1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday November 28, 2026, 4:30 pm
Sunday, November 29, 2026, 9:00 am



Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

300 Logan St. 715-536-5813
Merrill, WI 54452 www.oslcelca.org
Pastor Justin Smoot Bea Lebal, Organist

Welcome to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
We are a worship-centered, joyful community,
serving where Christ leads.

LOVE SERVE STRENGTHEN
all people in Jesus Christ

Welcome to Worship

At OSLC, we have a tradition of participating in worship, because it is our gathering to practice prayer and fellowship.

- Bold Print indicates responses spoken by all.
- You are encouraged to listen to your body and stand if you are comfortable doing so.
- Children are welcome in worship. If they want to help out with any portion of the service they can do so, just ask the pastor. There is also a place for them to color and play on the north side of the worship space. Sitting up front is also an effective way to help them see what is going on.
- On Sunday morning, the ushers will pass the offering plates, but we also have a QR code that will take you to our Vanco (online giving) site.
- All are welcome to receive Holy Communion at Our Saviour's. Please come forward as indicated. Please fill out a communion card so that we can have a record of who communion. You can also use the communion cards or visitor cards to reach out to the pastor.
- We have large print bulletins if you need them as well as hearing devices with headphones

Altar flowers are given by..... Emily Edmund

Sing for Joy is sponsored by.....Our Saviour's to the Glory of God

Gathering

God's mercy endures forever. (Psalm 136:1)

Announcements

**Confession & Forgiveness*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

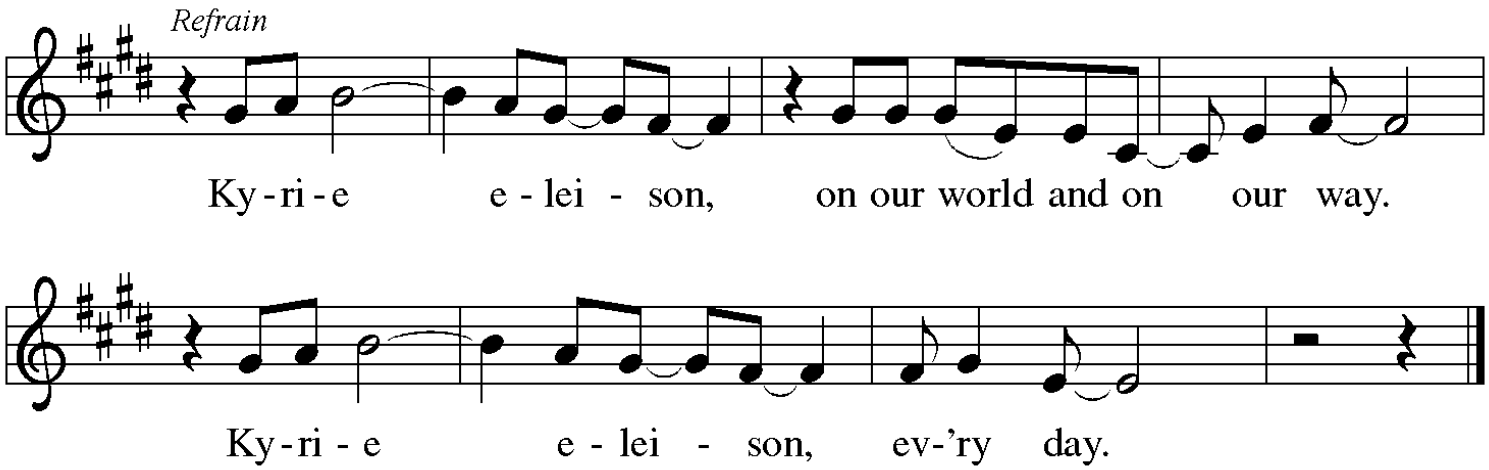
God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

*Gathering Song

The pastor will sing the refrain and first verse please join in singing additional refrains.



*Greeting

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

And also with you.

*Prayer of the Day

Let us pray,

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for

WORD

In the beginning was the Word, and the word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)

Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

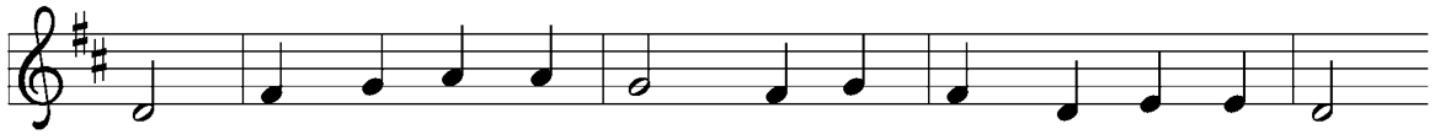
Advent Hymn & Candle Lighting ELW 241 Vs 1 (next page)

Second Reading

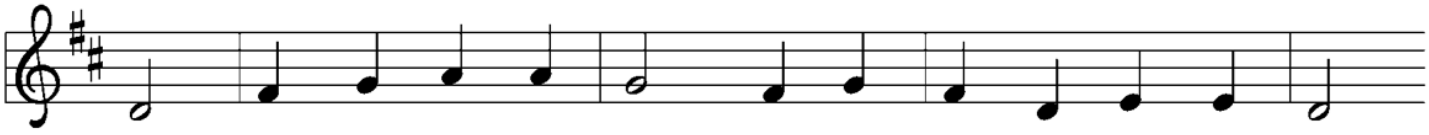
1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

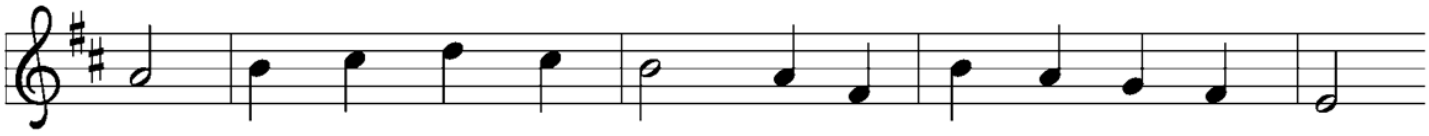
O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



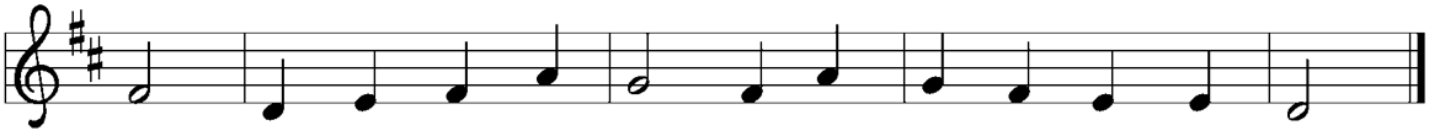
1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.
3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.



Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast
A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,



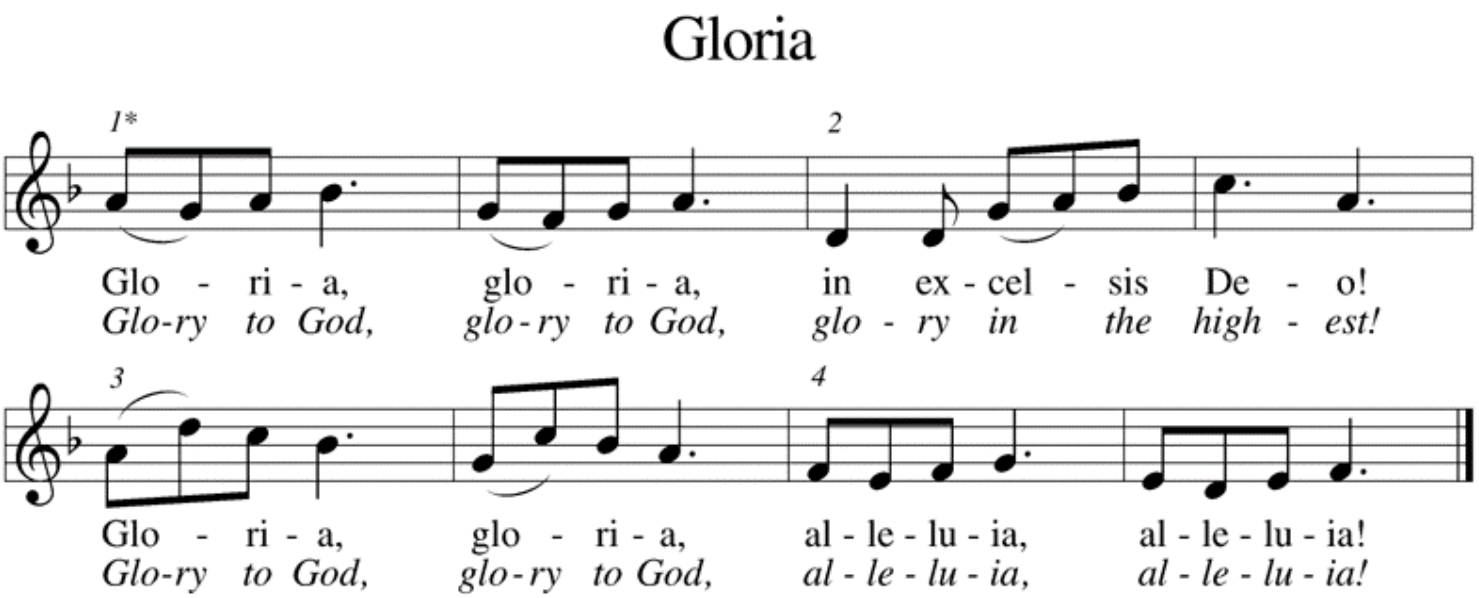
to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. composite
Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

*Gospel Acclamation

We stand and sing to welcome the Gospel reading as we would welcome Christ.

This is sung twice.



*May be sung as a round.

*MARK 13:24-37

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 13th chapter

Glory to you, O Lord

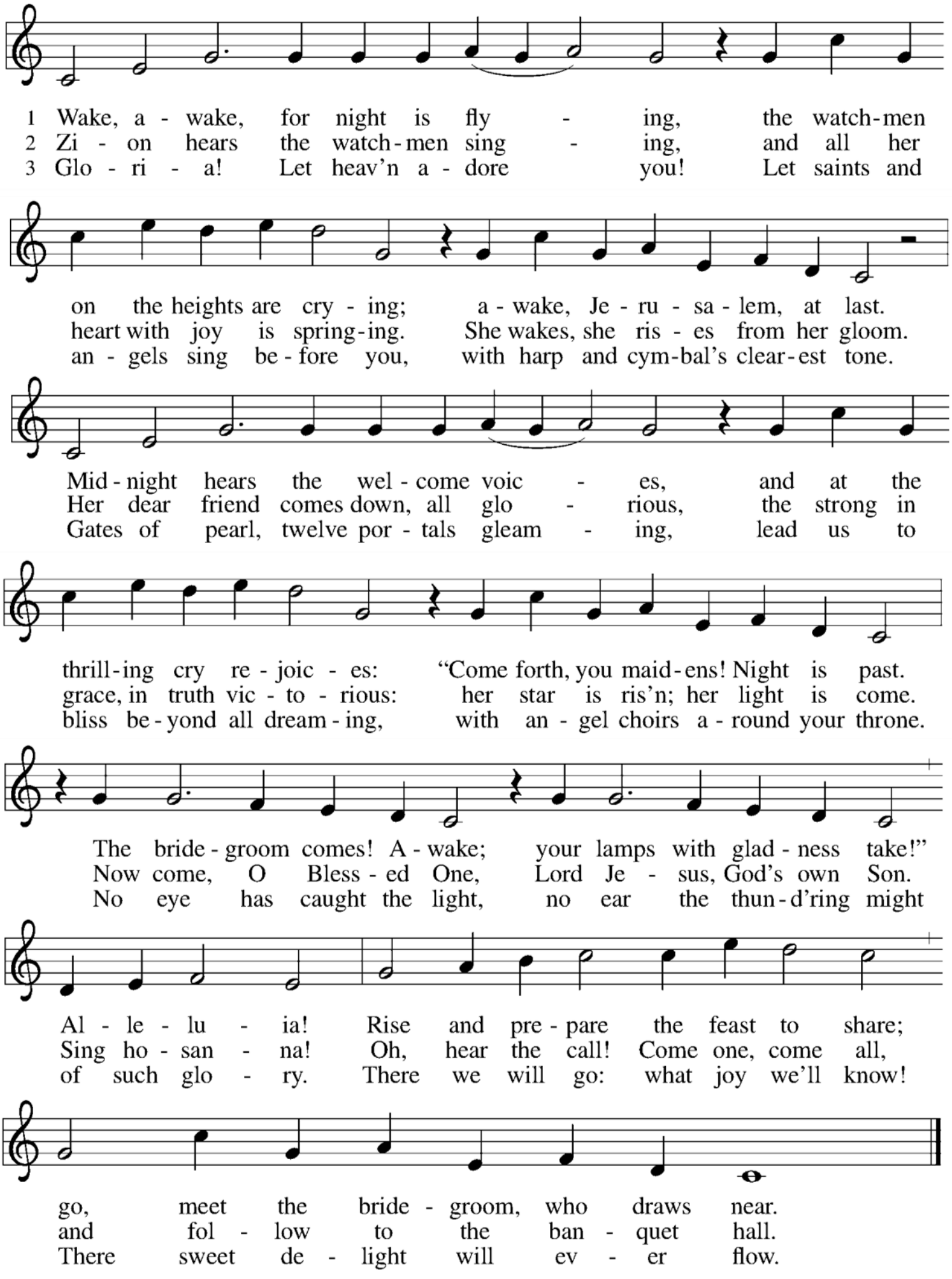
Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

The Gospel of Our Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

*Sermon — Pr. Justin H. Smoot

*Hymn of the Day — ELW 436 (next page)


1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.
The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing, and all her
heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and
an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.
bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.
No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun - d'ring might
of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!
There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

*Apostles Creed

Waiting for the Advent of our God, we profess the faith that brings us hope.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

*Prayers of Intercession

United, with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Each petition ends with the following response.

...God in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

We entrust these and the prayers of our hearts to you, most holy God, in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior.

Amen.

*Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please greet one another with a sign of peace.

Meal

Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts... (Isaiah 6:3)

Offering

Saturday: Please place your offering in the plates in back.

Sunday: The ushers will collect the offering, if you wish to give electronically, please visit our website: oslcelca.org or scan the QR code.

*Offering Prayer

Holy Creator,

we are the clay and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Receive these gifts shape them and our lives for your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

O God triune, how majestic is your name in all the earth. Over the eons your merciful might evolved our home, a fragile tree of life. Here by your wisdom are both life and death, growth and decay, the nest and the hunt, sunshine and storm, darkness and light. Sustained by these wonders, we creatures of dust join in the ancient song:

The earth is full of your glory.

The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer. In Christ you bring life from death; we remember his cross, we laud his resurrection. Broken like bread, he enlivens our body. Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness. Receiving this mystery, we mortals sing our song:

The earth is full of your glory.

The earth is full of your glory.

We praise you for the heart of Jesus, so filled with your love for this earth. On the night in which he was betrayed , our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Gathered around this table, we your children unite in this song:

The earth is full of your glory.

The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you create the worlds, you uphold the living, you embrace the dead. Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the

earth. Strengthen us for our journey with this meal, the body and blood of Christ.

Give us a future that trusts in you and cares for your earth. Empowered by your promises, we rise from our deaths to praise you again:

The earth is full of your glory.

The earth is full of your glory.

Amen, and Amen.

Amen, and Amen.

**Lord's Prayer*

Gathered around our Lord's Table, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

**Invitation to Communion*

Distribution

All Are Welcome at the Lord's Table

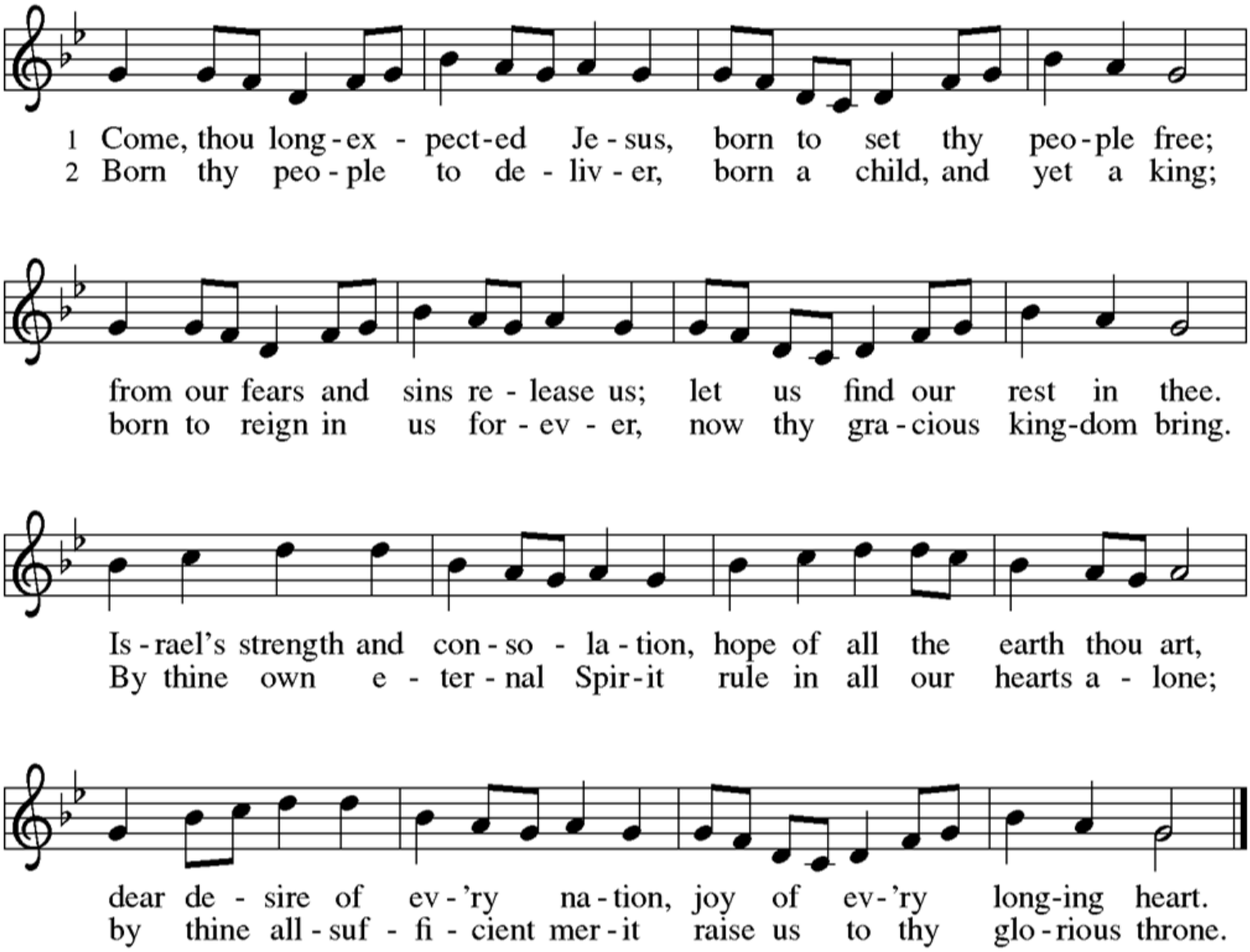
We have gluten-free hosts available. The lighter colored drink is non-alcoholic. Please fill out a communion card or a visitor card and hand it to the ushers who will direct you down the center aisle.

SENDING

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus . . . May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing. (Romans 15:5, 13)

**Post Communion Song*

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Post Communion Prayer

Providing God,

you feed your flock like a shepherd and gather your people in your arms. We praise you for the care and sustenance you give at this meal and always. As we leave your table, carry us near your heart, and send us with confidence in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

**Benediction*

God our provider, God our feast, God our companion, ☩ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

**Sending Hymn* *ELW 638*

**Dismissal*

Go in peace. God draws near.

Thanks be to God.

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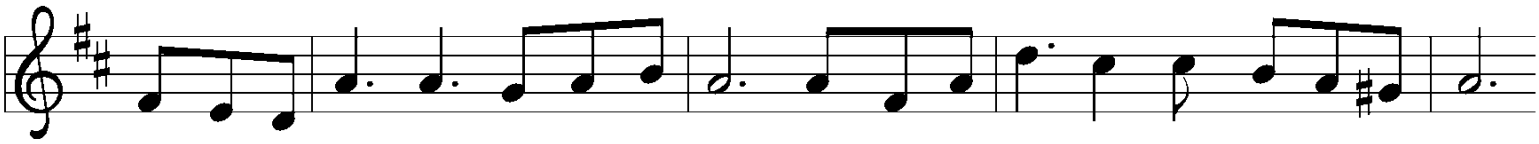
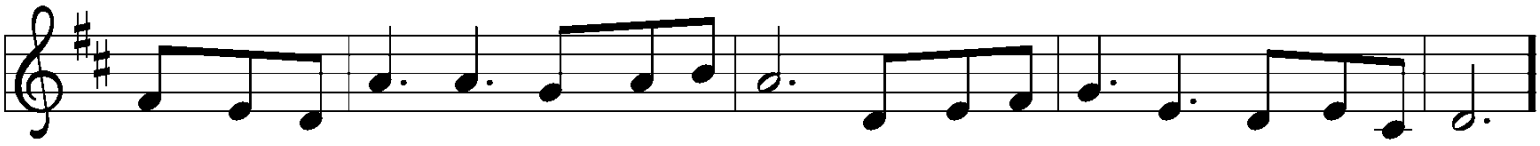
Blessed Assurance

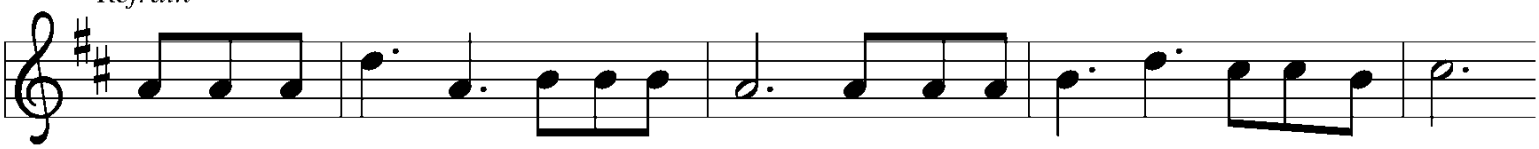


1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,

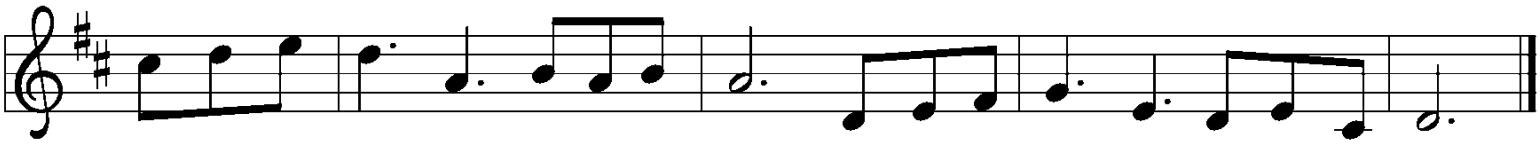


Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



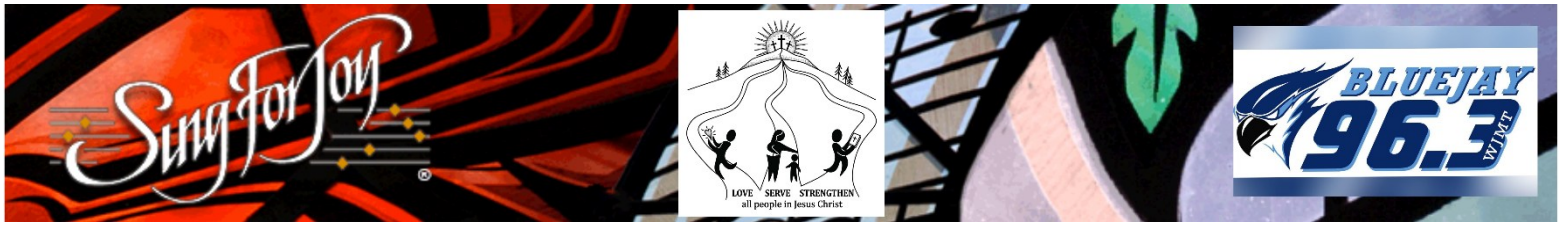
This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
300 Logan St. Merrill, WI 54452
Monday – Friday 9:00am – 1:00pm
oslcelca.org office@oslcelca.org 715-536-5813
Pastor@oslcelca.org



Sing For Joy

Sunday morning at 10:00 am, we broadcast the St. Olaf Collage's Sing for Joy radio program. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast in honor of, or in memory of, anyone, or just because you love religious music, please sign up on the sheet in the hallway. You can also contact the church office as well.

Prayer List



Lois Ullman, , Cash Beyer, Laurie Sprague, Earleen Fox, Katie Hahn, John Hahn, Andy Semling, Chad Semling, Karleen Bebel, Gilman Smoot, Richard Ollmann, Elayne Ollman, Sarah Willman, Jane Eshleman, Jerrald Laak, Lee Ann and Lindy Lindquist, Larry Lebal, Barbara Kampstra (Bea Lebal's Sister),Scott Buttke Halena Anderson, Stacy Dummer (niece of Ruth Nelson-Lau), and the families of Carri Leyk, Norma Thompson, Gary Dietrich, and Adam Norman.

Sunday Fellowship



Pr. Justin will usually make a pot of regular coffee; all we need is some sweet treats from you. Sign up in the lounge or surprise us!

November 29th Korrine O'Malley

December 6th Cookie Exchange – bring your cookies & containers!

This Week's Events – November 29th – December 5th



NOVEMBER 29TH	9:00 am Worship Service
NOVEMBER 30TH	6:45 pm Bible Study
DECEMBER 2ND	10:00 am Faithful Followers at Christ United Methodist Church
	6:00 pm Confirmation Class
DECEMBER 5TH	4:30 pm Worship Service

Birthdays This Week – November 29th – December 5th



December 1st	Mark Latzig
	Brenda Mueller
December 3rd	Isaac Buntrock
December 5th	Jeremy Hietala

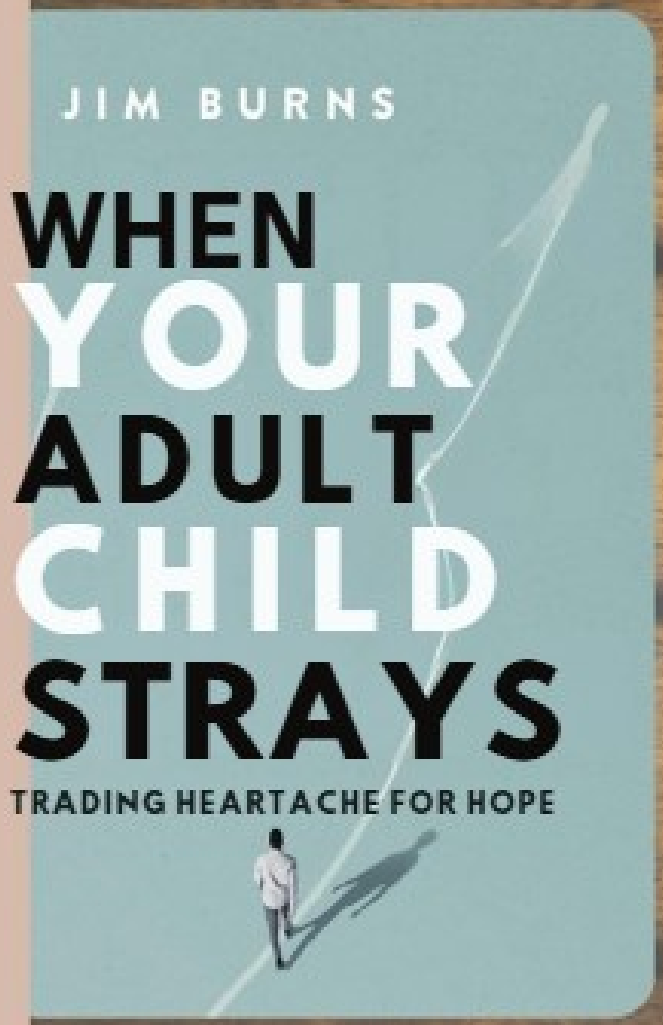
If you know of additions or corrections to the Birthday list, please let the office know so that we can update our records.

Blessing Container



There will be a "blessing container" available for you to share what you think the Food Pantry would like/need. The container will be out through **December 6th**. As the container fills, Barb Fraser has offered to take the items to the Food Pantry - she is looking forward to making several trips! If you would like Barb to do your shopping just give her a call at 715-451-1549 and she will be glad to help you out. Thank you.

Book/Bible Study



Wednesday @ 10am

Dec 2	Christ UMC
Dec 9	Our Saviour's
Dec 16	Christ UMC
Dec 23 & 30	No Class

At Christ UMC we will be discussing this book. Copies are available in the office
At Our Saviour's we will be reading 1st Kings.

The Skinny Tree is Here – 3 Tickets Left on the Tree



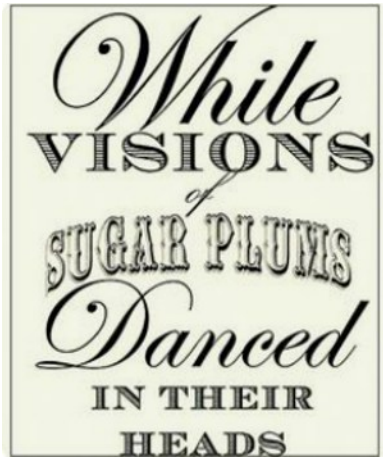
As you read this, the Skinny Tree is up in the narthex for Lincoln County's Christmas Spirit Project. This is an opportunity for you to purchase gifts for less fortunate area children. To participate all you need to do is choose a tag with gift suggestions from the Skinny Tree, sign the registration sheet and you're good to go shopping! Complete directions are attached to each tag. **If you take more than one tag, please make sure the tags are from**

the same family. The due date to bring the gifts back to Our Saviour's is Tuesday December 1st. Thank you for sharing your Christmas Spirit to bring joy to others!

Sharing Christmas



Do you have a small Christmas decoration you could share? The shelves in the lounge could use some brightening up for the holiday season - angels, nativity scenes, trees, etc., small enough to fit on one of the shelves. If you can share something, simply place it in one of the empty spots and print your name on a label (you will find it on the library desk). Please put your label next to the item that you share. Thank you for sharing!



Christmas Cookie Exchange

It may not be sugarplums doing the dancing, but it might be gingerbread, peppermint, peanut brittle, and fudge. They're dancing because Our Saviour's Third Annual Cookie Exchange is right around the corner!

The Outreach Team hopes you can share two or three dozen of your homemade Christmas goodies for the exchange. Please bring them to the lounge before 10 am on December 6 - in a disposable container or a plate with your name on it. Also, don't forget to bring a container to carry home the treats you choose. If you bring two dozen items, choose two dozen to take home.

Please sign up on the sheet in the hall. That way we'll know how many tables to set up

Come! Kick off the holiday season with merriment and munching!

'Tis the Season!



It's that time of year again – when the wonderful people of Merrill come together to support their neighbors in need. If you have time in your schedule and want to make a difference in the community, please consider volunteering to ring the bells for the Salvation Army. Your time and kindness can help bring hope to those who need it most this holiday season. If you are able to help, please contact Robin Leipart at 715-965-7314 – if she doesn't answer please leave her a message. Together, we can make this season brighter for so many. Thank you.

Speaking of 'Tis the Season! …



It's time to start thinking about decorating the church for Christmas. We are hoping to have the tree delivered or brought in on Thursday December 3rd .We may need some extra help that day to set up the tree.

Then, on Saturday December 5th, we will be decorating the church starting at 9:00 am. Our Worship and Music Committee is quite small so any extra hands will be welcome. We always have a fun time.



We will be taking down the Christmas decorations on Suinday January 3rd, after church. We will gladly take volunteers then too!

Thank you - Worship and Music Committee

We Are Looking For:



There are a couple Nesco's missing. Did you happen to borrow one and forget to return it? If you did and are no longer in need of it, please return it to the kitchen. It will be appreciated.

Do You Still Need to Take Your (RMD) for 2026?



You might be able to avoid paying taxes on some of that money by requesting a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). You instruct your IRA, 401K or 403B custodian to pay your designated gift amount directly to Our Saviour's church. You should check with your tax advisor, money manager or the IRS for further information and rules.



If there's ice in November that will bear a duck, there'll be nothing after but sludge and muck.

November take flail; let ships no more sail.

If trees show buds in November, the winter will last until May.

There is no better month in the year to cut wood than November.

Ice in November brings mud in December.

Mark Your Calendars



Mark your calendars for a Christmas concert — or two! Voices from the Methodist Church will join with singers from Our Saviour's for two presentations. The first concert will be held **at Our Saviour's on SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12 at 4:30**; light refreshments will follow. The second performance will take place **at Christ United Methodist Church on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 at 10:30.** There will be no worship service at OSLC on either December 12 or 13.





WHERE DID LWR QUILTS & KITS GO IN 2026?

622,422 QUILTS & KITS IN **19** COUNTRIES

227,040 QUILTS

237,713 SCHOOL KITS

100,920 PERSONAL CARE KITS

49,049 BABY CARE KITS

7,700 FABRIC KITS

COUNTRY	QUILTS	SCHOOL KITS	PERSONAL CARE KITS	BABY CARE KITS	FABRIC KITS
ALBANIA	4,620	7,250			
ANGOLA	34,188	18,850			
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	19,965	8,700	2,900		735
GAZA	2,970	8,990			1,050
GEORGIA	3,300	35,554	2,494		
HONDURAS		29,000			
JAMAICA	4,950	17,400	11,600	3,900	
JORDAN	4,620	7,250			
LEBANON	9,240		15,225	20,475	
LIBERIA	4,950	2,030			
MADAGASCAR	3,300			390	
MOLDOVA	4,620	7,250			
SERBIA	7,986	1,885			
SOUTH SUDAN	18,810		1,305	2,860	105
TANZANIA	24,420	7,250		1,950	3,500
UKRAINE	18,480		15,225		
UNITED STATES - EAST	17,259	36,192	21,750	9,646	2,170
UNITED STATES - CENTRAL	15,840	14,065	13,311	4,888	140
UNITED STATES - WEST	13,398	33,669	15,660	3,640	
VENEZUELA	7,524	2,378	1,450		
ZIMBABWE	6,600			1,300	
TOTAL	**227,040**	**237,713**	**100,920**	**49,049**	**7,700**

This shipping information is from LWR's 2026 Fiscal Year (Oct. 2025 - Sept. 2026).

SHIPPING WAREHOUSE: ◆ MINNESOTA ● MINNESOTA & NEW WINDSOR

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News from East Central Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA

GRATITUDE, FAITH, AND COMMUNITY

GIVING THANKS IN EVERY SEASON

This week, many of us will celebrate Thanksgiving. It's a holiday that endures beyond (and in spite of) the origin story many of us learned about US history, Pilgrims and Indians. Ultimately, an opportunity to gather and express gratitude carries meaning of its own; meaning that we connect to deeply as people of faith. Gratitude is a way of living, a way of seeing, and a way of recognizing God's presence in the midst of our everyday lives.

As people of faith, we give thanks not because everything is perfect, but because God's love remains steadfast through it all. We give thanks for a God who meets us in both our joys and our struggles, who brings hope where there is uncertainty, and healing where there is brokenness.

We give thanks for the gift of community—for congregations that gather, for neighbors who care for one another, for hands that serve, voices that encourage, and hearts that remain open to the needs of others. We are reminded that we do not journey through this life alone. We belong to one another, and together we are the hands and feet of Christ in the world. Christ sets before us–not just this week, but always: a table of welcome, grace, forgiveness, and abundant love. A place where all are invited, all are fed, and all are reminded that they are beloved children of God.

For the promise of God's presence in every season, we give thanks. Thanks be to God for you, for the ministries we share, and for the ways we continue to live out God's love together. Happy Thanksgiving! 🤎