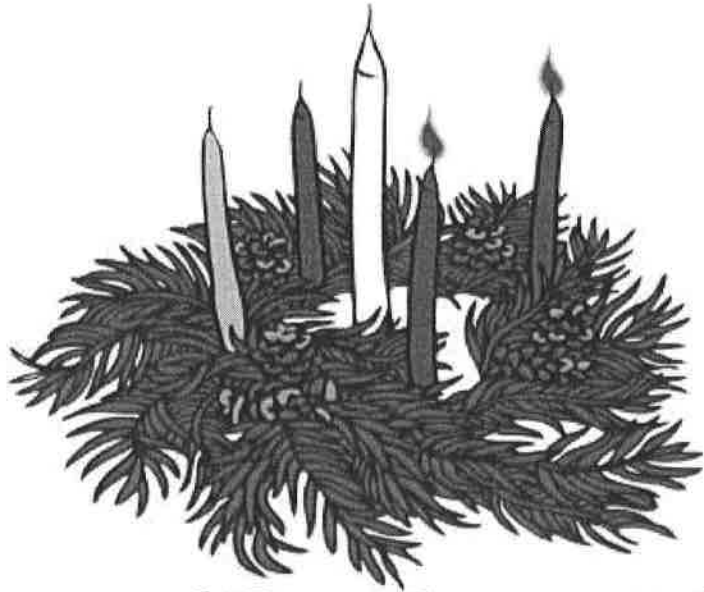




Second Sunday of Advent

Christ Lutheran Church

401 S Main Street

Cochrane, WI 54622

Pastor Mark Wilde

Church Phone: 608-248-2387

Pastor's Cell: 715-495-3419

Email:

christlutherancochrane@gmail.com

YouTube Channel:

[christlutherancochrane](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Second Sunday in Advent - December 8, 2024

313 Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

CW 313

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

CW 172

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.

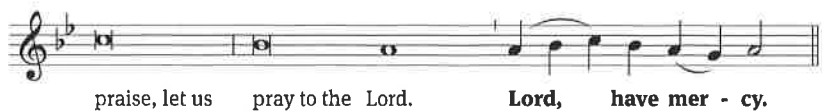
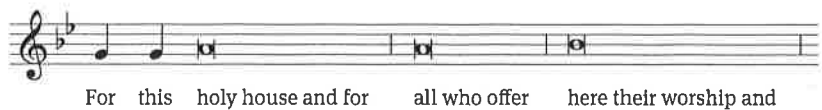
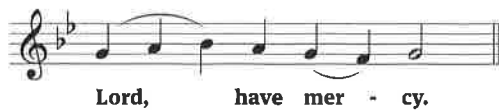
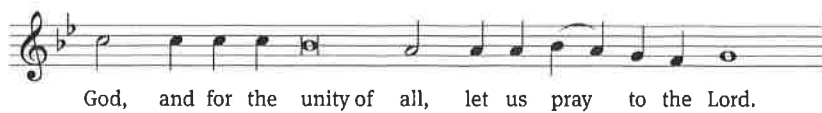
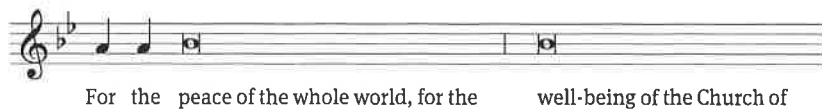
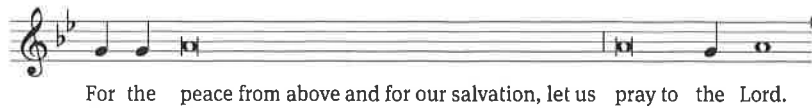
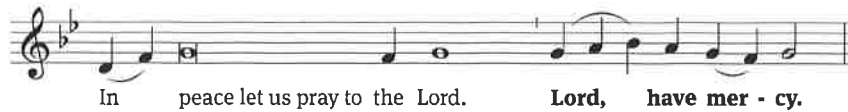
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

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 174



The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-7b

¹"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.

²But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

⁵"So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me," says the LORD Almighty.

⁶"I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them.

Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

66C Let All the Earth Sing Out

Psalm 66C

Refrain



Tone



Shout for joy to God, / all the earth!
Sing the glory of his name; make his praise / glorious.
Praise our God, all / peoples,
let the sound of his / praise be heard;
he has pre- / served our lives
and kept our feet from / slipping. *Refrain*

Come and hear, all you who / fear God;
let me tell you what he has / done for me.
If I had cherished sin / in my heart,
the Lord would not have / listened;
but God has surely / listened
and has / heard my prayer.

**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***

Tune: David Haas
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Second Reading

Philippians 1:3–11

³I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

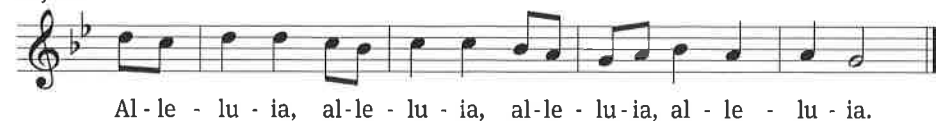
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

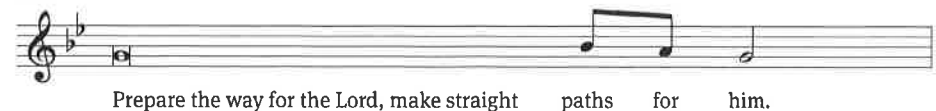
Luke 3:4,6



Refrain



Tone



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5

Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— ²during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.

⁵Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.

⁶And all people will see God’s salvation.’ ”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

316 On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

CW 316

Sermon: Malachi 3:1-7 The Lord Will Come

Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

6

**I believe 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.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated 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.**

Prayer of the Church

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence,

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

7

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

302 Prepare the Royal Highway

CW 302

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and 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.**

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.

317 When All the World Was Cursed

CW 317

Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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RECOVERY IN CHRIST offers hope in Jesus.

A symptom of addiction of any kind is hopelessness. The focus of Recovery in Christ is to bring the hope of Jesus. RIC meets most Sundays at 4:00 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Onalaska, Wisconsin (school library) and Wednesdays, 1:15 pm at La Crosse's Coulee Recovery Center, 933 Ferry Street. To confirm meeting days/times call 608-567-3038 for Sundays, 608-784-4177 for Wednesdays.

Recovery in Christ is not meant to replace other groups or therapists. It is an additional group that offers Christian fellowship and direction to those in recovery from alcohol and/or drugs.

NEED A CARD? Why go to a big box store and spend more than you have to? Please browse our wide selection of cards in the former library room at Christ. Cards are exceptionally priced at \$0.50 each.

Diane Schultz is our sunshine lady. If anyone knows of someone who would like a card of encouragement, please let her know. Her cellphone is 608-738-9934 and her home phone is 608-685-3861.

Church Offerings

Thursday, November 28: 14

General: \$211 Missions: \$ Cap Imp.: \$

Sunday, December 1: 31

General: \$1436 Missions: \$115 Cap Imp: \$45

Total: \$1807

General: \$1647 Missions: \$115 Cap Imp.: \$45

GOOD STEWARD REPORT

WE GIVE THANKS

At this time of the year most people pause to give thanks to God for His many undeserved blessings. Good Steward would also like to thank God for His grace and mercy. At the end of October our total receipts were \$835,236. If receipts for November and December did not increase over last year, but only matched last year, our receipts for 2024 would be about \$980,000, which is \$130,000 more than 2023. For this increase we gladly say, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, His love endures forever."

HELP FOR OTHERS

Because of God's blessing, Good Steward will be able to provide about \$300,000 for various purposes at Luther High School. In addition, we will be able to assist area Lutheran elementary schools with about \$100,000. And God has also guided us to provide help for a variety of charitable organizations. Mose recently we were able to send a large amount of merchandise for hurricane relief in the southeastern part of the United States. And we sent \$1,750 to our synod's Christian Aid and Relief Committee for hurricane relief. If possible, we hope to send more in the future. We have also been able to donate merchandise to the La Crosse Warming Center and La Crosse County Human Services. We thank God for our opportunities to help others.

HELP NEEDED

One of the great blessings which God has given to Good Steward are many wonderful, dedicated workers. We thank God for all of them. Some of our workers do move away. And some of them retire. So we are always happy to have new volunteers. At this time, we are in need of three new department heads. They are a department head for office supplies, another for jewelry and another for cards. Anyone who would like more information about these positions or is interested in one of them should contact our Store Manager, Jeff Essig. You may stop in at the store during business hours or call 608-779-9763.

THANKS TO OUR STAFF

To help our store run smoothly and efficiently we have several paid workers whom we call Coordinators. We thank them for their dedication and hard work. When you are at Good Steward, do not hesitate to speak to them or ask questions. Our Store Manager is Jeff Essig. Our Coordinator's are Kim Larson, Kathy McHenry, Jodi Johnson, Cheryl Davis, Kaylee Gunderson, Kelly Valletta and Lee Johnson. Mike McHenry is our Warehouse Coordinator.

Good Steward
RESALE SHOP



Together

NEWS. RESOURCES. ENCOURAGEMENT.



Pastoral brief on critical theory available

In recent years there have been concerns about the nature and underlying principles of what has been called "critical theory" (CT), which includes narrower subsets such as critical race theory (CRT).

The 2023 synod convention responded to these concerns by passing a resolution that asked the Conference of Presidents to prepare a pastoral brief that would evaluate critical theory and provide guidance for our called workers and members as they are confronted with these and other related issues. A pastoral brief is an explanation—not necessarily brief in length—intended to provide pastoral and evangelical guidance. The brief is entitled "A pastoral brief on critical theory (especially critical race theory)" and is available for you online.

This particular brief goes into great detail and depth regarding the history and philosophical foundations of CT and CRT. It was shared with WELS pastors a few weeks ago so they would have an opportunity to become familiar with it prior to a wider release to our synod members. The brief is lengthy and detailed because this is a complicated and controversial subject. A helpful summary of the brief is included as an introduction. God's blessings as you consider the thoughts shared on this important matter.

View the document at

synodadmin.welsrc.net/download-synodadmin/cop-resources.

Serving with you in Christ,

WELS President Mark Schroeder 

Stay connected to WELS mission and ministry:  [WELSlutherans](#)  [WELSlutherans](#)

WELS offers a variety of devotions and newsletters that can be directly delivered to your inbox. Visit wels.net/subscribe.



To sign up for the e-mail version, visit
wels.net/together.

Our Weekly Walk with Jesus

Sunday, December 8

8:30 am Sunday School/Confirmation Class

9:30 am Worship Service

10:30 am Coffee hour

10:40 am Church council meeting

2:00 pm Coulee Choral Christmas Concert at Luther High School

Monday, December 9

Tuesday, December 10

10:00 am Bible class

6:30 pm Bible class

Wednesday, December 11

6:30 pm Evening service

Thursday, December 12

Friday, December 13

Saturday, December 14

7:00 pm Luther High School Christmas concert

Sunday, December 15

8:30 am Sunday School/Confirmation Class

9:30 am Worship Service

10:30 am Coffee hour

WELS 175: Christ through us

Most institutions, including churches, celebrate anniversaries at quarter-century increments. This marks about a generation. The same is true for WELS. Throughout its history, it has celebrated quarter-century anniversaries. 2025 will mark the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Wisconsin Synod at Salem Lutheran Church on the northwest side of Milwaukee. The Lord of the Church has blessed the proclamation of Christ's saving work to and through the Wisconsin Synod for 175 years. Much has happened since May 26, 1850. Much has happened since the last time the synod marked its anniversary in 2000.

To help the members and congregations of WELS learn about God's blessings to our church body for 175 years, various resources and events are being planned.

- A new book narrating the history of *WELS, Christ Through Us: A Pictorial History of the Wisconsin Synod, 1850-2025*, has been written and will be released in the summer of 2025.
- A revised and expanded edition by John Brenner of Edward Fredrich's *The Wisconsin Synod Lutherans* will be available in the spring of 2025. This is a more scholarly and detailed look at the synod's history.
- Monthly print-ready bulletin inserts will cover key turning points and events in WELS history. The text and images will also be available as short articles for use in newsletters or social media posts.
- An interactive timeline of

WELS history will highlight key events with images and links to other information.

- Monthly videos will feature interviews with WELS historians and also explore interesting aspects of WELS history.
- *WELS Connection* videos will highlight the history of our synod and our current and future gospel ministry efforts.
- Various presentations on WELS historical topics will be offered throughout the year sponsored by WELS Historical Institute.
- Worship resources are being developed for WELS congregations to celebrate the anniversary, the new ten-year strategic plan, and the Reformation as a three-week series at the end of October.
- *Forward in Christ* will feature the synod anniversary in various ways throughout the year.

Most of these resources will be available at welshistoricalinstitute.org/175th.

An anniversary like this can help congregations and members remember and give thanks for God's many blessings that he has showered on us through the gospel. We can learn about how God has brought our church body through challenging times so that WELS is what it is today: a church body committed to the truth of God's Word, striving to faithfully proclaim Christ throughout the world.

By Prof. Joel Otto, chairman of the 175th anniversary committee and dean of students at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wis.