

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, December 4, 2022 †



Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Sunday, December 4, 2022
8:45 Worship

CALL TO WORSHIP

P Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines;

C We will exult in the God of our salvation.

P Though the produce of the olive fails and the fields yield no food;

C We will exult in the God of our salvation.

P Though the flock is cut off from the fold and there is no herd in the stalls;

C We will exult in the God of our salvation.

P During these difficult days, exulting in the God of our salvation,

C Come, let us worship the Lord.

GATHERING SONG: #244 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Many years ago, Esther risked her life in going before the king. "If I perish, I perish," she said, and she did what she was called to do. Esther listened to God's call and responded faithfully. We often fail to do the same. That unwillingness to listen and respond we call sin. Let us take a moment to reflect on our sin.

Silence

P What is God's call to us concerning our relationship with God?

C God calls us to love and serve God only, to have no other gods. We confess that we have a multitude of gods in our lives, from money and security to possessions and comfort.

P What is God's call to us concerning our relationship with all people everywhere?

C God calls us to reach out to and love our

neighbor. We confess that we wish to narrowly define who we are to love, and we too often ignore those who are in need.

P What is God's call to us concerning our relationship with creation itself?

C God calls us to till the earth and keep it, to be good stewards of God's good creation. We confess that we have separated ourselves from creation as if we ourselves were gods, and the earth suffers under the weight of our demands.

P The good news for us is that God loves us not because of who we are, but because of who God is. And the God revealed to us in the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is a God who will continue calling to us, who requires faithfulness of us, but who will never give up on us. So, as a called and ordained minister of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by his command, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Now, be the new thing that God declares.

C Thanks be to God.

SONG: #245 Creator of the Stars of Night

THEME FOR THE DAY

SONG: #764 Have No Fear, Little Flock

READING

Esther 4:1-17

Read by Keralyn Groff

When Mordecai learned [that all Jews were to be destroyed], Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went through the city, wailing with a loud and bitter cry; he went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one might enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. In every province, wherever the king's command and his decree came, there was great mourning among the

Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and most of them lay in sackcloth and ashes.

When Esther's maids and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed; she sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth; but he would not accept them. Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs, who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what was happening and why. Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate, and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther, explain it to her, and charge her to go to the king to make supplication to him and entreat him for her people.

Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai, saying, 'All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—all alike are to be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden sceptre to someone, may that person live. I myself have not been called to come in to the king for thirty days.' When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, 'Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.' Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, 'Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law; and if I perish, I perish.' Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

R The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SERMON: Pastor Steve Sylvester

SONG: #676 Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31

P In you, O Lord, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.

**C Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily.**

P Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

RECONCILIATION

P The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

CHANCEL SINGERS

PRAYER AFTER OFFERING

P God of love,

C You created the heavens and stretched them

out. You spread out the earth and what comes from it, and you give breath to the people upon it. Everything that we have, everything that we are, is a gift from your hand. Accept what you return to you and help us to use it for the good of all your creation. Amen

JESUS' WORDS OF INVITATION

LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial. And deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

HOLY COMMUNION

Grape Juice and Gluten Free wafers are available in addition to wine and regular wafers.

PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

P God of Advent hope,

C Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us. We cannot explain or understand how Jesus is present in the bread and wine we have shared, but we know that he is, and we know he will remain with us, that we might be your people for the world you so love. Amen

BLESSING

P I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,

I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

C Amen

SENDING SONG: #671 Shine, Jesus, Shine

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please remember in your prayers:

Sue Cardinal, Kennedy Deutmeyer,
Shannon Kirberger, Sandy Kurkowski,
David Boe

The people of Ukraine

San Isidro Labrador in Guatemala

Tarkanfi in Ethiopia

Shut-ins unable to worship with us include:

Shirley Meek, Marnie Mackey,
Marlys Gamm, Gladys Hanson,
Eunice Banta, Marv Emly,
Cindy Durand, Marlena McClanahan,
Elaine Thielke,
Anita Callander, Gloria Beecher

To join the prayer chain or to add your concerns, please email

prayerchain@oursaviorsonline.org

or call Jeanne Zaske at

(651) 398-2414

Attendance for Sunday, November 27th

8:45 In-person= 81

8:45 Streaming/Recording= 88

10:45 In-person= 78

10:45 Streaming/Recording= 95

Farewell

Dec. 18th (both services)

As Pastor Steve's time with us is drawing to a close, it's time to celebrate his ministry at Our Savior's. Join us for a time of prayer and thanksgiving during worship. Afterwards, we'll enjoy cake and coffee. A basket will be available to collect cards and well wishes.

If you would like to contribute towards a congregational gift, please mark it in the memo as a "farewell gift" prior to Dec. 11th. If you have any questions, please contact Amy in the office.

Thanks!

Online Giving

Convenient way to give online—

Scan the QR code below
(with your cellphone camera)

You will be taken to our online giving site.

Select :

- amount
- Frequency, start date if recurring
- fund to contribute to
- provide some account details

Once you give the first time, your account should be set up and you can text to give using your cell phone or scan QR code.

Any questions? Ask Amy in the office.



CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE



As we enter the season of Advent our get-togethers and need for holiday goodies increase! Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 11 when a bake sale will take place between services at Our Savior's! Lefse, special treats for the kids, Christmas cookies and candy will be available at our annual bake sale.

If you would like to donate your special goodies please plate them by ½ dozens and have them at church by 8:15 AM on the 11th.

Thanks for supporting this cause in any way that you can. All funds raised will go to the 75th Anniversary Legacy Fund for future improvements in our building and ministry.

We are busy around here at Our Savior's.

Thank you to all those that help with so many things around church. You may not have gotten caught by the camera, but you don't go unnoticed.



CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILY

Summer Mission Trips

Registration has officially opened for all three of our 2023 summer mission trips. Middle school will be going to Lake Traverse, SD, from July 8-14; high school will be going to Toledo, OH, from June 24-July 1; and young adults will be going to Denver, CO, from July 22-29.

This is our first year trying a week long young adults mission trip. Anyone who is out of high school is welcome to register, though it will be focused on those in the late teens-20s.

For questions, please reach out to Pastor Susie or Nick.
Registrations forms are online or outside of Nick's office.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Christmas Eve 11 AM

Children interested in playing piano or other musical instrument for the prelude/postlude or interested in reading scripture during this worship service should call/text Joy Rauner, 763-234-8131 or email joyrauner2@gmail.com by Dec. 17.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

CHRISTMAS EVE 11:00 AM

Join us for a worship service specially designed for children. Families and friends are invited to praise and worship the NEWBORN KING in a style appropriate and meaningful to young children.

7th Grade Confirmation Retreat

Dec. 9th

6-11 pm

Dinner will not be served, so please eat before you come.

If you are unable to make it, please let Pastor Susie or Nick know as soon as possible. This is a required retreat.



Noah's Ark

**Accepting registrations for
Preschool and
Before and After School Childcare**

CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILY



Pop Up Nativity

December 18th (both services)

Come, celebrate the Christmas story with us! This year, the entire congregation has a role to play! That includes you!!! Remember the excitement of your childhood, preparing for the program? The halos, the shepherd's hooks? Let's do it again! All are invited to tell the story! No preparation is needed.

Sunday School Families: Contact Danielle if your child would like a small speaking role. We will practice on Dec. 11th. Children will sit with their families until they are called forward for both speaking/non-speaking parts and will return to their seats afterwards.

High school youth, Confirmation students...earn service hour credits with a speaking role!

Contact Pastor Susie to sign up. Parts are limited, so don't delay in claiming yours!

THE MUSICIANS & PERFORMERS OF

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

~ Presents ~

Bethlehem Speaks

A play by Rochelle Pennington

Performances by:

Chancel Singers

J.A.M SINGERS

Dolce Bells

NoEqual

Cornerstone

ADVENT
CONCERT & PLAY

December 11th, 2022

6 p.m.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
9185 Lexington Ave N
Circle Pines, MN 55014
763-784-1971
Oursaviorsonline.org

Cookie reception after
concert in Luther Hall

UPCOMING DATES

Still Worship

reflective Christmas worship that takes place at the end of confirmation, organized by the high school students

Sunday, December 18th
at 7:15 PM

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December 24th
Christmas Eve

Children's' Christmas Worship
at 11:00 AM

Contemporary Family Worship
at 3:00 PM

Contemporary Candlelight Worship
at 4:30 PM

Traditional Candlelight Worship
at 10:00 PM

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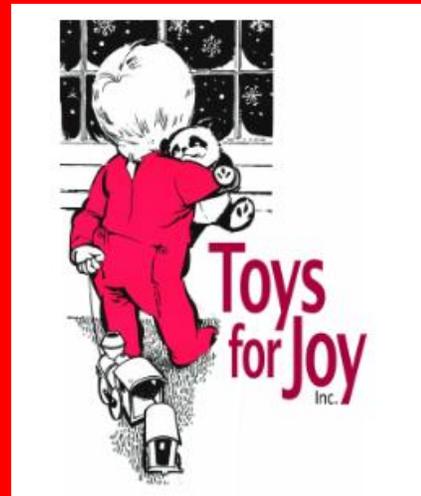
December 25th
Christmas Day

Holy Communion Worship
at 10:00 AM

Still looking to donate to an organization this holiday season...

You are invited to join the Confirmation Youth in collecting unwrapped gifts for children in our community! Toys for Joys collects unwrapped gifts for youth, ages 12-18 in Anoka County. If you would like to double the youth's efforts, please bring your items to church by the morning of Dec. 18th and place in the box by the Christmas tree in the Narthex.

For more information, check out toysforjoymn.com



9185 Lexington Avenue NE, Circle Pines, MN 55014
www.oursaviorsonline.org Saint Paul Area Synod, ELCA

Office Staffed:

Monday and Friday 9 AM-Noon

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9 AM - 3 PM

763-784-1971

Individual staff schedules vary, please make appointment for specific needs