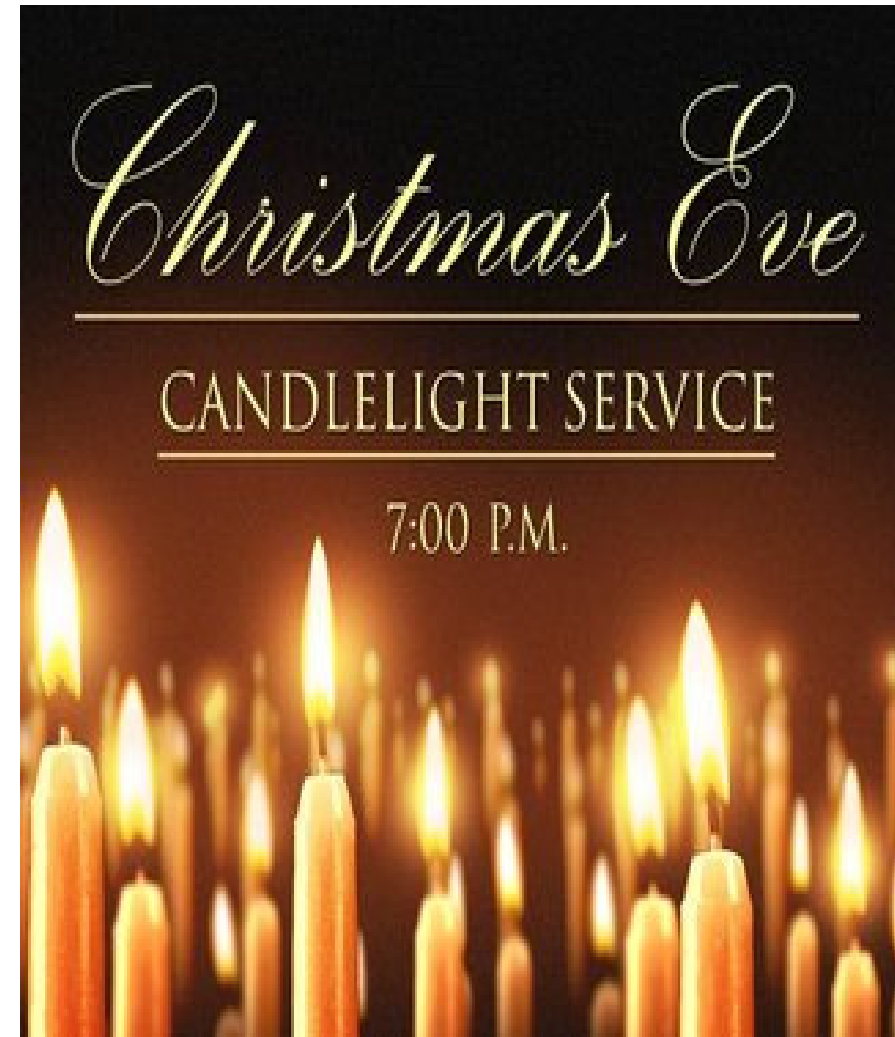


**\*\*\*For those of you who purchased Christmas Poinsettias,  
please take them home with you after our service.\*\*\***



## **Central Church**

### **Our Mission**

***Central United Methodist Church Glorifies God through the Work of  
Ministry and the Making of Disciples of Jesus Christ.***

\*\*\*\*\*

912 Fourth Ave., PO Box 485, Lake Odessa, MI 48849

[www.centralchurch-lakeo.org](http://www.centralchurch-lakeo.org)

Rev. Dominic Tommy, Pastor

616-374-8861

[pastor@centralchurch-lakeo.org](mailto:pastor@centralchurch-lakeo.org)

# CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Festival of Light

December 24, 2017

Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

### GATHERING

*Large print hymnals and bulletins are available. Please ask an usher.*

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please sign, pass, and return red friendship pads in each pew at this time.  
Also prepare Prayer Request Sheets during this time.*

INVITATION TO THE MANGER "O Come, All Ye Faithful" vs 1-3 Hymnal 234

CANTICLE OF MARY Hymnal 199

THE FIRST NOEL Hymnal 245

*(Please be seated)*

### Lighting of the Advent Candle

Pastor Dominic Tommy

Response: "Away in a Manger" Hymnal 217

"Let There Be Peace on Earth" Hymnal 431

### INVOCATION (in unison)

**God of Joy, we come to celebrate again the arrival of Love Incarnate here in our very midst. Your glorious arrival is enough to cause the forests to sing for joy, yet we still find reasons to complain and sigh. Your light of salvation is bright enough to illuminate every corner of our lives, yet we still find ourselves shrouded in worry and doubt. Your gift of Love is big enough for the whole world, yet we still find ourselves resentful that your love extends to those whom we deem to be unworthy. God, you invite us into the light of the stable where the overlooked and forgotten have gathered to celebrate the miracle of your love. Give us the strength and courage to join you at the manger. Amen.**

ANTHEM "Still, Still, Still" Chancel Choir  
*Norman Luboff*

### SHARING PEACE

The Peace of our Lord Jesus be with You!

### And Also with You!

*(Please take this time to greet one another in the Name of Christ by saying,  
"Peace be with you" and your neighbor says "And also with you")*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Children age 4 & under are welcome to leave for the Nursery downstairs right after the *Children's Moment*.

SPECIAL MUSIC "O Holy Night" Sam & George McNeill

INVITATION FOR OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY *Our Advent Offering is designated for the Lakewood Area Benevolence Fund*

VIDEO "What Child is This" On screen

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF GIFTS

**God of light and love, shine upon us this Christmas Eve and in the year ahead. Guide us out of darkness and into your joyous light. May our lives reflect your glorious love, that others may see your Christmas Spirit in us, each and every day of our lives. Bless the gifts and offerings we bring to the Christ Child. Amen.**

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (Blessed be the Lord) (Reading) Hymnal 208

O Come, O Come Emmanuel vs 1,2,4 Hymnal 211

"I Want to walk as a Child of the Light" vs 1,2 Hymnal 206

PASTORAL PRAYER

*Please Stand for the Reading of God's Word.*

\* The Story of the Savior's Birth Luke 2:1-20 Pew Bible, NT pg 54-55

CANDLELIGHT MOMENT "Go Light the World" On screen

**\*\*Please be careful when lighting the candle. If your candle is lit first, hold your candle upright and let your neighbor light from yours. Thank you.\*\***

\*CLOSING HYMN "Silent Night, Holy Night" vs 1-4 Hymnal 239

\*BENEDICTION *All extinguish their candles*

POSTLUDE Jackie Spagnuolo/Marilyn Noffke

***\*Please stand as you are able.***

