



“THE LORD WILL
FIGHT FOR YOU;
YOU NEED ONLY
TO BE STILL.”

EXODUS 14:14, NIV

NEW YEARS EVE

Luther Memorial Church December 31, 2025

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

A Congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession
134 21st Street • Fond du Lac, Wisconsin • fdllutheran.com



Worship. . . . 6pm

Andrew A. Schaller, Pastor

Church: (920) 922-7421

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NEW YEARS EVE

December 31, 2025

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP:

PSALM: 90:1-12 (TLH Pg. 142);

PRAYERS: 74 (Pg. 109); **73** (Pg. 109).

HYMNS: 120:1-4 108:1-4 120:5-6 108:8

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN: 120:1-4 - *“Help Us, O Lord! Behold, We Enter”*

A SERVICE OF THE WORD

(Worship Supplement Pg. 22)

Pastor: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Pastor: God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

Congregation: **If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let us pray.

C: Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus’ sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

P: Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We stand forgiven. With boldness and confidence, we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

♪ **Our God, our Help in ages past, Our Hope for years to come, Our Shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home.**

♪ **Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure; Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.**

NEW YEARS EVE RESPONSIVE READING

(Psalm 90:1-6; 2 Peter 3:8-9; Psalm 90:7-11; 2 Peter 3:10-13; Psalm 90:12-17; Peter 3:14-18)

Pastor: Lord, You have been our dwelling place:

Congregation: In all generations.

P: Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world,

C: Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

P: You turn man to destruction, And say,

C: Return, O children of men."

P: For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it is past,

C: And like a watch in the night.

P: You carry them away like a flood;

C: They are like a sleep.

P: In the morning they are like grass which grows up:

C: In the morning it flourishes and grows up; In the evening it is cut down and withers.

P: But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord

C: one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

P: The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us,

C: not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

♪ Before the hills in order stood Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.

♪ A thousand ages in Thy sight are like an evening gone, Short as
the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.

P: For we have been consumed by Your anger,

C: And by Your wrath we are terrified.

P: You have set our iniquities before You,

C: Our secret sins in the light of Your countenance.

P: For all our days have passed away in Your wrath;

C: We finish our years like a sigh.

P: The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength
they are eighty years,

**C: Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off,
and we fly away.**

P: Who knows the power of Your anger?

C: For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath.

P: So teach us to number our days,

C: That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

P: For the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the
heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt
with fervent heat;

C: both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

P: Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved,

**C: what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and
godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God,**

P: because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire,

C: and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

P: Nevertheless we, according to His promise,

**C: look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness
dwells.**

♪ Thy Word commands our flesh to dust: "Return ye sons of
men!" All nations rose from earth at first And turn to earth again.

♪ Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Bears all its sons away; They
fly forgotten as a dream Dies at the opening day.

♪ Like flowery fields the nations stand, Pleased with the morning light; The flowers beneath the mower's hand Lie withering ere 'tis night.

P: Return, O LORD! How long?

C: And have compassion on Your servants.

P: Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy,

C: That we may rejoice and be glad all our days!

P: Make us glad according to the days in which You have afflicted us,

C: The years in which we have seen evil.

P: Let Your work appear to Your servants,

C: And Your glory to their children.

P: And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us, And establish the work of our hands for us;

C: Yes, establish the work of our hands.

P: Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

C: and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—

P: You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness,

C: being led away with the error of the wicked;

P: but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

C: To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

♪ Our God, our Help in ages past, Our Hope for years to come, Be Thou our Guard while troubles last And our eternal Home!

EPISTLE LESSON:

JAMES 4:13-17

¹³Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"— ¹⁴yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. ¹⁵Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."

¹⁶ As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. *

GOSPEL LESSON:

MATTHEW 7:24-28

²⁴ “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

²⁸ And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching...*

CONFESSION OF FAITH:

THE CHRISTMAS CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, who sent His Son to be my Savior.

And I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, my Lord, the long-promised Messiah, who came as foretold, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, announced by the angels, worshipped by the shepherds, adored by the Wise Men, who lived to suffer die, and rise again, to free me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, Who has brought me to faith in my Savior, and by whose work in my heart I rejoice in my salvation, walk in Christ, show forth His praises, and will one day live and reign with Him in all eternity. Amen.

HYMN: 108:1-4 - *“We Sing, Immanuel, Thy Praise”*

THE SERMON:

EXODUS 14:13-15

¹³ And Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. ¹⁴ The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.”

¹⁵ And the Lord said to Moses, “Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward.

STAND FIRM...MOVE FORWARD!

THE OFFERINGS OF THANKFUL HEARTS

We express our thanksgiving for what the Savior Jesus has done for us by supporting His Work with our time, talents and gifts. Should you wish to leave a gift, there are offering plates in the rear of the sanctuary. As our gifts are brought forward to His Altar, we sing His Praise.

THE OFFERING HYMN

(LSB 397:1-2,4)

♪ 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 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.

♪ 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.

PRAYER(S) /THE LORD’S PRAYER

THE EXHORTATION

Pastor: Since we intend to come to the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, it is proper that we diligently examine ourselves, as St. Paul encourages us (1 Corinthians 11:27-30). For this Sacrament has been instituted for the special comfort and strengthening of those who humbly confess their sins and hunger and thirst after righteousness.

But if we honestly examine ourselves, we will find nothing in us but sin and guilt, from which we cannot set ourselves free.

Because of this, our Lord Jesus Christ had mercy upon us and has taken upon Himself our human nature, so that He might fulfill for us the whole will and Law of God and for us and for our deliverance suffer death, the death we have by our sins deserved. So that we should more confidently believe this and be strengthened in our faith to cheerfully obey His Holy will, He has instituted the Sacrament of the Altar, in which He feeds us with His Body and gives us to drink of His blood.

Therefore, whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup firmly believing the words of Christ, dwells in Christ, and Christ in him, and has eternal life.

We should also do this to remember Him, proclaiming His death, that He was delivered up for our offenses and raised again for our justification. Therefore, giving him thanks for the same, let us take up our cross and follow Him, and, according to His commandment, love one another even as He has loved us. For we are all one bread and one body, even as we are all partakers of this one bread and drink of this one cup.

So, I ask you before God, is this your sincere confession, that you from the heart repent of your sins, believe on Jesus Christ, and sincerely desire, with the assistance of God the Holy Spirit, to turn from sins, then declare it by saying, "I Do."

All: "I Do."

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, 'Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.'

In the same way He took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, 'Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed 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!

THE DISTRIBUTION



The Lord's Supper is described in 1 Corinthians 11:23-32 as a most precious medicine for the soul. Like all medicines, of course, it must be used at the right time for the right purpose by the right person, lest it do more harm than good.

We ask all visitors to speak to the pastor before taking the sacrament, especially if you have not communed here before. The Lord's Supper will be received standing or seated in the pews. You are asked to dispose of the empties in one of the disposals near the front of the sanctuary.

HYMN: 120:5-6 - *“Help Us, O Lord! Behold, We Enter”*

Pastor: Therefore, we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us:

Congregation: **Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.**

Pastor: Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him:

Congregation: **...endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

THE BENEDICTION: (Pastor)

CONGREGATION: "Amen."

CLOSING HYMN:

108:8 - *“We Sing, Immanuel, Thy Praise”*

Welcome to all of our guests and visitors this morning in Jesus' name. If you have any questions about our church or are interested in learning more about the Scriptures, please either speak with the pastor or with an usher on the way out.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 31, 2025

LUTHER MEMORIAL ANNUAL MEETING

The 2026 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday January 18th following worship. The Annual Report will be available by then.

MISSION BREAKFAST -- JANUARY

The next Mission Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday January 17th at 9am. Bring a breakfast item and join us!

IT'S ALMOST CHILI TIME

Our Annual Chili Cookoff is in the planning stages, keep an eye on the bulletin and newsletter for more information.

BOWLING OUTING

Our Annual Christmas Caroling is scheduled for Monday December 22nd and our Bowling Outing is scheduled for Friday January 9th at 6:30pm at Ledgeview Lanes here in Fond du Lac.

CHRISTMAS un-DECORATING

The Christmas Un-Decorating (including the Christmas Trees) will take place next Sunday January 11th after Worship. Please stick around and help un-decorate.

YEAR END STATEMENTS

If you would like a year end statement speak with the Secretary Barb Haensgen. If you do not request one, it will not be printed.

REPORTS FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT

Those who are preparing reports for the upcoming 2025 Annual Report, please get them to Pastor Schaller ASAP so that the Report can be assembled and printed before the Annual Meeting on Sunday January 18th. Thank you.



Graphics in the bulletin are taken from Church Art Online via a regular legal subscription.

HYMN SHEET

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PSALM 90:1-12

¹ Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. ² Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

³ You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!" ⁴ For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night. ⁵ You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: ⁶ in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. ⁷ For we are brought to an end by your anger; by your wrath we are dismayed. ⁸ You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. ⁹ For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. ¹⁰ The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. ¹¹ Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you?

¹² So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.*

PRAYERS BEFORE WORSHIP

FOR PEACE

O God, you are the author of peace. Defend us, your humble servants, against every assault of our enemies, that we, surely trusting in Your defense, may not fear the power of any adversary; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FOR THE BLESSEDNESS OF HEAVEN

Almighty, Everlasting God, who gave Your only Son to be a High Priest of good things to come, hereafter grant to us, Your unworthy servants, to have our share in the company of the blessed; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

HYMN: **HELP US, O LORD! BEHOLD WE ENTER**

1. Help us, O Lord! Behold, we enter Upon another year today; In Thee our hopes and thoughts now center, Renew our courage for the way. New life, new strength, new happiness, We ask of Thee, -- oh, hear and bless!

2. May every plan and undertaking This year be all begun with Thee; When I am sleeping or am waking, Still let me know Thou art with me. Abroad do Thou my footsteps guide, At home be ever at my side.

3. Be this a time of grace and pardon. Thy rod I take with willing mind, But suffer naught my heart to harden; Oh, let me then Thy mercy find! In Thee alone, my God, I live; Thou only canst my sins forgive.

4. And may this year to me be holy; Thy grace so fill my every thought That all my life be pure and lowly And truthful, as a Christian's ought. So make me while yet dwelling here Pious and blest from year to year.

HYMN

WE SING, IMMANUEL, THY PRAISE

1. We sing, Immanuel, Thy praise, Thou Prince of Life and Fount of grace, Thou Flower of heaven and Star of morn, Thou Lord of lords, Thou Virgin-born. Hallelujah!

2. For Thee, since first the world was made, So many hearts have watched and prayed; The patriarchs' and prophets' throng For Thee have hoped and waited long. Hallelujah!

3. Now art Thou here, Thou Ever-blest! In lowly manger dost Thou rest. Thou, making all things great, art small; So poor art Thou, yet clothest all. Hallelujah!

4. From Thee above all gladness flows, Yet Thou must bear such bitter woes; The Gentiles' Light and Hope Thou art, Yet findest none to soothe Thine heart. Hallelujah!

THE OFFERING HYMN

(LSB 397:1-2,4)

♪ 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 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.

♪ 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.

HYMN

HELP US, O LORD, BEHOLD WE ENTER

5. Jesus, be with me and direct me; Jesus, my plans and hopes inspire; Jesus, from tempting thoughts protect me; Jesus, be all my heart's Desire; Jesus, be in my thoughts all day Nor suffer me to fall away.

6. And grant, Lord, when the year is over, That it for me in peace may close; In all things care for me and cover My head in time of fear and woes. So may I when my years are gone Appear with joy before Thy throne.

HYMN

WE SING, IMMANUEL, THY PRAISE

8. Thus will I sing Thy praises here With joyful spirit year by year; And when we reckon years no more, May I in heaven Thy name adore! Hallelujah!