



OUR SAVIOR'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



The Nativity of our Lord

Christmas Day

December 25, 2022 ~ 9:00 AM

WELCOME

“Mary pondered all these things in her heart.” Like Mary, on this Christmas Day we meditate on the mystery of the Nativity: Christ is born to live and die and rise again for us! The Word becomes flesh, yet his glory is visible to eyes of faith. Glory to God in the highest!

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Dear Father in heaven, bless our worship together this morning as we unite our hearts and voices with the angels to praise you for your great love in sending your only Son in human flesh to this earth to save us from our sins so we can live with you one day forever. Amen.

OUR COMMUNION PRACTICE

In the Sacrament of Holy Communion, Jesus gives us his true body and blood. We express unity with our Savior and those who share our faith and stand on the teachings of God’s Word. Therefore, we invite those who are members of our church or the WELS to our altar. Visitors and guests who wish to commune are asked to speak to the pastor before the service begins.

SERVING GOD & US TODAY

- Officiant ~ Pastor Walter Davidson
- Organist ~ Marie Kurth

CHRISTMAS GREETING

OPENING ANTHEM

CW 346

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains. (Refrain)

Ref Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav’nly song? (Refrain)

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain)

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, 1862, alt.; French
Text: Public domain

Stand

INVOCATION

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

M: To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord.

C: Oh, come, let us adore him!

LITANY OF THE INCARNATION

M: O Lord, the ruler of ages eternal, you are without beginning or end:

C: Yet you chose to be born an infant in time.

M: O Lord, the invisible, you are the One no one has seen or can see:

C: Yet you assume the face of the son of Mary.

M: O Lord, the all-powerful, you hold the mountains in the palm of your hand:

C: Yet you let yourself be wrapped in the blankets of an infant.

M: O Lord, the eternal glory, innumerable angels acclaim you endlessly:

C: Yet you chose to be rocked to sleep by the songs of the daughter of David.

M: O Lord, the universal provider, you feed every creature:

C: Yet you chose to hunger for the milk of your mother.

M: O Lord, the infinite, heaven and earth cannot contain you:

C: Yet you rest in the arms of Mary.

M: O Lord, the perfect joy, you are the source of happiness of heaven and earth:

C: Yet you cry like a little child.

M: O Lord, the eternal Word, you are the light of all created intelligence:

C: Yet you are laid in a manger and cannot even speak.

M: O Lord, we confess that we do not deserve the magnificence of your love for we have not loved you and we have not loved one another as you desire. We have sinned against you in our thoughts, in our words, in our deeds, and in all that we have not done.

C: Forgive us, Lord Jesus, for the sake of your great love. Deliver and restore us that we may find true peace.

M: You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. I say to you, therefore, what Christ himself says: Your sins are forgiven.

C: Thanks be to God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yolk of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be seated

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 52:7-10

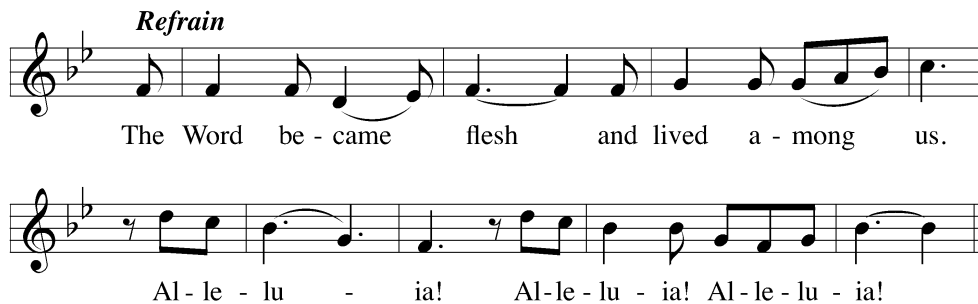
All will see the salvation of our God

⁷How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of a herald, who proclaims peace and preaches good news, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God is king!” ⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voices. Together they shout for joy, because with both eyes they will see it when the LORD returns to Zion. ⁹Break out, shout for joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, because the LORD is comforting his people. He is redeeming Jerusalem. ¹⁰The Lord lays bare his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation from our God.

PSALM FOR THE DAY

Psalm 98
(CW Supplement)

Refrain



The Word be - came flesh and lived a - mong us.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Psalm Tone



Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.

The LORD has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Refrain

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;

make music to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing.

Shout for joy before the LORD, the King.
He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

Glory 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.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-9

The Son is superior to the angels

1 In the past, God spoke to our forefathers by the prophets at many times and in many ways. **2** In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. **3** The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact imprint of the divine nature. He sustains all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high. **4** The Son became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

5 For to which of the angels did God ever say:

"You are my Son. Today I have begotten you" (Psalm 2:7)

And again:

"I will be his Father, and he will be my Son." (2 Samuel 7:14; 1 Chronicles 17:13)

6 And again, when he brought his firstborn into the world, he said:

"Let all God's angels worship him." (Deuteronomy 32:43)

7 About the angels he says:

"He makes his messengers winds and his ministers blazing fire." (Psalm 104:4)

8 But about the Son he says:

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of justice. You love righteousness and hate wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy more than any of your companions. (Psalm 45:6-7)

Please stand in special reverence of the Gospel

GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

The Word (Jesus) becomes flesh

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was with God in the beginning. **3** Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. **4** In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. **5** The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

6 There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. **7** He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. **8** He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

⁹ The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³ They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

CW 343

Once In Royal David's City

- 1 Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 3 And our eyes at last shall see him through his own redeeming love,
for that child, so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heav'n above,
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.
- 4 Not in that poor, lowly stable with the oxen standing by
shall we see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars his children crowned, all in white, his praise will sound.

SERMON

Luke 2:15-16

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Now let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

“Let’s Go & See the Son!”



THE CHRISTMAS CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, who sent his Son to be my Savior.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, my Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, announced by the angels, worshipped by the shepherds, adored by the wise men; who lived to suffer, die and rise again to free me from all sin, from death, and the power of Satan.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who has brought me to faith in my Savior, and by whose continuous work in my heart I rejoice in my salvation, show forth his praises, and will one day live and reign with him through all eternity. Amen.

Be seated

GATHERING OF OUR THANK OFFERING

*Moved by God’s love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him.
As the offering is gathered, please sign the Friendship Register as it is passed through each pew.*

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

C: Unto us a Child is born! Unto us a Son is given!

M: What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

C: Help us always believe that this precious Child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.

M: In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning this Child.

C: Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praises to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

C: Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

We believe that gathering together at God's altar to receive Communion is a testimony of the confession and commitment we share as members of the Lutheran Church. We ask guests who are not members of our Wisconsin Synod denomination to speak with the pastor before joining us at the altar so that all may have a clear understanding of our faith and practice. Thank you.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.** *(spoken)*

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by his wondrous birth became our Brother, taking on human flesh to live in righteousness before God and to become obedient even to death on a cross.

Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

CHRISTMAS SANCTUS

*Tune: Hark the Herald Angels Sing
(CW 350)*

♪ **Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!
Heav'n and earth cannot contain All the glory of your name!
Hail, hosanna, God most high! Blest is he who now draws nigh
In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing:
Holy, holy, holy Lord! Hail, hosanna, evermore!**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: We humbly stand in awe of Jesus' words of consecration:

C: **The night Lord Jesus was betrayed, He took the bread and when he prayed,
He broke and gave them of the bread And unto his disciples said:**

M: “Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

**C: Then when the sacred meal was o’er Our blessed Savior spoke once more.
He offered thanks, and lifted up, To give to all the blessed cup:**

M: “Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always. Amen.

Be seated

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

CW 331

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

- 1 “From heav’n above to earth I come to bear good news to ev’ry home;
glad tidings of great joy I bring, whereof I now will say and sing:
- 2 “To you this night is born a child of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
this little child of lowly birth shall be the joy of all the earth.
- 3 “This is the Christ, our God most high, who hears your sad and bitter cry;
he will himself your Savior be from all your sins to set you free.
- 4 “He will on you the gifts bestow prepared by God for all below,
that in his kingdom, bright and fair, you may with us his glory share.
- 5 “These are the signs which you shall mark: the swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid by whom the heav’ns and earth were made.”
- 6 How glad we’ll be to find it so! Then with the shepherds let us go
to see what God for us has done in sending us his own dear Son.
- 7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, and see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair? It is the Christ Child lying there.
- 8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery, that you might share your joy with me.

- 9 Ah, Lord, though you created all, how weak you are, so poor and small,
that you should choose to lay your head where lowly cattle lately fed!
- 10 Were earth a thousand times as fair and set with gold and jewels rare,
it would be far too poor and small a cradle for the Lord of all.
- 11 Instead of soft and silken stuff you have but hay and straw so rough
on which as king, so rich and great, to be enthroned in royal state.
- 12 And so it pleases you to see this simple truth revealed to me:
that worldly honor, wealth, and might are weak and worthless in your sight.
- 13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, prepare a bed, soft, undefiled
within my heart, made clean and new, a quiet chamber kept for you.
- 14 My heart for very joy must leap; my lips no more can silence keep.
I too must sing with joyful tongue that sweetest ancient cradle song:
- 15 Glory to God in highest heav'n, who unto us his Son has giv'n,
while angels sing with pious mirth a glad new year to all the earth!

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Martin Luther, 1483–1546
Text: Public domain

Stand at the direction of the presiding minister

THANKSGIVING

*Tune: God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
(CW 356)*

C: ♪ **Oh, thank the Lord and sing his praise, what he has done proclaim.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He leads his thankful people forth, his promises to claim:
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy.**

**Oh, praise to God the Father and praise to God the Son,
And praise to God the Spirit, mysterious three in one.
He was, is now, and e'er shall be through all eternity.
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy.**

M: O Lord, our heavenly Father, of whose love the angels sang when Jesus was born in Bethlehem and through whom we have learned to sing, "Glory to God in the highest," accept our worship and hymns of joy this day; and as we celebrate the birth of your Son, grant that in him we may learn to know your love, to follow you in obedience, and to offer our hearts and lives to you as we show ourselves to be your children; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.** *{spoken}*

BLESSING

M: Dear Christian friends, God has come to mankind to be our Savior. Through the perfect life of Christ, you have been brought into God's family. Go rejoicing in the life of Christ your brother with his blessing.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN

CW 366

Oh, Rejoice, All Christians, Loudly

1 O rejoice, all Christians, loudly,
for our joy has now begun;
wondrous things our God has done.
Tell abroad his goodness proudly,
who our race has honored thus,
that he has befriended us.
Joy, O joy, beyond all gladness!
Christ has done away with sadness!
Hence, all sorrow and repining,
for the Sun of grace is shining!

2 See, my soul, your Savior chooses
poverty and weakness, too;
in such love he comes to you.

Neither crib nor cross refuses,
all he suffers for your good
to redeem you by his blood.

Joy, O joy, beyond all gladness!
Christ has done away with sadness!
Hence, all sorrow and repining,
for the Sun of grace is shining!

3 Lord, how shall I thank you rightly?

I am saved eternally
by your life and death for me.

Let me not forget it lightly,
but with all my heart believe
that from you I shall receive.

Joy, O joy, beyond all gladness!
Christ has done away with sadness!
Hence, all sorrow and repining,
for the Sun of grace is shining!

4 Jesus, guard and guide your members,
fill them with your boundless grace,
hear their prayers in ev'ry place.

Fan to life faith's glowing embers;
grant all Christians far and near
holy peace, a glad new year.

Joy, O joy, beyond all gladness!
Christ has done away with sadness!
Hence, all sorrow and repining,
for the Sun of grace is shining!



This Week's Opportunities for Growing in Christ		
Today	9:00 AM	Christmas Day Festival Worship <i>No Sunday School or Bible Class</i>
Sunday 1/1	9:00 AM	Worship <i>No Sunday School or Bible Class</i>

Sincere Thanks – Thank you to Pastor Walter Davidson for planning and leading our Christmas worship services. We are grateful for his willingness to assist us with worship services during our pastoral vacancy.

Divine Call News - Our next call meeting will be on Thursday, January 12 at approximately 6:00 pm. There's an OSS home basketball game at 5:00, so come for the game and stay for the call meeting!

Serving the Pastoral Vacancy - Pastor Jeff Mahnke from St. Peter Lutheran Church is serving as Our Savior's vacancy pastor. Should you need his pastoral guidance and service, call / text him anytime at 715.297.0132. His email address is pastorm@mysaintpeter.org.

In Our Prayers – Please pray for William Melanson and his family. It appears he will be meeting his Lord soon.

Please pray for Clarence Kostecki. He was hospitalized following a fall and is now at Benedictine for a week of rehab.

2023 Offering Envelopes – Offering envelopes are ready for you to pick up today in the narthex.

Address & Phone Updates – Please update address and phone numbers for our next directory coming out in January. Drop a note in the offering plate, write a note on the Friendship Register, slide a note under the office door, or email marie.kurth@oursaviorswausau.org.

Pick Up Your January Newsletter/Calendar Next Sunday

Beginning with the January newsletter, we ask that you pick up your newsletter and calendar. We'll mail it to shut-ins only. The newsletter is also posted on our website (oursaviorswausau.org) or we will email it to you at your request.

Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors (OWLS) -

January is a time for new beginnings and we are going to start the new year learning new things and receiving encouragement to try new things. Pastor Hadler from St. Matthew, Marathon will be sharing his hobby with us, which is intarsia, a special type of wood crafting. We will be meeting at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mosinee on Tuesday, January 10th at 1:30 PM. Please join us for an afternoon of fellowship and education. Any questions please call Ruth at 715-573-2142.

WELS Youth Night - Coming Sunday January 22nd from 5:45-8:30pm at Northland Lutheran Highschool is our Second area "Wels Youth Night"! Our youth who can attend will experience an inspiring evening of games, music, prayer, Bible message, small group discussion, and fun with high school youth (9th-12th grade) from local WELS congregations in our area. Pizza will be provided! The goal is for our youth to see that they are not alone and to be encouraged to enjoy the faith they share with others. This event is free, teens are encouraged to invite a friend. This is at Northland, but not just for northland students. We are inviting teens from all around the area to join us! A sign up can be found at mysaintpeter.org.

Our Stewardship of God's Gifts: December 18, 2022

<u>Weekly</u> \$4,472.00	<u>Vision</u> \$225.00	<u>Debt Reduction</u> \$145.00	<u>Advent</u> \$90.00	<u>Christmas</u> \$55.00
<u>Plate</u> \$387.00	<u>Chr Gifts/Bags</u> \$410.00	<u>NY Eve</u> \$160.00	<u>Missions</u> \$65.00	<u>Thanksgvg</u> \$65.00
<u>NLHS Op</u> \$15.00	<u>Mission to the Children</u> \$10.00	<u>OS School</u> \$200.00	<u>OS School</u> \$50.00	

Anticipated Weekly Offerings \$4,038

Attendance: Sunday, Dec. 18 171 + 154 (online) = 325

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright ©

1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.



Growing in Jesus, Sharing His Love

Our Savior's Ev. Lutheran Church

703 Flieth St, Wausau WI 54401

715-845-3253

Email: OSInfo@oursaviorswausau.org

Website: www.oursaviorswausau.org

Facebook: Our Savior's Lutheran Church and School

Pastor Jeff Mahnke, Vacancy Pastor

715-297-0132

pastorm@mysaintpeter.org

