

The Word Became Flesh



And Dwelt Among Us...

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR
CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLE-LIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE
December 24, 2024 ~ 10:00 p.m.

Welcome & Opening Prayer



Pastor: Dear Lord, On this holy night, we gather to celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ. As we come together with family and friends, may our hearts be filled with joy and gratitude. Thank you for the gift of salvation and the love that you have shown us through Jesus. Bless this time of fellowship and worship. **Amen.**



Bell Choir Prelude

“Away in a Manger”

by James R. Murray arranged Cynthia Dobrinski

Opening Hymn

Oh, Come All Ye Faithful!



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God in . . . the . . . high - est:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!



The Christmas Dialogue

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Pastor: The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have see his glory.

All: Oh, come, let us worship Him.

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

All: The light shines in the darkness, —and the darkness did not overcome it.

Pastor: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

All: We have seen Christ's glory, the glory as of a father's only son, Full of grace and truth.

Pastor: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.

All: What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Pastor: Christ is born; salvation has appeared.

All: Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia!



Christmas Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray... Almighty God,

All: 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.

We Confess Our Sins Before God

Pastor: The time of Christ's coming is at hand; the day is drawing near.

All: His name is called, "Jesus," for he shall save his people from their sins.

Pastor: Lest that day surprise us unprepared, let us confess our sins to God our Father, imploring him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us his promised forgiveness.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

Pastor: Most merciful God,

All: We confess that we have sinned against you by thought, word, and deed. We are reluctant to ask, reluctant to trust, reluctant to do what you propose. We are helpless to free ourselves. We beg your mercy for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: He who is coming has come! His birth among us brings us light; his death for our transgressions brings us life. For his sake our sins are forgiven!

All: For the sake of the name of Jesus, may God's grace bring us to the obedience of faith.

Pastor: Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

All: Amen.



A Choir Anthem

Sussex Carol

traditional English Carol arranged by Bob Newbury

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring.
News of great joy, news of great mirth, News of our merciful King's birth.
Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since our Redeemer made us glad.

When from our sin He set us free. All for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before His grace then life and health come in its place,

Angels and men with joy may sing, All for to see the newborn King..

All out of darkness we have light, Which made the angels sing this night.

Glory to God and peace to men, Now and for evermore Amen!

The Prophecy

Isaiah 9:2-7

Lector: A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness —on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.



A Carol

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king,"
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing,
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.



The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-7

Lector: A reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke.

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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.



A Carol

Away in a Manger

F B \flat F C 7

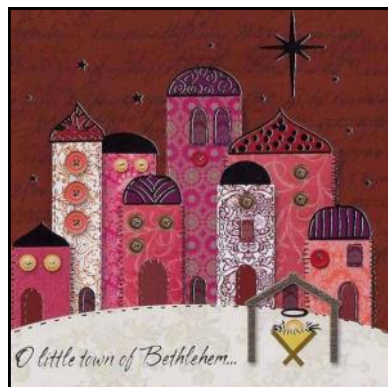
1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -

F

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

B \flat F C 7 F Gm C 7 F

down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.



The Announcement to the Shepherds

Luke 2:8-14

Lector: A reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke.

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!"

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**



A Carol

Angels We Have Heard On High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.



The Coming of the Shepherds

Luke 2:15-20

Lector: A reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke.

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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**



A Christmas Prayer

Pastor: Merciful God, loving Father, we give you thanks and praise that you have mercifully fulfilled the word of your promise to the patriarchs and sent your only Son to become fully human for our salvation and blessedness.

O Lord Jesus Christ, eternal praise be to you, that you, being rich, for our sakes became poor, that we through your poverty might become rich; that you have become our brother, that we with you might become the children of God. Grant that you may be born in our hearts, just as you, though you are Lord of lords, have for our sakes become a child, so give us the right childlike mind. You are the brightness of the Father's glory and image of his person, renew us in your holy likeness.

Heavenly Light, lighten us through the darkness of this world. Eternal Life, give us life in you. Great Prince of Peace, grant us your peace, and keep us ever in your kingdom, that we may praise and magnify you in your glory: you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign forever. **Amen.**

Special Music

Bell Choir

Die Glocken von Weihnachten (The Bells of Christmas)

by Bob Newbury



The Sermon

Pastor Joachim Wilck

The Offertory Anthem

O Holy Night

by Adolph Adam, arranged by Mark Hayes

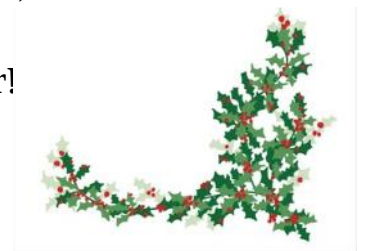
Sung By Soprano: Nadia Shaw

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining, It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared, and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born! O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand;
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, Here came the wise men from Orient land.
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our Friend; He knows our need
To our weakness is no stranger.
Behold your King, before him lowly bend!.

Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love, and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in his name all oppression shall cease
Sweet Hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name;
Christ is the Lord, Oh praise His name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!



Offering Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray,

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

All: Amen.



The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

Pastor: Thanks and praise be to You, our Father, Almighty Creator, merciful Lord, God of promise and fulfillment. Of old your faithful people waited for the day of your visitation, manifest at last when the time had fully come and you sent forth Jesus Christ, your Son. Having seen His glory, now we wait for the day of consummation, when He will come again as Judge and King. And so, with the church on earth and the host of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y! Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y! God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!" The chords used are D, Bm, A, G, E7, and A7.



Words of Institution

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying; Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Pastor: Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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.

Distribution of Communion

As Lutheran Christians, we believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. As we receive the bread and wine, we believe that we also receive this Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, who forgives our sins and strengthens our faith.

If this is your belief as baptized Christians, we invite you to share in this special meal.

Unbaptized persons, uninstructed children, and others not communing are also invited to come forward, and with arms folded receive a blessing.

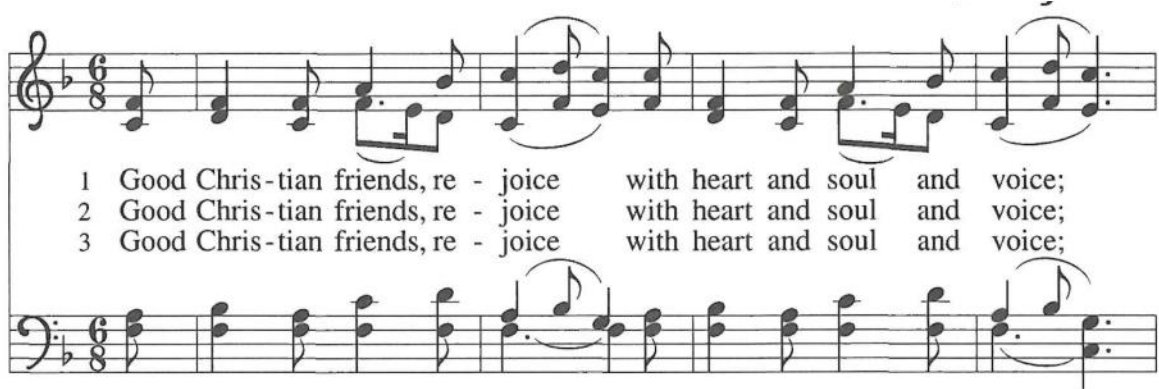
Invitation to the Table

Pastor: Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.



Communion Hymn

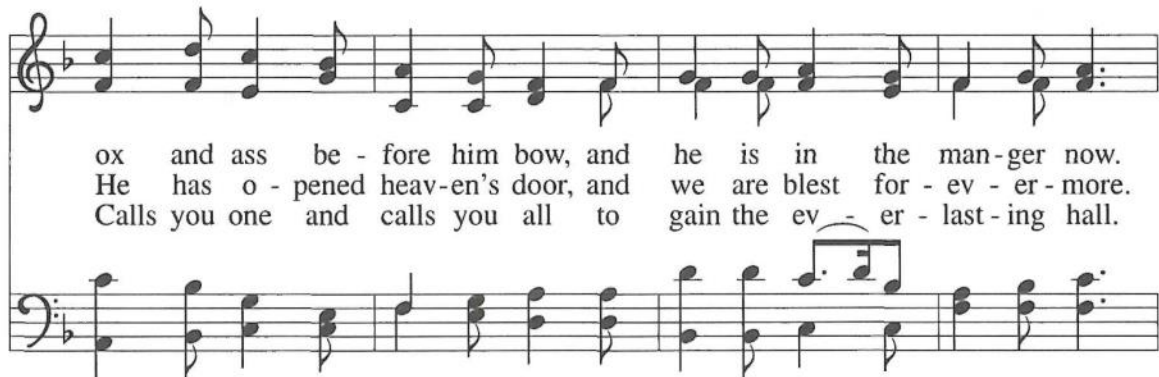
Good Christian Friends Rejoice



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to-day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!



Communion Song *Child of the Poor/What Child is This* by Scott Soper

Helpless and hungry, lowly, afraid, wrapped in the chill of midwinter;
comes now among us, born into poverty's embrace, new life for the world.

Who is this who lives with the lowly,
sharing their sorrows, knowing their hunger?
This is Christ revealed to the world in the eyes of a child, a child of the poor.

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Who is the stranger here in our midst, looking for shelter among us?
Who is the outcast? Who do we see amid the poor,
the children of God?

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian fear, for sinners here the silent word is pleading.

Who is this who lives with the lowly, sharing their sorrows,
knowing their hunger?

This is Christ revealed to the world in the eyes of a child,
a child of the poor.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,
come peasant, king, to own him: the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.

Bring all the thirsty, all who seek peace;
bring those with nothing to offer.
Strengthen the feeble, say to the frightened heart:
"Fear not: here is your God!"



Post Communion Prayer

Pastor: God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

A Service of Lights

(Please stand)

Pastor: On this holy night so long ago, a star shone brightly over Bethlehem town.

All: Christ Jesus is born. Now let there be light!

Pastor: In fields where shepherds were watching sheep, a glorious company of angels filled the sky and sang, "Glory to God in the highest!"

All: Christ Jesus is born. Now let there be light!

Pastor: In a quiet cattle stall, a woman named Mary gave birth to a son.

All: Christ Jesus is born. Now let there be light!

Pastor: On that very night, the shepherds ran to see Jesus, their faces beaming because of what they saw.

All: Christ Jesus is born. Now let there be light!

Pastor: In the midst of this dark world, Jesus is our ray of hope.

All: Christ Jesus is born. Now let there be light!

Pastor: The shadows that sin casts on our world are overpowered by the brightness of God's gift.

All: Christ Jesus is born. Now let there be light!

Pastor: As candles brightly burn, and this night is filled with light.

All: Let our lives be filled forever with the light of Christ's love.

The Pastor lights a candle from the Christ Candle.

The light is distributed to the congregation.

As the light is passed, (only) the person receiving, tips their candle toward the lit candle.

As this happens, please say:

Light Giver: Christ's light be with you.

Light Receiver: And also with you.



Meditation

Hymn *Silent*



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Closing Blessing

Pastor: God bless you and keep you, † Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn of Joy

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re-
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Postlude

“Hallelujah Chorus” from Handel’s Messiah

arranged by Emily Crocker

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The kingdom of this world is become
the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ,
and of His Christ;

And He shall reign for ever and ever,

King of kings, and Lord of lords.

King of kings, and Lord of lords.

King of kings, and Lord of lords,

and Lord of lords,

and He shall reign,

and He shall reign for ever and ever,

for ever and ever,

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

And He shall reign for ever and ever, for ever and ever.

King of kings! and Lord of lords!

King of kings! and Lord of lords!

And He shall reign for ever and ever,

King of kings! and Lord of lords!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hallelujah!





Thank you for joining us in celebration of the birth of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We hope you will join us again soon. If you are a visitor passing through, we wish you safe travels on your journey home. If you are new to the area or interested in worshipping with us again, please take a moment to sign our guest book and introduce yourself to one of our ushers or other service leaders. On behalf of our entire church family we wish you a very Merry Christmas. And may the new year bring us closer together, ever mindful that our God loves us, so much so, that he sent us his only Son.

Joachim Wilek

**THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR
2415 CHILI AVENUE
ROCHESTER, NY 14624
585-247-7824
WWW.OURSAVIOURROCHESTER.ORG**