



Christmas 2

Sunday, January 5, 2025

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, ELCA
612 Division St. | La Crosse, WI | 608.782.3468

WWW.OURSAVIORSLUTHERANCHURCH.NET

***"Our mission is to make the love of Christ known
to all as we worship, serve and grow together."***

All are welcome in this church! The Good News of God's grace is for all, regardless of age, abilities, physical & mental health, race, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, education, income or strength of faith. There is nothing we do, have done or will do that can separate us from the love of God. God makes no exceptions, nor do we. Come join us in praise, prayer and the work of our Lord, including ongoing work for racial equity in our Church and in the world.

Joanne Richmond, Senior Pastor—pastor@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net

Lois Losby, Financial Secretary—finance@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net

Sandra Schultz, WCC Coordinator—wccloset@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net

Mary Ender Stutesman, Music Coordinator & Organist—stuteswoman@gmail.com

Jessica Zinniel, Associate Lay Minister—youthfamily@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net

Thomas Haag, Organist | Dr. Eddie Kim, Pianist | Colin Stiemke, Guitarist

Juan Fernandez, Custodian

Welcome, visitors! We're glad you are here! We hope your time with us is a blessing, and that you will come back soon.

We would like to be in touch with you! Visitors—please use the Live Stream 'Attendance Info Form (www.allarewelcome.org under the Live Stream tab) today. **Members**—you only need to fill them out once a year when you receive Holy Communion. **In addition**, use the form for prayer requests, hymn requests, to get the monthly newsletter, to give us address changes, or for any communication with the office or pastor.

If you need **hearing assistance**, ask in the church office for our special devices.

If you need **assistance with the live stream**, please call 608.782.3468 or join us on the phone live stream at 1.877.552.3468 (toll-free).

+FOR OUR WORSHIP TODAY+

Presiding Minister: Pastor Joanne Richmond

AV Team: Gary & Deb Wold

Communion Assistant: Joel McCall

Guitarist: Colin Stiemke

Prayer Reader: Kim Grapes

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have turned from you
and given ourselves into the power of sin.**

We are truly sorry and humbly repent.

**In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,**

things we have done

and things we have failed to do.

Turn us again to you,

and uphold us by your Spirit,

so that we may live

and serve you in newness of life

through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy,

loved us even when we were dead in sin,

and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of †Jesus Christ,

your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you

with power through the Holy Spirit,

that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

The First Noel



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional
 Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us
pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen, amen.

Angels, from the Realms of Glory



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

GOSPEL: John 1: 1—18

The holy gospel according to St. John

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people

did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

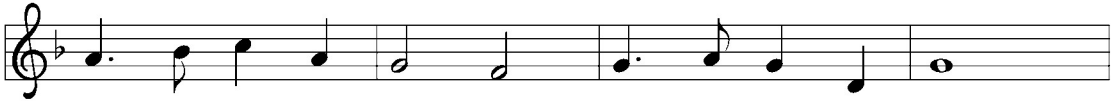
The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Joanne Richmond

In the Bleak Midwinter



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
 If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(Response to each petition is verses from ELW #292, Love Has Come.)

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

God, you reveal yourself in this assembly. In water, wine, and bread, show us again and again your grace upon grace, that your church boldly testifies to your love.

You reveal yourself in creation. In seedlings and planets, microorganisms and galaxies, awaken us to the cry of the earth. As you nourish your people, empower us to nourish our earthly companions.

God of grace, hear us as we sing:

Love has come—a light in the darkness!

Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.

See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;

hear how their song of joy arises:

Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!

Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

You reveal yourself in every land and in the farthest parts of the earth.

Deliver peoples who suffer under oppressive regimes. Thwart the foolish plans of unjust leaders. Give wisdom to our elected officials.

You reveal yourself in every human being. Help us recognize your image in our siblings in Christ who are in the strong grip of addiction, depression, anxiety, hopelessness, or other illnesses. Grant us compassion in our care for your people.

God of grace, hear us as we sing:

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.

Love is God now asleep in the hay.

See the glow in the eyes of his mother;

what is the name her heart is saying?

Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;

Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

You reveal yourself anew every day. In this new year, renew this congregation and our ministries as we witness to the good news of the incarnation.

You reveal yourself in the lives of your holy ones. We give you thanks for those who set their hope on you, trusting the inheritance we receive in you, specifically giving thanks for the life and service of former president Jimmy Carter.

God of grace, hear us as we sing:

Love has come and never will leave us!

Love is life everlasting and free.

Love is Jesus within and among us.

Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.

Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;

Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

NOISY OFFERING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.**

Amen.

COMMUNION

You may come forward for communion using the center aisle. After receiving bread from Pastor, please take an empty glass from the small table. If you prefer grape juice, take a full glass. Proceed to the person with the pouring chalice. After receiving your wine/blessing, place your empty glass in the basket you will see as you walk toward the side aisle.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus,
God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine.
As we have shared this feast of love,
strengthen us to share your love with all the world.
In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Amen.

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ Our Savior.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Happy New Year from all of us in the church office! May you begin each day of the new year with hope, renewed faith, and restored vision for the work that God calls us to do in the world. We can't wait to see what 2025 has in store for our ministry at the corner of 6th & Division Streets!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 26, 2025, 10:15am—Fellowship Hall

Come hear leadership reports, discuss the ministry of Our Savior's, and vote funding the 2025 budget and the ballot of individuals to serve on the church council for 2025.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE TODAY!

Sunday, January 5, 2025

To all committee chairs and organizational presidents, please turn in your reports to the church office no later than **TODAY! (Sunday, January 5, 2025)** If your committee or organization has a checkbook please include a financial report as well. Thank you!

MOO-MOO'S PRAYER CLUB TODAY!

Sunday, January 5, 2025, 10:15am—Sanctuary

All ages are welcome (especially infants, toddlers, and elementary-age

school children) to come join us to discover the many different ways people can praise and serve God! A short video will be shown with a small snack and followed by an activity and/or discussion.

PASTABILITIES AWAIT IN THE NEW YEAR

Sunday, January 12, 2024, 10:15am—Fellowship Hall

Join us for a *spaghetti-acular* time of food, fellowship, and fun! After worship on Sunday, January 12, 2025, we're hosting a Pasta Potluck—a delightful celebration of everyone's favorite comfort food. Let's gather together, enjoy a meal, and celebrate the new year. Bring your best pasta dish to share and be ready to enjoy a variety of sauces, sides, and more. Don't forget your appetite and your dish! Whether it's classic spaghetti, macaroni and cheese, or something new, all pasta lovers are invited!

THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

Monday, January 20, 2025

Please note that our offices will be closed in observance of the day.

LOOKING AHEAD

Chocolate Sunday, Sunday, February 9, 2024

Mardi Gras OSLC Style!, Sunday, February 16, 2025

Ash Wednesday, Wednesday, March 5, 2025

OSLC Cook-Off, Wednesday, March 5, 2025

Pie-Luck Sunday, Sunday March 9, 2025

OUR SAVIORS THIS WEEK

POST ON A FRIG, NEAR A PHONE, ON AN ALTAR AND ANY OTHER SACRED PLACE

CALENDAR

Sunday, January 5, 2025

Annual Reports Due

- 9:30am** Worship/HC
10:15am Moo-Moo's Prayer Club
10:15am Coffee Fellowship
10:30am Church Council mtg.
6:30pm Y.E.S. A.A. mtg.

Monday

- 9am—1pm** Office Open
10am—12 noon Gas Vouchers

Tuesday

- 9am—1pm** Office Open
1—5pm WCC
4pm CFS Doors Open
4:15—5:15pm CFS Meal Served
5:15—5:30pm CFS Carry Outs

Wednesday

- 9am** Staff mtg.
9am—1pm Office Open

Thursday

- 9am—1pm** Office Open

Friday

Pastor/Staff Sabbath

Saturday

- 9am—1pm** WCC open

Sunday, January 12, 2025

- 9:30am** Worship/HC
10:15am Pasta Potluck
6:30pm Y.E.S. A.A. mtg.

Calendar Notations:

HC—Holy Communion
CFS—Come For Supper
WCC—Women's Clothes Closet

PRAYER CONCERNS

HEALING AND PEACE

Athena Burg, **Bev** Hanson, **Carol** Kant, **Casey** Kanter, **Cindy** Moe, **Cindy** Vieth, **Dan** Odenbach, **Danielle** Sorenson, **Dave** Kjos, **Erik** Rudrud, **Esther** Harman, **Eugene** Herold, **Gabe** Centanni, **George**, **Jane** Speer, **Jean** Koll, **Jeannie** White, **Jeff** Kent, **Jim** Garson, **Joyce** Gosman, **Karen** Geoglein, **Katie** White, **Kilian** Crary, **Lane** C., **Lois** Horne, **Kelly** Olson, **Mary** Covey, **Monica & Jack**, **Morris** Buros, **Peggy** Kneifl, **Pete** Harman, **Rich** Pitz, **Rose** Sabotta, **Roxanne** North, **Sandy** Kjos, **Sonja** Simonson-Schrag, **Theo** Abnet, **Tom** Cade, **Vera** Wensole, and **Vickie** Hengel

GRIEVING FAMILY & FRIENDS OF

MEMBERS & FRIENDS IN ARMED FORCES

Gabriel W. Kleven, **Greg** Phillips, **Ricky** Macon, **Stacie** Phillips, and **Tom** Rudrud

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Todd Balow	January 5
Vera Wensole	January 5
Mariah Wold	January 7
Carol Poole	January 8
Patti Hanson	January 11