

**Shepherds:** “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

**Narrator 3:** So how would the shepherds know which newborn child was the Christ? The angel had said:

**Angel:** “You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

**Narrator 3:** Therefore, since mangers are only in stables, the shepherds probably began to search stable after stable until finally they found a stable occupied with people, *along with a baby lying in an animal feeding container.* Jesus is so great and yet He came into the world in such a lowly manner!

**Narrator 1:** <sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

**Narrator 2:** So the shepherds told about the angel, his message, the multitude of angels, finding the baby in the manger, and the tremendous news that *He is the Savior of the world!*

**Narrator 3:** Mary also had much to ponder: The angel who told her in advance about Jesus, being pregnant and yet still a virgin, the angel appearing to Joseph, and the visit from the shepherds.

**Narrator 1:** <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things

they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

**Narrator 2:** Even though we were not present with the shepherds to hear the angel message and see the Christ, *He also came for us!* He lived a sinless life, was punished for our wrongs, and laid down His life; now He is our risen Savior!

**Narrator 1:** <sup>21</sup> On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived (NIV).

**Narrator 3:** The name Jesus means: *The Lord Saves!* Regarding the name of Jesus, the Bible says: “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12 NIV).

**Narrator 1:** Let us pray: Dear Lord Jesus, since we trust in You as our only Savior, ♦let us be at peace – *knowing our sins are forgiven*, ♦share the good news – *of what You have accomplished for everyone*, and ♦have a most blessed celebration of Your birth! And all God’s people said:

**Everyone:** Amen!

## You Are Invited to Attend and Benefit

**Website:** [BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com](http://BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com)

**Location:** 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134  
(Just South of Pleasant Valley Road)

**Services:** Sundays 8:00 & 10:45; Most Mondays 7 PM

**Facebook:** “Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma”

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# The TRUE Christmas Story!



Luke 2:1-21

*Make it part of your Christmas Celebration!*

## Introduction

1. Assign These Parts: (1) **Narrator 1;** (2) **Narrator 2;** (3) **Narrator 3;** (4) **Angel;** (5) **Shepherds;** **Everyone** = All five people.
2. Read through this brochure as part of your Christmas family gathering!

**Narrator 1:** <sup>1</sup> In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree – *thus a command* – that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world – *which included all of the land surrounding the Mediterranean Sea* (inside the dotted line).



**Narrator 2:** <sup>2</sup> This was the first census that took place while Quirinius [ka -rin - ee - us] was governor of Syria. A census was used to count the people; it was also used to collect the required taxes.

**Narrator 1:** <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to his own town to register. <sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

**Narrator 3:** The trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem was about 100 miles. It probably took Joseph and Mary, *who was in her nine-month of pregnancy*, about ten days to complete the difficult trip.

**Narrator 2:** Joseph was a descendant of King David through David's son Solomon; Mary was also a descendant of King David through David's son Nathan.

**Narrator 1:** <sup>5</sup> He – that is Joseph – went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

**Narrator 3:** God's Word teaches this order: Marriage, then children, *yet Mary was pregnant and not married* – because, *as the Bible says*, God the Holy Spirit came upon her, and the power of the Most High overshadowed her, so her child would be called the Son of God (Luke 1:35).

**Narrator 1:** <sup>6</sup> While they were there [in Bethlehem], the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son – *just as God had promised*. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger –

*thus a container from which the animals ate, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

**Narrator 2:** It is possible, even probable that at that time many were in Jerusalem – *only six miles away* – to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles, which was the third of three festivals in which all men were required to appear before the LORD in Jerusalem (Deuteronomy 16:16). So some people – *unable to find a place to stay in Jerusalem* – were staying in Bethlehem, so *there was no room in the inn!*

**Narrator 1:** <sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

**Narrator 3:** Shepherds were looked upon by most as *unimportant* people; they simply lived with and cared for their sheep. However, *in God's sight, they were very important!* Therefore, God sent them this special message through an angel. The Bible says:

**Narrator 1:** <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them,

**Angel:** “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

**Narrator 2:** So that very night *Christ the Lord was born!* After the fall into sin He was

promised to Adam and Eve; then He was promised to be a future descendant of Abraham, then of David. Then, finally, *when the time was just right*, God the Father sent His Son to put on human flesh in the Person of Jesus. His mission was simple, *yet huge*: Be the ultimate Lamb of God and take away the sin of the world!

**Narrator 3:** Jesus is God, yet He “*did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross*” (Philippians 2:6-8 NIV)!

**Narrator 1:** <sup>13</sup> **Suddenly** a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

**Everyone:** <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

**Narrator 2:** So who are the ones on whom God's favor is resting? “...those who receive the news of the child's birth in faith. Those are the ‘men of his favor,’ those [are the people] on whom God's favor rests” (Dr. Arthur Just, Luke Commentary, 111). Therefore, knowing we have sinned and are trusting in Jesus alone as our Savior, *let us greatly rejoice!*

**Narrator 1:** <sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,