



CHRISTMAS EVE
1:30 + 3:30 + 5:30 PM

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
359 North Leonard Street, West Salem, Wisconsin
608-786-0030 office@oursaviorswestsalem.org
www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

Pastor Jonathan M. Schmidt
Pastor Jean R. Schmidt

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

West Salem, Wisconsin
www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL who gather here for worship from the Staff of Our Savior's Lutheran Church. May the God who comes tonight as the Christmas baby in the manger come into your hearts every day that you may love and serve God each day.

A SPECIAL WELCOME to those who are our guests. Our regular worship times are at 6 p.m. on Saturday and at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. on Sunday. Sunday School for Pre-K through 5th grade is on Sundays 9:15-10:15 a.m.

OUR WORSHIP CONTINUES tomorrow at 10 a.m. as we worship on Christmas Day.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on December 24 or December 31.

REMEMBER, for those who are members of Our Savior's, that contributions to be credited to 2023 need to be at the church office by 11 am on Sunday, December 31. Our thanks to all who have supported the life and ministry of Our Savior's in the past year with time, talent, and treasure. May God continue to bless our ministry together in Christ's name in the coming year.

THANK YOU – to Jon and Lynn Labus for choosing the Christmas trees for the sanctuary.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

WELCOME

SPECIAL MUSIC "O Holy Night" Eric Sorenson

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" 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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*CAROL "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; come
and behold him, born the king of angels:**

Refrain

**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us
adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ
the Lord!**

**The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; Son of
the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain***

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to
God in the highest: *Refrain***

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy
morning; Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n! Word
of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain***

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

1:30 p.m. "When Love Crossed Over"
Tricia Aleckson and Dean Olson

3:30 p.m. "Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain"
Senior Choir

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

SERMON

*CAROL *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

**O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all the earth!**

**How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!**

***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.**

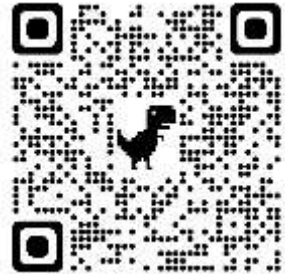
***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given. And he is named Prince of Peace. The peace of the Lord be with you always,

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

For online giving go to the church website: oursaviorswestsaalem.org/giving. Or text your gift amount to 608-471-7267 and follow the instructions on the response you receive. Or use the QR code. Thank you for your generosity and support of our work together.



OFFERTORY HYMN

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!**

***PRAYERS**

We give God praise and glory...

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly
singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in
reply, echoing their joyous strains.**

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

We pray for the sick and the broken, the dying and the grieving...

**Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth.**

Refrain

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

We pray for peace in a world filled with hate and conflict...

**For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.**

We pray for the life and hope throughout all of creation...

**Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!**

We pray for renewed faith, and faithful discipleship...

**Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!**

We hear the promise of life in the Words of Institution...

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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 remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup, we remember your Word dwelling
among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in
his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this
meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill
us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God
incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!**

Refrain

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

We pray as Jesus taught us to pray...

***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.

***INVITATION**

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

HOLY COMMUNION All who believe that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, bringing to us the gift of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, are welcome to gather at the Lord's Table. Younger children are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

Both wine and grape juice are available – grape juice glasses are purple. Gluten free wafers are also available.

DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION CAROLS

"Away in a Manger"

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet
head; the stars in the bright sky looked down
where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on
the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, but
little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love
you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

"The First Noel"

**The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor
shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay,
keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was
so deep.**

Refrain

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star shining in the
east beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great
light, and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain***

**And by the light of that same star three wise
men came from country far; to seek for a king was
their intent, and to follow the star
wherever it went. *Refrain***

**This star drew near to the northwest, o'er
Bethlehem it took its rest; and there it did both stop
and stay right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain***

**Then entered in those wise men three, full
rev'rently upon their knee, and offered there in his
presence their gold, and myrrh, and
frankincense. *Refrain***

"I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve"

**I am so glad each Christmas Eve,
the night of Jesus' birth!
Then like the sun the star shone forth,
and angels sang on earth.**

**The little child in Bethlehem,
he was a king indeed!
For he came down from heav'n above
to help a world in need.**

**He dwells again in heaven's realm,
the Son of God today;
and still he loves his little ones
and hears them when they pray.**

**I am so glad each Christmas Eve!
His praises then I sing;
he opens now for ev'ry child
the palace of the king.**

**And so I love each Christmas Eve,
and I love Jesus too;
and that he loves me ev'ry day
I know so well is true.**

"Go Tell It On The Mountain"

Refrain

**Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and
ev'rywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ
is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain***

**The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain***

**Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain***

"Angels From the Realms of Glory"

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light. Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar; seek the great desire of nations, you have seen his natal star. Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son, evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One. Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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 and Lord. **Amen.**

*LIGHTING OF CANDLES

(Please tip only the unlit candle when lighting your candle from your neighbor.)

*CAROL *"Silent Night, Holy Night!"*

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of
redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus,
Lord, at your birth.**

*READING John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

*PRAYER

P: Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

C: By day and night he shines for all to see.

P: Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

C: that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

P: God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

C: so that all who believe in him may not perish, but have eternal life.

P: Jesus is the light of the world.

C: Jesus is the light of our lives.

P: Sing to God a new song!

C: A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

*BENEDICTION

May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life. May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength. May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world. And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Joy to the World"

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its king; let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

*DISMISSAL

P: Christ The Savior is born! Go in peace.

C: Proclaim the good news.

OUR SAVIOR'S WORSHIP TEAM

www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

Pastor Jonathan Schmidt, Senior Pastor 612-0217

Email: pastorjon@oursaviorswestsalem.org

Pastor Jean Schmidt, Associate Pastor 612-0217

Email: pastorjean@oursaviorswestsalem.org

Linda Berg, Organist/Choir Accompanist/Director of Music

Email: linda@oursaviorswestsalem.org

Laurie Noelke, Handbell Choir Director/Assistant Worship Musician

Eric Sorenson, Senior Choir Director

WORSHIP LEADERS

	1:30 p.m.
Worship Assistant	Candace Drury
Communion Assistant	Eric & Jill Iliff, Wendy Amundson
Welcoming Team	Iliff Family
	3:30 a.m.
Worship Assistant	Jesse Jothen
Communion Assistant	Lynette Ender, Jen Linse, Chad Vick
Welcoming Team	Goodenough Family
	5:30 a.m.
Worship Assistant	Anna Gross
Communion Assistant	Judy Gilbert, Jon Hetland, Kyle Twite
Welcoming Team	Beckley Family
Altar Guild for Dec.	Jill Iliff

"Silent Night" 3:30 p.m. singers

Dottie Baumgartner (German)
Carla Burkhardt (Norwegian)
Eric Sorenson (French)
Naoko Giblin (Japanese)
Jon Iliff (Spanish)

Thank you to the following people who shared beautiful poinsettias this Christmas season. Poinsettias have been given:



In loving memory:

Bob & Carol Bridenbaugh and Melvin Schmidt from Pastors Jon & Jean, and Rebecca Ingrid Brindley from her children

Larry Gensch from Bonnie Gensch

Jim Johnson from Vicky, Darin, Lisa, Ben, Laney & Abby & Ryan & Marissa

Les & Evie Kastenschmidt and Jim & Gladys Johnson from Ginny, Nancy, Barb, Jeff and Families

Herb Long from his family

Marine Captain Harold J. Moe, F-4B Phantom jet radar intercept officer, MIA Vietnam, September 1967 from his cousins

Homer Moe from Vernetta Moe

Tom Niemeier from his wife, Kay, and family, Paula, Dan & Emily Steele, Ami, Tony & Evan Fullwood

Dale Peterson from Carol and Family

Marjorie Raddatz and Craig Knutsen from the Gresens Family

Oscar, Gladys, and Richard Schilling from Judy & Jim Morzinski and Family

Richard Schomburg and Bernard & Adeline Witte from Barb, Kathy & Don, Todd & Julie, Debbie & Steve, and Families

Jeff Stellick from Sue & Trenton Stellick and Gus Zabel

Warren Whitlock from Betty Whitlock

Our parents Gene & Bonnie Ender and Barbara Zitzner from Eric & Lynette Ender

Our parents Frank & Agnes McClintock and Rev. J. L. & Margaret Ranum from Paul & Marilyn Ranum

Our parents and brothers from Ron & Dorothy Lamkin

Our brothers Paul and Tim from Tracy & Dave Skrentny

In memory: Marilyn Romskog and **In honor:** Norma Piper from Dennis & Ann Sprain

In honor:

My children Bob, Erin, Ethan, Jared; grandchildren Wilson, Levi, Giana, and Devin from Rita Gollnik

Our children from Jeff & Melissa Haldeman

