



GOOD NEWS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

G E T T I N G

C L O S E



One day in time. God with us forever.

Service Focus:

As a light; for all

Good News Lutheran Church | Mount Horeb, Wisconsin
The Epiphany of Our Lord (Observed) | January 4, 2026



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.

Scan for
hearing
assistance app



Service Leaders

Pastor of Good News: Jonathan Bauer

Vicar of Good News: Calvin Arstein

Pianist: Jonathan Bauer

Vocalist: Erin Biank

Instrumentalists: Brock Havens, Sam Steinich

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.

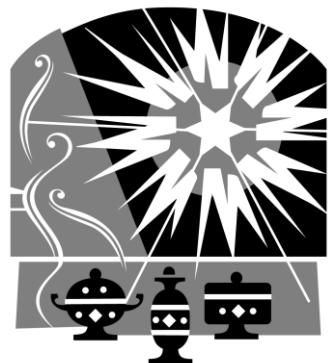
December 24	Christmas Eve	As a child; to save
December 25	Christmas Day	In flesh; to reveal
December 28	Christmas 1	Under law; to redeem
January 4	Epiphany	As a light; for all

Service Focus

The church's twelve-day celebration of Christmas concludes with the Epiphany of Our Lord (January 6). On Epiphany, we see how God did not get close just to one group or nation at Christmas. Instead, Jesus came to be a light for the whole world. This truth was prophesied centuries before Jesus' birth and made evident already in the journey of the Magi to Jesus. Not only did God send us his Son at Christmas, but he moves heaven and earth to draw all people close to his Son.

Prayer before the Service

Lord God, by the leading of a star, you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, 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

351 He Whose Praise the Shepherds Sounded

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.

Dialogue for Epiphany

This dialogue makes use of the Bible's imagery of light and darkness to describe life with and apart from God. It includes direct scriptural references from Genesis, Psalms, Isaiah, Matthew, and John.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall. Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

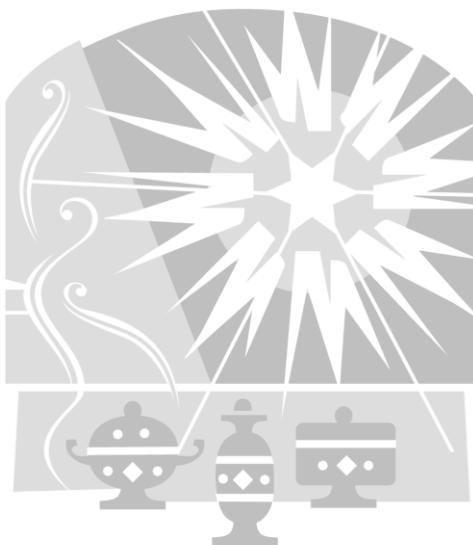
The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

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

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.



Song of Praise

347 Angels from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing
3 Ma - gi, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er
5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the

flight o'er all the earth; once you sang cre -
o'er your flocks by night, God with us is
vi - sions beam a - far; seek the great de -
Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your

a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
now re - sid - ing; yon - der shines the in - fant light.
sire of na - tions, you have seen the Sav - ior's star.
voic - es rais - ing to th'e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship,
wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.



Prayer of the Day

Lord God, by the leading of a star, you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; 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

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1–6

It was foretold that nations and kings would stream to glory shining out of Israel.

¹“Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.
²See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.

³Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴“Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the hip.

⁵Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.

6Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.
And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

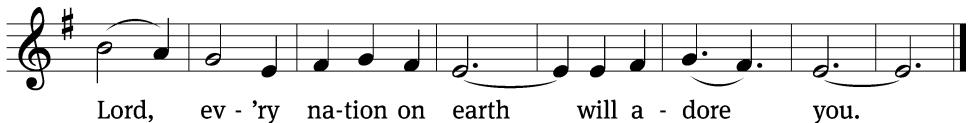
*Psalms have been
used by God's
people in worship
since the Old
Testament.*

*Recognizing the
reference to kings
bowing down and
presenting gifts to
the great King, the
Church sings
Psalm 72 in
services that
celebrate the
Epiphany.*

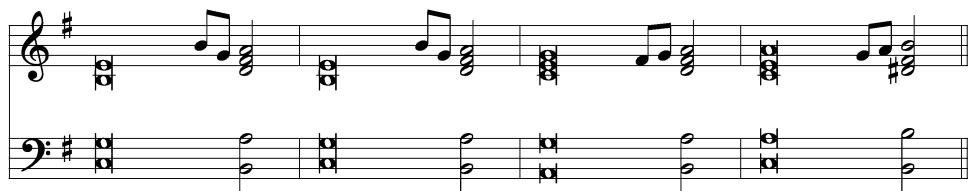
Psalm of the Day

Psalm 72

Refrain



Tone



Endow the king with your justice, / O God,
the royal son with your / righteousness.
May he endure as long / as the sun,
as long as the moon, through all gener- / ations.

May he be like rain falling on a / mown field,
like showers water- / ing the earth.
In his days may the righteous / flourish
and prosperity abound till the moon / is no more. *Refrain*

May all kings bow / down to him
and all nations / serve him.
Long may he live! May gold from Sheba be / given him.
May the kings of Sheba and Seba pre- / sent him gifts.

May people ever / pray for him
and bless him / all day long.

Then all nations will be / blessed through him,
and they will / call him blessed.

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

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2–12

²Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

⁷I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

At Jesus' arrival a mystery long hidden is revealed: the Gentiles have an equal share with Israel in God's salvation.

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 Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn

Re - joice, re - joice this hap - py morn! A Sav - ior un - to
us is born, the Christ, the Lord of glo - ry.
His low - ly birth in Beth - le - hem the an - gels from on
high pro - claim and sing re - demp - tion's sto - ry.
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.

Men from distant lands are drawn to worship the newborn king while those close by stay away.

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁴When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶“ ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

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

370 How Lovely Shines the Morning Star*

* Often referred to as “the queen of chorales,” this hymn was written by Philip Nicolai in 1597 during the pestilence of the Black Plague. It became at once a favorite in Germany, was considered indispensable at weddings, was often sung around death beds, and often sounded by city chimes.

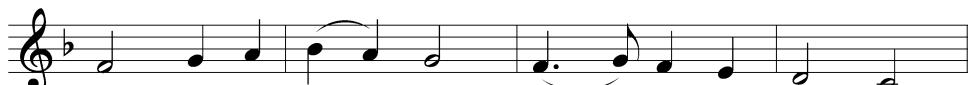
Sermon

Isaiah 60:1-6

Stand

Hymn

515 Christ Is the World's Light



1 Christ is the world's light, Christ and none oth - er;
2 Christ is the world's peace, Christ and none oth - er;
3 Christ is the world's life, Christ and none oth - er;
4 Give God the glo - ry, God and none oth - er;



born in our dark - ness, he be - came our broth - er.
no one can serve him and de - spise an - oth - er.
sold once for sil - ver, mur - dered here, our broth - er.
give God the glo - ry, Spir - it, Son, and Fa - ther;



If we have seen him, we have seen the
Who else u - nites us, one with God the
He who re - deemed us reigns with God the
give God the glo - ry, God with us, our



Fa - ther: Glo - ry to God on high!
Fa - ther? Glo - ry to God on high!
Fa - ther: Glo - ry to God on high!
broth - er: Glo - ry to God on high!

Be seated

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.

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.

Gracious Father, as you caused your light to shine that first Epiphany, shine in the darkness of our hearts. Drive far from us all our fears and all our doubts. Give us a new confidence each day to live as children of the light. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Bless the work of your church here and throughout the world. By your Holy Spirit, make known far and wide the mystery of Christ Jesus. Give strength to all workers in your gospel ministry, and bless the Word they proclaim. Bring those living in darkness into the light of life. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Remember missionaries who bring the light of Christ to distant lands. Provide for their families and all their needs. Bless their work and continue to gather for yourself people from the four corners of the world to live as children of the light. Renew our joy and give us new opportunities to make known the light of Christ. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Remember those who are ailing in body or mind. [Especially bless...] Guide all who attend to their needs. Comfort your children and all those who love them. Assure them of your presence and your promise to be with them in all circumstances of life. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

These and all our needs are known to you, gracious Father. Mercifully hear our prayer. Guide us by the light of your Word until that day comes when you bring us home to yourself to join your people from every nation, tribe, people, and language, redeemed by the blood of Jesus. In his holy name we pray.

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.**

Let us praise the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Blessing

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

Amen.

Be seated

Hymn

372 As with Gladness Men of Old

+

Acknowledgments

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Serving You Today

Greeter(s):

Ushers: Dan Shinnick, Matt Ganser

Fellowship Snacks: Grays, Vierck

Audio-Video: Jon Schulz

Counters: Paul Hodgson, Lois Stecklein

Church Cleaning: Hansel, Grahn, Stecklein

Youth Assistants: Gregory Rottinger, Harvey Pangman, Kendyl Judd

Nursery: Shauna Stittleburg, Addison Bauer



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).