



GOOD NEWS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

GETTING

CLOSE



One day in time. God with us forever.

The Nativity of Our Lord A.D. 2025

Service Focus:

In flesh; to reveal

Good News Lutheran Church | Mount Horeb, Wisconsin
Christmas Day | December 25, 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

Vocalists: Sarah Wisner, Gary Pepin, Erin Biank

Instrumentalists: Addison Bauer, Jonathan Bauer, Steve Grahm, Holly LaPlante,

Amy Pepin, Collin Pitzen, Sierra Pitzen

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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 Day, we ponder with awe and wonder the miracle and mystery of our Lord's incarnation. The child born in Bethlehem is the eternal Son of God. He is the Word made flesh. As a result, he is God's full and final revelation to mankind. In his life, death, and resurrection, we see the perfect completion of God's ultimate plan for our salvation. Nothing needs to be added. No substitute can compare. God's gift to us at Christmas is everything we need.

Prayer before the Service

Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Service



Stand and face the cross at the back of the sanctuary.

*Known as "The
Kalends of
Christmas," this
formal
announcement of
the Savior's birth
was written in 1586
and has been read
in Christian
churches at
Christmas ever
since.*

Proclamation of the Birth of Christ

Today, the twenty-fifth day of December,
many ages after God created the heavens and the earth,
when man and woman were formed in his image;
long after the great flood, when God set the rainbow in the sky
as a sign of the covenant;
twenty-one centuries from the birth of Abraham,
fifteen centuries from the exodus of the people of Israel out of Egypt,
one thousand years from the enthronement of David as king,
in the six hundred and ninety-eighth Olympiad,
in the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the founding of the city of Rome,
in the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Augustus,
in the sixth age of the earth,*
at a time when the whole world was at peace,
it pleased God to send his only begotten Son and eternal Word to the world to
become man and to teach us God's love, to suffer, die, and rise from the dead for
our salvation.

Today is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

To God Incarnate, to the Infant who humbled himself and took our form, becoming
a child of man to make children of God; to the One who later walked among us to
teach us the way of salvation and who loved us so much as to give his life for it: to
him be glory, honor, and adoration forever and ever.

O come, let us adore him!

* The early Christians considered the world to have seven ages: 1) From Adam to the Flood;
2) From the Flood to Abraham; 3) From Abraham to David; 4) From David to the Babylonian
Captivity; 5) From the Captivity to the Advent of Christ; 6) The Coming of Our Lord Jesus
Christ; 7) The New Heavens and the New Earth

Processional Hymn

354 O Come, All Ye Faithful

As the hymn is sung, follow the cross as it is carried to the front of the sanctuary.



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come_ ye to Beth - le - hem!
born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes!
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee_ be all glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels:
On - ly - be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther:
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

*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.

Dialogue for Christmas Day

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

Psalm 98:1

His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

Psalm 98:2-3

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Malachi 3:2;

Psalm 130:3

But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears?

If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

Restore us again, O God our Savior, and put away your displeasure toward us.

Psalm 85:4,7

Show us your unfailing love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people.

Luke 1:68;

Luke 1:46–47

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Galatians 4:4–5

When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

John 1:14

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11,14

Glory to God in the highest!

Angels We Have Heard on High *Gloria in Excelsis*



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
- 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
- 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

*After Confession,
the Church usually
sings the Gloria in
Excelsis (Glory to
God in the
Highest), named
after the song the
angels sang the
night of Jesus'
birth.*

*After omitting it
during the season
of Advent, it is
fitting that we hear
their song again
on Christmas
morning.*

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; 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

*Let the good news
be carried far and
wide: In Jesus, God
lays bare his holy
arm and reveals
his salvation to the
ends of the earth.*

First Reading

Isaiah 52:7–10

⁷How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace,
who bring good tidings,
who proclaim salvation,
who say to Zion,
“Your God reigns!”

⁸Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;
together they shout for joy.
When the LORD returns to Zion,
they will see it with their own eyes.

⁹Burst into songs of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD will lay bare his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth will see
the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Rejoice! Declare! Christ Is Born

Rejoice, rejoice; lift up your heart and voice.
This glorious morn, a Child is born, our Savior, Jesus Christ.
Proclaim, proclaim; tell the world his name.
His perfect light dispels the night with everlasting grace.

Shout from the mountain for all to hear.
Tell every nation, both far and near.
Spread joyous tidings across the earth;
God's greatest blessing, our Savior's birth.

Declare, declare to people everywhere;
the Chosen One has finally come, the answer to our prayer.
Assure, assure; our future is secure.
From heaven above eternal love will reign forever more!

King of kings, Lord of lords,
a precious Holy Rose.
Price of Peace, Counselor,
a manger for his throne.

Rejoice, rejoice; lift up your heart and voice.
This glorious morn, a Child is born, our Savior, Jesus Christ.
Proclaim, proclaim; tell the world his name.
His perfect light dispels the night with everlasting grace.

Second Reading

Hebrews 1:1–9

*Jesus Christ
reveals God to us
and represents us
before God.*

¹In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son;
today I have become your Father”?

Or again,

“I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son”?

⁶And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

⁷In speaking of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels spirits,
and his servants flames of fire.”

⁸But about the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions
by anointing you with the oil of joy.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*This hymn is
traditionally sung
in Scandinavian
Lutheran churches
on Christmas Day
immediately
following the
reading of the
sermon text.
Today we hear it as
we prepare to hear
the Christmas
Gospel.*

Gospel Acclamation

Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn

The choir sings:

Rejoice, rejoice this happy morn!
A Savior unto us is born,
The Christ, the Lord of glory.
His lowly birth in Bethlehem
the angels from on high proclaim
and sing redemption's story.
My soul, extol
God's great favor;
bless him ever,
for salvation.
Give him praise and adoration.

Stand

Gospel

John 1:1–14

*No one has ever
seen God, but the
Word made flesh
has made him
known.*

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

The congregation sings:

My soul, ex - tol God's great fa - vor; bless him ev - er

for sal - va - tion. Give him praise and ad - o - ra - tion.

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

358 Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Sermon

Hebrews 1:1–9

*The Athanasian
Creed was
composed to
combat two errors.
One denied that
the Son and the
Spirit were one
being with the
Father. The other
denied that Jesus
is God and man in
one person.*

*On Christmas Day
we use the portion
of this Creed that
confesses the truth
about Jesus Christ.*

Athanasian Creed *Credo*

**We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son,
is both God and man.**

**He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father,
and he is man, born in time from the nature of his mother,
fully God, fully man, with a rational soul and human flesh,
equal to the Father as to his deity, less than the Father as to his humanity.**

**And though he is both God and man, Christ is not two persons but one:
one, not by changing the deity into flesh,
but by taking the humanity into God;
one, indeed, not by a mixture of the natures,
but by unity in one person.**

**For just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being,
so God and man are one Christ.**

**He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell,
rose the third day from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty,
and from there will come to judge the living and the dead.
At his coming all people will rise with their own bodies.
This is the true Christian faith.**

Be seated

* This song was written by Aurelius Clemens Prudentis in 400 A.D. and has been used by the Christian Church for 1600 years. The hymn is set to a plainchant melody dating from the 1200s.

Prayer of the Church

Eternal Father, we give you thanks and praise on this holy day for sending your one and only Son to share our humanity, carry our guilt, and become for us the perfect Lamb who takes away the sin of the world.

Lord, we praise you.

Keep our faith in your Son alive and strong. Nourish us with your Word and sacraments and by your Holy Spirit give us strength to overcome Satan's power and empty promises. Help us to withstand the temptations the world and our sinful nature put on our path.

Give us faith and courage.

We pray for our city and countryside, for our neighborhoods and subdivisions, and for all who live and work and find delight here. Give to the leaders of government wisdom to make and uphold laws that promote the good of society. Grant our nation peace, health, and prosperity that we may have the opportunity and resources to spread the good news to all people.

Govern and prosper your people.

Fill us with kindness and arouse us to do good to all people, especially those who are less fortunate than we. Bring your healing to those who are sick or diseased in body or mind and comfort those who are mourning the death of someone they love. We especially pray for brothers and sisters who are setting aside their celebration today to care for the sick and stand at the side of the dying.

Sustain those who endure the troubles of life.

As you sent your Son to bring peace to all people on earth, so we pray for all people, those known and those unknown to us.

We pray 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.

The Sacrament

Holy Communion is a gift from Jesus intended to strengthen Christians' unity with God and express their unity with each other. If you are not a member of Good News, we would love to speak with you about the process for receiving Holy Communion with us in the future.



Stand

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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, by whose wonderful and mysterious birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice *Sanctus*



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to thee.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground,

he from whom joy stream - eth poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;
where the an - gels sing - ing with all his saints u - nite,

not so bright - ly beam - eth the sun in yon - der skies.
thro' thy grace and mer - it, blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
sweet - est prais - es bring - ing in heav'n - ly joy and light.

Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
draw me un - to thee! Draw me un - to thee!
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

In preparation for Holy Communion, we usually sing with the angels in heaven: "Holy, Holy, Holy" (Revelation 4:8).

This Christmas hymn expresses our desire to sing with those angels, but acknowledges our need for Christ to descend to us with his forgiveness.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with 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.**

Words of Institution

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.
Amen.

Peace Came to Earth *Agnus Dei*

1 Peace came to earth at last that cho-sen night when an - gels
3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen, in flesh and
4 How else could I have known you, O my God! How else could

clove the sky with song and light and God em - bod - ied
blood you bore our griefs and pain, in bread and wine you
I have loved you, O my God! How else could I em -

love and sheathed his might— Who could but gasp: Im-man-u - el!
vis - it us a - gain— Who could but see: Im-man-u - el!
brace you, O my God! Who could but pray: Im-man-u - el!

Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

The Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) usually precedes the distribution. This Christmas replacement reminds us that, through the bread and wine, Jesus continues to be Immanuel, "God with us."

Be seated

Distribution

Those communing may come forward at the direction of the ushers.

Distribution Hymn

331 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Stand

Thanksgiving

Psalm 118:1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and has made his dwelling among us.
We have seen his glory who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

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

353 Joy to the World

Stand for the final stanza.

+ + +

Acknowledgments

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Serving You Today

Greeter(s): Behringer

Communion Set up: Sarah Wisner

Ushers: Matt Ganser, Dave Nihles

Fellowship Snacks:

Audio-Video: Gary Pepin

Church Cleaning: Sroda, Schulz

Counters:

Youth Assistants: Collin Pitzen, Jacob Nihles, Finley Sutter

Nursery Care:



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).

