



**GOOD NEWS**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

GETTING

CLOSE



*One day in time. God with us forever.*

**The Nativity of Our Lord    A.D. 2025**

Service Focus:

**As a child; to save**

Good News Lutheran Church | Mount Horeb, Wisconsin  
Christmas Eve | December 24, 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

Pianists: Amy Hansel and Stephanie Shinnick

Adult Choir Director: Stephanie Shinnick

Instrumentalists: Jonathan Bauer, Steve Grahn, Holly LaPlante, Lillian Rottinger  
Sam Steinich, Doug Vierck, Gabriel Wisner

Scan for  
hearing  
assistance app



## Time of Year: Christmas

The celebration of Jesus' birth on December 25 has been widely practiced by the church in the West since at least the fourth century. What the Church spent the four weeks of Advent preparing for, it now celebrates during the Twelve Days of Christmas. This twelve-day observance concludes with the Epiphany of Our Lord on January 6.



## Christmas Series: Getting Close

Once Christmas has arrived, there's always a bit of a let down. Once the big day has come and gone, you might wonder if anything is different or if all the effort was worth it. While that might be the case with the day we call Christmas, it's by no means the case with the event we celebrate at Christmas. Because of Jesus' birth, this one day on the calendar means God is with us forever.

### **December 24 Christmas Eve As a child; to save**

December 25	Christmas Day	In flesh; to reveal
December 28	Christmas 1	Under law; to redeem
January 4	Epiphany	As a light; for all

## Service Focus

On Christmas Eve we focus on the specific manner in which God chose to get close to humanity in his Son Jesus. Though God's Son could have come to earth in full majesty and power, he came instead as a tiny, helpless child. His lowly beginning in Bethlehem's manger was a sign of the lowliness and humility that would mark his life from beginning to end. He came not to conquer or condemn. He was born a child because he was born to save.

## Prayer before the Service

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen.

# Candlelight Vigil\*



*Stand*

Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world,  
**the light no darkness can overcome.**

Jesus Christ, in a world where sin divides us, where there is strife within families and among friends, where there is violence in communities and war between nations, you are our peace. You were born to redeem us from sin and reconcile us to God. Jesus Christ, your light shines in the darkness,  
**and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Jesus Christ, in a world where evil surrounds us, where the devil's lies persuade and tragedy spares none, where addiction and despair imprison, you are our hope. You were born to rescue us from evil and release all creation from its bondage to decay. Jesus Christ, your light shines in the darkness,  
**and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Jesus Christ, in a world where death overpowers us, where loved ones are taken from our arms, where tears of grief fall to the earth like rain, where health deteriorates and strength wanes, you are our life. You were born to rob death of its power by your rising from the grave. Jesus Christ, your light shines in the darkness,  
**and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Jesus Christ, be our light and scatter the darkness,  
**and shine within your people here.**

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\* A vigil is a period of staying awake during the time normally spent asleep, especially for the purpose of keeping watch. In the Church, a vigil refers to a service held on the eve before one of the major festivals of the year. This practice has been around for centuries and used to include many festivals throughout the year. In our day, evening services before Christmas Day and Easter are the most common vigils still observed.

## Hymn

## 338 On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

*The choir sings the first line of each stanza.*



1 On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing to hear the news the  
2 Then why should men on earth be sad, since our Re - deem - er  
3 When sin de - parts be - fore his grace, then life and health come  
4 All out of dark - ness we have light, which made the an - gels



an - gels bring, on Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing to  
made us glad? Then why should men on earth be sad, since  
in its place, when sin de - parts be - fore his grace, then  
sing this night, all out of dark - ness we have light, which



hear the news the an - gels bring, news of great joy, news  
our Re - deem - er made us glad? when from our sin he  
life and health come in its place; an - gels and saints with  
made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to God and



of great mirth, news of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.  
set us free, all for to gain our lib - er - ty?  
joy may sing, all for to see the new - born King.  
peace to men now and for - ev - er - more. A - men."

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; 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*

*From the smallest  
of cities and a  
family line long cut  
off, God would  
raise up a ruler  
whose greatness  
has no limit.*

## First Reading

Micah 5:2–5a

<sup>2</sup>“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
out of you will come for me  
one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
from ancient times.”

<sup>3</sup>Therefore Israel will be abandoned  
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,  
and the rest of his brothers return  
to join the Israelites.

<sup>4</sup>He will stand and shepherd his flock  
in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they will live securely, for then his greatness  
will reach to the ends of the earth.

<sup>5</sup>And he will be our peace.

The light shines in the darkness,  
**and the darkness has not overcome it.**

## Hymn

333 O Little Town of Bethlehem

*The choir sings stanzas 1–3. The congregation sings stanza 4.*

Sing Noel!

1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
and, gathered all above  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King  
and peace to all the earth.

3 How silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.  
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;  
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

## Second Reading

Titus 2:11–14

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. <sup>12</sup>It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled,

*At Jesus' birth,  
God's heart of  
grace for all was  
revealed. That  
grace produces in  
us hearts that are  
eager to do good.*

upright and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup>who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

The light shines in the darkness,  
**and the darkness has not overcome it.**

## Hymn

343 Once in Royal David's City



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly  
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and  
 3 And our eyes at last shall see him through his own re -  
 4 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble with the ox - en

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a  
 Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his  
 deem - ing love, for that child, so dear and gen - tle, is our  
 stand - ing by shall we see him, but in heav - en, set at

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er  
 cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and mean and  
 Lord in heav'n a - bove, and he leads his chil - dren  
 God's right hand on high. Then like stars his chil - dren

mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
 low - ly lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 on to the place where he is gone.  
 crowned, all in white, his praise will sound.

*Stand*



## Gospel

Luke 2:1–20

*A Savior has been  
born; peace on  
earth and glory to  
God in the highest.*

<sup>1</sup>In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup>(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup>So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

<sup>8</sup>And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

<sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

<sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Jesus Christ, your light shines in the darkness  
**and the darkness has not overcome it.**

*Be seated*

# Hymn

344 What Child Is This

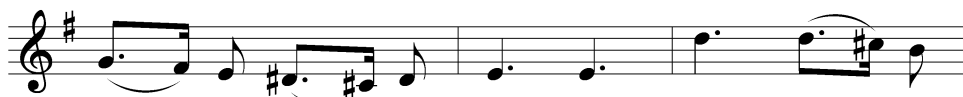
*After stanza 3, the second half of the stanza repeats.*



1 What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is  
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox - en now are  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing, whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while  
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the  
own him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
lov - ing hearts en - throne him. Raise, raise the  
Raise, raise the



Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;  
song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

# Sermon

Luke 2:1-20

*Stand as the hymn is introduced.*

## Hymn

350 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness!



peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of a vir-gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na-tions rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, hail th'in-car-nate De - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,



with th'an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth-le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im-man-u - el!  
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec-ond birth.

### *Refrain*



Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

*Be seated*

## Offering

*Thank you for joining us in worship today! Please visit [GoodNewsLC.org/connect](https://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](https://GoodNewsLC.org/give).*

## Offertory

Away in a Manger

- 1    Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
     the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
     The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
     the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2    The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
     but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
     I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
     and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
- 3    Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
     close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
     Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
     and take us to heaven to live with you there.

## Lighting of Candles

*The ushers will pass the flame from the Christ candle to the first person in each row.  
When passing the flame, tip the unlit candle. Always keep the lit candle upright.*

## Hymn

O Savior of Our Fallen Race\*

*The vocalist sings stanza 1 as the candles are lit.*

- 1    O Savior of our fallen race,  
     O Brightness of the Father's face;  
     O Son who shared the Father's might  
     before the world knew day or night.  
     O Jesus very Light of Light  
     our constant star in sin's deep night:  
     Now hear the prayers your people pray  
     throughout the world this holy day.

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\* This text is an ancient Latin hymn used for Christmas Vespers that dates back to the 6<sup>th</sup> Century A.D. It is set to a tune by modern hymnwriter Keith Getty.



2 Re - mind us Lord of life and grace how once, to save our  
3 For from the Fa - ther's throne you came, his ba - nished child - ren  
fall - en race, you put our hu - man ves - ture on and  
to re - claim; and earth and sea and sky re - vere the  
came to us as Mar - y's son. To - day, as year by year its  
love of him who sent you here. And we are ju - bi - lant to -  
light brings to our world a pro - mise bright, one pre - cious  
day, for you have washed our guilt a - way. O hear the  
truth out - shines the sun: Sal - va - tion comes from you a - lone.  
glad new song we sing on this, the birth of Christ our King!

## Prayer

When all was still and it was midnight, your eternal Word, O Lord, descended from the almighty throne to dwell among us. May we receive him in the peace of forgiven hearts and proclaim your gracious goodwill to all people on earth, for he is God with us, Immanuel, 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.

*The congregation sings:*

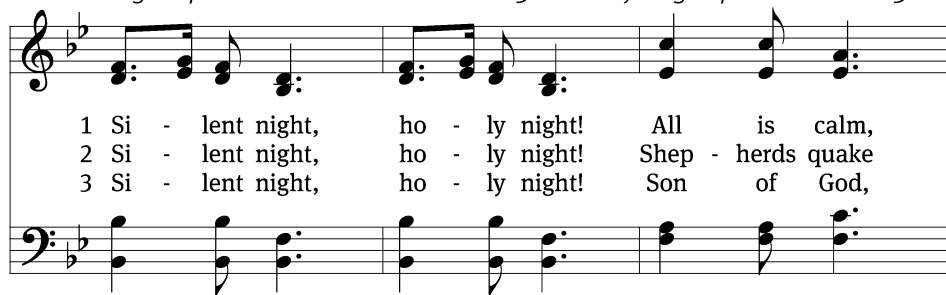


4 O Sav - ior of our fall - en race, the world will see your  
ra - diant face for you who came to us be - fore will  
come a - gain and all re - store. Let songs of praise your name a -  
dorn, O Christ, Re - deem - er, vir - gin - born whom with the  
Fa - ther we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

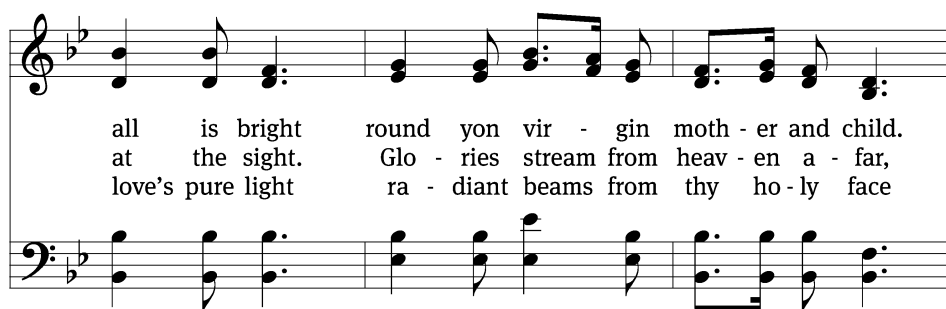
# Hymn

## 337 Silent Night, Holy Night

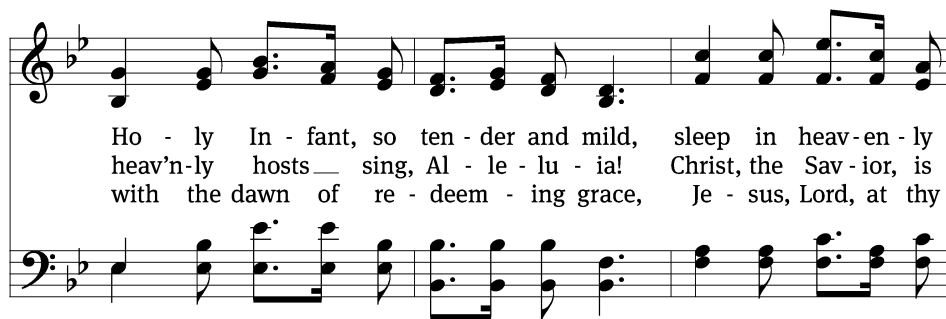
*The blessing is spoken between stanzas 2 and 3. You may sing in parts on stanza 3.*



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight. Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
 heav'n - ly hosts — sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy



peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

## Blessing

May he who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with such joy that comes from the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the + Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

+ + +

## Acknowledgments

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## Serving You Today

### **4:30 p.m. Service:**

Greeter(s): Behringers

Ushers: Cody Gorski, Adam Wisner

Audio-Video: Craig LaPlante

Church Cleaning: Sroda, Schulz

Youth Assistants: Aaron Wsiner, Evelyn Vierck, Amelia Vierck

### **6:00 p.m. Service:**

Greeter(s): Behringers

Ushers: Dan Shinnick, Kevin Hanson

Audio-Video: Jon Schulz

Church Cleaning: Sroda, Schulz

Youth Assistants: Jonathan Biank, Lauren Dresen





# More Good News

We are thrilled that you have joined us today to hear the Good News of Christ's birth. We invite you to continue to grow in your faith and walk with God in any of the following ways...

**Scan to  
Download**



## **The Good News Church App**

The Good News app can be downloaded for your phone from the Apple App Store or Google Play. The app offers all kinds of resources for growing in God's Word and staying connected to our ministry. To get started, simply scan the QR code or visit [GoodNewsLC.org/app](http://GoodNewsLC.org/app) to download the app.

## **Weekly Worship**

The gospel (or good news) is not just information about what Jesus did to save sinners. It is also the power God uses to create and strengthen faith our hearts. Therefore, Lutheran worship places the gospel in central focus from start to finish. Our weekly service is at 9:00 a.m.

**Register**



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

This class explores how the answers to life's most important questions – questions that everyone wants answers to – are all found in God's Word, the Bible. Not only that, but God's answers to those questions are always good news. 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. Visit [GoodNewsLC.org/WDTM](http://GoodNewsLC.org/WDTM) for more information or to register.

## **Homegrown Children's Ministry**

The good news about Jesus is not just for adults. God works in the hearts of children as they learn about their Savior and grow in his knowledge of his word. Sunday School for children ages 3-12 takes place at 10:15 a.m. on Sundays.

## **Adult Bible Study and Good News Groups**

We invite you to deepen your understanding of God's Word and grow in the knowledge of his grace. We have weekly Bible studies for teens and adults on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. as well as small group Bible studies throughout the year.



# 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).

