

**OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
CANBY, MN
CHRISTMAS EVE – 2023**



**Please stand as you are able*

Prelude

RINGING OF THE BELL

PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

DeLon Clarksean

SPECIAL MUSIC *"Little Drummer Boy"* **Sonshine**

***CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

C: Amen.

P: In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

[Silence is kept for reflection.]

P: Holy God,

C: we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen.

P: I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. † In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace.

C: Amen.

***NOISY COIN**

"What a Glorious Night"

Sonshine

CHILDREN'S SERMON

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE-LIGHTING LITANY

P: Immanuel, God-with-us, interrupt and open our eyes to the wonder of this night, that we might catch a glimpse of your glory in the simplicity of these moments.

C: May your Light shine!

P: Immanuel, God-with-us, interrupt and soften our hearts to the message of this hour, that we might turn toward you, and have the way prepared in us for your coming.

C: May your Light shine!

P: Immanuel, God-with-us, interrupt and open our minds to truly listen to all who speak and sing this evening, that we might hear your voice cry out from many lips.

C: May your Light shine!

P: Immanuel, God-with-us, interrupt and fill our spirits with the courage to admit when we are lost and the insight to recognize that we have been found.

C: May your Light shine!

P: Immanuel, God-with-us, with eyes open, hearts softened, minds listening, and spirits full, we rejoice that you interrupt what we have in mind in order to bring into being something more than we dare imagine.

C: May your Light shine! Amen.

***GREETING/SHARING OF THE PEACE**

***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: Almighty God,

C: you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant

that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

* HYMN "O Holy Night" (v. 1, 3) Projected

WELCOME AND COMMENTS ON THE DAY

FIRST READING Isaiah 9:2-7

PSALM 96

SECOND READING Titus 2:11-14

CANDLES TURNED ON & SANCTUARY LIGHTS ARE EXTINGUISHED

* THE HOLY GOSPEL (*by candlelight*) Luke 2:1-20

* HYMN "Silent Night, Holy Night" (All Verses) #281 ELW

CANDLES TURNED OFF & SANCTUARY LIGHTS ARE TURNED ON AGAIN

SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC "Light of The World" Sonshine

* THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

SPECIAL MUSIC "A Christmas Alleluia" (sing, pray, sing) Sonshine

OFFERING (Your Christmas Offering will be received by the Ushers as you come to receive the Lord's Supper.)

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Gracious God,

C: your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

* WORDS OF INSTITUTION

* OUR LORD'S PRAYER (*we will sing as a congregation*)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Sacrament will be received this evening at four stations. The Ushers will assist you in forming continuous lines via the outside aisles where you will be served at the station nearest you.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS: Hymn #'s – 270 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (v. 1, 3); 277 "Away In A Manger"; 296 "What Child Is This?" (v.1, 3); 283 "Little Town of Bethlehem" (v. 1, 3, 4); 300 "The First Noel" (v. 1, 2, 4)

* POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

* BENEDICTION

P: May you grow still enough to hear
the small noises earth makes in preparing for the long sleep of winter,
so that you yourself may grow calm and grounded deep within.

May you grow still enough to hear
the trickling of water seeping into the ground,
so that your soul may be softened and healed, guided in its flow.

May you grow still enough to hear
the splintering of starlight in the winter sky
so that you may stand in awe of God's creation.

May you grow still enough to hear
the stir of a single snowflake in the air
so that your inner silence may turn into hushed expectation.

May the peace of God's grace and love rest upon and within you
as you go out into this Holy Night.

C: Amen.

*** DISMISSAL**

P: So now together, we go out into God's great creation, and with the
power of the Holy Spirit, ever present in our hearts, let's change
some lives.

C: We will! Alleluia!

*** CLOSING HYMN** "Joy To the World" (All verses)

#267 ELW

Postlude

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"Thank You" to the Sonshine Worship Leaders, Karen Olsen (Organist) the Our Saviour's Board of Deacons, the Altar Guild, the Ushers, Acolytes & Communion Assistants, Linda Kockelman (Digital Projection), Mark Fokken (livestreaming), and the **many** Worship Assistants who made our Christmas Eve Celebration a joyous event!

****Welcome!** We are grateful for the spirit that prompted you to worship with us today and hope you find a meaningful experience in your time with us. We thank you for the prayers you brought and for the witness you made to the world by being in the Lord's house on the Lord's Day. We invite you to worship with us again; our church family will always welcome you!*

To the parents of our young children, may we suggest:

- Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome! Sit toward the front where it is easier for children to see and hear.
- Sing hymns loudly, pray, and voice the responses with enthusiasm. Children learn behavior by copying you. If you are fired up about God, they will be too!
- Remember that the way we welcome children in Church directly affects the way they respond the Church, to God, to Christ, to one another. Let them know that they are at home in the Church.
- Teach children some of the basic prayers, being able to join in with the prayers help them feel they are contributing too. Attend worship often, children like and need routines where they can participate.
- Children are invited to participate in communion, where they learn that God loves them.

To Members of the congregation: A smile of encouragement is always welcome to parents with small, active children. The presence of children is a gift to the church! They give us a future filled with hope!

***A Blessed and Merry Christmas
to All!***

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 24th: Christmas Eve & Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:30 p.m. Coffee Bar available prior to worship

5:00 p.m. Sonshine Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with

Holy Communion

Monday, December 25th: OFFICE CLOSED
Tuesday, December 26th: Office Hours 9a-3p
Wednesday, December 27th: Office hours 9a-3p
Thursday, December 28th: Office hours 9a-3p
Friday, December 29th: Office hours 9a-3p
Saturday, December 30th:
Sunday, December 31st:
 8:30 p.m. Coffee Bar available prior to worship
 9:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Monthly Giving Report for November

Total Giving Needed Each Month:	\$ 22,586.16
Simply Giving for the Month:	\$ 5,277.44
Weekly offering received for the Month:	\$ 12,446.01
Total Giving for the Month:	<u>\$ 17,723.45</u>
Monthly Surplus/Deficit:	\$ -4,862.71
Thrivent Choice Deposits (YTD 11/30/2023):	\$ 1,182.00
Total Giving (YTD 11/30/2023):	\$ 230,617.63
Noisy Coin Offerings: (YTD 11/30/2023):	\$ 5,771.57

Cornerstone Fund Balance as of 10/31/2023: \$26,525.34

If you would desire a pastoral visit for any reason, please call the **church office at 507-223-5528**. If you have an emergency, i.e. hospital or family issue, please call **Pastor Levi's cell phone at 701-367-7072**.

GIVE+Online.....

We invite you to consider our new **electronic giving program** as a way to automate your **regular weekly offerings**. Electronic giving is convenient for you and provides much-needed consistency for our church. There is no cost for you to participate. To get started you will need to sign up in the link on the front page of our website (oslcanby.org) or you may call the office 223-5528 for assistance.

**Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Invites You To:
Belong – Believe – Become – Be a Blessing**

Custodian: Jesse Engesmoe
Office Manager: Jill Winters
Organist/Handbell Choir: Karen Olsen
Digital Projection: Linda Kockelman & Dawn Ourada

Choir Director: Dawn Ourada
Treasurer: Brenda Lothert
Guest Accompanist:
Lector: Sonshine
Videographers: Mark Fokken, Rick Bueltel, & Jon Hanson

For **December**, the **Eternal Lights** burn in the Sanctuary and Chapel in loving memory of **Steve Benson's birthday, which would have been on December 1st**. Given by Dee Benson.

December Mission Calendar

- 7th:** In loving memory of **Harold Harding**. Given by Curt & Marilyn Rangaard.
- 10th:** In honor of **Julia Hanson's Baptismal Anniversary**. Given by her family.
- 17th:** In loving memory of **Amy Beutler's passing on December 18th**. Given by Bev, Barb & Brian.
- 26th:** In honor of **Si & Rose Olson's 69th Wedding Anniversary**.

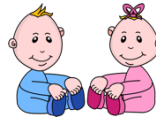
We ask God's guidance and prayers for all those who have special need:

Randy Westphal, Shirley Hanson, Gary Fokken, Fritz Urban, Mandy Kack, David Sorby, Karen Wendroth (Sherri Full's sister), Shirley Markegard, Charlotte Thompson, Nick Benson, Bonnie Olson, Debra (Haugen) Galecki, Troy Hoffman, Kara Mortenson, Fred Full, Myrna Tesch, Patty McLain (Sherri Full's sister), Lyla Nelson, Nina Benz, Katrina Vick, Debbie Cornell, Dane Nordquist, John Cornell, Joyce Brouwer, Mary Adler, Robert Kokesh, Fern Emmons and granddaughter Gabrielle, Fran Beecher, Patricia Hoffman, Bruce Garrels, Karin Livermore, Deanna Stephenson, Dean Hedge, Sandra Nelson, Sherry Olson, Linda Vlaminck and all whom we name before you in our hearts. May God strengthen all who are in need.

We continue to pray for the Leaders of the Nations, for all the Peacekeeping forces and especially for the service men and women connected with OSL, both those who remain deployed and those who now feel the safety of home: Andrew Fokken, Anthony Nemitz, Cody Dinius, Ross Larson, Nicole Nelson (granddaughter of Larry & Joanne Nelson), Ethan Webster, Tony Geier, Ryan Stoks, Nicholas Schultz, Tony Nelson, Kirk Larson, Ryan Otto, Tyson Coil, Christopher Oellien, Stephanie Geier. **May God continue to strengthen these committed military personnel and their families.** If anyone has been omitted or you would like to add a name, please contact the church office. We ask God to surround them and their loved ones with His love and presence.

**At Our Saviour's we have many ongoing opportunities to
"BELONG - BELIEVE - BECOME - BE A BLESSING"
Here are some ways you can do that during the month of December:**

A Cry Room is available during the morning worship service for infants to 3 chapel and is wired for sound enabling you and your child to participate in children, we offer special activity bags for them to borrow during the worship join the congregation in the pews. These **activity bags** can be found at the hanging on the back of the last pew.



years. It is located off the the service. For older service, encouraging them to back of the sanctuary

Calling any men, women and youth! We are in need of Ushers, some of our Ushers are retiring and we need to fill their spots. If this is something that you would be interested in or if you have questions, please contact the church office.



If you are a Thrivent member and are willing to use your eligibility to apply for a Thrivent Action Grant, please call the church office at 507-223-5528 and leave your name and number and we will be in touch. Thank you!

Coffee Talk

If anyone would like to provide treats for Coffee Talk please let the church office know what Sunday and WELCA will help you get things set up and cleaned up. Your Coffee Talk friends love to help celebrate birthdays, anniversaries or any other occasion.

We are in need of a Cemetery Sexton, if this is something that you would be interested in or if you know of someone who would be interested, please contact the church office or a Board of Trustee member.



Please recycle your nonworking holiday lights and any electrical cords for the Canby DAC. There are collection bins in the hall! We will provide work and wages for our developmentally disabled adults to recycle them. Thank you!

Christmas Season Worship Schedule

12/24 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Sonshine Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion
12/25: **No Service Christmas Day**



Youth Fundraiser

The Youth Group has put up a Christmas tree in the Narthex with envelopes of different denominations on each one. If you would like you may take an envelope off the tree, put the designated amount in the envelope and leave it in the office. This will help the youth going to the Youth Gathering in New Orleans, in July 2024. Thank you for your support!

OSL Church Council News.....

We are fast approaching the end of the year and that means we will be having our Annual Meeting soon. We are in need of new members for the Council. If you or someone you know is interested in being on the Council, please contact the office, 223-5528. Members are needed for all positions. The different areas of the Council are Board of Deacons, Board of Trustees and Board of Youth Education. The Deacons take care of the business of the church services, i.e. plan/assist with communion, decorate the sanctuary, deliver Easter plants to shut-ins, yearly service project. The Board of Trustees manage the finances of the Church, approve and pay bills, manage the upkeep of the Church building. The Board of Youth Education manage Sunday School, Confirmation activities, plan for fundraising, VBS. Council meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.



Please join us as we ring in the New Year!

Sunday, December 31st

St. Michael Church - Madison, MN

4:00 pm mass for the Holy Day

5:00 pm Meal and clinking of the glasses!

'Free will' meal

Meatballs, potatoes and gravy, vegetables, salads desserts, bread, and beverages.

The proceeds from this event, will be used to help those in need during our visit to San Lucas,
Guatemala January 22-30

