

**Welcome!** We are happy to share God's peace with everyone. Visitors are invited to sign our guest book in the entryway. If you have any questions, the ushers are ready to help. Feel free to visit after the service.

- Aids to assist with hearing (Williams Sound System) are available from the ushers.
- Printed copies of the sermon are available on the tract desk.
- Large Print Service binders can be found on the tract desk.
- Personal prayers for use before church or during the week are printed on p. 255- 258 in the hymnal.
- For a personal preparation for Holy Communion, please see pages 295-296 in your hymnal.

**Please note: the Sunday service is being recorded and streamed on YouTube.**

**[www.youtube.com/@stlukesvassar](http://www.youtube.com/@stlukesvassar)**

Our Lord teaches in his Word that in Communion we receive Jesus' true body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine, and that participation is also a declaration that we believe what our fellow communicants believe. In obedience to God's Word, then, we ask that only those who agree on all points of teaching—those who belong to a WELS or ELS church—

and are confirmed partake in the Lord's Supper today. If you are not a member of WELS or ELS church but would like to pursue that unity of faith, or if you have questions, please speak with Pastor.

**Setting 3: pg. 188**

**372 As with Gladness Men of Old**

CW 372

- 1 As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold,  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright,  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led by thee.
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped,  
Savior, to thy lowly bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
thee, whom heav'n and earth adore,  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek thy mercy seat
- 3 As they offered gifts most rare  
at thy cradle, rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee, our heav'nly King.

4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry day  
keep us in the narrow way;  
and, when earthly things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds thy glory hide.

*Please stand for the final stanza*

5 In the heav'nly country bright  
need they no created light;  
thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
thou its sun which goes not down.  
There forever may we sing  
alleluias to our King!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.

Text: Public domain

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the  
Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **Confession**

CW 188

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and  
the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts,  
words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and  
forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a  
sinner.**

***(Silence for meditation and reflection)***

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us.

He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as  
the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his  
authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the  
Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Lord, Have Mercy**

**CW 190**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

**Glory to God in the Highest**

**CW 191**

***Refrain:* Glory to God in the highest, glory to God, and peace to his people on earth, and peace to his people on earth.**

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen. *Refrain*

## **THE WORD**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

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)***

## First Reading

*Isaiah 60:1–6*

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD is dawning upon you.

<sup>2</sup>Look, darkness covers the earth,  
and deep darkness covers the peoples,  
but the LORD will dawn upon you,  
and his glory will be seen over you.

<sup>3</sup>Nations will walk to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>Look up. Look all around and see!

All of them have been gathered. They are coming to  
you.

Your sons will come from far away,  
and people will carry your daughters on their side.

<sup>5</sup>Then you will look and be radiant.

Your heart will race with excitement and burst with  
joy.

For great riches from the sea will be delivered to  
you.

The wealth of the nations will come to you.

<sup>6</sup>Caravans of camels will cover your land,  
young camels from Midian and Ephah.

All those from Sheba will come.

They will carry gold and incense,  
and they will announce the good news of the praise  
of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**72 Lord, Every Nation on Earth Will Adore You**      *Psalms 72*  
*Refrain*

**Lord, ev'ry nation on earth will adore you.**

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**

Text: © 1969, 1981, 1997 ICEL (refrain). Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716852

## **Second Reading**

*Ephesians 3:2–12*

<sup>2</sup>Surely you have heard of the administration of God's grace given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation (as I have already written briefly). <sup>4</sup>When you read this, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>This mystery was not made known to people in past generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets. <sup>6</sup>This mystery is that in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and people who also share in the promise through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>I became a servant of this gospel, in keeping with the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>To me—even though I am the very least of all the saints—was given this grace: to preach to the

Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ <sup>9</sup>and to enlighten everyone about the administration of this mystery. In past ages this mystery remained hidden in God, who created all things. <sup>10</sup>He did this so that, through the church, the multifaceted wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was done according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup>In him we can freely approach God with confidence through faith in him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(Stand)*

**Gospel Acclamation**

*Matthew 2:2*

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!

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.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!

**Gospel**

*Matthew 2:1–12*

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, <sup>2</sup>“Where is he who has been born

King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>He gathered together all the people's chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel.”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him.”

<sup>9</sup>After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. <sup>11</sup>After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise be to you, O Christ!**  
(*Be seated*)

**370 How Lovely Shines the Morning Star**

CW 370

- 1     How lovely shines the Morning Star!  
      The nations see and hail afar  
        the light in Judah shining.  
      O David's son of Jacob's race,  
      my Bridegroom and my King of grace,  
        for you my heart is pining.  
        Lowly, holy,  
        great and glorious,  
      O victorious  
        Prince of graces,  
      filling all the heav'nly places.
  
- 2     O highest joy by mortals won,  
      true Son of God and Mary's son,  
        the highborn King of ages!  
      In your blest body let me be,  
      e'en as the branch is in the tree,  
        your life my life supplying.  
        Sighing, crying  
      for the savor  
      of your favor,

resting never  
till I rest in you forever.

- 3 O mighty Father, in your Son  
you loved me ere you had begun  
this ancient world's foundation.  
Your Son has made a friend of me,  
and when in spirit him I see,  
I joy in tribulation.  
What bliss is this!  
He is living,  
to me giving  
life forever;  
nothing me from him can sever.
- 4 Oh, joy to know that you, my friend,  
are Lord, beginning without end,  
the first and last, eternal!  
And you at length—O glorious grace—  
will take me to that holy place,  
the home of joys supernal.  
Amen, amen!  
Come and meet me,  
quickly greet me!  
With deep yearning,  
Lord, I look for your returning

5 Lift up the voice and strike the string,  
let all glad sounds of music ring  
in God's high praises blended.  
Christ will be with me all the way,  
today, tomorrow, ev'ry day  
till trav'ling days are ended.  
Sing out, ring out  
triumph glorious,  
O victorious  
chosen nation;  
praise the God of your salvation.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, abr., adapt; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## **Sermon**

Matthew 2:1-12

Jesus Is the World's Savior

I. For those who believe in him

II. Even for those who reject him

III. God leads people to him

*(Stand)*

## **Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,**

**seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son  
of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from  
true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation, he came down from  
heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin  
Mary,  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius  
Pilate.  
He suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with  
the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living  
and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic  
Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*(Be seated)*

**Prayer of the Church**

**Offering**

**THE SACRAMENT**

*(Stand)*

**Preface**

CW 199

**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, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

CW 200

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts,  
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation.

In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to 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.**

## **Lamb of God**

CW 202

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us, grant us peace.

*(Be seated)*

## **Distribution**

*(As he distributes the elements, the minister says to the communicants:)*

Take and eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Take and drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, poured out for the forgiveness of your sins.

*(As he dismisses the communicants, the minister says:)*

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go † in peace.

**Amen.**

### 371 A Child Is Born in Bethlehem

CW 371

- 1 A child is born in Bethlehem,  
Bethlehem,  
the joy of all Jerusalem.  
Alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 His mother is the virgin maid,  
virgin maid,  
who gave him birth with no man's aid.  
Alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 The kings from Sheba journey there,  
journey there,  
gold, frankincense, and myrrh they bear.  
Alleluia, alleluia!
- 4 Within the house they greet the child,  
greet the child,  
attended by his mother mild.  
Alleluia, alleluia!
- 5 Then low they kneel in rev'rent fear,  
rev'rent fear,  
exclaiming, "God and man is here!"  
Alleluia, alleluia!

6 For such a season, rich in grace,  
rich in grace,  
to God forevermore be praise!  
Alleluia, alleluia!

7 All filled with joy at Jesus' birth,  
Jesus' birth,  
we bless the Lord who came to earth.  
Alleluia, alleluia!

8 All praise the Holy Trinity,  
Trinity,  
from now unto eternity!  
Alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Latin, 13th cent.; (sts. 1–3, 6, 8): tr. Christopher J. Neuendorf. alt.; (sts. 4–5, 7): tr. Christian Worship, 2021

Text (sts. 1–3, 6, 8): © 2014 Christopher J. Neuendorf, admin. Northwestern Publishing House; (sts. 4–5, 7): © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716852

**(Stand)**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

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.**

### **376 Rise Up and Shine**

CW 376

- 1     Rise up and shine! Your light has come;  
        God's glory breaks like dawn.  
For though the earth be cloaked in night  
        and gloom shrouds ev'ryone,  
yet over you the Lord will rise,  
        with glory gleaming clear,  
till nations turn to seek your light  
        and humbled kings draw near.
  
- 2     Fling wide your gates, both day and night;  
        no more keep watch or guard.  
You will be called God's holy hill,

the city of the Lord.  
No sound of strife will plague your land,  
nor harm besiege your ways;  
“Salvation” will you name your walls,  
and all your portals “Praise.”

3 No more will you implore the sun  
to shed by day its light,  
nor will you need the changeful moon  
to glisten through the night.  
Your glory then will be your God,  
whose light will never cease.  
Rise up and shine! Your light has come  
to give you joy and peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., b. 1944

Text: © 1990 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716852

Acknowledgments  
Setting Three from Christian Worship  
Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) © 2007 Warburg Project. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.  
Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.  
Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2015 Concordia Publishing House.

Sunday 01/04/2026.....9:00 AM Communion Service  
Monday 01/05/2026.....7:00 PM Communion Service  
Tuesday 01/06/2026.....6:30 PM Mega Meeting  
Thursday 01/08/2026.....7:00 PM Sunday School Teacher  
Meeting  
Friday 01/09/2026.....6:30 PM Euchre/Game Night  
Sunday 01/11/2026.....9:00 AM Worship Service  
.....Take Down Decorations  
Monday 01/12/2026.....7:00 PM Worship Service



## Our **Time** to Our Lord

---

### January Servers

**Sundays** Paul and Silas Schultz, Eric Korthals

**Monday:** David Atkins

**Finance:** Gabe Fall

**Altar Guild:** Beth Solgat and Beth Arnold

**Organist:** Olivia Marker

---

## Sunday Morning Bible Class: History of the WELS Snack Volunteers

*January Sundays are next up, sign up today*

---

Scan to Give      Our **Treasures** to Our Lord



December 22, 24, 25, 28, 29, 2025

Budgetary Gifts: \$20,625.00

Lawsuit Settlement: \$45,000.00

Fidelity Brokerage: \$1,000.00

### **Attendance**

Sunday December 28<sup>th</sup>: 53

Monday December 29<sup>th</sup>: 15

---

## Game Nights Return!!!

What started out as only euchre has evolved into a variety of card and board games. Bring yourself, a snack to share if desired, and your game face!

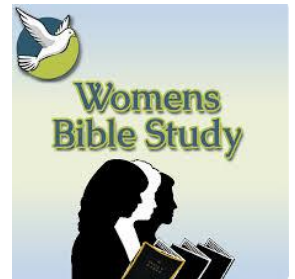
January Dates:

January 9<sup>th</sup> and January 23<sup>rd</sup>

6:30 PM

## Women's Bible Study Returns!!!

Calling all Ladies: Beginning January 2026, all women are invited to join our **twice-monthly Women's Bible Studies!** We will meet on the **second Tuesday and the fourth Thursday of each month**, with our first gathering on **Tuesday, January 13, 2026**. The first meeting each month will feature a short devotion followed by fellowship or a service project, while the second gathering will be a full Bible study lasting about an hour. Come grow in God's Word, build meaningful connections, and serve together. All women are welcome!



**Beverage Container Collection:** Officially the LES can collection has concluded. However, the school will welcome any cans or bottles you may want to continue to donate!

**Undecorating the church: Following the service on January 11<sup>th</sup> we will take down this year's Christmas decorations. More hands make light work. Join the fun!**

**Michigan Lutheran Seminary News**  
**Current MLS Students of St. Luke's**  
**Braylin Zieroff, Phoebe Schultz, Piper Schultz**

Scan to Give

**MLS Jr. CARDINAL POMS CLINIC: The MLS Poms team invites girls in grades K-5 from WELS/ELS churches or schools to join the Jr. Cardinal Poms Clinic on January 25, 2026!** Participants will learn a fun routine to perform at halftime of the MLS varsity basketball game on Friday night, January 30. Cost is \$20 (includes shirt and snack; optional poms and hair bows available). Registration closes January 13 at midnight. For more details or to register, visit [www.mlsem.org](http://www.mlsem.org). Questions? Contact Michael Priebe at [mdp@mlsem.org](mailto:mdp@mlsem.org)

**Calendar Change**

**Please Note:**

**On January 25<sup>th</sup> there will be a Voter's Meeting  
Following the Service**

*There will be no Choir Practice or Bible Class  
Sunday School Classes Will Meet*