

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR REDEEMER

WORD MADE FLESH

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 2026, 5:30 P.M. & SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026, 9:30 A.M.

Prelude

Variations on "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

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'.

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **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 our Lord. **Amen.**

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

(Silence is kept for reflection)

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

"Away in a Manger"

#277

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

page 138-139

Canticle of Praise

"This is the Feast"

page 140-141

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. **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 and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷ Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." ⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹ With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back; I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path where they shall not stumble, for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. ¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock." ¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

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

Psalm

Psalm 147:12-20

¹² Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,
¹³ **who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you.**
¹⁴ God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.
¹⁵ **God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.**
¹⁶ God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.
¹⁷ **God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?**
¹⁸ The LORD sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.
¹⁹ **God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.**
²⁰ The LORD has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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

Children's Church (Sunday Only)

Gospel Acclamation

"Alleluia"

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

Gospel Reading

John 1:1-18

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ (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.' ") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, 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 Dan Overbo

Hymn of the Day

"On Christmas Night"

#274

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 the Church

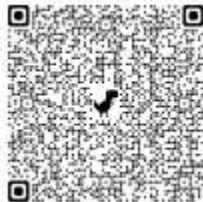
Hospitalized/Ill: *Betsy Spartz- Daughter of Denise Schmahl and Sister of Alissa (Mark) Iverson, Katie Stavig, Bud Webb, Ed Knadle, JoAnn Roti, Carter Silvernail- Son-in-law of Ron & Carol Bergan, Dave Wicks, Lucille Olson, Ava Schulte, Buck Schaack- Brother of Joyce (Marvin) McGillivray, Liz Ewald- Friend of Lesa Franken, Dianna Lambert, Vince Brueggeman- Father of Karla Christensen, Brad Bergh- Son of Margaret Bergh, Tammy Stoltenburg, Robin Faulstich- Sister-in-law of Phyllis Bowersox, Karla Stimson, Kevin Stark- Brother of Carol (Ron) Bergan, Brent Osthus- Father of Chad (Kristi) Osthus*

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:

ELCA World Hunger



Offering Received (Dec. 1 – Dec. 28)

Promised: \$60,432.57

Non-Promised: \$28,567.76

Christmas: \$16,583.00

Mission of the Month: \$824.63

Offertory Response

"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

#184

Offering Prayer

God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

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Holy, Holy, Holy

page 144

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.

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.

Distribution

Post Communion Prayer

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. **Amen.**

Announcements

Blessing

The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, \mp bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

"Let All Together Praise Our God"

#287 vs. 1-4

Call to Service

Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to God's people on earth!
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Joy to the World" (arr. Cherwien)

Serving Saturday

Preaching: Pastor Dan Overbo; **Organist:** AJ Sherrill; **Lector:** Brooklynn Varilek;

Serving Sunday

Preaching: Pastor Dan Overbo; **Organist:** AJ Sherrill; **Ushers:** Cal Wiesner, Pam & Al Raeder, Russ & Joan Porath;

Lector: Char Loterbauer; **Coffee Servers:** Michelle Leitheiser; **Welcome Center:** Pam Luckhurst;

Greeters: Bruce & Colleen Hestad; **Communion Assistants:** Steven Ays, Amanda Kienow, Ruth Haugerud, Ryan Nuttall;

THE WEEKLY WORD

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR REDEEMER

Our Turn to Serve

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer will be serving The Watertown Banquet on **Monday, January 12**, at Grace Lutheran Church, and we need your help!

For more information or to sign up, visit our website at lcoorwatertown.org and find the sign-up under the 'serve' tab.

Junction Youth Group



Junction, a youth group for **1st-4th grade**, will be meeting on **Thursday, January 8, from 6:00-7:00 p.m.** We'd love to have your child join us for an evening filled with fun and faith. We'll share a Bible verse together, play games, make a simple craft, and enjoy snacks and fellowship. Friends are always invited to join!

Men's Lunch

Men's Lunch will resume on Wednesday, January 14. Men are welcome to join each Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. in the Gathering Space for a Bible study led by Pastor Dan Overbo. Be sure to pack a lunch!

Family Fun Night: Ice Skating

Join us **Wednesday, January 14 from 7:45-8:45 p.m.** for an evening of ice skating at the Prairie Lakes Ice Arena. The cost of skate rentals will be covered for church members and a freewill offering will be collected to cover negative lunch accounts at the Watertown School District. See you at the ice arena for a night of fun and fellowship!



January Book Club

The LCOOR Book Club will meet on **Thursday, January 22 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Youth Room. The book for January is *Twice* by Mitch Albom.



Redeemer's Kitchen - January 18

Tired of trying to figure out what to make for supper? **Redeemer's Kitchen will meet on Sunday, January 18 at 10:30 a.m.**

January Menu:

- Balsamic Beef and Brussels Sprouts
- Beef and Broccoli w/ Rice
- Chicken Tortilla Soup
- BBQ Chicken with Sweet Potatoes
- Black Bean Soup
- Taco Rice Casserole
- Chicken and Broccoli Alfredo



More information, including pricing and sign-up are available at the Welcome Center or by contacting Karri in the church office at (605) 886-2696.

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

SCAN HERE



Calendar & Attendance

Sunday January 4

No Church School or Confirmation
9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Monday January 5

Preschool Enrollment Open (2026-27 School Year)
8:00 a.m. Watertown Sandwich Ministry
6:45 p.m. Al-Anon

Tuesday January 6

11:00 a.m. Text Study
1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

Wednesday January 7

8:00 a.m. Watertown Sandwich Ministry
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 January 8

5:15 p.m. Al-Anon
6:00-7:00 p.m. Junction (1-4 Grade)

Friday January 9

Church Office Closes at Noon
8:00 a.m. Watertown Sandwich Ministry

Saturday January 10

5:30 p.m. Worship

Sunday January 11

8:30 a.m. Confirmation Workshop
8:45 a.m. Church School
9:30 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. LCOOR Mobile Soup Kitchen

Monday January 12

8:00 a.m. Watertown Sandwich Ministry
5:15 p.m. Serve at the Watertown Banquet
6:45 p.m. Al-Anon

Tuesday January 13

11:00 a.m. Text Study
1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

2:00 p.m. Quilting Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Executive Committee
6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Wednesday January 14

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
7:15 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal
7:45-8:45 p.m. Family Fun Night: Ice Skating at the Prairie Lakes Ice Arena

Attendance

- **Christmas Eve: 1:30** (406); **3:30** (550); **5:30** (410)
- **Saturday, December 27:** 61
- **Sunday, December 28:** 97

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:

In what way has involvement in a faith community changed or influenced you?

