



GOOD NEWS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

GETTING



One day in time. God with us forever.

Service Focus:

Through his messengers; to judge

Good News Lutheran Church | Mount Horeb, Wisconsin
Second Sunday in Advent | December 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: Brock Havens, Tom Hansel

Scan for
hearing
assistance app



Time of Year: Advent

The word “Advent” comes from a Latin word meaning “coming.” As we begin a new Church Year, we see how our God does not keep us at arm’s length but came in the flesh at Christmas, comes to us today in Word and Sacrament, and will come in glory on the last day. The liturgical color of Advent is blue, symbolizing the hope we have as we wait for Jesus’ return.



Current Series: Getting Close

Christmas is getting close. Depending on how much work there is to do, that can be good news or bad news. But here’s some news that’s only good: Christmas is God getting close. Jesus is Immanuel—God with us. This one day on the calendar means God is with us forever.

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|---|
| November 30 | Advent 1 | From the start; to the finish |
| December 7 | Advent 2 | Through his messengers; to judge |
| December 14 | Advent 3 | Festival of Scripture and Song |
| December 21 | Advent 4 | Of a virgin; as promised |

Service Focus

This week we see that, when God gets close, it helps us judge ourselves and others correctly. Rather than being fooled by appearances or fixating on superficial differences, God’s judgment accurately gets to the very heart of things. All people are sinful and need to repent. All people are able to find forgiveness for those sins through faith in Jesus. This was the message John the Baptist proclaimed in advance of Jesus’ arrival, and it’s the message God still delivers through the messengers who preach and teach his Word.

Prayer before the Service

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The Service



Hymn

311 Dawning Light of Our Salvation

Stand

Both the invocation and sign of the cross are reminders of our baptism.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

When Jesus first commanded his church to baptize in God's triune name and proclaim all he had taught, he promised he would always be with them. Though he is no longer with us visibly, he continues to fulfill what had been foretold through the prophet Isaiah:

Matthew 1:23

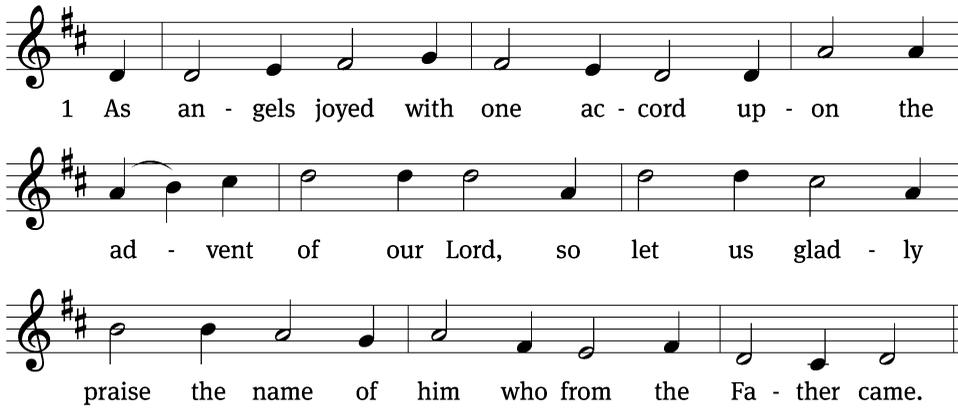
They will call him Immanuel (which means "God with us").

We gather today following Jesus' command and trusting his promise to be with us as we do.

Psalm 24:7

Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

The congregation sings:



1 As an - gels joyed with one ac - cord up - on the
ad - vent of our Lord, so let us glad - ly
praise the name of him who from the Fa - ther came.

Confession

Jesus is with us, not to condemn or destroy but to pardon and save. Therefore, we hear and heed his call: Repent, for the kingdom of God has come near.

Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.

Matthew 3:2-3

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Absolution

Philippians 2:6–8;
Matthew 18:20

In order to pardon and save, Jesus came in our flesh and took the form a servant. He humbled himself and become obedient to death on a cross. Though he now sits at God’s right hand in unapproachable majesty and might, Jesus continues to dwell with us here and now in humble form. He continues to be Immanuel—God with us—in the words he sends his messengers to speak: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The congregation sings:



2 He came, not clothed in maj - es - ty nor pow'r that
3 This done, he soared to God's right hand, yet or - phaned
suits his de - i - ty. In low - ly state he
not his cho - sen band, for he, not bound in
walked till he in dy - ing set us cap - tives free.
grace and pow'r, at - tends his own each day and hour.

Advent Prayer

Jesus is also with us to deliver all we need as we wait for his return. Therefore, we pray:

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

Philippians 4:4-7

For joy that is constant regardless of circumstances; for peace that transcends all understanding and calms anxious minds:

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

For endurance and hope as we bear life's trials; for hearts that embrace one another in love and unite with each other in praise:

Romans 15:5-6

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

For patience to wait, like the farmer, until the trust we place in you yields an abundant, eternal harvest:

James 5:7-9

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him. The Lord is near.

*Romans 5:13;
Philippians 4:4-5*

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

The Advent wreath is lit as the congregation sings:

4 In ev - 'ry age— let praise a - bound— he comes; we
hear his voice re - sound. His glo - rious gos - pel
does not cease to bring us com - fort, joy, and peace.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.



Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

Children's Devotion

*Though the ax of
God's judgment
had reduced
David's family tree
to a stump, from it
God would bring
forth a Branch
bearing far greater
fruit.*

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1–10

- ¹A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
²The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—
³and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;
⁴but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.
⁵Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

⁶The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them.

⁷The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

⁸The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

⁹They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations
will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

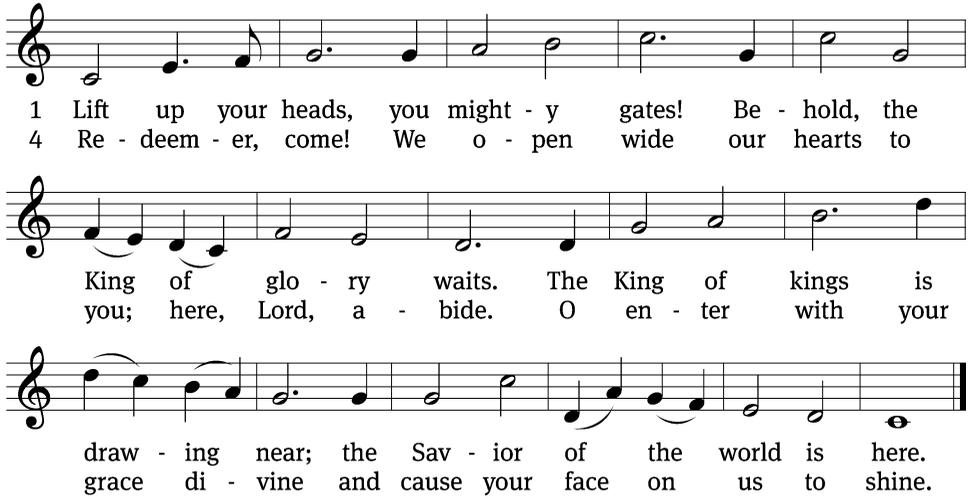
Psalms have been used by God's people in worship since the Old Testament.

The Church sings Psalm 130 in services that emphasize repentance and forgiveness through faith in Jesus.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 130

Stanza 1 is sung before the verses of the psalm and stanza 4 after.



1 Lift up your heads, you might - y gates! Be - hold, the
4 Re - deem - er, come! We o - pen wide our hearts to
King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is
you; here, Lord, a - bide. O en - ter with your
draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
grace di - vine and cause your face on us to shine.

Out of the depths

I cry to you, O LORD;

Lord, hear my voice.

Listen closely as I call on you for help.

LORD, if you kept track of sins,

O Lord, then who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness,

in order that you may be feared.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

and in his word I put my hope.

More than watchers wait for morning

my soul waits for the Lord.

Israel, put your hope in the LORD,
for with the LORD is faithful love;

with him is complete redemption.

He will redeem Israel from the guilt of all their sins.

**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. Stanza 4**

Second Reading

Romans 15:4–13

*Those whose hope
is in the Root of
Jesse will bear the
fruit of endurance
and acceptance in
their lives.*

⁴For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

⁵May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed ⁹and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles;
I will sing the praises of your name.”

¹⁰Again, it says,

“Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.”

¹¹And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles;
let all the peoples extol him.”

¹²And again, Isaiah says,

“The Root of Jesse will spring up,
one who will arise to rule over the nations;
in him the Gentiles will hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

By standing and singing “Alleluia” (Praise the Lord) as we prepare to hear the gospel, Christ’s people express their trust in his promise to be present among them through his word.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 3:4, 6

Refrain

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

Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.

And all people will see God’s salvation. *Refrain*

Because Christ’s kingdom is near – bringing with it both salvation and judgment – the time to repent is

Gospel

Matthew 3:1–12

¹In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ²and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’ ”

⁴John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not think you

can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

316 On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

Sermon

Romans 15:4–13

Stand

Apostles’ Creed *Credo*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

O Lord, the crowds who heard the preaching of St. John came in repentance and faith. Lead us to heed the call to repentance in our day, that we may rejoice in the forgiveness of our sins and seek to live as the holy people you have made us to be in our Baptism. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

O Lord, you give peace to your people through the gift of absolution. Bring your people to know and enjoy the blessed gift of your forgiveness, that reconciled to you they may learn to be instruments of reconciliation and peace on earth. Deliver your Church from conflict and division, and lead us to live in harmony with one another. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Almighty God, you preserved Jesse's faithful line by the incarnation of your Son. Give families and individuals strength to faithfully fulfill their vocations to love and forgive one another, that we may be trained up in your fear, love, and trust. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Compassionate Lord, as we await the day when the wolf will dwell alongside the lamb and pain and destruction are no more, grant us patience, comfort and healing, according to your will. Hear our prayers for all the sick, [*especially...*] and give wisdom and skill to all medical professionals who care for them. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

O Lord, the silence was once broken by the voice of the prophet preparing your way. Open our hearts to be people of love, and open our mouths to speak with bold witness your saving words and works. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

O Lord, grant to us all things needful and keep from us all things harmful to us and to our salvation, that we may pray with confidence and be content with your good answer; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Offering

Thank you for joining us in worship today! Please visit GoodNewsLC.org/connect (or scan the QR code on the back of the service folder) to let us know you were here. To support our ministry with an offering, visit GoodNewsLC.org/give.

Stand

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.**

*Known as the
Aaronic Blessing,
these words have
been spoken to
God's people for
3,500 years.
Wherever God's
name is
proclaimed, God
promises to be
present with his
blessing (Numbers
6:22–27).*

Blessing

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.
Amen.

Be seated

Hymn

360 Behold, a Branch Is Growing

+ + +

Acknowledgments

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Serving You Today

Greeter(s):

Ushers: Cody Gorski, Dan Biank

Fellowship Snacks: Durtschi Jones, LaPlante

Audio-Video: Craig LaPlante

Church Cleaning: LaPlante, Nihles

Counters: Tom Hansel, Lois Stecklein

Youth Assistants: Harvey Pangman, Jonathan Biank, Kinley Hams

Nursery Care: Erin Biank, Elsie Sutter

The News @ Good News

December 7, 2025

Christmas Prospect Invitation

On Saturday, December 13, we will be visiting families on our prospect list to deliver a Christmas gift and pass out Christmas invitations. We'll meet at Good News at 9:30am, and visit prospects from approximately 10:00-11:00am. We'll need about twenty visitation teams to go out in pairs in order to make these visits. You can sign up online or in the atrium.

Sign Up



MARC Stocking Stuffers

This season, we have a wonderful opportunity to share Christ's love in a simple but meaningful way. The MARC Center in Mount Horeb is preparing for their annual Christmas party—an event that, for many of the people they serve, is their main celebration of the season. To make the day special, MARC is in need of stocking stuffers, and our church family has been invited to help. If you are interested, please check our Sign-Up Genius to see which items are requested, sign up to donate, and then drop those items off at the church by December 14th.

Donate



Holiday Season Services and Events

Saturday, 12/13, 9:30 a.m.: Prospect gift delivery

Sunday, 12/14, 9:00 a.m.: Festival of Scripture and Song

Friday, 12/19, 10:00 a.m. and Sunday, 12/21, 10:30 a.m.: Christmas Caroling

Monday, 12/22, 6:00 p.m.: Celtic Christmas Concert @ Martinson Hall

Wednesday, 12/24, 4:30 & 6:00 p.m.: Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Thursday, 12/25, 9:00 a.m.: Christmas Day Festival Service

Christmas Caroling

Sign Up



Join us as we spread the good news of Jesus birth with some Christmas caroling! This year there are two opportunities: Friday, December 19, at 10:00 a.m. at Mt. Horeb's MARC and Sunday, December 21 at 10:30 a.m. (at Ingleside and Beehive). On both dates we'll be delivering some gifts and singing a handful of Christmas songs to those in attendance. All are welcome! You can sign up for one or both opportunities in the atrium at church or online.

Lutheran Ceili Orchestra Concert

Join us as we once again welcome The Lutheran Ceili Orchestra to Mount Horeb for a Celtic Christmas concert. The concert will be held on Monday, December 22, at 6:00 p.m. at Martinson Hall (108 S. 2nd Street). Appetizers from Buck and Honey's, hot chocolate, and water will be served free of charge. Adult beverages will be available for purchase. We'd love to have you join us for an evening of wonderful music and food that is sure to warm your heart and bless your Christmas celebration!

Christmas Poinsettias

Donate



Our interior décor team will adorn our sanctuary and atrium with some poinsettias this Christmas. Additionally, our Compassion Crew plans to deliver poinsettias as gifts to several individuals and families. You're invited to make a donation to purchase a poinsettia for either use. The suggested amount is \$5 for smaller ones we will deliver and \$15 for the larger ones we will use at Good News. Poinsettias that are used to decorate Good News can be taken home after Christmas. Sign up in the atrium or online.

Submit Photo



Family Photos

The holiday season is also family photo season. As we look forward to publishing our annual member directory in January, we would love to have a recent photo of each family of Good News. Use the digital form to submit your family's photo.

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2026 are on a table in the atrium. Take any of the available boxes and write the number of the box by your family's name on the list. If you make use of online giving, feel free to simply put an "X" by your family's name.

Thursday Night Service – Starting January 8th

In the new year, we will be starting a weekly Thursday night service. This weekly service will have the same Scripture readings, hymns, and sermons as the Sunday that follows it. Our hope for this service is that it will allow people who can't make it on Sunday morning due to work, travel, activities, etc., can still attend church. The service will be at 6:30 p.m. The first service is on Thursday, January 8.



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).

