
SIDELITES

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

December 2025



***Christmas Eve Worship – Wednesday, December 24th
3:00 PM, 4:30 PM & 6:00 PM***

The 3:00 PM service will be Live on Facebook.

Overflow seating will be available in the Social Hall for the 3:00PM service! We will also have four stations for Holy Communion at the 3:00PM service.

Special Worship Events in December:

Worship with the
Order of Healing

Sunday, December 14th at 8:30 AM
This Service will not be on Facebook.

LinC† Christmas Program:

Sunday, December 14th at 10:30 AM
This service will be Live on Facebook.

Cantata:

Sunday, December 21st at both services

Sunday, December 29th – Worship at 9:00 AM Only, also Live on Facebook.

Merry Christmas!

Your church staff would like to thank you for your partnership with us as together we make Christ known in both word and deed. Merry Christmas to you and your family. May your Christmas be filled with love and joy.

Madeline Pastor Kathy
Sarah
Chris Jen Lynn Pastor Amy



We Come to the Manger

A church member once gave me some good advice on writing a Christmas Eve sermon. His advice centered on telling the congregation what is important, and keeping it brief! Good advice. You see, we have heard this story before. It's a story we can tell by heart. We have learned it and we have shared it. We have participated in and gone to Sunday school Christmas programs. We have read it to our children even as we heard it each Christmas Eve. We have gone to concerts and events that tell this story in many different ways. Yet, we are drawn in again and again to the story of the birth of Jesus. It's a story that doesn't get old.

What draws us in? Part of it is how Luke tells the story of the birth of Jesus. He sets it in a specific time and place, he connects it to the Old Testament and the promise of a Messiah, and he juxtaposes the emperor in all his power and glory next to a baby born to unwed parents. All of these things draw us in and give us a deeper understanding of God and God's love for us. If I'm going to take the advice given to me though, I'm going to stick to this: we are drawn in because in this story we hear hope, joy, peace and love. It's exactly what we want and what we need.

We need hope that we will get through difficult days and times. And hope that God's arms are wrapped around us in this life and in eternal life. We need joy in the midst of the grind of daily life that reminds us of all the gifts God has given us. We want and need the "peace of God, which surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:7)." In our hectic lives or our humdrum lives, in the chaos we see in the world, we need to know this kind of peace that only comes from God. We want and need love in our lives and our world. The kind of love that forgives us, that gives us eternal life, that calls us "beloved child of God."

This Advent, we will gather each Sunday and "Come to the Manger," to experience God's hope, joy, peace and love. I pray that in this season of Advent and Christmas the light of Christ, Emmanuel, God with us, draws you in and fills you with the hope, joy, peace and love that only God can give.

Pastor Kathy

Retired Persons Coffee

Retired Persons Coffee meets on **Wednesday, December 3rd**, from 9:00AM - 10:00AM. Come for coffee, a treat, and great conversation! If you are willing to make coffee or bring a treat, let Pastor Kathy know.



For all Women of the Church! December 6th at 9:00AM in the Social Hall

Join us for a delicious meal of breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, and coffee. We will have a sing-along Christmas program, WELCA circle members will reveal prayer partners and choose new partners for next year, and have great conversations! Cost is \$9.00. Please sign up in the Social Hall.

Faith and Books

Faith and Books will meet on **Wednesday, December 10th**, at **5:30 PM** in the church library. The book for December is *Small Things Like These*, Claire Keegan. All are welcome. Looking ahead: The book for January is *The Lion Women of Tehran*, Marjan Kamali.

Wednesday Night Suppers

We gather on Wednesday evenings for supper from 5:00PM-6:15PM! All proceeds from the free will offering go to support Wednesday LinCt programming.



December 3 rd :	Goulash, Chicken and Rice
December 10 th :	Meatballs and Gravy over Mashed Potatoes, Glazed Carrots
December 17 th :	Pizza
December 24 th & 31 st :	No Meal – Christmas Break

Fundraiser for the 2026 Youth Mission Trip

On Sunday December 7th and December 14th, we will host a Basket Auction with items for all ages! Proceeds will benefit our 7th – 12th graders attending next summer's Mission Trip to Madison, Wisconsin. Thank you for supporting our youth!



Baby Book Club

Baby Book Club meets on **December 21st** between services in the nursery. The book we will read in December is "Rufus and the Very Special Baby." When you sign up in advance, you will receive a copy of the book we read that day. Whether you sign up in advance or not, you are invited to attend for this special time with parents and children (ages 0-3). Contact Pastor Kathy with questions.

Everlasting Light – A Christmas Cantata

December 21st at both services

Light is synonymous with the Christmas season. As we gaze upon the decorated homes and trees, we see symbols of hope that light will battle darkness, heal, and restore. It is only light that can counter that darkness. The lights on homes and trees are eventually taken down and packed away until next year, but the meaning of those lights last throughout the year. The birth of one Child brought a light that does not fade; a light that was desperately needed in a world of darkness, pain, and loss. A light that would live on eternally... an Everlasting Light.



WEATHER RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS:

It's time to start thinking about inclement weather! If weather is in question, please check our website and Facebook page for any cancellations or postponements. For midweek classes and programs, we'll follow the lead of New Ulm Public Schools. If ISD #88 dismisses early, choirs, confirmation, and groups will not meet. We will also not hold evening suppers. Be sure to follow us at facebook.com/oslcnewulm to stay up to date!



Mission Corner:

Cold Weather Drive, November 16th – 30th

Please consider donating hats, gloves, scarves, socks, etc. At the end of the Drive, items will be distributed to area organizations such as the schools, Ivy House, Connections Shelter, NUMAS, etc.

Family Advent Activity, November 30th between services.

The Mission Ministry Team will have a special Advent craft and Advent calendar available to make and take between services on Sunday, November 30th. As we move into the Advent season, we invite people of all ages to stop by the table to make or take the manger and baby Jesus and grab a calendar for fun and meaningful ideas for the Advent season.

Connections Homeless Shelter in Mankato, December 13th from 3:00PM – 8:30PM: There is a sign up sheet on the Mission Board. We need people who are willing to bring bars, prepare the meal at the church, and serve the meal at the shelter. See the sign up sheet for available times and slots.

These are specific outreach opportunities for all members to join in on. But, also remember that a kind word, a smile, opening a door... can make a difference in someone's day! That too is "mission."

Our Savior's has been a sponsor of *Kikatiti School* in Tanzania for many years. It has been a time of many success stories and many setbacks. We now have a stable source of water without fluoride. The student population is down to 206. The pandemic, lack of rain, and economic issues make it difficult to support the children. Here is your opportunity to help:

- \$100 would purchase 12 critically needed textbooks.
- \$200 would provide 600 simple student meals.
- \$250 would provide a half tuition/room/board scholarship for a deserving student.
- \$500 would provide FULL tuition/room/board scholarship for a deserving student.

This is the season of feeling thankful and giving of our blessings. Whatever you can give, be it \$50 or \$5,000, it will make an immediate, tangible difference. Your support doesn't just let a school in a small Tanzanian village survive. It helps a generation of young people build lives of faith, purpose and possibility. Forms for donations to Kikatiti are available in the church office, or you can mail a donation directly to Bill Koeckeritz, P.O. Box 742, Spicer, MN 56288.

2025 Year-End Contributions

As the calendar year is quickly coming to a close, please remember that in order for your offerings to be credited in 2025 for tax purposes, we must receive them in the church office or be postmarked by December 31, 2025. Please consider the seasonal postal delays if you choose to mail your offering. Thank you for your gifts to Our Savior's!

Church Leadership, Staff, Committee, and Ministry Team reports to be included in the **2025 Annual Report** are due **no later than Monday, January 5th**. Reports may be dropped off in the church office, or emailed to office@oursaviorsnewulm.org.



To the ministers and congregation:

Thank you for your concern and prayers after my bad fall on August 8th. The first few weeks were difficult, but not unbearable. Thank you for your prayers as it made things heal slowly, but well. The last few weeks were "remove and repair," and the prayers definitely helped me go through that too.

Thank you also for the prayers for my congestive heart failure. It will always be there, but so far they have been able to manage it as good as they can. Love and thanks,

- Marge Schmidt "If Jesus is your friend, you will never be alone!"

Kudos to our 2025 Confirmands!



Back Row (L to R): Lucas Hillesheim, Conlin McAlpine, Nolan Wohlers, Corbin Haynes, Alex Winter, Carson Kiecker, Chase Lee, Ellie Marti

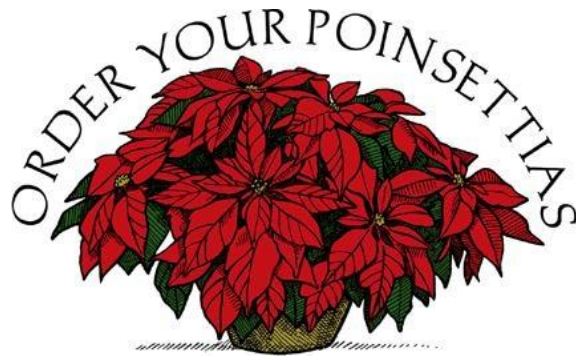
Middle Row (L to R): Pastor Amy Karlson, Kane Medina, Brenton Nachreiner, Lili Waloch, Makayla Borchert, Karly Meier, Mylah Budahn, Kathryn Riebe, Pastor Kathleen Ulland-Klinkner

Front Row (L to R): Kaden Fortwengler, Mckenzie Lilleodden, Brecken Wendinger, Teegan Schmiesing, Zoey Zins, Claire Kveno, Vayda Melzer, Addie Armstrong, Kamryn Gehring

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 <i>Steele Baptism</i> 8:30am Worship 9:30am Fellowship 9:45am Mission Family Advent Activity 10:30am Worship 11:30am Private Event	1	2 9:00am Staff Meeting	3 9:00am Retired Persons Coffee 10:00am WELCA Board Meeting 3:30pm Wednesday LinCt 5:00pm Wednesday Suppers 5:30pm Children's Ministry Team 5:45pm Adult Handbells 6:30pm 5th & 6th Grade Youth Group 6:30pm Adult Choir 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Worship	4 10:00am Ridgeway on German Service 11:00am Ridgeway on 23rd Service 3:30pm Oak Hills Worship Service 4:00pm Pro Kinship Monthly Meeting 6:00pm Cub Scouts Den Meeting	5 10:00am MRCI Activity	6 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:00am WELCA Christmas Brunch 3:00pm Pro Kinship Holiday Party
7 Basket Auction 8:30am Worship 9:30am Fellowship 9:40am Advent Festival 10:30am Worship 4:00pm Cub Scout Den Mtg	8	9 9:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Youth Ministry Team	10 9:00am Cards of Caring 1:00pm Beautiful Savior Circle 3:30pm Wednesday LinCt 5:00pm Wednesday Suppers 5:30pm Faith & Books 5:45pm Adult Handbells 6:30pm 5th & 6th Grade Youth Group 6:30pm Adult Choir 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Worship	11 9:00am Immanuel Circle 2:30pm Pro Kinship Activity	12 10:00am MRCI Activity	13 Krosch/Thoreson Wedding 8:30am Men's Bible Study 3:00pm Connections Shelter Prep
14 Basket Auction <i>Gudmonson Baptism</i> 8:30am Worship – Service with Healing 9:30am Fellowship 10:30am Worship - Christmas Program	15 Sidelites Deadline	16 9:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Mission Ministry Team	17 3:30pm Wednesday LinCt 5:00pm Wednesday Suppers 5:45pm Adult Handbells 6:30pm 5th & 6th Grade Youth Group 6:30pm Adult Choir 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Worship	18 9:30am Conference Rostered Leaders 2:30pm Pro Kinship Activity 5:00pm Deacons Ministry Team 6:00pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting	19 8:30am Sidelites Group 10:00am MRCI Activity	20 8:30am Men's Bible Study
21 Cantata Noisy Offering Sunday 8:30am Worship 9:30am Fellowship 9:45am Baby Book Club 10:30am Worship 4:00pm Cub Scout Den Mtg	22	23 9:00am Quilting Group 9:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Facilities & Grounds Team 6:30pm Finance Committee 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	24 11:45am Food Shelf Volunteering 3:00pm Christmas Worship 4:30pm Christmas Worship 6:00pm Christmas Worship	25 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	26 10:00am MRCI Activity	27
28 9:00am Worship	29	30 9:00am Staff Meeting	31	1 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	2 10:00am MRCI Activity	3 8:30am Men's Bible Study

The OSLC church office will be closed on December 25th for Christmas, and January 1st for New Year's Day.



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

If you would like to contribute to the cost of our Christmas Decorations, or if you would like to bring a poinsettia, please complete the form below. This year, our poinsettias will be \$30.00.

Please print clearly! Names will be listed in the bulletin as written.

Given By _____

Choose one:

- I will bring a poinsettia plant.
- Please bring to the church **by December 22nd** and place on the table by Tom's office.
 - If you bring a poinsettia and would like to have it in your home after the holiday, please label your plant. Plants will be kept for pick up until Sunday, January 4th.
- I would like to contribute \$_____ toward Christmas decorations.
- **Make checks payable to OSLC, and write "Christmas Decorations" in the memo line.**

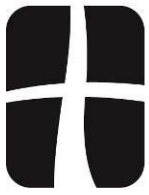
Choose one:

Given in memory of _____

Given in honor of _____

Given as a gift.

Forms must be returned to the church office **no later than Friday, December 19th** for memorials to be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin.



OUR SAVIOR'S

Lutheran Church

NEW ULM, MN

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
New Ulm, MN
Permit #6

1400 South State Street

New Ulm, MN 56073

Phone: 507-233-4430

Website: www.oursaviorsnewulm.org

www.facebook.com/oslcnwulm

Address Service Requested

Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship – 8:30AM & 10:30AM

Wednesday Worship – 7:30PM

Television Broadcasts

(Comcast Channel 14; Nuvera Channel 3)

Mon.–7:00 PM; Thurs. – 5:00 PM

4th Thursday of the month – 6:00 PM

SIDELITES

OUR SAVIOR'S is a Welcoming
community, experiencing God,
reaching out and raising up followers of
Jesus Christ