

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

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January 8, 2023

9:00 am

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

OPENING HYMN: “Angels from the Realms of Glory” – LSB #367

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth:
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines His Infant Light. [Refrain]

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star. [Refrain]

Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear. [Refrain]

All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son.
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One. [Refrain]

CONFESSION/ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Ezekiel 18 says: *if a wicked person turns away from all his sins that he has committed and keeps all my statutes and does what is just and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die.* For the sins of wickedness we have committed, as well as all other sins we have committed, let us confess ourselves to our Heavenly Father.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, we confess,

People: that we have behaved in wicked manners since our last confession and are in need of forgiveness. We have not honored Your commands as we should. We have sinned in ways both known and unknown to us. For all sins that we have committed, we ask for Your forgiveness.

Pastor: For the sake of Jesus, our Lord and Savior, our Heavenly Father has chosen to be gracious and merciful to us. He has remembered His promises of old that are found in the work of the cross and our Lord's Resurrection. As we start this new day and week, it is my pleasure as a called and ordained servant of the Word to announce God's grace to you, that you are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "As With Gladness Men of Old" – LSB #397, vv 1-2, 4-5

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.

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.

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.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray: Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for the work of Jesus, that we might have forgiveness and grace. We pray that in this new year You would continue to be gracious and loving, forgiving us at all times. In Jesus' name we pray.

People: Amen.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:21-23

But if a wicked person turns away from all his sins that he has committed and keeps all my statutes and does what is just and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the transgressions that he has committed shall be remembered against him; for the righteousness that he has done he shall live. Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord God, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?

SECOND READING: Acts 3:17-21

And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 3:1-3

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'"

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
On the third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY: "We Three Kings of Orient Are" – With One Voice #646, vv 1-2, 5

We three kings of Orient are
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never
over us all to reign. [Refrain]

Glorious now behold him arise
King and God and sacrifice,
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]

SERMON

Pastor Jesus Morales
“Locusts and Honey: Week One”

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray:

Dear Heavenly Father, we pray for the power of repentance to be understood by all. Help us to see the value in submitting ourselves for Your examination, that we might turn from ways of sin to the path of righteousness.

We thank You for bringing us safely into this new year, and we pray for great things in 2023. Bless us and our partner churches, that together we would make Kingdom strides into our community.

As schools near and far start to return from Christmas break, we pray that the new semester would bear fruit and that all: students, teachers, and other staff and faculty would be renewed so as to make their time ahead memorable.

Be with the sick and hurting, (especially...), that they would find relief in the midst of pain and encouragement in the midst of suffering.

Spread Your Word through the power of evangelists, pastors, and other leaders who seek to deliver the message of Jesus to the nations.

May the sanctity of life be honored by all.

As new leaders are preparing to assume their elected positions, we pray for their governance, that it would be filled with Your wisdom and grace, that all would be blessed by their vision.

For these prayers and all other prayers that we have, we lift them to You for Your consideration. Hear us and answer according to Your unfailing love, and may it please You as we pray the prayer Your Son has taught, praying...

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.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning" – LSB #400, vv 1-2, 4-5

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on His cradle the dew-drops are shining;
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would His favor secure,
Richer by far is the heart's adoration;
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.



WE AGAIN WELCOME BACK SARAH MAYER, WHO IS OUR GUEST PIANIST TODAY! We thank Sarah for filling in for Sojung, who has traveled to New York to be with her family and welcoming her new baby grandson! Thanks, Sarah! We are delighted you have been with us at Christ Our Savior over these several weeks! God's blessings to you and your family! Sojung will be back with us next Sunday.

THE OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2023 ARE READY TO BE PICKED UP! Please stop by the table on your way out of church to pick up your Offering envelopes for 2023. They are in alphabetical order. For those of you who are worshipping from home, or are unable to pick them up soon, please call the church office at 630-665-5110 to request that they be mailed to you. Thank you!



THE 2023 FLOWER CHART IS NOW ON THE NARTHEX BULLETIN BOARD! REMEMBER TO SIGN UP FOR ALTAR FLOWERS AS A REMEMBRANCE OR ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS – If you would like to place flowers on the altar to mark a special occasion or give Glory to God, there's a sign-up calendar on the bulletin board in the church entrance to reserve a date. Just sign your name, date and occasion – and take an envelope for payment of

\$30 per Sunday, with checks payable to The Altar Guild. Flowers are yours to take home after the service.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS – Please pray for the following individuals who are in need of your prayers:

Healing or receiving medical treatment:

Donna Klomhaus

June DuBois

Pat Gengler

Charleen Smith, Dawn Wolter's mother

Anne Rumchaks and Joey Basile, Susan Mosteller's friends

Shirley Dring

Dianne and Kim, Shirley Dring's daughters

Al Arbeiter

Dawn Ziemer

Dave Larson

Monica, Mary Larson's sister

Jeff, Rebecca and Joshua Lasky

In the military:

Randy, nephew of Susan Mosteller

And all cherished members who are currently shut in or resting at home.

PASTOR JESUS IS NOW HOLDING A NEW MEMBER CLASS FOR THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING CHRIST OUR SAVIOR. The class currently meets at church on Friday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 pm, and it features a 12-week course titled "God Connects." It helps to answer questions such as, *Why Jesus?... Why the Bible? ...Who is the Holy Spirit?*, as well as provide valuable information about our church doctrine and the Christian life. If you are interested in becoming a member, please see Pastor Jesus and he will give you more information about joining this class, or tell you when the next class may be scheduled. *Note: if you are transferring membership from another LCMS church, your attendance at this class is not mandatory, but would be a great refresher and chance to have your questions answered! Pastor Jesus will be very happy to facilitate the transfer for you.*

VOLUNTEERS FOR SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP AFTER THE 9 AM SERVICE ARE NEEDED! THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS HELPED TO BRING TREATS! If you would like to help with our fellowship of coffee and treats on Sunday morning after our 9 am service, we would love to have you bring a treat for our members! The coffee and water are provided, but we need volunteers who can provide a sweet treat (coffee cake, cookies, muffins, breads, etc.) to share with everyone. Interested? There's a sign-up sheet on the back table where you can sign up for the date you want to help. Thank you!!

PLEASE NOTE PASTOR JESUS' CONTACT INFORMATION – Pastor Jesus is available to minister to our congregation's needs at any time and welcomes the opportunity to serve you. He is available 24/7 to provide pastoral care, prayer, or information. He also makes congregation home visits or visits members in the hospital or nursing facility, or administers Holy Communion at home. If you have a need or want to request a visit, please contact him at 1-630-518-1517 or jesusmorales466@yahoo.com.

WITH WINTER HERE – OUR BLESSING BOX CONTINUES TO BE A BLESSING TO OUR COMMUNITY! If you are able, please consider picking up a few items during your regular shopping trips to help those less fortunate and dropping off items for our Blessing Box. *The most needed items currently include boxed cereals, all kinds of paper products, disposable baby diapers, feminine products, personal care items, and detergents and sanitizers. Non-perishable food items, including pasta, rice, beans, baking items, tuna, canned meats and sauce are also appreciated.* Now that winter is here, gloves, mittens, socks and hats can also make a difference. Please keep in mind that during extreme temperatures, freezing may occur. Cash contributions are also welcome. Thank you all for your generosity and support!

OUR BENEVOLENT FUND provides confidential emergency assistance to members who are in need of financial, spiritual or other temporary support, such as housing assistance, help paying for medical or prescription expenses, or help during hard times due to lack of employment. Please contact Pastor Jesus in person to discuss your needs, or you may contact him by phone at 1-630-518-1517.

PLEASE NOTE OUR SPECIAL FUNDS ARE CONTINUING IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP.

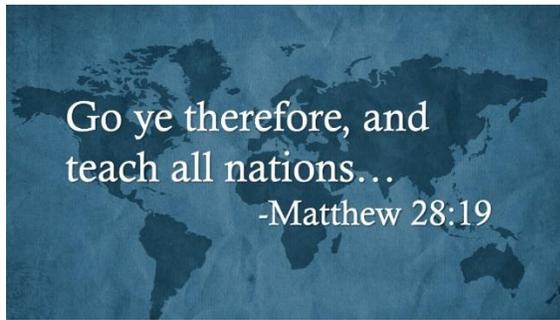
We thank our members for their generosity in supporting our various special funds that are helping us in our ministry at Christ Our Savior. Donations in any amount are gratefully accepted – just indicate the fund and the amount of your donation on your check or offering envelope when you place it in the offering plate. The funds include:

PARSONAGE FUND
PARKING LOT FUND
BLESSING BOX FUND
BENEVOLENT FUND

We sincerely appreciate your support and generosity!

REMEMBER TO BRING IN YOUR POP TABS FOR RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE! The aluminum tabs you pull to open soda, soup and other cans are recycled by United Scrap Metal, who buys the pop tabs at a market rate and makes an additional contribution to Ronald McDonald House. There's a large collection bottle on the back table for your convenience. Thanks so much for your help in collecting tabs and making a big difference!

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT PRAYER CARDS ARE LOCATED IN THE CHURCH PEWS AND CAN BE USED FOR PRAYERS ON SUNDAY MORNING. An usher will collect these cards during the service, and they will be presented to Pastor Jesus during our offering, when they will be added to our congregation prayers. If you would like a prayer shared with all members via email or on the "Prayer Corner" church website, contact Deb Odefey (1-630-209-9918) for the "Prayer Chain" and she will make sure your prayer request is communicated to our church family.



NOVEMBER MISSION AWARENESS UPDATE –

Thank you to everyone for helping to sponsor our missionaries who are hard at work bringing Christ to unchurched nations of the world! In November, over \$1,600 was collected in our mission offerings. Thank you so much for your generosity and support!

Feyissa Muleta, the Ethiopian Missionary from Tensae Church, wrote a note of thanks to Christ Our Savior members for your support of his important missionary work:

Dear family at Christ Our Savior,

I confirm receiving the gift you sent me through CRU (Crusade for Christ International). I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to every person and family (brothers and sisters in Christ) who have made a generous and sacrificial contribution during the month of November toward my ministry in Ethiopia. As a missionary dependent on raising financial support, your kindness and generosity have encouraged me. Such moments are great reminders of what it truly means to belong to God and His family. It is heartwarming to see people who never saw my face investing their God-given money by faith for God's glory and the blessings of His Church. Thank you, brothers and sisters, for your love, prayers, and support.

May God continue to bless you and your loved ones. I will keep in touch,



Blessings,
Feyissa