

HE COMES,
BEARING
gifts



THE GIFT OF HOPE

First Sunday in Advent
December 2, 2018





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WELCOME

God welcomes you no matter who you are – and so do we. Thank you for joining us in God's house today. Whether you are a first-time guest, a friend or relative of a member, or a curious observer from a different religious background, we are delighted to be with you in worship.

A NOTE ABOUT WORSHIP

We believe that Jesus is the Savior of all. By his life, death, and resurrection Jesus saves all sinners simply because he loves us. That is called the gospel, and it's the good news on every page of God's Word. Therefore, the Bible is not just information about God or rules from God, but the saving power God uses to create and strengthen faith in our hearts and restore our lives. Lutheran worship places this good news at the center of the worship service with an order called *liturgy*. In both the Word and sacrament (Means of Grace), in specifically selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted and often ancient songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news of Jesus from start to finish.

Lutheran worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children). For your ease and convenience, the order of service is printed out entirely. If a song is not found in this service folder, it can be found in the red hymnal located in front of you. Parts marked **L** are spoken or sung by the worship leader, and the parts marked **C** and printed in bold are spoken or sung by the congregation.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

- **Quiet Bags** are for any parents with small children. They are on a stand in the back of church.
- **Weekly News & Notes** are printed in the back of this worship folder.
- **Restrooms** are to the left as you walk out the back of church or in the basement.
- **Website:** oursaviourwels.org

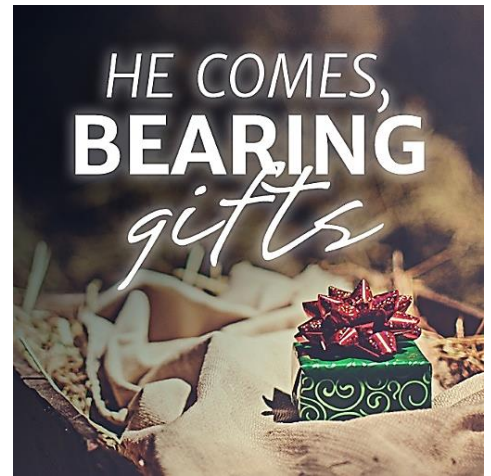
OUR CHURCH BODY

Our Saviour's proclaims the truth about Jesus throughout the world as a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (wels.net). We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the Wisconsin Synod, as well as the churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS).



OUR WORSHIP SERIES

Our Lord Jesus is coming, bearing real gifts, profoundly important gifts. He came that first Christmas to win forgiveness and give all the gifts that come with it: hope, peace, joy, love. He is coming again at the end of this world to give the gift of resurrection to eternal life. In the season of Advent, we connect Christ's first coming with his second coming. We rejoice in all the unconditional gifts he gives. Each Sunday during the gathering rite Advent candles are lighted. Music occurs throughout this rite to accompany singing and as background music to communicate themes of longing and repentance.



Dec. 2 – The Gift of Hope

Dec. 9 – The Gift of Peace

Dec. 16 – The Gift of Joy

Dec. 23 – Children's Christmas Service: *Saints and Angel Hosts Rejoice*

The Gift of Hope

When you look at the downward spiral of humanity, it is easy to grow cynical. The world seems to grow more dangerous each year. People are more divided than they have been in a long time. Immorality is no longer something that people try to hide. As a nation, we have become largely disinterested in God. Disgusted by the world, we then look in the mirror, and things do not improve much. For we must confess that we are not pillars of nobility either.

Looking at our world or at ourselves, we could become jaded. But today, Christ Jesus wants us to set that aside and, instead, to live in hope. Our hope is not a naïve wish that things will get better. Our hope is rooted in the fact that Christ came at that first Christmas to forgive every sin. Our hope is that just as he kept his promise to come the first time, Jesus will keep his promise to come again and destroy everything that is wrong with Creation. Judgment Day will be full of incomprehensible terror for those who have aligned themselves with the world. But Christians hope that day comes soon. Confident that we are wrapped in Christ's righteousness, it will be a day of great deliverance.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Rev. Thomas Moldenhauer - pastor of Our Saviour's

Deb Selland - organist

Kurt Icenogle - elder

Don Land, Bill Rambough, Larry Zacher - ushers

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



ORDER OF SERVICE

PRESERVICE MUSIC & PASTOR'S WELCOME

Please stand.

This time with one another is also time with our Triune God, who feeds us in Word and Sacrament.

GATHERING

L In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C (spoken) **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

Genesis 1:26

L When God created the world, he made the crown of his creation—the human race—in his image. Perfect people lived in a perfect world in a perfect relationship with God.

Romans 6:23

C **But mankind rebelled against God, bringing sin into the world and death to all. God declared the wages of sin to be death. We too are guilty, and we confess our sinful thoughts, words, and actions.**

L However, God—who is Love—did not want to be separated from his children forever. He promised a Savior who would bear the punishment for sin, defeat the devil, and break the bonds of death.

All sing:

O, come, O, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
 Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 Un-til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 Em-man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

L When the time had fully come, God sent his Son. Jesus, our Savior, has paid the ransom for your debt; your sins are forgiven. In view of God’s mercy, today we light the hope candle. The Spirit declares through the psalmist, “Put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love, and with him is full redemption.”

Galatians 4:4

C We wait for the Lord, and in his word we put our hope.

Psalms 130:5,7

Choir sings:

L In the hope of God we go to the world—to our friends, relatives, acquaintances and neighbors. We regard no one from a worldly point of view. If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

C God has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. Jesus, who had no sin, became sin for us; in him we have become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

All sing:

+ THE WORD +

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L Let us pray.

Pastor says the Prayer of the Day (at the bottom of page 3).

C Amen.

Please be seated.

The nation of Israel lived in hope that, one day, a descendant of King David would provide perfect justice, safety, and righteousness. God fulfilled this promise when he sent Jesus, not to be the King of Israel, but to be the Savior of the world.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴ “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.

¹⁵ “In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land.

¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called:
The Lord Our Righteous Savior.’ ”



L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

1 I lift my soul to you, Lord, I trust, O God, in you.
 2 Your cov - e - nant and mer - cy are with me all my days

Send forth your truth to guide me, and teach me what to do.
 to com - fort and to bless me while fol - low - ing your ways.

Re - mem - ber your great mer - cy, your ev - er - last - ing love;
 When - ev - er I look up - ward, I find you wait - ing there,

for - give me, God, my Sav - ior, my guilt and sin re - move.
 to bear me and to keep me be - neath your lov - ing care.

We live in the certain hope of being found holy and blameless on Judgment Day. We can be certain in that hope because God promises that through his Word he will strengthen the faith in Jesus that lives in our hearts.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 1:9-13

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. ¹² May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. ¹³ May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 12:18,21

C Refrain (after a brief introduction)



Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le - lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le - lu-ia.

Choir: See my servant, my chosen one, my love and my delight.
In his name all nations hope. Alleluia.

C Refrain (without introduction)

There are signs all around us that Christ could return anytime. We hope that he does, because we know that for God's children, Jesus isn't bringing judgment, but redemption.

GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶ People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷ At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees.³⁰ When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. ³¹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

³² “Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁴ “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

L The Gospel of our Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Savior of the Nations, Come | 2

SERMON

Luke 21:25-36

Hope Outdoes Optimism

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 fully 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 shall 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, and giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the body and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THANK OFFERING

1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

The members of Our Saviour's Lutheran join together to do the Lord's work in Bismarck and throughout the world in our church body, the WELS. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.

*Please help us be a friendly church by taking a moment to fill out the **Friendship Register** located at the end of the pew.*

Please stand.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*Throughout the prayer, when Pastor says, "Lord, in your mercy..." the congregation responds by saying, "**Hear our prayer.**"*

LORD'S PRAYER

Luke 11:1-4; Matthew 6:9-13

C **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.**



✝ THE SACRAMENT ✝

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

L Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

L It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Recorded for us in Isaiah 6:4, angels sing, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty," in the presence of the Triune God. The Church sings the same song in preparation for His Supper, faithfully confessing the Lord's true presence in the Sacrament.

Pastor speaks these words of Jesus to set apart the bread and wine for the Lord's miraculous meal of his body and blood.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

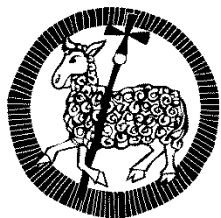
1 Corinthians 11:23-25

L Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.



John the Baptist saw Jesus and said, "Look the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." John 1:29

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
 you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
 O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 grant us your peace. A - men.



DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

Our Saviour's observes the Biblical teaching of close communion. Therefore, we ask that only current members (WELS/ ELS) come forward to receive the Sacrament at the direction of the ushers. If you have questions, please speak with Pastor before partaking.

✓ One option for preparation is available in the red hymnal on page 156.

During the distribution the congregation is invited to sing the following hymns:

HYMN **Jesus, Your Church with Longing Eyes** | 9

HYMN **Hosanna to the Coming Lord** | 21

After the distribution please stand.

L Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C **His mercy endures forever.**

Psalm 118:1

L Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

*1 Corinthians
11:26*

L We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE LORD'S BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

L The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C (spoken) **Amen.**

This is the blessing God has bestowed on his people since the time of Moses (for over 3,500 years). These are the final words in worship as we depart with God's peace and power.

THIS WEEK

Today – **Service @ 9am with Lord's Supper**
Bible Hour @ 10:15am
Sunday School Christmas Practice

Monday – Men's Group @ 6:30pm

Wednesday – Catechism @ 6pm

Sunday – **Service @ 9am**
Bible Hour @ 10:15am
Sunday School Christmas Practice

BIRTHDAYS

Ethan Kershaw – December 2

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PRACTICE

The Children's Christmas service is Dec 23rd. They will be having practices each Sunday for the next 3 weeks.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER NEEDED

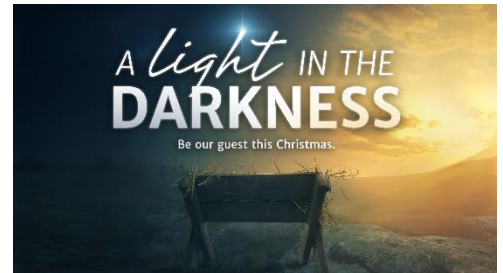
We will have an opening in our Sunday School staff in the K-2 grade room. Beth Kocis will be stepping down when a replacement is found. If you are interested in more information talk to Pastor.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS BUS EVENT

We have reserved a bus for up to 33 people that tours the city of Bismarck for Christmas lights on Saturday, December 15 at 5pm. Sign up if you want to ride. The cost is \$2 per person.

CHRISTMAS EVANGELISM

Personal business-card sized invites were placed in your member box last Sunday. Please pray and consider who you can invite to our Christmas Eve service. We are also putting together door hangers and will have those available soon. These are simple and easy ways to join the effort of inviting people to hear the good news of Jesus, who is the *Light in the Darkness* (our Christmas theme this year).



LITTLE TREASURES PLAYGROUP

The next playgroup date is Thursday, December 13 at 10am. This is a chance for kids and moms to meet up for a fun hour of songs, games, and a Bible story. We'd love for you join us and invite your friends.



Sign up for C18 at
welscongregationalservices.net/c18

1,000,000. It is a big number. Yet, that is the goal—to share the gospel with one-million souls prior to and on Christmas Eve 2018. The only way to reach that goal for the army of saints that is the WELS to work together. Each member, young and old, needs to embrace the privilege and responsibility of sharing Christ with unchurched friends, relatives, and neighbors.

A simple way to do that—invite them to come with you to your congregation’s Christmas Eve worship service. Christmas Eve has surpassed Easter as the worship service that unchurched individuals are most likely to attend. A recent survey found that 80% of unchurched adults would seriously consider accepting an invitation, extended by a friend, to attend a Christmas Eve service.

C18 (short for “Christmas 2018”) is a program produced by WELS Congregational Services to help our churches and members undertake this effort. When you sign up at welscongregationalservices.net/c18, you will receive weekly updates, resources, and encouragement to help you in your effort to share the good news of the Christ child.

Christmas will be here before you know it. Sign up now!

WHOM WILL YOU REACH?

C18 DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

The C18 program has produced a devotional booklet for families to use as they prepare for Christmas. It is available in print or you can download it yourself here:

<https://welscongregationalservices.net/download/c18-discipleship/#wpdmpp-product-files>



Below is an excerpt from the back pages of the booklet that outlines how prayer and devotions help you think about mission work at Christmas time:

OUR PERSONAL MISSION FIELD

DECEMBER 2 THROUGH DECEMBER 8

Each day, one member of the family take turns adding a name or two to the list on page 51. Think of the people you know who do not seem like they have a church they attend regularly. Include those individuals in your prayers during the devotion.

DECEMBER 9 THROUGH DECEMBER 15

You can add additional names. But in this week, begin to invite the people on page 51 to join you on Christmas Eve: by phone, email, or face-to-face. See page 16 for examples of what to say or write.

DECEMBER 16 THROUGH DECEMBER 22

Continue to invite the people you have listed on page 51. Continue to pray that they accept your invitation. If multiple people accept, plan how things will work on Christmas Eve. Will you meet them at church or pick them up?

AFTER DECEMBER 25

Contact those who accepted your invitation and thank them for attending. Invite them to join you again in the future.