

Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister	Pat Lonsdorf
Communion Asst.	Dawn Felch Darrin Koehler Verlyn Oelke
Lector	Verlyn Oelke
Organist	Phil Giese
Preaching/Presiding	Pastor Karoline Schwantes
Projection	Shauna Robinson
Usher	Darrin Koehler
Video	Jeff Blomquist

Staff

Pastor	Karoline Schwantes
Administrative Assistant	Nancy Henke
Assistant Treasurer	Jim Von Rueden
Worship Service Custodian	Dave Skola
Worship Service Custodian	Gail Wolfe
Maintenance Custodian	Cecil Wold

Director of Music	Delores Kessel
Director of Combined Adult Choir	Jim Lenselink
Director of Bell Choir	Darlene Johnson

Pastor	Karoline Schwantes: prkaroline@sslcwausau.com
Past President	Sue Holster: sueholster@gmail.com
Council President	Dick Holster: Dick@Holsterconstruction.com
Council Vice President	Vicki Romang: vicki.romang.sslc@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jim Von Rueden: vonbaron7@gmail.com
Secretary	Betsy Utecht: emutecht@gmail.com

Facebook: Wausau St. Stephen Lutheran Church <https://www.facebook.com/wausausslc>



MERRY CHRISTMAS

And he will be called...

Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6



St. Stephen Lutheran Church
“Walking Together to Celebrate Christ’s Love”

512 McClellan Street, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403-4882
715-845-7858/www.sslcwausau.com

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025

Welcome to worship in Jesus's name! We hope that you will hear a word of encouragement during this service which will convey the fullness of God's love for you.

The Prelude

Hymn: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

#283

CHRISTMAS DIALOG and GREETING

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

OPENING PRAYER

FIRST LESSON (Pew Bible pg. 555)

Isaiah 9:2-7

Hymn: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

#279

SECOND LESSON (Pew Bible pg. 969)

Titus 2:11-14

Hymn: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

#270

THIRD LESSON (Pew Bible pg. 832)

Luke 2:1-20

Hymn: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

#290

SERMON

Pastor Karoline Schwantes

Hymn: *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

#282

PRAYERS

The Assisting Minister ends each petition with, "God of grace,"
the congregational response is, "**receive our prayer.**"

OFFERTORY

#296 (verse 3)

SUNG WORDS OF INSTITUTION (to the tune of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel")

The God of grace be here with you.

The God of grace be also with you.

Lift up your hearts in thanks and praise.

Our hearts and hopes to God we raise.

Rejoice! Rejoice! For holy is the Lord,

On earth and in the heav'ly heights adored.

When Jesus sat at table with his friends,

He took the bread, and blessing it, he said:

POINSETTIA MEMORIALS

In loving memory of Sue Elliott, Lowell & Ruth Schleicher, Megan Dean, Helen Oakland, Sarah Cota, and Lela & Nick Bosley –
Kathy Oakland

In loving memory of Lawrence, Mae, and Merle Oelke –
Verlyn Oelke

In loving memory of Dave & Laurie Hardinger –
Verlyn Oelke

Given to the Glory of God –
Shirley Ostrem

In loving memory of Cliff Prigge and our Sons, David & Ken –
Karen Prigge

In loving memory of Audrey Ruechel –
Bert & Ron Ruechel

In loving memory of Jim Seidel, Si & Lena Seidel, and Art & Rose Greenhalgh –
Kathy Seidel

In memory of all our loved family members –
Jane & Don Seubert

In loving memory of Douglas Smith –
Diane Smith & Family

In loving memory of Keith Utecht –
The Utecht Family

In loving memory of my Mother, Audrey Viergutz –
Jeff Viergutz

In loving memory of our Brothers, Mark Wiskow and Chuck Deffner
Seth & Jeanette Wiskow

In loving memory of our Parents, Alvin & Betty Deffner and Ralph & Janis Wiskow –
Seth & Jeanette Wiskow

POINSETTIA MEMORIALS

In loving memory of my Dad & Mom, Kermit & Sophie Marten –
Debbie Andersen

In honor of my Husband, Terry Andersen –
Debbie Andersen

In loving memory of our Parents, Herb & Sally Yolitz –
Julie Baumann, Lori Rusch, Clark Yolitz, and Scott Yolitz

In loving memory of Merritt & Shirley Gleason and Brian Gleason –
Deb Gleason

In loving memory of Loretta Prieve and Arlene Eckes –
Deb Gleason

In loving memory of my Father, Arnold W. Hoag –
Jesse S. Hoag

In loving memory of my Mother, Stella H. Hoag –
Jesse S. Hoag

In loving memory of Joe & Ruth Flaker, Bess & Wes Johnson, and Jack & Nancy Flaker –
Susie & Chuck Johnson

In loving memory of Bill Broveak and Wade Mills –
The Kieper Family

In loving memory of Robert & Martha Kort –
Judy Kort

In loving memory of my Parents, Melvin & Verna Lee and my Brother, Glenn –
Jim Lee

In loving memory of my Sons, Michael & Thomas Lee –
Jim Lee

In loving memory of my Husband, Bill Lewitzke; Daughter, Judy Spear; Granddaughter, Jodie Gaulke; Sister, Debbie Johnson; and Brothers-in-law, Norlan Kowalski and Jim Roloff –
Joanne Lewitzke

In loving memory of my Husband, Richard Lind and our Parents, Harlan & Diane Beutler and
Duane & Janet Rogers –
Beth Lind

In celebration of my sweet Granddaughter, Frances Maple Lindwood, born May 31, 2025 –
Beth Lind

In loving memory of Jerry Preller, Butch Skinner, Perry Barr, and Bert Matter –
Kay Preller and Heather Matter

“This is my body, offered for you;
Take, eat, this meal of grace and truth.”

**Rejoice! Rejoice! We share this living bread,
And seek a day when all shall be fed.**

When supper ended, Jesus took the cup.
He blessed it and he raised it up.

“This cup is life poured out for you.
My promise to make all things new.”

**Rejoice! Rejoice! We share the cup of peace
With those who thirst for justice and release.**

O Spirit, fire of hope sent from above
Unite us in salvation and love.
Bless these, your gifts of bread and wine
And fill us with your joy divine.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! We share this meal
And bless our God, who feeds and heals.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.**

Hymn during Communion: *The First Noel*

BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

CANDLE LIGHTING

Hymn: *Silent Night, Holy Night*

PRAYER after CANDLE LIGHTING

BENEDICTION

#300

#281

Hymn: *Joy to the World*

#267

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

The Postlude

Liturgy by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Sung Words of Institution © 2019 Rev. Melissa A. Bills

*Children's Worship Bulletin | Prompts by Hannah Garrity | Coloring Pages by Rev. Anna Strickland |
A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org*

May joy, hope and happiness be yours this **Christmas** season.

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

*"And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name
Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins."*

Matthew 1:21 (KJV)

