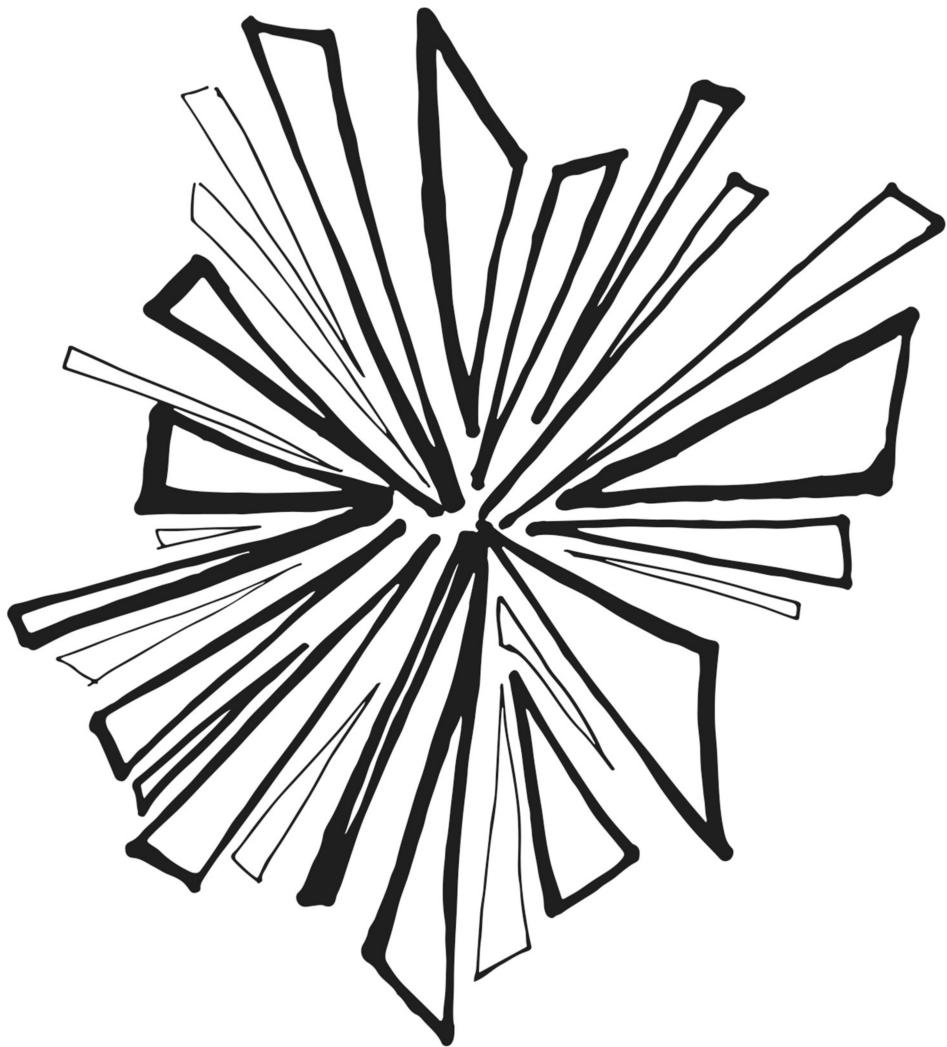


# **Our Savior's Lutheran Church—La Crosse, WI**



**Second Sunday of Christmas**

---

**Sunday, January 4, 2026, 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](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:** Gary & Deb Wold

**Communion Assistant:** Kim Grapes

**Guitarist:** Colin Stiemke

**Prayer Reader:** Kim Grapes

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

*Welcome! We are delighted you have chosen to worship with us today.*

*We will share holy Communion; you are welcome to participate.*

## **PRELUDE**

## **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.**

**OPENING HYMN*****When Long before Time*****ELW #861 vs. 1, 2, 3****When Long before Time  
*The Singer and the Song***

1 When long be - fore time and the worlds were be - gun,  
2 The si - lence was bro - ken when God sang the Song,  
3 The sounds of the crea - tures were one with their Lord's,  
4 Though down through the a - ges the Song dis - ap - peared,



when there was no earth and no sky and no sun,  
and light pierced the dark - ness and rhy - thm be - gan,  
their har - mo - nies sweet and be - fit - ting the Word;  
its har - mo - nies bro - ken and al - most un - heard,



and all was deep si - lence and night reigned su - preme,  
and with its first birth - cries cre - a - tion was born,  
the Sing - er was pleased as the earth sang the Song,  
the Sing - er comes to us to sing it a - gain,



and e - ven our Mak - er had on - ly a dream—  
and crea - ture - ly voic - es sang praise to the morn.  
the choir of the crea - tures re - ech - oed it long.  
our God - is - with - us in the world now as then.

5 The Light has returned as it came once before,  
the Song of the Lord is our own song once more,  
so let us all sing with one heart and one voice  
the Song of the Singer in whom we rejoice.

6 To you, God the Singer, our voices we raise,  
to you, Song Incarnate, we give all our praise,  
to you, Holy Spirit, our life and our breath,  
be glory forever, through life and through death.

Text: Peter W. A. Davison, b. 1936

MUSIC: THE SINGER AND THE SONG, Peter W. A. Davison

Text and music © Peter W. A. Davison, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## **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.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE*****When Long before Time*****ELW #861 vs. 4, 5, 6****When Long before Time  
*The Singer and the Song***

1 When long be - fore time and the worlds were be - gun,  
2 The si - lence was bro - ken when God sang the Song,  
3 The sounds of the crea - tures were one with their Lord's,  
4 Though down through the a - ges the Song dis - ap - peared,



when there was no earth and no sky and no sun,  
and light pierced the dark - ness and rhy - thm be - gan,  
their har - mo - nies sweet and be - fit - ting the Word;  
its har - mo - nies bro - ken and al - most un - heard,



and all was deep si - lence and night reigned su - preme,  
and with its first birth - cries cre - a - tion was born,  
the Sing - er was pleased as the earth sang the Song,  
the Sing - er comes to us to sing it a - gain,



and e - ven our Mak - er had on - ly a dream—  
and crea - ture - ly voic - es sang praise to the morn.  
the choir of the crea - tures re - ech - oed it long.  
our God - is - with - us in the world now as then.

5 The Light has returned as it came once before,  
the Song of the Lord is our own song once more,  
so let us all sing with one heart and one voice  
the Song of the Singer in whom we rejoice.

6 To you, God the Singer, our voices we raise,  
to you, Song Incarnate, we give all our praise,  
to you, Holy Spirit, our life and our breath,  
be glory forever, through life and through death.

Text: Peter W. A. Davison, b. 1936

MUSIC: THE SINGER AND THE SONG, Peter W. A. Davison

Text and music © Peter W. A. Davison, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## **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: 10—18**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> (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.' ") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> 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

## Signs and Wonders



1 Signs and won - ders lead the danc - ing from the heart God frees from fear:  
2 Hope and free - dom join the cir - cle: Mar - y to the gar - den came,  
3 Cast a - side all fear and hid - ing; hand in hand we dance the round.



wings of an - gels greet the mai - den, and God finds a dwell-ing here;  
saw the ra - diance of the mar - vel, heard the Ris - en call her name;  
God is with us, Christ, a - bid - ing, and the Spir - it's gifts a - bound.



bold - ly may we lift our hands, bow the head, and voice A - men;  
bold - ly may we heed Christ's call, step be-yond the gar - den wall:  
Called by God to ho - li - ness, let us bold - ly serve and bless;



thus does glo - ry shine at mid-night: o - pen hearts in - vite the star - light.  
beau - ti - ful the feet pro-ceed - ing with good news of death's de-feat - ing.  
and to hearts that sigh and hun - ger may our lives dance signs and won - ders.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseautnes de David*, Geneva, 1551

Text © 2005 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## **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. Amen.**

## **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.

God, you reveal yourself wherever two or three are gathered in your name. Be with us now, not only in the infant Jesus and resurrected Christ, but in the beloved people of this assembly.

Hear us, God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in the waters of the womb; in brooks, ponds, and oceans; and in the waters of baptism. Grant us wisdom to tenderly care for the earth as a garden watered by your grace.

Hear us, God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in blessed diversity. Help us to look for you in people near and far, in bodies of all kinds, and in kindred young and old. Let us seek you in many places, praising you in many tongues.

Hear us, God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in new life. Support those beginning a new job, a new relationship, or a new living situation, especially those displaced because of tragedy or loss. Be with all others who need your life-giving touch this day.

Hear us, God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in holy communion. Sustain all who provide food and fellowship in this congregation and in the wider community. Make our tables signs of your welcoming presence among us.

Hear us, God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You promise to turn mourning into joy and to comfort those who weep. We remember those who have died and look to being united with them in your glory.

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.**

## **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**

### **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.**

## CLOSING HYMN

## ***He Came Down***

ELW #253

## He Came Down

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;  
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;  
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;  
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have joy;  
hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

Text: Cameroon traditional  
Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ Our Savior.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.  
Reprint and podcast licensing through One License. License A-729110 and CCLI License # 21825636

**END-OF-YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** are available in the Narthex.

Please take yours home with you today to help us save on the cost of postage to mail them. Thanks!

## **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Warm New Year wishes from all of us in the church office! As we step into the year ahead, may each day be filled with hope, renewed faith, and fresh vision for the work God calls us to do in the world. We're excited to see how God will continue to move in and through our ministry at the corner of 6th & Division Streets in 2026, and we look forward to all that lies ahead together.

The Staff of Our Savior's Lutheran Church

## **NEW YEAR FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK!**

### **Sunday, January 4, 2026, after worship—Fellowship Hall**

Please join us following worship today in the Fellowship Hall for a time of fellowship and community as we begin the new year together. All are welcome!

## **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

The office will be closed Mon., Jan. 5 so our staff can be with their families and friends. The church office will reopen 9am Tuesday, January 6, 2026.

## **SAVE THE DATE—ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

### **Sunday, January 25, 2026, 10:15am—Fellowship Hall**

Please join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting! Together we will hear leadership reports, reflect on the ministry we've shared over the past year, and vote on the 2026 budget as well as the ballot of individuals recommended to serve on the 2025 Church Council. Your presence and voice matter as we look ahead with faith and hope.

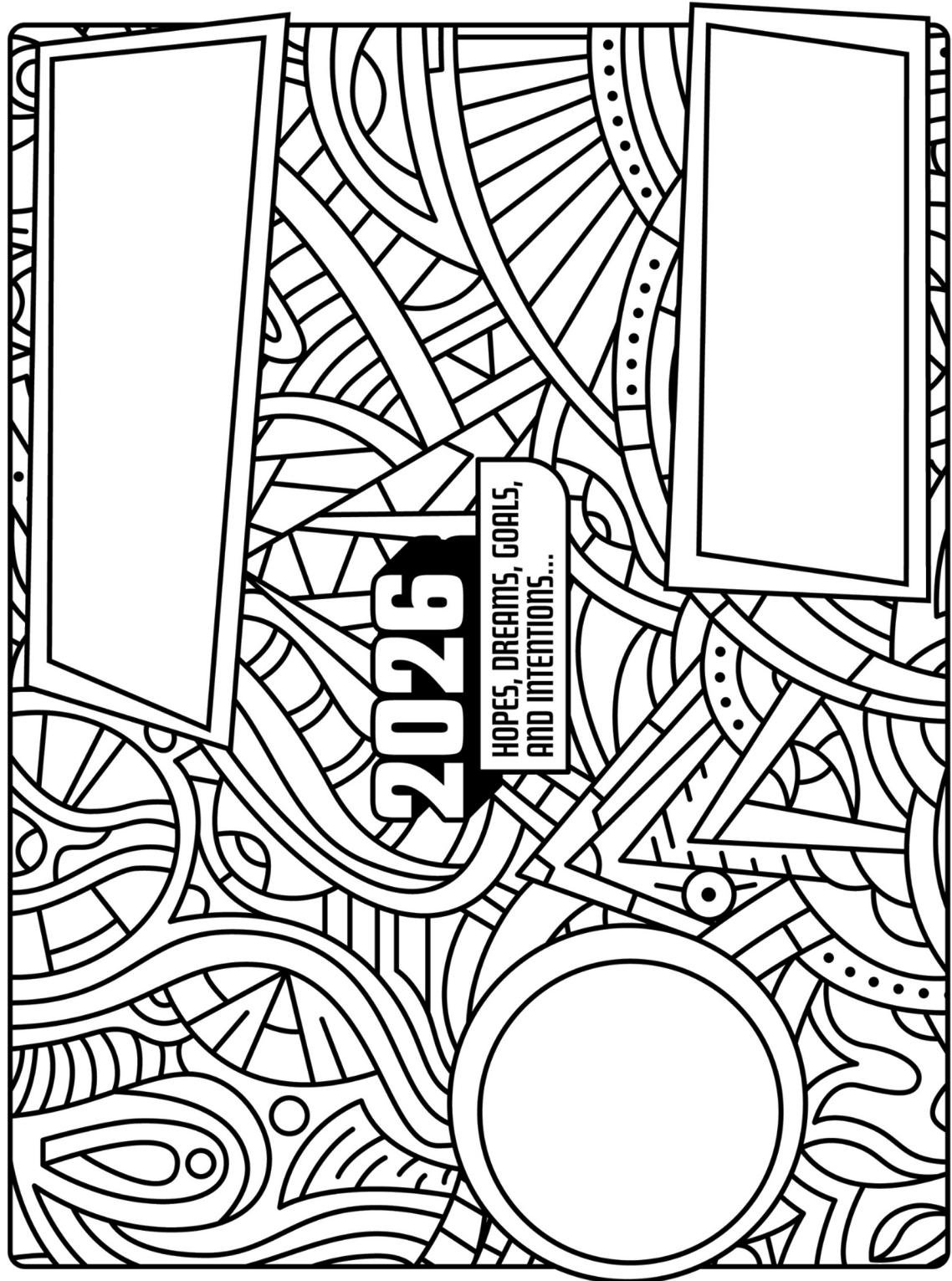
## **ANNUAL REPORTS DUE TODAY**

**To all Committee Chairs and Organizational Presidents:** your annual reports are due today (**Sunday, January 4, 2026**). If your committee or group manages a checkbook, be sure to include a financial report as well. Thank you for your leadership, your time, and your continued dedication to Our Savior's ministry!

## **MOO-MOO'S PRAYER CLUB TODAY**

**Sunday, January 4, 2026, 10:15am—Sanctuary**

All ages are invited to **begin the new year together** at Moo-Moo's Prayer Club! Children of all ages—especially infants, toddlers, and elementary-age students—along with their families are welcome to come discover the many different ways people can praise and serve God through prayer, song, and hands-on learning. Join us as we start the new year growing in faith, curiosity, and joy—together!



# OUR SAVIORS THIS WEEK

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

## CALENDAR

### Sunday, January 4, 2025

#### Second Sunday of Christmas

**9:30am** Worship/HC  
**10:15am** M-MPC  
**10:15am** Bring Your Favorite New Year's Eve Food Potluck  
**6:30pm** Y.E.S. A.A. mtg.

#### Monday

Church Office Closed

#### Tuesday

#### Epiphany

**9am—1pm** Office Open  
**1—5pm** Women's Clothes Closet  
**4pm** CFS Doors Open  
**4:15—5:15pm** CFS Meal Served  
**5:15—5:30pm** CFS Carry Outs

#### Wednesday

**9am—1pm** Office Open  
**10am** W-ELCA Board mtg.  
**12 noon** Worship/HC

#### Thursday

**9am—1pm** Office Open

#### Friday

#### Pastor/Staff Sabbath

#### Saturday

Women's Clothes Closet Closed

### Sunday, January 11, 2025

#### Second Sunday of Christmas

**9:30am** Worship/HC  
**10:15am** M-MPC  
**10:15am** Coffee Fellowship  
**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, **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>Todd</b> Balow	January 5
<b>Vera</b> Wensole	January 5
<b>Mariah</b> Wold	January 7
<b>Carol</b> Poole	January 8
<b>Patti</b> Hanson	January 11