

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR REDEEMER

Be Present

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT | SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025, 9:30 A.M.



Welcome (please pass the black welcome pads)

Inspired by the abundant hospitality of Jesus Christ, Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer welcomes all of God's children into the life of the church as 'we make God known through words and deeds'.

Call to Worship

We begin this season, focusing on our Lord's coming, by lighting a candle of hope—hope found in Jesus Christ alone.

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all people.

(The first blue candle is lit.)

This hope teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.

While we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people who are his very own, eager to do what is good.

O Lord, enter our hearts and join our voices with those of all the saints.

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

We confess our sin. **Lord, we come before you in prayer today, asking for forgiveness. We have not loved as we ought to love, we have not given as we ought to give, and we have fallen short of the mark of truly being your sons and daughters. We recognize our sins and in this moment of silence, we privately remember our shortcomings in love and life.**

Silence for reflection.

God, our heavenly Father, hears the prayers of his children and answers those prayers. Our prayer for forgiveness is answered in the person of Jesus Christ, his Son, who died for our sin that we might have new life in him. To those who believe his Word of truth he gives power to be the people of God. Praise God for his gift of love to us. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

"The King Shall Come"

#260

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.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. **O Lord Jesus Christ, you came to earth to be present with us. But so often we spend more of our time in Advent buying presents than being present with you. Help us to put the buying presents in perspective this season and open our eyes to new ways to spend time with you in prayer and reflection. Free us to set aside space in our schedules as a family of God to be together in worship and Bible study and devotion, remembering all the while that you once told us wherever two or three are gathering in your name, there you are in the midst of us. Be present, Lord, today and every day. Amen.**

Children's Sermon (congregation please sing 'Jesus Loves Me' as children gather)

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-7

“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts. For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, ‘How shall we return?’”

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 122

¹ I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

² **Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³ Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;

⁴ **to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

⁵ For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

⁶ **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you.**

⁷ Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.

⁸ **For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.**

⁹ Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good.”

Second Reading

Ephesians 4:25-32

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

#257 vs. 1

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st Chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading

John 1:35-42

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ” ⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

Hospitalized/Ill: *Betsy Spartz- Daughter of Denise Schmahl and Sister of Alissa (Mark) Iverson, Katie Stavig, Bud Webb, JoAnn Roti, Carter Silvernail- Son-in-law of Ron & Carol Bergan, Dave Wicks, Lucille Olson, Carna Kruse, Buck Schaack- Brother of Joyce (Marvin) McGillivray, Liz Ewald- Friend of Lesa Franken, Dianna Lambert, Brad Bergh- Son of Margaret Bergh, Robin Faulstich- Sister-in-law of Phyllis Bowersox, Dorothy Syhre, Vince Brueggeman- Father of Karla Christensen*

Offering

Text to Give: 888-303-5012 or Scan the QR code located in the pew
Noisy Can Offering (for all ages) Mission of the Month:



Stewardship Snapshot

One Week Offering Goal: \$20,094.00
(Pledged \$13,360.00 | Non-Pledged \$6,734.00)

One Week Offering Received (Nov. 16-22): \$20,850.06
(Pledged \$15,458.06 | Non-Pledged \$5,392.00)

We exceeded our weekly goal.

Offering Prayer

Your power, O gracious, heavenly Father, has been unleashed upon our world. Power that we see in creation’s beauty and power that we experience in Jesus’ saving love. For your powerful grace, for your powerful salvation, we thank you our Father. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord’s Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

Announcements

Blessing (from Matthew 28:20)

Jesus said, “I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“Soon and Very Soon”

#439

Call to Service

Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.

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Serving Preaching: Pastor Dan Overbo; **Piano:** Marsha Kurtenbach;

THE WEEKLY WORD

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR REDEEMER

**SIGN-UP TO
SERVE
AT WORSHIP!**

SCAN HERE



Sponsor Christmas Eve Illumination

In lieu of Christmas Plants this year, help make our Christmas Eve Worship Services shine with beauty and light! You're invited to sponsor the illumination in memory of a loved one, in honor of someone special, or to the Glory of God. These will remain at the church following the holiday. Each sponsorship is \$20 and will be acknowledged in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

To participate, please complete the form along with payment at the Welcome Center or contact the church office by **Sunday, December 14**. Samples of the Illumination will be set up behind the Welcome Center.

December Book Club

The LCOOR Book Club will meet on **Thursday, December 18, at 10:00 a.m.** in the Youth Room. There is no book to read for December; instead, please bring a treat and a title to share! Think about one of your favorite books and share it with the group. In addition, we will pick books for the 2026 reading season at the December meeting.



SCAN ME



Treats Needed for Christmas Bingo

We need treats for Christmas Bingo on Dec. 14. If you are able to provide treats, please scan the QR code or visit our websites 'serve' page to sign up. **Treats need to be delivered by Dec. 11 in a disposable pan. Thank you!**

December Missions of the Month

During the month of December, our Mission Giving will be shared between Brothers and Sisters Behind Bars and St. Francis House. These ministries offer hope, support, and compassion to individuals facing significant challenges—whether through spiritual care for those who are incarcerated or shelter and assistance for those experiencing homelessness. Please consider making a special gift-above and beyond your regular offering—to support the mission of these resources.

2026 Offering Envelopes are Here!

Stop by before or after worship to pick up your next year's offering envelopes. Or stop into the church office Monday – Thursday 8:30am – 4:30pm or 8:30-Noon on Friday to pick up your envelopes. Thank You.

Family Fun Night: Christmas Bingo!

Join us **Sunday, December 14 from 6:00-7:30 p.m.** for an evening of fun, fellowship, and festive Bingo! All ages are invited to come enjoy bingo, laughter, and community with snacks and drinks provided.

Prize Donations Needed!

- We're looking for prizes for children, families, and older individuals (e.g., gift cards, toys, lotion, candles, puzzles, games, candy, craft kits.)
- Prizes don't need to be extravagant or expensive. We do request that the items are new.

Donations can be dropped off in the church office through Wednesday, December 10. Come celebrate the season with us!



Calendar & Attendance

Sunday November 30

No Church School or Confirmation (Thanksgiving Break)

9:30 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. LCOOR Mobile Soup Kitchen

Monday December 1

8:00 a.m. Watertown Sandwich Ministry

6:45 p.m. Al-Anon

Tuesday December 2

10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Group

11:00 a.m. Text Study

1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

3:00 p.m. Quilting Bible Study

Wednesday December 3

8:00 a.m. Watertown Sandwich Ministry

12:15 p.m. Men's Lunch

5:00 p.m. Community Meal

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Workshop

5:45 p.m. Church School

6:30 p.m. Worship

7:15 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal

7:15 p.m. Luther League (9-12 Grade)

Thursday December 4

9:00 a.m. Quilting

5:15 p.m. Al-Anon

Friday December 5

Church Office Closes at Noon

8:00 a.m. Watertown Sandwich Ministry

Saturday December 6

3:00 p.m. Wedding (Heintzman & Gillespie)

5:30 p.m. Worship

6:30 p.m. Saturday Evening Meal

Sunday December 7

8:30 a.m. Confirmation Workshop

8:45 a.m. Church School

9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion & 1st

Grade Nativity Milestone Recognition

10:30 a.m. Praise & Rejoice Choir Rehearsal

Monday December 8

January Newsletter Deadline

8:00 a.m. Watertown Sandwich Ministry

6:45 p.m. Al-Anon

Tuesday December 9

11:00 a.m. Text Study

1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

6:00 p.m. Executive Committee

6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Wednesday December 10

8:00 a.m. Watertown Sandwich Ministry

9:30 a.m. Priscilla Circle

12:15 p.m. Men's Lunch

2:00 p.m. Watertown Parkinson's Support Group

5:00 p.m. Community Meal

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Workshop

5:45 p.m. Church School

6:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion & 1st

Grade Nativity Milestone Recognition

7:15 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal

7:15 p.m. Luther League (9-12 Grade)

Attendance

- **Sunday, November 16 Livestream:** 138
- **Saturday, November 22:** 60
- **Sunday, November 23:** 276
- **Wednesday, November 19:** 178

Church Staff

Senior Pastor

Dan Overbo

Associate Pastor

Laura Overbo

Director of Faith Formation

Wendy Kruger

Welcoming & Caring Ministries

Karri Willhite

Business Manager

Jodi Spilde

Business Administrative Assistant

Megan Thyen

Preschool

Nikki Landmark, Director/Teacher

Wendy Kruger, Paraprofessional

Sound & Technology

Sam Langner

Custodian

Roman Gainor



CAR QUESTION FOR THE RIDE HOME:

How do you answer the question,
"What are your hopes as we wait for Jesus' birth?"

