



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Sharing God's Love with All!

First Sunday of Christmas

January 1, 2016, 9:15 am

Welcome

Gathering Hymn.....*Bright and Glorious Is The Sky (vs 1-3)*.....#301

Bright and glorious is the sky, radiant are the heavens high where the golden stars are shining. All their rays to earth inclining beckon us to heav'n above, beckon us to heav'n above.

On that holy Christmas night through the darkness beamed a light; all the stars above were paling; all their luster slowly failing as the wondrous star drew nigh, as the wondrous star drew nigh.

Sages from the East afar, when they saw this wondrous star, went to find the king of nations and to offer their oblations to the child, the newborn king, to the child, the newborn king.

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Confession (Let us pray together)

C: Gracious God, in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in darkness. We confess our failure to welcome this light. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the light of your grace, and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

P: I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord. Your sins are forgiven in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

****Order of Service - Page 138 in the Hymnal****

Kyrie (Each petition will end with "Let us pray to the Lord"; please respond "**Lord, have mercy**".)

Canticle of Praise.....Page 140

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Prayer of the Day

C: Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Psalm.....Psalm 40:1-10

P: I waited patiently for God to help me; then he listened and heard me cry.

C: He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out from the bog and the mire, and set my feet on a hard, firm path, and steadied me as I walked along.

P: He has given me a new song to sing, of praises to our God. Now many will hear of the glorious things he did for me, and stand in awe before the Lord, and put their trust in him.

C: Many blessings are given to those who trust the Lord and have no

confidence in those who are proud or who trust in idols.

P: O Lord my God, many and many a time you have done great miracles for us, and we are ever in your thoughts. Who else can do such glorious things? No one else can be compared with you. There isn't time to tell of all your wonderful deeds.

C: It isn't sacrifices and offerings that you really want from your people. Burnt animals bring no special joy to your heart. But you have accepted the offer of my lifelong service.

P: Then I said, "See, I have come, just as all the prophets foretold.

C: And I delight to do your will, my God, for your law is written upon my heart!"

P: I have told everyone the good news that you forgive people's sins. I have not been timid about it, as you well know, O Lord.

C: I have not kept this good news hidden in my heart, but have proclaimed your loving - kindness and truth to all the congregation.

Reading.....2 Kings 2:1-15

God's Messengers.....Pastor Dorothy Sandahl

Hymn of the Day.....*Let All Together Praise Our God (vs 1-3)*.....#287

Let all together praise our God before the highest throne; today God opens heav'n again and sends the only Son, and sends the only Son.

From God's right hand the Son descends, is born an infant small, and lies in poverty, his bed a manger in a stall, a manger in a stall.

O tender Child, you veil in flesh the splendor of your might; a servant's garb now wraps the one who clothed the sky with light, who clothed the sky with light.

Prayers of Intercession (Each petition will end with “Lord in your mercy”; please respond “**Hear our prayers**”.)

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

Offering Hymn.....*Lord, I Lift Your Name On High*.....#857

Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your praises. I’m so glad you’re in my life, I’m so glad you came to save us. You came from heaven to earth to show the way, from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay, from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.

Offering Prayer

P: God with us: You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving.....Page 144

Words of Institution

P: For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn 1.....*As With Gladness Men Of Old (vs 1-3)*.....#302

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold; as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright; so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led by thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed, there to bend the knee before thee, whom heav'n and earth adore; so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at thy cradle, rude and bare, so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.

Communion Hymn 2.....*Angels From The Realms Of Glory (vs 1-3)*.....#275

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.

Communion Prayer

P: On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn.....*The Bells Of Christmas (vs 1,4-5)*.....#298

The bells of Christmas chime once more; the heav'nly guest is at the door. He comes to earthly dwellings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.

Oh, join with me, in gladness sing, to keep our Christmas with our king, until our song, from loving souls, like rushing mighty water rolls!

O patriarchs' Joy, O prophets' Song, O Dayspring bright, awaited long, O Son of Man, incarnate Word, great David's Son, great David's Lord:

Blessing

P: May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Go in peace, love and serve the Lord, and one another!

C: Thanks be to God.

Announcements

Celebration Sunday: Today we celebrate all of those who have had a birthday or special occasion occur in the month of December. Thanks to

all who have provided treats to share after worship. God bless!

Un-decorating the Church: We will be taking down the Christmas decorations in the church on Monday, January 9th, starting at 3:00pm. We welcome anyone to come and join our fellowship of workers!

Joint Service: We will be having a joint service with Grace Lutheran on Sunday, January 15th at Grace starting at 9:15am. We will also be having pot luck after worship, so bring a dish to pass!

Committee Leaders: Please remember to update the office, or write on the calendar outside of the office, times of any practices, meetings, events, and so forth so that they can be added to the Sunday announcements and monthly Messengers. Thanks!

Annual Meeting: Our Saviour's annual congregational meeting will take place after worship on Sunday, February 5th. Committees will need to have their annual reports turned into the office no later than **Thursday, January 19th**. Thank you!

Church Board Positions: We are currently seeking nominees for our various church boards. We have several openings available including: President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Church Council; an opening on the Board of Finance, Board of Youth and Family, and the Nominating Committee; two openings on the Worship and Music Committee and Council at Large, and lastly, two Auditors are needed. Please contact the church office or Mary Richter at 715-985-2261 with any questions or if you are interested in becoming a board member.

Happy Birthday: Wishing a happy birthday this upcoming week to: **Megan Densmore, Iva Gabriel, Duane Fimreite, Aaliyah Macharia, Melissa Pientok, Renae Stendahl, Gaylord Stuve, Tyanna Beck, Sharon**

Ringstad, Kelly Herness, Anna Kopp, and Mikailah Lindberg.

Please pray for the following: Barb Harms, Karl Fernholz, Roy Arneson, George Przybilla, Goodwin Anderson, Vicki Windjue, Steven Hanvold, Ralph Johnson, Lara Schansberg, Charlie Bratz, Fern Moe, Bob Guinn, Jeff Betthouser, Mary Eid Everson, Jerry Betthouser, Elaine Foss, Linda Schroeder, Christin Stoutner, and Bev Brey.

Coming Up This Week:

Monday - Bible Study 6:15pm

Tuesday - Quilting 8:30am

Church Council Meeting 7:00pm

Wednesday - Bible Study 9:30am

Wednesday Worship 5:30pm

Confirmation 6:00pm

Finance and Property Meeting 6:00pm

JCrew 6:30pm

Senior Choir Practice 7:00pm

Thursday - Trempealeau County Nursing Home Worship 10:00am

Sunday - Worship 9:15am

Sunday School 10:15am

Pastor: Dorothy Sandahl

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Church Website: oslcwhitehall.org

Church Email:

osluthwh@gmail.com

Office Hours: Mon-Wed-Fri.

10am-1pm; Tues-Thurs. 7am-2pm

Assisting in Worship Today:

Accompanist: Nancy Martinovici

Ushers: Fred and Jan Staff

Communion Servers: Joe and
Maddy Frank

Videographer: Mike Gilbertson