Our Savior's Lutheran Church—La Crosse, WI



Sunday before Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 23, 2025, 9:30am

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
Liz Bahr, Cantor | Judi Winkler, Custodian | Roger Loing, 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: Aselin Zinniel

Coffee Fellowship: Breakfast Potluck
Communion Assistant: Carol Miller
Organist: Mary Stutesman
Prayer Reader: Carol Miller

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

We Gather Together

arr. Leupold

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty



- 1 "Come to me, all pil-grims thirst y; drink the wa ter I will give.
- 2 "Come to me, all trav-'lers wea ry; come that I may give you rest.
- 3 "Come to me, be liev ers bur dened; find re fresh-ment in this place.
- 4 "Come to me, re pen-tant sin ners; leave be hind your guilt and shame.



you knew what gift of - fer, you would come to guest." Drink the cup of life I of - fer; at this ta - ble be my face." Come, re - ceive the of - fer, turn gift I to me and seek my Come and know di - vine com-pas - sion, turn call your name." to me, I



Je - sus, ev - er - flow-ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.



In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

- 5 "Come to me, distressed and needy; I would be your trusted friend.
 Come and seek the gift I offer, come, your open hands extend." *Refrain*
- 6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned; lonely ways no longer roam.

 Come and take the gift I offer, let me make in you my home." *Refrain*

Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939 Music: Beach Spring, The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844 Text © 1992, 1996 Sisters of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN

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GREETING

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

And also with you.

PSALM 136: 1—9

Give thanks to God, who is good,

for the mercy of God endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods,

for the mercy of God endures forever.

Give thanks to our Sovereign God,

for the mercy of God endures forever.

Who only does great wonders,

for the mercy of God endures forever.

Who by wisdom made the heavens,

for the mercy of God endures forever.

Who created great lights,

for the mercy of God endures forever.

The sun to rule the day; the moon and the stars to govern the night.

for the mercy of God endures forever.

Give thanks to God, who is good!

for the mercy of God endures forever! Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty ELW #777 vs. 3, 5

Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty



- 1 "Come to me, all pil-grims thirst y; drink the wa ter I will give.
- 2 "Come to me, all trav-'lers wea ry; come that I may give you rest.
- 3 "Come to me, be liev ers bur dened; find re fresh-ment in this place.
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Every good and perfect gift comes from you, God. Bless this day; help us to

receive what we have with thankful hearts. By your Spirit nourish our love for

one another and for our neighbor in need; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

READING: Philippians 4: 6—20

A reading from Philippians.

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and

supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to

God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard

your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable,

whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is

commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of

praise, think about^[a] these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned

and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace

will be with you.

¹⁰ I rejoice^[b] in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your

concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me but had no opportunity

to show it.[] 11 Not that I am referring to being in need, for I have learned to be

content with whatever I have. ¹² I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me. ¹⁴ In any case, it was kind of you to share my distress.

¹⁵You Philippians indeed know that in the early days of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving except you alone. ¹⁶ For even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me help for my needs more than once. ¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the profit^[d] that accumulates to your account. ¹⁸ I have been paid in full and have more than enough; I am fully satisfied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



- 1 Come, ye thank-ful peo ple, come; raise the song of har vest home
- 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un to his praise to yield:
- 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har vest home;
- 4 E ven so, Lord, quick-ly come to thy fi nal har vest home.



All be safe - ly gath - ered in the win - ter storms be - gin. ere wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown. from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way; Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro-vide be sup - plied. for our wants to First the blade, and then the ear, the full corn shall ap - pear. then give his an - gels charge at there, for - ev - er pu - ri tares to cast, last in the fire the pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home. Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole-some grain and pure may be. but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more. Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.

Music: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR, George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

MESSAGE

Praise the Lord! O Heavens



- Praise the Lord! O heav'ns, a dore him; praise him, an gels, in the height;
- 2 Praise the Lord, for he is gra-cious; nev-er shall his prom-ise fail.



sun and moon, re-joice be-fore him; praise him, gleam-ing stars and light. God has made his saints vic-to-rious; sin and death shall not pre-vail.



Praise the Lord, for he has spo-ken; worlds his might-y voice o-beyed; Praise the God of our sal-va-tion; hosts on high, his pow'r pro-claim;



laws which nev - er shall be bro-ken for their guid-ance he has made. heav'n and earth, and all cre-a - tion, laud and mag-ni - fy his name!

Text: Foundling Hospital Collection, London, 1796 Music: AUSTRIA, Franz Joseph Haydn, 1732–1809

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. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rooted in God's abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation.

We offer our gratitude for life, health and strength. We give thanks for the provision of all necessities of life: food, water, shelter, clothing and transportation. We remember: there are those who do not have healthy food or who have no food at all. There are those who thirst and can only drink water from tainted pipes. There are those who live in structures that do not provide sufficient shelter.

God, in your mercy,

hear us as we pray.

We give thanks for the lands providing so much. We ask your guidance to be good stewards and not wasteful or stingy over the fruit of the lands. We honor Mother Earth and ask that you instill in all humans a concern and care for her. Take away the appetite to conquer, divide, overwork and sell the land, because the land is sacred and the sacred is not for sale. We regret the ways we have mistreated, abused and forsaken the land, manipulating natural cycles and Earth's ability to make her own decisions.

God, in your mercy,

hear us as we pray.

Teach us, God, how to listen and learn from our ancestors, who still speak through imprints on the lands, through their children, their children's children, and through visions and dreams. Let us dismantle the stereotypes of savages, cartoon characters, and sexualized bodies of native peoples. Let us challenge the names and images of mascots and Halloween costumes capitalizing on Indigenous stereotypes.

God, in your mercy,

hear us as we pray.

Help us to reimagine our country, not as a melting pot where identities fade away, but as a botanical garden where each distinct plant compliments the beauty of other buds and blooms. We are silenced, minimized, and erased in so many ways every day. Help us to live with all as kin, committing to the practices of respect, relatedness, thoughtfulness and belonging.

God, in your mercy,

hear us as we pray.

We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through 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 Poeme Lani Smith

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.

Let All Things Now Living



Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892–1980, alt. Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune Text © 1939, 1966 F. C. Schirmer Music Company.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING SONG

Now Thank We All Our God

ELW #840

Now Thank We All Our God



Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878 Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace + bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Wachet Auf arr. Walther

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BREAKFAST POTLUCK THIS MORNING

Today! Sunday, November 23, after worship—Fellowship Hall

Whether you brought a dish to share or you're simply here to enjoy the good food and great company, you are warmly welcome. There's always plenty to go around, so just bring yourself and an appetite for delicious food and friendly conversation.

LET'S TALK SOLAR: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR CHURCH

We have a chance to go solar here at Our Savior's at a greatly reduced cost! But, time is limited for us to decide....

This is an opportunity to be good stewards of God's creation and at the same time, build in money savings every day.

To learn more, we invite you to an **informational meeting**—both in-person and live-streamed—on **Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 12:45pm in the sanctuary**.

Then, please plan to attend a **special congregational meeting** on **Sunday, December 14, after worship in the sanctuary**, where a vote will be taken.

Your voice and participation are important as we discern this exciting opportunity together!

SQUASH GOALS FOR NOVEMBER!

Help us squash hunger one gourd at a time. We're collecting squash for the Hunger Task Force all month long—drop yours off and share a little autumn love with our neighbors in need.

TREE TRIMMING

Next Sunday, November 30, 10:15am—Fellowship Hall

Join us as we decorate the Fellowship Hall for the Christmas season. All ages are welcome—come help add a little sparkle and joy!

HOLIDAY DÉCOR DONATIONS NEEDED

As you begin decorating for the season, if you find holiday items you no longer use or need, please consider donating them to the church for next year's Christmas Bazaar. Drop-offs are welcome anytime during business hours. Thank you for your generosity!

GIVING TREE

Help make someone's Christmas brighter! Choose a tag from the Giving Tree in the narthex for New Horizons,

How You Can Make a Difference:

- 1. **Pick a Tag**: Choose a tag from the tree. Each tag will feature a wanted item.
- 2. **Shop with Love**: Purchase the gift that's listed on the tag.
- 3. **Return**: Carefully place your gift in a gift bag, attach the original tag, and return it to the church by **Sunday, December 14, 2025.**
- 4. Your thoughtful gift will bring joy and warmth to someone's holiday, and remind them that they are cherished by our community.

Thank You for your generosity and kindness. Together, we can make this Christmas truly meaningful for everyone. For more information or if you have any questions, please contact the church office at 608.782.3468 or by email at oslcoffice@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net.

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT OUR SAVIOR'S

Christmas is coming—and we can't wait to worship and celebrate together!

Join us for these special services as we welcome the birth of Christ and share the joy of the season.

Christmas Eve—Wednesday, December 24, 2025, 12 noon and 4:30pm A joyful, family-friendly candlelight service filled with music and light.

Christmas Day—Thursday December 25, 2025, 9:30am

Start Christmas morning in worship, celebrating the good news of Jesus' birth!

First Sunday of Christmas—Sunday, December 28, 9:30am

The celebration continues! Come for a warm, joy-filled service as we keep singing the songs of Christmas—and don't forget, it's Ugly Christmas

Sweater Sunday! The brighter, the bolder, the better!

Second Sunday of Christmas—Sunday, January 4, 9:30am

We'll wrap up the Christmas season together and step into the new year with hearts full of hope and light (plus a table full of everyone's favorite New Year's goodies during Coffee Fellowship.) Bring something you love to welcome 2026!

DORCAS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wednesday, December 3, 6pm—Fellowship Hall

Join us for our annual Christmas party. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall with the Dorcas Executive Board providing the meal (it's a taco bar this year)—so come and enjoy. Please bring a \$10 gift card for the gift exchange. We will also decide where the bazaar's profits will be sent. All are invited and more than welcome for a night of good food and fellowship.

WELCA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Thursday, December 11, 11:30am

In December WELCA will not be selling tickets to their usual Christmas Luncheon. This year the Board decided to thank all the wonderful people that have participated in helping WELCA have a great year. If you attended a meeting, helped with the rummage sale, helped with the quilting (from donating supplies to packing the finished quilts for shipment), we want to thank you. Please join us on Thursday, December 8 for a light luncheon. Seating is at 11:30 and lunch is at noon. There is no charge, but we need a head count. Please sign up by calling Carol Miller (608.792.2334) or Sue Staples (608.780.0022). The Board would really like to recognize all the people that helped and participated in our WELCA group. Please join us for some Christmas cheer.

YEAR-END GIVING—HELP US FINISH 2025 STRONG!

Your generosity allows us to have a positive impact on our neighborhood, community, and the world.

For your end-of-year gifts:

- 1) Leave your gift in the offering plate on Sunday or Wednesday
- 2) Use our <u>on-line giving portal</u>, by going to Our Savior's website: <u>https://www.oursaviorslutheranchurch.net/make-a-contribution/</u>
- 3) Use our secure mailing address: "Our Savior's Lutheran Church, PO Box 97, La Crosse, WI 54602-0097".

Gifts to Our Savior's must be received by **Sunday, December 28 by 9:30am** to be included on your 2024 giving statement. Any gifts received after the 28th will be credited to your 2026 giving statement. Thank you!

OUR SAVIORS THIS WEEK

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

CALENDAR

Thanksgiving Sun., Nov. 23, 2025

9:30am Worship/HC10:15am Breakfast Potluck6:30pm Y.E.S. A.A. mtg.

Monday

9am—lpm Office Open **10am—12 pm** Gas Vouchers

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

9am—1pm Office Open **12 noon** Worship/HC

Thursday—Thanksgiving
Church Office Closed

Friday

Pastor/Staff Sabbath

Saturday

9am—1pm WCC open

Sunday, November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent

9:30am Worship/HC
10:15am Coffee Fellowship
10:15am Tree Trimming
6:30pm Y.E.S. A.A. mtg.

Calendar Notations:

HC—Holy Communion M-MPC—Moo-Moo's Prayer Club CFS—Come For Supper

PRAYER CONCERNS

HEALING AND PEACE

Ardelle Ender, Ardis Bolstad, Athena Burg,
Bev Hanson, Casey Kanter, Cassie, Cathy Ofte,
Cindy Moe, Dan Odenbach, Danielle Sorenson,
Dave Kjos, Debe, Erik Rudrud, Esther Harman,
Eugene Herold, Gabe Centanni, George, Jane
Spear, Jean Koll, Jeannie White, Jeff Kent, Pastor
Joanne, Joshua, Jim Garson, Jim Radatz, Karen
Geoglein, Katie White, Lane C., Lois Horne, Kelly
Olson,, Margo Erickson, Mary Covey, Michael
Speer, Monica & Jack Devereaux, Morris Buros,
Pamela Mathis, Peggy Kneifl, Roger Loing, Rose
Sabotta, Roxanne North, Roy Modahl, Sandy Kjos,
Sonja Simonson-Schrag, Pastor Steve Minnema,
Tom Cade, and Vera Wensole

GRIEVING FAMILY & FRIENDS OF

Cindy Vieth

MEMBERS & FRIENDS IN ARMED FORCES

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Rachel Byers	November 23
Christian Rudrud	November 24
Dawn Ortiz	November 25
Jaida Budworth	November 27
Julia Rudrud	November 28
Bruce Kwosek	November 30