

## Worship Assistants

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

## Staff

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

## Music Staff

<b>Director of Music</b>	Delores Kessel
<b>Director of Combined Adult Choir</b>	Jim Lenselink
<b>Director of Bell Choir</b>	Darlene Johnson

## Executive Committee

<b>Pastor</b>	Karoline Schwantes: prkaroline@sslclausau.com
<b>Past President</b>	Sue Holster: sueholster@gmail.com
<b>Council President</b>	Dick Holster: Dick@Holsterconstruction.com
<b>Council Vice President</b>	Vicki Romang: vicki.romang.sslc@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jim Von Rueden: vonbaron7@gmail.com
<b>Secretary</b>	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.sslclausau.com](http://www.sslclausau.com)

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025

<i><b>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.</b></i>		
The Prelude		
Hymn: <i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>		<b>#283</b>
<i><b>CHRISTMAS DIALOG and GREETING</b></i>		
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.		
<b>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.</b>		
Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.		
<b>We have beheld Christ’s glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.</b>		
For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.		
<b>In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.</b>		
May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.		
<b>And also with you.</b>		
<i><b>OPENING PRAYER</b></i>		
<i><b>FIRST LESSON</b></i> (Pew Bible pg. 555)	<i>Isaiah 9:2-7</i>	
Hymn: <i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>		<b>#279</b>
<i><b>SECOND LESSON</b></i> (Pew Bible pg. 969)	<i>Titus 2:11-14</i>	
Hymn: <i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>		<b>#270</b>
<i><b>THIRD LESSON</b></i> (Pew Bible pg. 832)	<i>Luke 2:1-20</i>	
Hymn: <i>Go Tell It on the Mountain</i>		<b>#290</b>
<i><b>SERMON</b></i>	<i>Pastor Karoline Schwantes</i>	
Hymn: <i>It Came upon the Midnight Clear</i>		<b>#282</b>
<i><b>PRAYERS</b></i>		
The Assisting Minister ends each petition with, “God of grace,” the congregational response is, “ <b>receive our prayer.</b> ”		
<i><b>OFFERTORY</b></i>	<b>#296 (verse 3)</b>	
<i><b>SUNG WORDS OF INSTITUTION</b></i> (to the tune of “ <i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i> ”)		
The God of grace be here with you.		
<b>The God of grace be also with you.</b>		
Lift up your hearts in thanks and praise.		
<b>Our hearts and hopes to God we raise.</b>		
<b>Rejoice! Rejoice! For holy is the Lord,</b>		
<b>On earth and in the heav’nly heights adored.</b>		
When Jesus sat at table with his friends, He took the bread, and blessing it, he said:		

<u><b>POINSETTIA MEMORIALS</b></u>
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

<u>POINSETTIA MEMORIALS</u>	
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	

<p>“This is my body, offered for you; Take, eat, this meal of grace and truth.”  <b>Rejoice! Rejoice! We share this living bread, And seek a day when all shall be fed.</b></p> <p>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.”  <b>Rejoice! Rejoice! We share the cup of peace With those who thirst for justice and release.</b></p> <p>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.  <b>Rejoice! Rejoice! We share this meal And bless our God, who feeds and heals.</b></p> <p><b>LORD’S PRAYER</b></p> <p>Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.</p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p>Hymn during Communion: <i>The First Noel</i></p> <p><b>BLESSING</b></p> <p><b>POST COMMUNION PRAYER</b></p> <p><b>CANDLE LIGHTING</b></p> <p>Hymn: <i>Silent Night, Holy Night</i></p> <p><b>PRAYER after CANDLE LIGHTING</b></p> <p><b>BENEDICTION</b></p>	<p>#300</p> <p>#281</p>
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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*

