

ADVENT

THE
WORD
MADE
FLESH



Salt of the Earth



Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer | 2nd Sunday of Advent | Sunday, December 8, 2024, 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'.

Candle Lighting Ceremony

"Light of Hope" Joel Raney

Praise & Rejoice Choir will lead congregation

Call to Worship

On this Advent journey, we are mindful of the brokenness of the world that surrounds us.

We long for the peace that surpasses all understanding.

As we look around us, we see the hostility that exists between neighbor and nation.

We long for the peace that surpasses all understanding.

As we look beside us, we see fractured relationships and unforgiving hearts.

We long for the peace that surpasses all understanding.

As we look within ourselves, we confess the reconciling words we have yet to speak and restoring deeds we have yet to do.

We long for the peace that surpasses all understanding.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

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

(Two blue candles are lit on the Advent wreath.)

Today, we light the second candle on the Advent wreath as we remember that in Old Testament times, salt was added to offerings—the salt of the covenant, a pleasing aroma ascending to God. Jesus, the Holy Child of Bethlehem, the Word made flesh, was born among us. Through Jesus, his Son, God fulfilled his covenant promise to send the Savior, who came to offer himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world.

Jesus, through your sacrifice, you have brought us forgiveness and peace.

Jesus has called us to be both light and salt in the world. Jesus said, "Have salt in yourselves." Salt preserves food and adds flavor. Through our words and actions, we bring the saving taste of Jesus' love and compassion to the world.

Dear Savior, help us to reflect your love to the people we meet each day.



Light of life, Mak-er of day, gath-er our
sha-dows and cast them a-way. Bea-con of
truth, gleam-ing and bright, shine in our
hearts, shat-ter our night.

Confession and Forgiveness

Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

Lord God, we are called by our Savior to have salt in ourselves, to reflect his love and compassion, yet we often turn away from his will for us. Instead of sharing Jesus' love we seek to follow our sinful desires and listen to the temptations of the world. We should act with compassion toward others but instead we seek to satisfy our own needs. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son, born in Bethlehem, to be our Savior. Jesus took our sins onto himself and carried them to the cross. For his sake we are forgiven. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Jesus, teach us to speak and act with compassion and love. Teach us to have salt in ourselves!

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. **Gracious God, we pray that you will help us to see glimpses of your peace in our fractured world. You alone are the Prince of Peace. Help us to remember this Advent that we can also be agents of peace to those around us and in our world. Help us to seek your perfect peace that surpasses all understanding. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Special Music

"Joy to the World" Arr. Valerie Stephenson

Handbell Choir

Directed by: Beverly Splinter

New Members Received

Children's Sermon/1st Grade Nativity Milestone (congregation please sing 'Jesus Loves Me' as children gather)

First Reading

Leviticus 2:12-13

¹²You may bring them to the Lord as an offering of choice products, but they shall not be offered on the altar for a pleasing odor.

¹³You shall not omit from your grain offerings the salt of the covenant with your God; with all your offerings you shall offer salt.

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

Second Reading

Colossians 4:5-6

⁵Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. ⁶Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone.

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

Gospel Acclamation

"Be Still and Know"

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 9th Chapter and St. Matthew, the 5th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel Reading

Mark 9:50 and Matthew 5:13

⁵⁰Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

¹³"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

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

Sermon

"Salt of the Earth"

Pastor Laura Overbo

Hymn of the Day

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

#264

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.

Prayer Song

"Shine On Us"

Prayers of the Church

Hospitalized/Ill: *DeAnn Fylling- Niece of Deanna & Dan Hickel, Gregory Cluts, Marlys Lenning, Gene & Gloria Fastnacht- Friends of Rod & Doris Knight, Gretchen Morrow Bray- Daughter of Darline Morrow & Sister of Ann (Greg) DeSpiegler,*

Death: *Jens Grage- Brother of Annette Gugel*

Prayer Song

"Shine On Us"

Offering

*Text to Give: 605-250-6765 or Scan the QR code located in the pew
Noisy Can Offering (for all ages) Mission of the Month:
LCOOR Care Fund*



Offertory Response

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

#185

Offering Prayer

Giving God, your Word teaches us to give thanks to you in whatever we do. With these gifts, we lift up thanks and praise for all your good gifts to us and to our world. Use these gifts, use us, use your world, that your glory and grace may abound as we are the salt of the earth. In Jesus' name we pray. **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

Altar Flowers are given in honor of Howard & Cindy Schneekloth's 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Blessing (Colossians 4:5-6; Numbers 6:24-26)

Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

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 Song

"What a Beautiful Name"

Call to Service

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please share the peace, as well as your name when you leave today.

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Serving

Preaching: Pastor Laura Overbo; **Worship Team;** **Ushers:** Kevin Luoma, Curt Friedrichsen; **Lector:** Beverly Splinter;

Coffee Servers: Bernie & Kevin Luoma; **Welcome Center:** Pam Luckhurst;

New Members

Aaron & Lexi Wright
320 N. Broadway

Fred & Mary Garland
1844 3rd St. NW

Lowell & Jeanne Zander
2718 Prairie Park Trail SE

Molly Westling
1108 27th St. NE

JoAnna Austad & Jackson Nei
1804 16th Ave. SE

Megan Major & Devyn Bollinger
1428 12th Ave SE Apt. 8

Gabriell Larson & Kaleb Haase
1614 Second Ave. NE

Steve & Diane VanHee
855 Hidden Valley

Sandy Wiesner
1207 7th Ave. NE

Tyler Johnson & Jaime Endres
1701 5th St. NW

Shirley Sikkink
200 S. Maple Place #411

Dalton & Michaela Koch
141 8th St. NE



*Scan the QR code to access our Weekly Announcements and Taking Faith Home inserts. Physical copies of our Weekly Announcements & Taking Faith Home are also available near the Baptismal Font and in the Gathering Space.



THE WEEKLY WORD - ANNOUNCEMENTS



CHRISTMAS PLANTS

ORDER A CHRISTMAS PLANT IN HONOR OR IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE OR TO THE GLORY OF GOD TO BEAUTIFY THE SANCTUARY FOR CHRISTMAS EVE.

\$20 EACH



FAMILY CHRISTMAS BINGO

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 | 6-7:30 PM

PRIZE DONATIONS NEEDED:

- Prizes for children, families and older individuals
- Prizes do not need to be extravagant or expensive
- Donations can be dropped off in the church office until Thursday, December 12th

Along with playing Christmas Bingo we will have children's crafts and snacks available. The Family Christmas Bingo is for **all ages**, because we all belong to the LCOOR family!

DECEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH

LCOOR Care Fund

Mission of the Month dollars are above and beyond your regular giving. Please clearly mark your offering with Mission of the Month.



COOKIES NEEDED

Sandwich Ministry is in need of cookies. We have cookie kits available for pick up at the Welcome Center or church office. You can also bake your own & drop them off at the church. Thank you!



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE *Worship with Us*

- Sunday, December 15, 9:30 a.m.**
Church School Christmas Program
- Wednesday, December 18, 6:30 p.m.**
Church School Christmas Program
- Tuesday, December 24, 1:00 p.m.**
Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion
- Tuesday, December 24, 3:30 p.m.**
Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion
- Tuesday, December 24, 5:30 p.m.**
Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion



SALVATION ARMY DONATIONS

NEEDS A PANTRY RESTOCK

As you go grocery shopping, please consider picking up a couple extras to donate. Drop these items off at LCOOR and we will deliver them to the Salvation Army. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



SEW TRUE QUILTING BIBLE STUDY

Beginning in January, Pastor Laura will be leading a new monthly quilting Bible study on the first Tuesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. **Sign up at the Welcome Center.**



Caring Casseroles

Our "Caring Casseroles" ministry provides a variety of delicious casseroles for you to deliver to friends and neighbors. A freezer filled with casseroles is located in Twila's office. Please stop by and pick up one (or two) and share in this caring ministry. ❤️

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If your Christmas plans include worshipping here at LCOOR, please consider helping during worship. Each service will need greeters, ushers, communion servers and readers. You can sign up via the church website or stop by the Welcome Center. Thank you!

Special Music Welcome

This could be singing, instrumental, group, solo or even a family venture. Please contact Kristy Tostenson, Praise & Rejoice Choir Director at (605) 949-1372 if you are interested.



Calendar: December 8-18

Sunday December 8

8:30 a.m. Church School
8:30 a.m. Confirmation Workshop
8:30 a.m. The Word Made Flesh Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Worship (New Members Received)
9:30 a.m. 1st Grade Christmas Story Milestone Recognition
10:30 a.m. Church Council Meeting
10:30 a.m. Praise & Rejoice Choir Rehearsal

Monday December 9

8:00 a.m. Watertown Sandwich Ministry
6:45 p.m. Al-Anon

Tuesday December 10

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 11

8:00 a.m. Watertown Sandwich Ministry
9:30 a.m. Combined Circle Christmas Gathering
12:15 p.m. Men's Lunch
4:45 p.m. Community Meal (Goulash)
5:30 p.m. Church School
5:30 p.m. Confirmation Workshop
6:30 p.m. Worship (New Members Received)
7:15 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal

Thursday December 12

10:45 a.m. Preschool Chapel
5:15 p.m. Al-Anon
6:00 p.m. Follow Bible Study with Pastor Dan

Friday December 13

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

Saturday December 14

5:30 p.m. Traditional Worship

Sunday December 15

8:30 a.m. Church School
8:30 a.m. Confirmation Workshop
8:30 a.m. Bible Study with Pastor Dan
9:30 a.m. Church School Christmas Program
10:30 a.m. Praise & Rejoice Choir Rehearsal
6:00-7:30 p.m. LCOOR Family Fun Night Christmas Bingo

Monday December 16

January Newsletter Deadline
8:00 a.m. Watertown Sandwich Ministry
6:45 p.m. Al-Anon

Tuesday December 17

10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Group
11:00 a.m. Text Study
1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

Wednesday December 18

Christmas Plant Order Deadline
8:00 a.m. Watertown Sandwich Ministry
10:00 a.m. Preschool Christmas Program
12:15 p.m. Men's Lunch
4:45 p.m. Community Meal (Pizza)
5:30 p.m. Church School
5:30 p.m. Confirmation Workshop
6:30 p.m. Church School Christmas Program
7:15 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal

Attendance & Offering

November 24 Live Stream- 108
Saturday, November 30- 48
Sunday, December 1- 254
Wednesday, November 27- Thanksgiving Break

Offering (11/27-12/1):

General Fund: \$8,050;
Mission of the Month: \$125.36;
Debt Reduction: \$20;
Other: \$60;

Simply Giving Offering (11/25-11/29):

General Fund: \$3,970.75;
Debt Reduction: \$230;
Mission of the Month: \$30;
Other: \$50;

Staff

Senior Pastor

Dan Overbo

Associate Pastor

Laura Overbo

Welcoming & Caring Ministries

Twila Schmitt

Director of Faith Formation

Philip Lickei

Business Manager

Jodi Spilde

Business Administrative Assistant

Megan Thyen

Preschool

Nikki Landmark, Director/Teacher
Wendy Kruger, Paraprofessional & Faith Formation Assistant

Sound & Technology

Zach Stanton

Custodian

Roman Gainor

DECEMBER 8, 2024 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Advent brings peace to God's people.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Sunday | Luke 3:1-6 | Prepare the way of the Lord |
| Monday | Malachi 3:1-4 | The promised messenger |
| Tuesday | Luke 1:68-79 | Zechariah praises the Lord |
| Wednesday | Mark 1:1-8 | The preaching of John the Baptist |
| Thursday | Philippians 1:3-11 | Peace to God's people |
| Friday | Isaiah 40:1-11 | A voice in the desert |
| Saturday | Psalm 126 | Harvest of joy |
| Sunday | Luke 3:7-18 | One more powerful is coming |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

[John the Baptist] went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

Luke 3:3-4 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help us to prepare for your coming into our lives and world so that we may know your peace through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Lord, bless this meal and our home this Advent with peace as we prepare for your coming. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God guide you into the way of peace. (Luke 1:79)



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DECEMBER 8, 2024

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Prepare the Royal Highway

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.



CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- To repent means “to turn around.” When is a time you were headed in the wrong direction and had to turn around?
- God does not come to us and leave us unchanged. How does God’s love shown in Jesus change you?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Luke 1:67-79.

This is a New Testament psalm known as the song of Zechariah. It is a very important song that has been used in the *Matins* (morning prayer) service over the centuries in the church. Zechariah is prophesying, meaning he is giving us a Spirit-filled message for our lives today. Zechariah prepares us for the fulfillment of God’s promise of salvation that is about to happen. The psalm is a beautiful testimony to “*the tender mercy of our God*” (v. 78) that will bring joy to the world. The promise of a messenger to prepare the way of the Lord (Malachi 3:1-4) is being fulfilled with the birth of Zechariah’s and Elizabeth’s son, John the Baptist. Reread Luke 1:67-79 and pause to feel the joy and gladness of Zechariah’s song with the message that will “*guide our feet into the way of peace*” (v. 79b).

Discuss: How does reading Zechariah’s song bring you peace and joy?

Pray: **Merciful God, you have prepared us for a joy we cannot fully imagine. Bless us now and always with the light of Christ to guide our feet into the way of peace. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how might you help someone experience the peace of God’s presence?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The second candle on the Advent Wreath symbolizes the theme of peace. Discuss or think about how preparing the way of the Lord can bring peace. Light the first candle of hope and the second candle of peace on the Advent Wreath.

Say: **Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways.**

(Luke 1: 67, 76)

Pray: **Lord God, as we prepare for the coming of our Savior and Lord, guide our feet into the way of peace. Amen.**

In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

