Our Savior's Lutheran Church—La Crosse, WI



First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 30, 2025, 9:30am

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

"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 **Cantor:** Liz Bahr

Coffee Fellowship: Tree Trimming Communion Assistant: Deb Wollin

Organist: Thomas Haag **Prayer Reader:** Sue Staples

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE Christ be the Light John Phillips

ADVENT CANDLE #1

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

On those living in the land of the shadow of death, light has dawned.

We praise you, God, for blessing us through your beloved Son. Enlighten our hearts and minds that we may shine as lights in a dark world, to the praise of your glorious name; through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Christ, Be Our Light



Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell.Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

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

Long-expected God,

we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security you provide.
We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness.

You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, as we prepare to welcome the Savior.

Amen.

Beautiful Savior



Text: Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirt 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.

All Creatures, Worship God Most High!



- And you, most gentle sister death, waiting to hush our final breath: Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom, fair is the night that leads us home.
 Alleluia.
- O sisters, brothers, take your part, and worship God with humble heart: Alleluia! Alleluia!
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One: Alleluia.

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; tr. composite Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1623 Text @ 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Creator and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

YOUNG PERSON'S MESSAGE

READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from Isaiah.

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come
 the mountain of the LORD's house
 shall be established as the highest of the mountains
 and shall be raised above the hills;
 all the nations shall stream to it.
 ³ Many peoples shall come and say,
 "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
 to the house of the God of Jacob,

 that he may teach us his ways
 and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

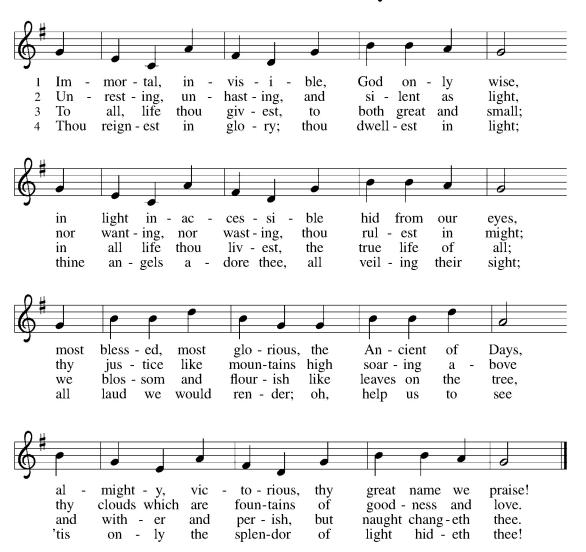
The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Pastor Joanne Richmond

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt. Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

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

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing. Surround all with care and consolation.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

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

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

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

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



- 1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
- 2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
- 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi sion, till your love's re veal-ing light
- 4 Called by wor ship to your ser vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer-cy's per - fect deed: still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead. in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up - on our quick-ened sight, to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a - lone, but heart; As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul, mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear, hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part. by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole. stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share. that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984

Music: BEACH SPRING, The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844

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BLESSING

May God who comes among us,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Beach Street (Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service) John Ferguson

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TREE TRIMMING TODAY!

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

Join us after worship today for crafts, festive activities, and decorating the Fellowship Hall Christmas tree. We'll top it off with a cozy soup lunch. All ages are welcome—come ready to have fun and get into the Advent spirit!

LET'S TALK SOLAR: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR CHURCH

Our Savior's has the opportunity to install solar panels at a significantly reduced cost. An informational meeting and special congregational meeting will be held to share details about the project, including potential benefits, considerations, and financial implications for the congregation.

INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Wednesday, December 3, 12:45pm—Sanctuary (In-Person & Livestream)
To learn more, please join us for an informational meeting on Wednesday,
December 3 at 12:45pm in the sanctuary (also available via livestream).

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, December 14, after worship—Sanctuary (In-Person & Livestream) A special congregational meeting will then be held on Sunday, December 14, following worship in the sanctuary, where a vote will be taken. Your presence and participation are important as we discern this opportunity together.

GIVING TREE

We are partnering with New Horizons this Christmas and you can help make someone's Christmas a bit merrier this year! Select a tag off the tree, purchase the requested item, and return the gift (unwrapped or in a gift bag with the tag attached), back to the tree by **Sunday, December 18**.

MEAT THE NEED

This December, help us support the **Hunger Task Force of La Crosse** by donating **canned meat**. Items like **tuna**, **chicken**, **Spam**, **beef stew**, **chili with meat**, **corned beef hash**, **and sardines** are especially needed. Proteinrich foods are often in short supply at food pantries, but they make a big difference for families and individuals facing food insecurity. Drop your donations in the grocery cart in the narthex anytime this month. Thank you for your generosity and helping feed our neighbors!

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!

DORCAS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wednesday, December 3, 6pm—Fellowship Hall

It's time to party! You are invited to our Christmas Party. This year we are having a taco bar, a side dish of Spanish rice, dessert, and coffee or juice. If you would like to participate in our gift exchange please bring a \$10 gift card.. The business meeting will begin immediately after the party.

Hope to see you then,, Paula Tippery, President; Kim Grapes, Vice President; Laura Sanborn, Secretary; and Colleen Pitz, Treasurer

JOIN THE AV MINISTRY TEAM AT CHURCH

Please consider joining our AV Ministry Team! You will assist with running Sunday morning's PowerPoint slides or controlling the cameras for our livestream worship service. If you are interested, reach out to Jessica at 608.738.1016 or (oslcoffice@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net) to be a valuable part of our worship service team.

CAROLING WITH DR. EDDIE KIM

Sunday, December 7, 10:15am – 1:15pm

We will be Christmas caroling to our homebound and we want YOU, and your family and friends to join us. We will carpool around La Crosse to visit and carol to those who need extra Christmas cheer! Join us after for pizza, pop, board games, and great fellowship back at the church. Anyone 0 – 108 is welcome to come spread the joy of Christmas and have a lot of fun, too!

Please RSVP with Jessica at <u>oslcoffice@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net</u> or <u>608.738.1016</u> (call/text) for this event so we can get an idea of how many people to plan for in regards to food, but **All. Are. Welcome.** Even at the last minute!

WELCA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Thursday, Dec. 11, 11:30am Seating & 12 noon Luncheon—Fellowship Hall Save the date and plan on joining us for a light luncheon. This event is free, but we need a headcount. Please RSVP by calling Carol Miller (608.792.2334) or Sue Staples (608.780.0022). The WELCA Board would really like to recognize all the people that helped and participated in our group. Come share some Christmas cheer!

JOLABOKAFLOD (ICELANDIC BOOK FLOOD)

Sunday, December 14, 10:15am – Fellowship Hall

Join us after the special congregational meeting for a Icelandic book flood. Bring a book or two (previously read) to trade (you'll get one or more books to bring home). Please also bring a plate of Christmas cookies to share, fellowship and beverages will be provided. This event is for all ages (toddler – adult).

THE LONGEST NIGHT – A CANDLELIGHT LABYRINTH Sunday, December 21. 2025, 5 – 8pm – Peace Garden

On one of the darkest nights of the year, we'll gather together for warmth, prayer, and reflection. Come sit by the fire, walk the labyrinth by candlelight, and find a gentle place to rest your heart in the midst of the holiday season. Come as you are for a peaceful evening of light, stillness, and connection as we honor the longest night of the year. All are welcome.

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

A service of word and sacrament.

Christmas Eve—Wednesday, December 24, 2025, 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!

OUR SAVIORS THIS WEEK

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

CALENDAR

Sunday, November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent

9:30am Worship/HC10:15am Tree Trimming6:30pm Y.E.S. A.A. mtg.

Monday

9am—1pm Office Open 10am—12 pm Gas Vouchers

Tuesday

9am—1pmOffice Open1—5pmWCC open4pmCFS Doors Open4:15—5:15pmCFS Meal Served5:15—5:30pmCFS Carry Outs

Wednesday

9am—1pmOffice Open10amW-ELCA Board Mtg.12 noonWorship/HC6pmDorcas Christmas Party

Thursday

9am—1pm Office Open **5—9:30pm** PEO Mtg. (Fireside Rm)

Friday

Pastor/Staff Sabbath

<u>Saturday</u>

9am—1pm WCC open

Sunday, December 7, 2025 Second Sunday of Advent

9:30am Worship/HC10:15am Coffee Fellowship

10:30am Caroling **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

Bruce Kwosek	November 30
Kaye Kjome	December 1
Anna Lieder	December 1
Christine Kofta	December 3
Liz Lasee	December 4
Jessica Brantner	December 6
Elaine Lee	December 6
Isaac Stutesman	December 6
Michael Vaaler	December 6