



Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Our Mission: We gather together to explore and celebrate the wonder of Christ, equipping all to live a God centered life.

First Sunday after Christmas - December 31, 2023

Welcome to worship! We celebrate Holy Communion at each service. Guests and visitors are always welcome and we are filled with joy at your presence with us! The “pray-ground” near the organ is available for those families with little ones to sit and enjoy while being part of our worship. A Parent Room is also available for your use if your child just needs a space of their own! Ushers are available if you need any assistance or have any questions.

PRESERVICE MUSIC, WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Indicates to stand as you are able

***SIGN OF THE CROSS:** We remember the sign of our baptismal calling.

***GREETING:** ...and also with you

GATHERING SONG: What Child Is This ELW #296

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

O God, you are slow to anger and swift to have mercy; **Forgive us when we treat time as a commodity or an enemy, when we abuse your gift of time.** In our fastness and our slowness, help us to keep pace with you. **Free us to live in your time, a new time, in which there is a time for everything under heaven, and slow is not too slow, and fast is not too fast.** Transform us into people who see time as a gift and a friend, who live as if we have time, because we know that your time will never cease. **Through Jesus we pray, Amen.** (Receive God's Forgiveness).

***NEW YEAR PRAYER:** Let us pray: We come to adore you, little One on bended knees, with hopeful hearts, and eyes stretched wide with wonder and awe. The gentleness of your gaze draws us into the mystery of all that lies beyond, and in that place of falling into joy we yield all that we are to you. **Help us in the new year to trust You, O God, as we gather and wonder at the name of Jesus our Savior, Lord and Messiah! Amen!**

FIRST READING: Galatians 4:4-7 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God. The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Angels We Have Heard on High #289 (vs. 1)

***SCRIPTURE OF THE DAY:** Luke 2:22-40 *The Lord is with you. And also with you.* A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.** When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES & MEDITATIVE REFLECTION: PJ

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:** *We lift up our prayers and needs of the church and community. Our spoken response is “**Lord, hear our prayer.**”*

NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION Ben & Julie Schickert

OFFERING ~ *We are grateful for your presence today and we never want you to feel obligated to give. Our parishioners are responsible for supporting our ministry and mission through their gifts to God. If you would like to give a gift today, you are welcome to place it in the offering box in the center aisle. Any gifts placed into Noah's Ark through tomorrow will go towards the Waukesha Memorial Fund.*



***OFFERING PRAYER:** Let us pray together:

O God, we offer back with joy this day our lives and our offerings- gifts themselves from You. Receive us and these gifts as we strive to share Your light with the world! In the name of Jesus we pray: Amen! *(offering container brought forward)*

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION:** *Jesus' words at the Last Supper become our prayer over the bread and wine.*

***THE LORD'S PRAYER:** *We pray the words of peace that Jesus gave us.*

***HOLY COMMUNION:** The gifts of God for the people of God: **Thanks be to God!**

A Word about Communion here at OSLC...

You are invited to come forward down the center aisle to receive baked bread and then dip that bread into the glass of red wine or juice. Gluten free bread is available as well. For those who prefer, communion kits are available in a basket near the front of the sanctuary. All are welcome to share in this meal with us!

***COMMUNION BLESSING:** The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his resurrected grace. **Amen!**

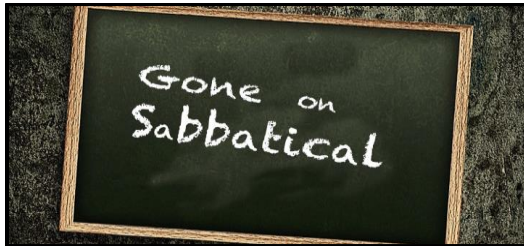
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: *Let us pray together: For this meal, O Bountiful God, we are grateful. These simple gifts have fed and renewed our faith as we declare and deliver Your boundless love to all those in need. We pray together in the name of Jesus our Savior: AMEN!*

LEAVE-TAKING BLESSING: *We offer a prayer over PJ, Amy, Anna, Peter and Liam as they will be on sabbatical from January 4th-25th. May they renew, refresh and rest together!*

***FINAL BLESSING:** May the star of Christmas go before you to guide you; be behind you to encourage you; above you to watch over you and beneath you to support you. But may you discover the presence of God within you and know that God will always be your friend. **AMEN!**

***SENDING SONG:** *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* ELW #276

***SENDING PROCLAMATION:** Go with a generous spirit in 2024 to be church after church! **Thanks be to God!**



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Welcome to Worship at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Welcome to long-time Lutherans, Christians from every tradition, and people new to this faith. Welcome to friends new and old.

Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression; every socioeconomic and marital status, political conviction, ability and challenge.

Welcome to believers and questioners, and questioning believers. Welcome.