon by Pastor Anthony E. Schultz**  
**Christmas Eve 2008 Luke 2:10,11**



**John 1:1-14** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. 8He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent,<sup>9</sup> nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only,<sup>10</sup> who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**But the angels said to them, “Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord!”**

Children of our Heavenly Father, precious in his sight for Jesus’ sake:

There has been a lot of snow lately! I can’t remember the last time I shoveled this much. Every morning – you wake up – and the driveway is full of snow. Sometimes it’s soft and fluffy – and when you throw a shovel full – most of it blows back into your face. Sometimes it’s wet and heavy. It sticks to your shovel and clogs even your two stage auger snow thrower. The worst – without doubt – is the snow from the street – that gets plowed across the end of your driveway. The other day it was over two feet deep and about four feet wide – as wide as a two car driveway! It was massive – and it was bitter cold outside. I had just started to shovel it – when down Windsor Circle – came this man in a Bobcat – with flashing lights and spot lights – and the biggest scooper you ever saw. This guy came right up to my driveway and spun around. Down went his scooper – and he pushed almost all that snow up into a heap. He backed up real fast. Down went the scooper – real fast forward – up it went – over the pile of snow. He spun around. I yelled, “Bless you!” And away he went – looking for someone else to help! Who was this very happy little man who came to my rescue? I don’t know! But the one who came to scoop up all my sins – my failures and my mistakes – I do know. That would be the little Christ-child – the little Lord Jesus. He is the reason we are here to day. We are here because of baby Jesus. We are here to:

**Thank the LORD for His Priceless Gift!**

Jesus came to take away our sins. Sins are the painful hurtful horrible things we think and do and say. Sins are all the kind and gentle and good things we don’t do because we are – I

don't know – too busy – too tired – too something – too anything so we don't want to! There is a city in Michigan called Brighton – that just passed a law – like the one in Royal Oak – suburban Detroit. It's a law against doing anything annoying! It's against the law to be annoying in public – “by word of mouth , sign or motion.” Annoying – irritating. That happens all the time. It's the Cliff Clavin on *Cheers* – the person with the doctorate in world knowledge – the person who knows everything about everything – and feels compelled at length to tell you. It's the Frank Burns on *M\*A\*S\*H*---on *Seinfeld* – it's well – everybody! It's the in-law that comes over at Christmas time – eats all your cookies – drinks all your beverages – spills food on your carpet – breaks your ornaments – tells you your tree is crooked – and you paid too much for it – and never goes home! *That's* annoying. But sin – sin is much much worse. Sin is an offense against the Word and will of God. Sin is the same old same old hurtful wrong that festers in our heart – and finds expression in the most horrible words and hateful actions. Sin cost Jesus his innocent life on the cross. That's how horrible sin is! Sin isn't just annoying. It's damnable – soul destroying – eternally fatal. Sin deserves to be forever in the flaming lake of fire in hell. And there's nothing funny about that! Only Jesus can take away sin!

**For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord!**  
We have so much to be thankful for. It has been said – if you have food in your refrigerator – and ours is full. If you have clothes on your back – and we have a walk in closet full of clothes. If you have a roof over your head – and you have a safe warm dry place to sleep tonight – you are more blessed than 75% of the people in the world. If you have money in the bank – if you have money in your wallet – and if you have a bowl or in a jar or in a piggy bank at home – you are among the top 8% of the richest people in the world! If you have never known the unspeakable danger and fear of battle – have never known the painful loneliness of being in prison – have never known the agony of being tortured – then you are ahead of 500 million people. If you can read – you are ahead of 2 billion people who can't read at all. If you can read – when was the last time you read God's Word – the most precious book of all? If you can come to church without fear that you will be harassed or imprisoned or tortured or even killed – you are ahead of 3 billion people – almost half the people alive on this planet. And if you woke up this morning – even with some aches and pains – if you woke up more healthy than sick – even if you have a stuffed up nose and a nasty cough – you are ahead of the 1 million people that will die this week! By God's grace – we are ready – whenever we should die. We are ready – because we know God has given us the most precious Christmas present of all – the only Christmas present that really matters. God has given us a Savior – Christ the Lord! God bless the children as once again – they do the work of angels – announcing the Christmas Gospel. Thank the LORD for his priceless gift – baby Jesus. Amen!

**To God alone all glory!**

*Rev. Anthony E. Schaller*