

FRIDAY — ACTIVITY

Decode the Scripture verse.

A	N	D	T	H	E	W	O	R	D	
A										
B	E	C	A	M	E	F	L	E	S	H
			A							
A	N	D	D	W	E	L	T			
A										
A	M	O	N	G	U	S	.			
A										

John 1:14a

A								
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	



[www.steadfastlutherans.org/parish](http://www.steadfastlutherans.org/parish)

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# Lambs at Pasture™

Christmas Day

2017

INTROIT

*Psalm 98:1-4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6*

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
**and the government shall be upon his shoulder,**  
 and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,  
**Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!  
**His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**

The LORD has made known his salvation;  
**he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**  
 He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.  
**All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;  
**break forth into joyous song and sing praise!**

Glorify be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
**and the government shall be upon his shoulder,**  
 and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,  
**Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

DAILY READINGS & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

An answer key is available for download at [www.stluth.org/lap](http://www.stluth.org/lap)

MEMORY VERSE

*Liturgical Text*

Alleluia. A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, all you nations, and worship the Lord. Alleluia.

**HYMN OF THE WEEK:** LSB #387 – Joy to the World

CATECHISM CONNECTION:

The Second Article of the Creed with Explanation (page 16)

COLLECT OF THE WEEK

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## MONDAY — THE PSALM

Read Psalm 2

What happens to those who plot against God?

Those who plot against God are subject to His wrath and eternal damnation.

Which commandment does this lesson address?

The First Commandment: You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

Review *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*, question 95 (pages 107–109)

## TUESDAY — THE OLD TESTAMENT

Read Exodus 40:17–21, 34–38

When did Israel erect the tabernacle (or tent)? (verse 1)

On the first day of the first month in the second year

What is the purpose of the tabernacle (or tent)?

God Himself, coming down from heaven to fill the tent with His glory. And when He came down, He came in a cloud of glory. He filled that tent with His glory. It was so grand and awesome that no one could enter the tent because of its glory, not even Moses (Exodus 40:34–35). It would have been deadly. God's glory filled that tent, but no one dared just waltz in get themselves some of God's glory.

God came to dwell, to pitch His tent and be among His people, but He gave limited access. Only one person on one day could go in — the High Priest on the Day of Atonement. And not without blood (Leviticus 16:1–34; 23:27–32).

On Christmas, God gave a new present to His people. What is it?

A tent. For the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Literally, "tenting" among us. It's the birthday of birthdays, and God is giving the world another tent. It's not a tent made with the skin of a ram, but the skin of the only-begotten Son of God. It's not a tent with fancy angels embroidered into it, but a tent that makes real-live angels sing, "Glory to God in the Highest" (Luke 2:14a). It's not a tent with furnishings overlaid with gold. It's a tent made of water and Blood and Bones, just like the tent of your body, but it is overlaid with the skin of God.

The Word became flesh and [tenting] among us. God is present in this Tent named Jesus. God dwells with man in this Tent. The glory of God — Jesus — is with man. The Word became flesh, so that He could continue to tent among us at the altar, where you enjoy full and direct access to God's forgiveness, holiness, righteousness imparted. This is the place in this world where you can look, and behold His glory and have your share in it. For the Word became flesh and tents among you even now: in the very Body of Christ — given unto death for you; and in the true Blood of Christ shed for you — poured out "for the forgiveness of [all your] sins" (Matthew 26:28b).

## WEDNESDAY — THE GOSPEL

Read John 1:1–14 (15–18)

Who is the Word?

Jesus Christ — the Second Person of the Holy Trinity

What do verses 1–5 mean?

The Second Person of the Holy Trinity, who in the fullness of time became incarnate and was born of the virgin Mary, was in the beginning with God, and all things were made through Him. From the darkness of the Virgin's earthly womb, now comes the heavenly Light that lightens the world. This Light, which no darkness can overcome, now and forever is known as Jesus, for He is the Word made Flesh. Now that He is born, all things are beginning to be made new.

What is the greatest manifestation of God's love for us? (verse 14)

The Word became Flesh and dwelt among us. By His Holy Incarnation, by His sinless Birth, by His perfect life, and by His holy sufferings and death He does what He took on Flesh to do — He saves us from our sins.

Review *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*, question 4 (pages 49–50), question 6 (page 51), question 25 (pages 61–62), question 119 (pages 122–124), question 121 (page 125), and question 125 (pages 127–130)

## THURSDAY — THE EPISTLE

Read Titus 3:4–7

What does this lesson mean?

It is through God's grace (undeserved love and mercy) He sent His begotten Son to justify (save) us. Through Jesus' death on the cross, we are now seen as holy (without sin). It is our faith in God's promise, not works (things that we do), that gives us salvation.

Where is this Bible passage used in the Small Catechism?

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Question: How can water do such great things?

Answer: ... As St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three ...

Review *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*, question 93 (pages 105–107), question 155 (pages 148–149), question 161 (pages 152–153), question 248 (pages 209–210), question 249 (page 210), question 252 (pages 211–212), and question 254 (pages 213–214)

## CATECHISM CONNECTION

What is the connection between the Second Article of the Creed and Christmas Day?

He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary: in the Person of Christ Jesus, the Word became Flesh and dwelt among us.