



**GOOD NEWS**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# No 3<sup>rd</sup> Option

*Jesus shuts the door on finding our own way.*

Service Focus:

## Count the Cost or Quit

Good News Lutheran Church | Mount Horeb, Wisconsin  
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost | September 7, 2025



# GOOD NEWS

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Welcome!

We are grateful to have you with us for our service today. You have joined us for the most important time we spend together. Each time we gather as a family of faith, we make the gospel (or good news) of Jesus our central focus. We do so relying on Jesus' promise that, wherever two or three come together in his name, he is present among them to deliver his gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

### For Your Convenience

- » **The order of service** is printed in this folder. Large print copies are available from an usher. If a song is not printed in this service folder, it can be found in the blue hymnal located near your seat.
- » **Restrooms** are located in the hallway to the north of the atrium.
- » **Children** who are with us during the service are a source of joy and encouragement to us all. Children's activity bags are available in the atrium. If your child needs a moment, a nursery is available to the left out of the sanctuary doors. Let us know if we can offer a hand with your little ones.
- » **Hearing assistance** devices are available from an usher in the atrium.

*Should you have questions or need assistance, please ask an usher.*

### Service Leaders

Pastor of Good News: Jonathan Bauer

Vicar of Good News: Calvin Arstein

Pianist: Stephanie Shinnick

Vocalist: Sarah Wisner

Instrumentalists: Holly LaPlante, Sam Steinich, Jonathan Bauer

## Time of Year: Sundays after Pentecost

The Festival of Pentecost marks the transition from the first half of the Christian Church Year to the second. During this Sundays after Pentecost, our attention shifts from the life of Christ to the teachings of Christ. Jesus' words establish our faith, transform our hearts and minds, and guide our lives in him. The liturgical color is green for the spiritual growth the Holy Spirit works in our hearts through the Word.



## Current Series: No 3<sup>rd</sup> Option

Compromise has its place. Finding middle ground can be good. But when it comes to many of life's most important issues, compromise can be catastrophic and middle ground can collapse. That's why, in love, Jesus often presents us with just two options. He makes it clear we can have one or the other but not both.

August 24	Pentecost 11	Enter the Narrow Door or Stay Shut Out
August 31	Pentecost 12	Be Exalted or Be Humbled
<b>September 7</b>	<b>Pentecost 13</b>	<b>Count the Cost or Quit</b>
September 14	Pentecost 14	Serve God or Serve Money
September 21	Pentecost 15	Get Found or Get Left
September 28	Pentecost 16	Be Helped or Be Helpless

## Service Focus

This week we hear Jesus encourage us to carefully count the cost of following him. The time to do this is in advance—before that cost needs to be paid. Then we can calmly and objectively assess both the cost and the gain of following Jesus. Jesus knows that if we start following him naïve of what it may cost, we will inevitably end up quitting when the time to pay that cost arrives.

## Prayer before the Service

O merciful Lord, you did not spare your only Son but delivered him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Morning Prayer is  
one of the services  
of the Daily Office,  
a set of brief  
patterns for  
worship and  
prayer appointed  
for various times  
throughout the  
day.*

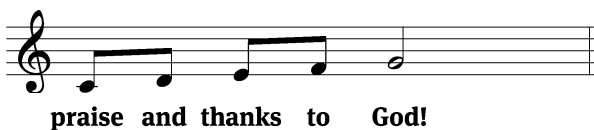
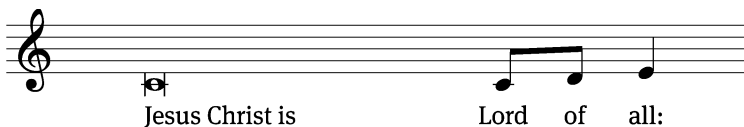
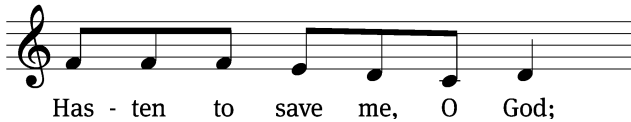
# Morning Prayer



## Hymn


694 Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

*Stand*



## Come, Let Us Praise the Lord *Venite*

*"Venite," which means "Come!", is the title of the canticle used at the beginning of Morning Prayer. Its words are based on Psalm 95:1-7*



1 Come, let us praise the LORD, with joy our God ac -  
2 Our God of match - less worth, our King be - yond com -  
3 In wor - ship bow the knee, our glo - rious God con -  
4 Come, hear his voice to - day, re - ceive what love im -

claim, his great - ness tell a - broad and bless his  
pare, the deep - est bounds of earth, the hills, are  
fess; the great Cre - a - tor, he, the LORD our  
parts; his ho - ly will o - bey and hard - en

sav - ing name. Lift high your songs be -  
in his care. He all de - crees, who  
Right - eous - ness. He reigns un - seen: his  
not your hearts. His ways are best and

fore his throne to whom a - lone all praise be - longs.  
by his hand pre - pared the land and formed the seas.  
flock he feeds and gent - ly leads in pas - tures green.  
lead at last, all trou - bles past, to per - fect rest.

## Prayer of the Day

O merciful Lord, you did not spare your only Son but delivered him up for us all.  
Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow him, who lives and  
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## Children's Devotion

*Prior to scattering  
and settling within  
the Promised  
Land, the LORD  
wants his people  
to calculate  
carefully the  
choice between life  
and death.*

### First Reading

Deuteronomy 30:15–20

<sup>15</sup>See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. <sup>16</sup>For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

<sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

<sup>19</sup>This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live <sup>20</sup>and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

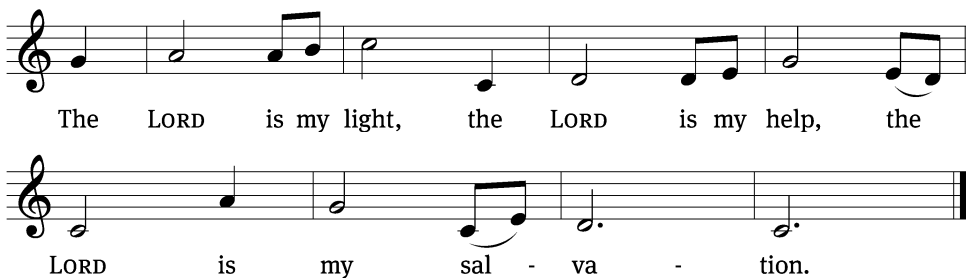
*Psalms have been  
used by God's  
people in worship  
since the Old  
Testament.*

*The Church sings  
Psalm 1 in services  
that emphasize the  
benefits of  
meditation on the  
law of the Lord.*

### Psalm of the Day

Psalm 1

#### Refrain



Blessed is the one who does not walk  
**in step with the wicked**

or stand in the way that sinners take  
**or sit in the company of mockers,**

but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,  
**and who meditates on his law day and night.**

That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
**which yields its fruit in season**

and whose leaf does not wither—  
**whatever they do prospers.**

Not so the wicked!  
**They are like chaff that the wind blows away.**

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
**nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.**

For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,  
**but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen. *Refrain***

*Stand*

*Jesus forces his  
followers to  
calculate carefully  
the cost - and the  
benefit - of  
following him.*

## **Gospel**

Luke 14:25–35

<sup>25</sup>Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: <sup>26</sup>“If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.

<sup>27</sup>And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

<sup>28</sup>“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? <sup>29</sup>For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

<sup>31</sup>“Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

<sup>34</sup>“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? <sup>35</sup>It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.

“Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## **Hymn**

867 Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near



<sup>1</sup>Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,  
To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker—

<sup>7</sup>Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother,  
have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

<sup>8</sup>Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you  
ought to do, <sup>9</sup>yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other  
than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus— <sup>10</sup>that I appeal to  
you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. <sup>11</sup>Formerly he  
was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

<sup>12</sup>I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. <sup>13</sup>I would have liked to  
keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in  
chains for the gospel. <sup>14</sup>But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so  
that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary. <sup>15</sup>Perhaps the  
reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him  
back forever— <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is  
very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the  
Lord.

<sup>17</sup>So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup>If he  
has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. <sup>19</sup>I, Paul, am  
writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me  
your very self. <sup>20</sup>I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the  
Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup>Confident of your obedience, I write to you,  
knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

*Te Deum  
Laudamus is an  
ancient Latin hymn  
whose title means  
“We Praise You,  
God.” Martin  
Luther thought so  
highly of the words  
of this hymn that  
he referred to it as  
the fourth  
Christian creed.*

## Holy God, We Praise Your Name *Te Deum Laudamus*



1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of  
2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel  
3 All a - pos - tles join the strain as your  
4 You are King of glo - ry, Christ, Son of  
5 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly



all, we bow be - fore you. All on  
choirs a - bove are rais - ing; cher - u -  
sa - cred name they hal - low; proph - ets  
God, yet born of Mar - y, for us  
Spir - it, three we name you, though in



earth your scep - ter claim; all in heav'n a -  
him and ser - a - phim, in un - ceas - ing  
swell the glad re - frain, and the white - robed  
sin - ners sac - ri - ficed, on the cross our  
es - sence on - ly one, un - di - vid - ed



bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your vast do -  
cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heav'ns with sweet ac -  
mar - tyrs fol - low, and from morn to set of  
sins did car - ry; first to break the bars of  
God we claim you, and, a - dor - ing, bend the



main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.  
cord: “Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!”  
sun through the Church the song goes on.  
death, you have o - pened heav'n to faith.  
knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

*Be seated*

## Offering

*Thank you for joining us! You can ask a question, request information, or submit a prayer request at **GoodNewsLC.org/connect** (or scan the QR code on the back of the service folder). To support our ministry with an offering, visit **GoodNewsLC.org/give**.*

*Stand*

### **Lord, Have Mercy**    *Kyrie*

In the morning, O Lord, I call to you;  
be merciful to me and hear my prayer.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

O God, our King, you counted the terrible cost of our salvation and sent your Son to give his life on the cross. Inspire our hearts to trust fully in his sacrificial victory, that we would follow in his way through death and into eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, you are our life and length of days, and you set before us your gift of life in your holy Word. Preserve your institutions of marriage and family. Guard husbands and wives, parents and children, both from despising and from idolizing one another. Instead, let every relationship in the home exemplify your unconditional love for us in Christ, and grant that all might follow him in their service to one another. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Good Lord, preserve us from the ways of the wicked, and prosper us in your paths. We commend to you all who bear office in our land and ask you to make them a blessing to those they serve. Grant to us every joy in the calling you have given to us, that we might render service to you in our works of love toward our neighbor. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

O Lord, give the strength of the Spirit to all who are suffering or in any kind of need, [*especially...*] that they may all have the courage and will to take up their crosses and follow the Savior through suffering into the joys of life everlasting. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Preserve us, O Lord, from all temptation and grant us faith, that we may rest all our prayers and the desires of our hearts in your merciful arms, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **Prayer**

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of faith of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **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.**

*Be seated*

## Blessing

The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*2 Corinthians 13:14*

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## Hymn

829 Take Heart

+ + +

## Acknowledgments

Come Let Us Praise the Lord. Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith. Tune: John Darwall. Text: © 1984 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722758. Tune: Public domain.

Psalm of the Day. Text: adapt. Adrian Smith; Christopher Walker Tune: adapt. Adrian Smith; Christopher Walker Setting: adapt. Adrian Smith; Christopher Walker Text and music: © 1996 Christopher Walker. Published by OCP (refrain). Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722758

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-722758 and CCLI #11178086.

## Serving You Today

Greeter(s): Sutter

Ushers: Kevin Hanson, Dan Behringer

Fellowship Snacks: Hanson, Vierck

Audio-Video: Jon Schulz

Church Cleaning: Johnson, Gibney

Counters: Mo Stecklein, Craig LaPlante

Youth Assistants: Jonathan Biank, Gregory Rottinger, Luke Christensen

Nursery Care:

# The News @ Good News

*September 7, 2025*

## **Start of Sunday School and Bible Study**

A new year of Sunday School and Bible studies begins today. Sunday School starts at 10:15 a.m. with music in the sanctuary. Teen and adult Bible studies begin at 10:30 a.m. All classes conclude at 11:15 a.m. Join us for these weekly opportunities for people of all ages to grow in God's Word.

## **Adult Bible Study: The Bible and Bioethics**

Medical technology continues to advance at a dizzying pace. Whether it's how a life begins, how a life ends, or how a life is treated in between, what we *can* do is constantly expanding. As a result, Christians face more and more opportunities to ask what we *ought* to do. This class aims to lay a solid, biblical foundation that will help Christians thoughtfully evaluate the ethics of today's (and tomorrow's) medical advances. Adult Bible study meets on Sundays from 10:30-11:15 a.m.

**Sign Up!**



## **Fall 2024 Good News Groups**

Good News Groups allow members to connect, grow, and serve in specific, tangible ways within small, close-knit groups of people. Our fall Good News Groups are now open for registration! View our catalog of groups and sign up for as many as you'd like at the table in the atrium or by scanning the QR Code.

**Register**



## **“What Does This Mean?” An Introduction to Good News**

“What Does This Mean?” examines life's most important questions on the basis of God's Word, the Bible. This class is a great opportunity for Good News members to review the teachings of the Lutheran church; it's also a class designed for anyone interested in membership at Good News. Our next class is starting up in September. Visit [GoodNewsLC.org/WDTM](http://GoodNewsLC.org/WDTM) for more information or to register.

## **Fall Festival on September 21**

On Sunday, September 21, we will be holding a Fall Festival following our Sunday service. That morning, musical guests The Lutheran Ceili Orchestra will be leading our service. The festival afterwards will include food from local vendors, and outdoor games and activities. The event is intended to be a great opportunity to invite our community (and friends, family, coworkers) to join us at Good News.

We need your help! You can volunteer for any of four shifts, including set up beforehand and clean up afterwards. A signup sheet is in the atrium.

### **Volunteer**



## **Collection for Compassion Crew Project**

Our Good News Compassion Crew is planning a project to assist with the rebuilding effort of Kurt's Kluckin' Koop, which was destroyed by fire after being struck by lightning last spring. The project includes building chicken nests and roosts for the new barn. We are hoping to collect \$500 to cover the cost of materials. To make a donation, go to our online giving page and select the Benevolence Fund for your gift. Gifts in excess of the amount required to build the nests and roosts will be used for other Compassion Crew projects.

### **Donate**





# About Us

## Our Mission

Good News Lutheran Church was established in 2013 as a mission effort of Resurrection Lutheran Church in Verona. Our mission is to help people find relief from life's distressing noise by preaching, teaching, and sharing the Bible's good news.

## Our Contact Information

Physical Address: 9975 Pepper Drive  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 407  
Mount Horeb, WI 53572  
(608) 437-4646  
GoodNewsLC.org

## Give Online



## Our Ministry

Sunday Worship: 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Online Broadcast: 9:00 a.m. on our website, Facebook, and YouTube

Bible Classes and Sunday School: Sundays at 10:15 a.m.

## Our Pastor

Pastor Jonathan Bauer  
Pastor@GoodNewsLC.org  
(608) 772-7500

## Let us know you were here!



## Our Church Body

Good News Lutheran Church proclaims the truth about Jesus throughout the world as a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). 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).

