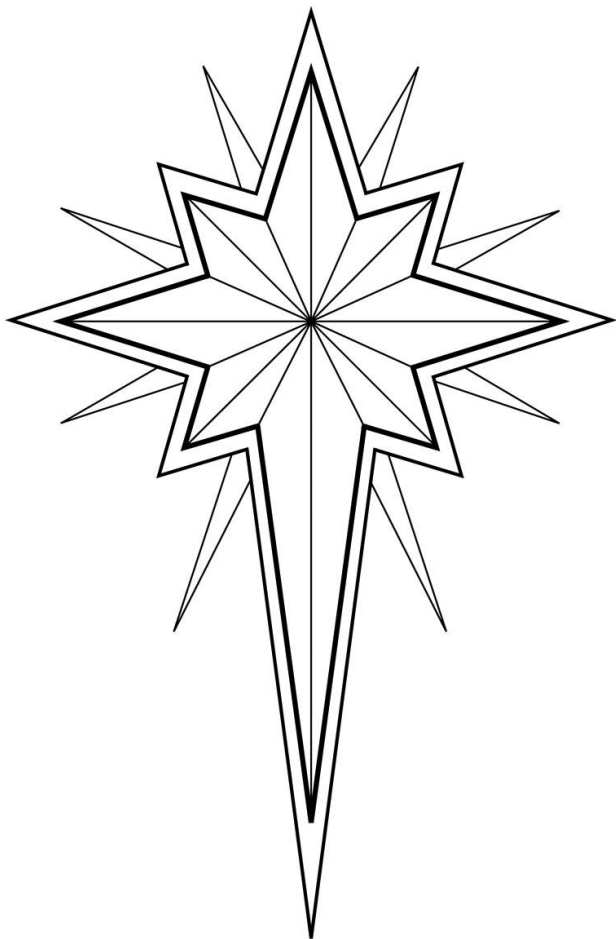


SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
JANUARY 4, 2026



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
2589 – 190TH AVENUE CALAMUS, IA 52729

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING 10 (PAGES 203-209)

*The liturgy is in the front of the ELW with numbers at the bottom of the pages.
The hymns begin in the middle of the ELW with numbers at the top of the pages.*

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ☩ one God, Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our
sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Reconciling God,

**C: we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and
despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room
in our hearts for you love; we have not always recognized
your presence among us; we have not always embraced your
message of peace.**

**We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and
fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking
refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your
innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news.**

**Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your
salvation.**

Amen.

P: God's grace upon grace flows over you. ☩ Christ's presence
redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the
earth rejoice and be glad!

C: Amen.

HYMN #268 “FROM HEAVEN ABOVE” v.1-3, 12-14

OPENING DIALOGUE

P: Come! Look upon the baby Jesus, cradled in the arms of his mother.

C: Seeing this wondrous sight, may our hearts be comforted and our spirits filled with peace.

P: Come! Listen to choirs of angels announcing good news to all people.

C: Hearing this marvelous song, may we too sing: Glory to God in the highest!

P: Come! Receive this ancient story in your heart, not as history but as a gift.

C: Opening our hearts to this great mystery, may Christ be born in us today.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. (concluding...now and forever.)

C: Amen.

CHRISTMAS LESSONS AND CAROLS WITH REFLECTIONS FROM MARTIN LUTHER

FIRST READING: LUKE 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped

him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

LUTHER'S REFLECTION ON THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Behold Christ lying in the lap of his young mother. What can be sweeter than the Babe, what more lovely than the mother! Look at the Child, knowing nothing. Yet all that is belongs to him, that your conscience should not fear but take comfort in him. Doubt nothing. Watch him springing in the lap of the maiden. Laugh with him. Look upon this Lord of Peace and your spirit will be at peace. You will see how great is the divine goodness, which seeks above all else that you should not despair. Trust him! Trust him! Here is the Child in whom is salvation. To me there is no greater consolation given to man-kind than this, that Christ became man, a child, a babe, playing in the lap and at the breasts of his most gracious mother. Who is there whom this sight would not comfort? Now is overcome the power of sin, death, hell, conscience, and guilt, if you come to judge this gurgling Baby and believe that he is come, not to judge you, but to save.
(Martin Luther's Christmas Book)

HYMN #276 "INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY"

SECOND READING: LUKE 2:8-16

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

LUTHER’S REFLECTION ON THE SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS

Look at the shepherds. They were watching their flocks by night, and an angel came and made them apostles, prophets, and children of God. This is a great miracle that the shepherds should have believed this message. They might easily have thought to themselves, “Are we two shepherds worthy that the whole host of heaven should be marshaled for us and all the kings on the earth and the dwellers in Jerusalem be passed by?” I know I would have appealed to common sense and I would have said: “Who am I compared to God and angels and kings? It is an apparition.” But the Holy Spirit, who preached through the angels, caused the shepherds to believe. They were so strong in the faith that they were worthy to be spoken to by angels and to hear every angel in heaven singing a cantata just for them. This is a pure wonder that enters not into the heart of man. Our God begins with angels and ends with shepherds. Why does he do such preposterous things? He puts a Babe in a crib. Our common sense revolts and says, “Could not God have saved the world some other way?” (Martin Luther’s Christmas Book)

HYMN #282“IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR”

THIRD READING: MATTHEW 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”’

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had

stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

LUTHER'S REFLECTION ON HEROD AND THE WISE MEN

When the Wise Men received the divine revelation that the king of the Jews was born, they made straight for Jerusalem, for, of course, they expected to find him at the capital in a lordly castle and a golden chamber. Where else would common sense expect to find a king? But because they were so sure of themselves, the star left them. Then they were sorely tried, and had they relied solely on human wisdom, would surely have said: "Confound it! We have come all this way for nothing. The star has deceived us. The devil has led us by an apparition. If a king had been born, would he not be in the capital and in a palace? But when we come, the star disappears and we find no one who knows anything about him. Can it be that we foreigners should be the first to have news of him in the royal city? Everyone is so cold and unfriendly that no one offers to go with us and show us the child. They do not believe themselves that to them a king is born, and shall we come and find him? How desolate for the birth of a king! If a puppy were born there would be some little stir, and here a king is supposed to be born and everything is so still. Should not the people be singing, capering, lighting lamps and torches, bedecking the streets with roses and may-flowers? What a miserable king we are seeking! What fools we have been to let ourselves start on the quest!" Nature wants to feel and be certain before believing, but grace will believe before she feels. Faith steps gaily into the darkness, trusting simply in the Word.

But having come, they decided to inquire of the king before returning. At their report, Herod the king “was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.” Why was Herod terrified and all Jerusalem with him? He had good reason to be afraid because he had tyrannized over the Jews for thirty years. Now Herod had a crafty plan. “The Jews,” thought he, “will hide the truth from me, but I will find out the town where this king is to be born and also the time, and then if they hide him, I will catch him anyway. I will kill so many babies that he cannot escape.” So he called the scribes to him and said, “Where is Christ to be born?” Then perhaps through fear, the scribes answered him that in the Prophet Micah it is written that He should be born in Bethlehem. (Martin Luther’s Christmas Book)

HYMN # 302 “AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD”

FOURTH READING: JOHN 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, ‘This was he of whom I said, “He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.”’) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

LUTHER’S REFLECTION ON THE WORD MADE FLESH

Let us, then, meditate upon the Nativity just as we see it happening on our own babies. I would not have you contemplate the deity of Christ, the majesty of Christ, but rather his flesh. Look upon the baby Jesus. Divinity may terrify man. Inexpressible majesty will crush him. That is why Christ took on our humanity, save for sin, that he should not terrify us but rather that with love and favor he should console and confirm.

This is the word of the prophet: “Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given” (Isaiah 9:6). This is for us the hardest point, not so much to believe that He is the son of the Virgin and God himself, as to believe that this Son of God is ours. That is where we wilt. Truly it is marvelous in our eyes that God should place a little child in the lap of a virgin and that all our blessedness should lie in him. And this Child belongs to all mankind. God feeds the whole world through a Babe nursing at Mary’s breast. This must be our daily exercise: to be transformed into Christ, being nourished by this food. Then will the heart be suffused with all joy and will be strong and confident against every assault. (Martin Luther’s Christmas Book)

HYMN #296“WHAT CHILD IS THIS”

YOUTH SERMON – REV. LEAH HOLLOWAY-NILSEN

HYMN #277“AWAY IN A MANGER”

CONFESSION OF FAITH: NICENE CREED

P: Living in the Hope of the Gift of Christ’s coming again, we confess our faith.

**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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

Each petition ends: **P:** Hear us, O God. **C:** **Your mercy is great.**

P: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray. (*concluding...our Savior and Lord.*)

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING (*SPOKEN*)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right...and join their unending hymn:

**C: ♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

COMMUNION

*ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE LORD'S TABLE
GLUTEN-FREE WAFERS AND WHITE GRAPE JUICE ARE AVAILABLE*

**♪ O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.**

HYMN #298 "THE BELLS OF CHRISTMAS"

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and
keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

POST COMMUNION HYMN

**♪ Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray. (*concluding...* Jesus Christ our Lord.)

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding
Comforter, ✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

C: Amen.

HYMN #301 "BRIGHT AND GLORIOUS IS THE SKY"

DISMISSAL

P: Glory to God in the highest!

C: And peace to God's people on earth!

P: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

C: Thanks be to God!

RINGING OF THE BELL

POSTLUDE

Those to keep in prayer: Lydia Szelag, Mallory Bousselot, Cathy Goddard, the homebound: Carol Christensen, Delores Lahann, Myrna Kay Peterson, Vera St. John, and Bus Seastrand; and those serving in the military, Andrew Grau.

Pastor: Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen

Organist: Linda Whitman

Acolyte: David Burke

Lector: Cindy Burke; **Next Week:** Amy Glover

Communion Assistant: Dan Burke

Usher: Joe Morehead

Cleaners: Cindy and Dan Burke

Contact Information

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Faith Church Address:

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Calamus, IA 52729

Our Savior's Church Address:

2589-190th Avenue
Calamus, IA 52729

This Week At A Glance
Week beginning January 4th, 2026

Monday,
January 5th

Church Office Closed

Wednesday,
January 7th

6:00 pm Confirmation at Faith
7:00 pm Bible Jam at Faith

Sunday,
January 11th

8:00 am Worship at Faith
9:25 am Sunday School at Our Savior's
10:30 am Worship at Our Savior's

Announcements

Special Collection of Warm Clothing

During the month of January, the parish will be collecting winter wear. Please bring new (or very gently used) winter coats, hats, gloves and mittens to Faith and Our Savior's. The items will be given to the Carroll Assistance Center in Wheatland for distribution to those who need something warm to wear this winter.

House for Rent by Our Savior's

Do you know anyone looking for a house to rent? The house by Our Savior's will be available for rent. There is no smoking, and pets are considered on a per case basis. If you know anyone interested in renting the house, please contact a member of Our Savior's Council or Nicole in the church office.

Annual Reports due to office

Financial reports, budgets, and audit reports are due in the church office by Monday, January 12, 2026.

Prayers of Intercession

Each Sunday when we gather for worship we have time of intercessory prayer. While this is an important part of our worship, we may not always know why we do it or what it means. Our prayers of intercession are, in short, asking God to be God to act in this world as God has promised us God will move and act in the world. These prayers are meant to be timely to current happenings at local, national, and global levels.

The Worship Committee and Pastor Leah have heard the request for members of our parish to offer up their own intercessions. This certainly fits in line with the meaning behind our prayers of intercession, because while we try to address the many things happening in our lives and world, we certainly cannot perfectly address them all. Here is how Worship Committee and Pastor Leah plan to honor this request...

- 1) Please submit in writing your prayer petition to Pastor Leah by the Wednesday preceding the upcoming Sunday.
- 2) Please be brief. 1-3 sentences will suffice.
- 3) Pastor Leah may edit or reject your petition. We are a parish filled with people of diverse opinions and experiences, and we hope our prayers reflect this reality. Pastor Leah will communicate any suggested edits, and the petition will not be prayed without full agreement from the writer and Pastor Leah.
- 4) We will start asking for petitions from members in January, with plans to include them in the prayers of intercession in February.
- 5) Honoring deaths within and connected to our community will still be prayed in the final petition where we give thanks to God for all those saints who have died.

The Worship Committee and Pastor Leah appreciate hearing from our parish on ways to enhance our communal worship life together. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to Pastor Leah or a member of the Worship Committee.

Pastor Leah and the Worship Committee

Faith: Terri Bousselot, Brittany Hoffmann, Andrea Shelton

Our Savior's: Dan Burke, Jason Bousselot, Deb Detlefs, Linda Whitman