



Covenant Lutheran Church, ELCA



We welcome you to Worship this Sunday!

January 26, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

The People of Covenant are called to:

Gather, Grow and Go Serve

...With God's Love!

Welcome

Thank you for joining us for Worship today!

WORSHIP ORDER – Sunday, January 26, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.

*Congregation participation in **bold** in bulletin.*

ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymn Book,

ACS= All Creation Sings Hymnal, Setting 11

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Land Acknowledgment

Covenant Lutheran Church acknowledges and honors the Indigenous Peoples and their ancestral homelands on which we gather. We stand on stolen ancestral homelands of the Ho-Chunk and the many other Indigenous Nations that have been historical occupants here. We respect Native Americans as caretakers of this land and Mother Earth. We strive to emulate the stewardship they first demonstrated. We embrace Indigenous People in love and gratitude. May we always seek a greater understanding of the Native community and their history as a whole as we aspire to work in meaningful partnership.

Welcome

Call to Worship

We each have many gifts to offer in service to God.

**Some will be teachers; others preachers;
some will be capable leaders, others will be skillful workers;
some will be those who have visions of all possibilities;
others will find ways to make those visions a reality;
some will develop ministries of peace and justice;
others will seek to change unjust systems.**

Each person here has been blessed by God.

Lord, help us to use those blessings to help others. AMEN.

Children's Time

Greeting

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

Kyrie

ACS p. 12

Prayer of the Day

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

First Reading**Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10**

A reading from Nehemiah, the eighth chapter.

¹ All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand, and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people, and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. ⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites

who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord, and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.” The word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm Reading

Psalm 19

A responsive reading from Psalm nineteen a Psalm of David.

¹The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

**²Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.**

³There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

**⁴yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.**

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

⁵which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

**⁶Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of
them; and nothing is hid from its heat.**

⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the
LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

**⁸the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;**

⁹the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the
LORD are true and righteous altogether.

**¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.**

¹¹Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

¹³Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Brass Sextet *Proclaim the Glory of the Lord* arr Glenn Eernisse

Second Reading **1 Corinthians 12:12-31a**

A reading from first Corinthians, the twelfth chapter.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together

with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work powerful deeds? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a} But strive for the greater gifts. The word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

ACS p. 14

Gospel

Luke 4:14-21

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the fourth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴ Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” ²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” The Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Wendy Moen

Hymn of the Day *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness* ELW 843

Prayers of Intercession

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

As your word is opened in our midst, we give thanks for all who share scripture: for parents, grandparents, and godparents; teachers and mentors; deacons, pastors, bishops, and scholars. Inspire passion for the stories of faith. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As heavens declare your glory and the sky proclaims your work, we lift our voices in awe of quarks and atoms, vast stars and solar systems. Guide us to speak on behalf of your handiwork. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As Jesus proclaimed life and freedom in his community, energize communities and nations to eliminate poverty, engage in prison ministry and transformative justice, and envision new ways of working together for your promised reign. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As your word and presence revive the soul, accompany all experiencing depression, anxiety, or eating disorders; be a source of strength for all affected by memory loss and their caregivers; draw near to all undergoing medical treatment or surgery *especially* (See Prayer Insert). < full 5 second pause >. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As we are made one body in baptism, strengthen all who serve. Renew and inspire all who use their gifts in this congregation, community, and the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As our faith is strengthened by saints who have gone before us, we remember leaders of the early church, and beloved friends and family who have died. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

Exchange of Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Let us share a sign of peace safely with one another.

Announcements

Offering Prayer

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Liturgy of Holy Communion and Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy Holy Holy

ACS pp. 20-21

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

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 for the remembrance of me. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

Invitation to Communion

The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Come, eat this meal of gladness

Communion Hymns

Lamb of God

ACS p. 25

O Living Bread from Heaven

ELW 542

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 471

Post Communion Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

The Spirit of the triune God ✚ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

We All Are One In Mission

ELW 576

Dismissal

Go in peace. Live in hope. **Thanks be to God.**



Care to contribute to our Church and ministries?
Scan this QR Code to give digitally with Vanco Online Giving.
Or visit www.covluth.org and click 'On-line Giving'!
(*Electronic donations from a debit/credit card now accepted.*)



Announcements:

- ✝ **Much gratitude for the generous giving in the many ways spreading hope to our world**
- ✝ **Bible Study** gathers weekly on **Wednesdays at 5:30pm** in the Gateway Room or by Zoom
- ✝ **Sunday Feb 2** Scouts who gather at Covenant throughout the year will assist in Worship
- ✝ **Lunch Bunch** meets the **1st Wed of each month! Feb 5 11:30** at Headquarters in Oregon
- ✝ **Book Group 2nd Thur at 1pm Feb 13** discussing ***A Council of Dolls*** by Mona Susan Power
- ✝ **Feed our Souls-** the 2nd Friday of the month- **Feb 14 10:30a-1:30p** at St. Marks in Madison
- ✝ **Social Action Team** meets each **3rd Monday, Join Feb 17 at 6:30pm in the Gateway Room**
- ✝ **'Hospitality Bags'** and **'Sew at Home Bags'** by main doors- Take what you can help with
- ✝ Questions? Or looking for other opportunities to serve or gather? Ask the Pastor or office!
- ✝ **Thank you to our Bass Sextet:** Gene Vanden Bosch, Peter Herman, Doug Johnson, Dianne Johnson, Russ Melland, Robin Robertson for offering their gifts and sharing their lovely talents with us today and throughout the year!

WORSHIP NOTES

Pastor: *Pastor Wendy Moen*; **Acolyte:** *Andrew Kettner*;
Greeters: *Helga and Jack Cope*;
Assistant Minister: *Ann Nelson*;
Lector: *Judy Heil*;
Communion Assistants: *Bill Cook, Karen Hanson-Cook, Rhetta Smith*;
Organist/Pianist: *Meghann Proper*;
Ushers: *Tamarine Westrand, Judy and Matthew Heil, Gary Tarpinian*;
Sound/projection: *Lars Forde*;
Altar Guild: *Eileen and Jack Nelson*;
Communion Prep: *Christy Unzicker*;
Altar Flowers: *Given by Penny and Greg Vodak celebrating their birthdays!*

Covenant Lutheran Church
1525 N. Van Buren St.
Stoughton, WI 53589
(608) 873-7494

Email:
covlutheran@covluth.org
Website: www.covluth.org

Pastor Wendy Moen
240-506-1388 cell

Email:
PastorWendyMoen
@covluth.org