

# **Our Savior's Lutheran Church—La Crosse, WI**



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**Christmas Day**

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**Thursday, December 25, 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."**

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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](http://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

**Communion Assistant:** Carol Miller

**Flute:** Suellen Retzlaff

**Organist:** Thomas Haag

**Prayer Reader:** Carol Miller

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

**PRELUDE**

*Christmas Medley*

arr. Hal Leonard

## **CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the Word made flesh,  
our life and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,  
let us confess our sin.

God of life,

**you promise good news of great joy for all people,  
and call us to be messengers of your peace.**

**We confess that too often we hold tightly to our joy,  
our resources, and our security.**

**We nurture conflict and build barriers.**

**We neglect the needs of our neighbors  
and ignore the groaning of creation.**

**Have mercy on us.**

**Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.**

**Where we are reluctant, give us courage.**

**Where we are cynical, restore our trust.**

**Renew us with your grace  
and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises  
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In ✝ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth  
shall know the salvation of God.

**Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN      *Let All Together Praise Our God*      ELW #287 vs. 1-4**

## Let All Together Praise Our God

1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore the  
 2 From God's right hand the Son de - scends, is born an  
 3 O ten - der Child, you veil in flesh the splen - dor  
 4 Your moth - er feeds you ten - der - ly, sings you a

high - est throne; to - day God o - pens heav'n a - gain and  
 in - fant small, and lies in pov - er - ty, his bed a  
 of your might; a ser - vant's garb now wraps the one who  
 lul - la - by, while an - gels, hail - ing Da - vid's heir, your

sends the on - ly Son, and sends the on - ly Son.  
 man - ger in a stall, a man - ger in a stall.  
 clothed the sky with light, who clothed the sky with light.  
 glo - ry mag - ni - fy, your glo - ry mag - ni - fy.

5 A wonderful exchange you make:  
 you take our flesh and blood,  
 and in return give us to share  
 the shining realm of God,  
 the shining realm of God.

6 Unlock the door again today  
 that leads to paradise;  
 the angel bars the way no more.  
 To God let praises rise,  
 to God let praises rise!

Text: Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561; tr. hymnal version  
Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman  
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## **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.**

**Let All Together Praise Our God**



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore the  
2 From God's right hand the Son de - scends, is born an  
3 O ten - der Child, you veil in flesh the splen - dor  
4 Your moth - er feeds you ten - der - ly, sings you a



high - est throne; to - day God o - pens heav'n a - gain and  
in - fant small, and lies in pov - er - ty, his bed a  
of your might; a ser - vant's garb now wraps the one who  
lul - la - by, while an - gels, hail - ing Da - vid's heir, your



sends the on - ly Son, and sends the on - ly Son.  
man - ger in a stall, a man - ger in a stall.  
clothed the sky with light, who clothed the sky with light.  
glo - ry mag - ni - fy, your glo - ry mag - ni - fy.

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## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Greensleeves*

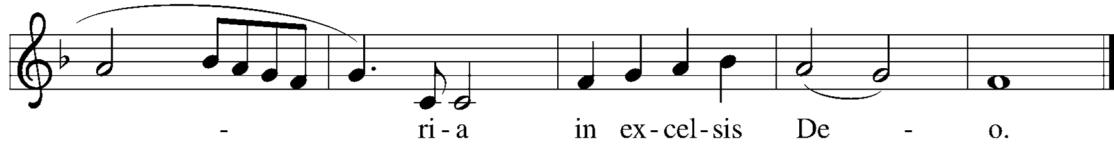
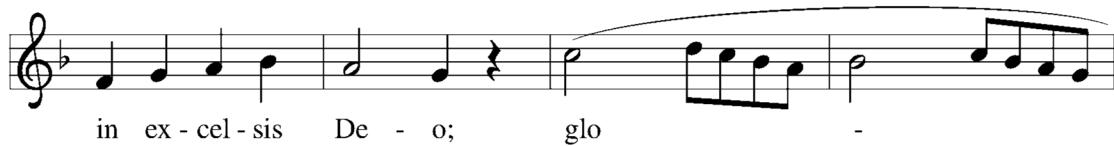
arr. Chip Davis

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864  
Music: GLORIA, French carol

## **GOSPEL: Luke 2: 8—20**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**MESSAGE**

Pastor Joanne Richmond

**HYMN OF THE DAY***Away in a Manger***ELW #277***Away in a Manger*

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked  
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look  
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn-ing is nigh.  
your ten - der care and fit us for heav-en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905

## **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**

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

The Word becomes flesh and dwells among us, bringing life, love, and joy to a weary world. Gracious God, use our lips and our lives to proclaim the good news of your coming.

Hear us, God.

**Your mercy is great.**

The earth rejoices and the coastlands are glad on the day of your birth. Bring life to barren wastelands, healing where we have caused harm, and bold hearts to respond to creation's call for justice.

Hear us, God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Righteousness and justice are your foundation, Holy One. Fill world leaders with your zeal for righteousness and your love for any who are marginalized and oppressed.

Hear us, God.

**Your mercy is great.**

The heavens proclaim your glory and announce that we have been made your own people. Keep watch over all who are spending this holy day alone, alienated, or ill.

Hear us, God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Light dawns for the righteous and joy visits the upright in heart. Fortify us with your grace and fill us with zeal to proclaim the news of your birth to those who long for love.

Hear us, God.

**Your mercy is great.**

From the nurturing darkness of the womb to the tender night of the tomb, you enfold us in your love. We remember with affection those who have died and now rest in your eternal embrace.

Hear us, God.

**Your mercy is great.**

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **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, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### **COMMUNION**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God our redeemer,  
you have fed us at this table  
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.  
As you have gathered us in joy,  
send us forth as messengers of your peace.  
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,  
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CLOSING HYMN*****Love Has Come*****ELW #292****Love Has Come**

1 Love has come—a light in the dark-ness! Love shines forth in the  
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won-der. Love is God now a-  
3 Love has come and nev-er will leave us! Love is life ev-er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav-en has come to pro - claim it;  
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;  
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to  
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
Love is the peace our hearts are seek-ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.  
gift of Christ-mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

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## **BLESSING**

God bless you and keep you,  
☩ Jesus grant you grace and truth,  
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Christ the Savior is born!  
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella*

arr. Chip Davis

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## **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

Our sanctuary is beautifully adorned this Christmas with poinsettias given in celebration of the season and in loving memory and honor of those who hold a special place in our hearts. We give thanks for the generosity of all who shared in this meaningful tradition, helping to make our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship especially joyful.

### **Poinsettias have been given:**

- In memory of our parents — *Gregg & Sylvia Attleson*
- In memory of Cindy Vieth — *Linda & Dennis Baehr*
- In memory of Dan Mikkelson and Edith Habhegger — *Karen Geier*
- In memory of our family in heaven — *Kim & Todd Grapes*
- In memory of our family in heaven — *Kim & Todd Grapes*
- Given by *Bob & Carol Miller*
- In memory of Lucy Radatz — *Jim Radatz*
- In memory of Ann Dively — *Scott & Mary Rathgaber*
- In memory of Bill and Dee Rathgaber — *Scott & Mary Rathgaber*
- In memory of Wendell Richmond — *Jean Richmond*
- In memory of Bev and Duane Sanborn — *Laura Sanborn*
- In memory of Binet — *Jon & Jessica Zinniels*

May these flowers remind us of Christ's light, love, and new life among us this Christmas season.

## **MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM YOUR CHURCH STAFF!**

As we celebrate the gift of Christ this Christmas season, the staff of Our Savior's Lutheran Church extends our heartfelt blessings to you and those you love. We are deeply grateful for the individuals, families, ministries, and partner organizations who make Our Savior's a vibrant and faithful community—one where we worship, serve, and grow together in God's love.

It is truly a joy and a privilege to serve alongside you. May this holy season fill your hearts and homes with peace, joy, and hope, and may the coming year bring renewed faith and abundant blessings.

With gratitude and Christmas joy,  
The Staff of Our Savior's Lutheran Church

## **CONTINUE THE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS AT OUR SAVIOR'S**

Join us as we continue to rejoice in the good news of Christ's birth through worship, song, and fellowship in the weeks that follow.

### **First Sunday of Christmas**

**Sunday, December 28, 9:30am**

The celebration continues! Gather for a warm, joy-filled service as we keep singing the songs of Christmas—and be sure to wear your **Ugly Christmas Sweater or any festive Christmas gear!** Hats, scarves, light-up accessories, reindeer antlers, and holiday flair of all kinds are welcome. ***The brighter, bolder, and more festive, the better!***

## **Second Sunday of Christmas**

**Sunday, January 4, 9:30am**

As we wrap up the Christmas season, we step into the new year together with hearts full of hope and light. Join us for worship, followed by **Coffee**

**Fellowship featuring everyone's favorite New Year's goodies.** Bring something you love to eat in the new year to help welcome 2026!

Come celebrate, worship, and rejoice—Christmas joy continues at Our Savior's!

## **GIVING TREE**

Thank you to everyone who selected a tag from the Giving Tree and purchased gifts for **New Horizons**. Your generosity helps share joy, dignity, and hope during a season that can be especially challenging for many.

Because of you, lives are touched and hearts are lifted. Thank you for being a blessing to our neighbors and for sharing the love of Christ in such a tangible way.

## **HOLIDAY OFFICE & CLOTHES CLOSET CLOSURES**

Our staff will be enjoying time with family and friends this holiday season, and the Women's Clothes Closet will take a short break too. Please note the closures:

### **Church Office:**

- Closed after **worship on Thurs., Dec. 25** until **8:30am Sun., Dec. 28**
- Closed after **worship on Sun., Dec. 28** until **9am Tues., Dec. 30**
- Closed from **1pm Tues., Dec. 30** until **8:30am Sun., Jan. 4, 2026**
- Closed **Mon., Jan. 5, 2026** and reopens **9am Tues., Jan. 6, 2026**

### **Women's Clothes Closet:**

- Closed **Sat., Dec. 27, Tues., Dec. 30, and Sat., Jan. 3, 2026**
- Reopens **1pm Tuesday, January 6, 2026**

Thank you for your understanding! Wishing you a season full of joy, peace, and celebration!

# OUR SAVIORS THIS WEEK

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

## CALENDAR

### Thursday, December 25, 2025

#### Christmas Day

**9:30am** Worship/HC

#### Friday

#### Pastor/Staff Sabbath

#### Saturday

#### Women's Clothes Closet Closed

**10am** Roy Modahl Visitation  
**11am** Roy Modahl Funeral with lunch following

### Sunday, December 28, 2025

#### First Sunday of Christmas

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

#### Monday

#### Church Office Closed

#### Tuesday

#### Women's Clothes Closet Closed

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

#### Wednesday

#### New Year's Eve

#### Church Office Closed

### Thursday, January 1, 2026

#### New Year's Day

#### Church Office Closed

#### Calendar Notations:

HC—Holy Communion

M-MPC—Moo-Moo's Prayer Club

CFS—Come For Supper

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### HEALING AND PEACE

**Ardelle Ender, 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, Jon Zinniel, Joshua, Jim Garson, Jim Radatz, Juliana Andrews, Karen Goglein, 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, Sandy Kjos, Sonja Simonson-Schrag, Pastor Steve Minnema, Tom Cade, and Vera Wensole**

### GRIEVING FAMILY & FRIENDS OF

**Bill Temte, Ardis Bolstad, Rick Feran, and Roy Modahl**

### MEMBERS & FRIENDS IN ARMED FORCES

**Ricky Macon, and Tom Rudrud**

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

<b>Matthew</b> Linse	December 24
<b>Hannah</b> Smaby	December 26
<b>Jill</b> Buck	December 27
<b>Amy</b> Wells	December 27
<b>Bev</b> Burand	December 28
<b>Judi</b> Winkler	December 28
<b>Ed</b> Feran	December 29
<b>Rynzo</b> Patros	December 29
<b>Todd</b> Grapes	December 31
<b>Amy</b> Atchison	January 1
<b>Marjorie</b> Galstad	January 1
<b>Kalei</b> Johnson	January 1