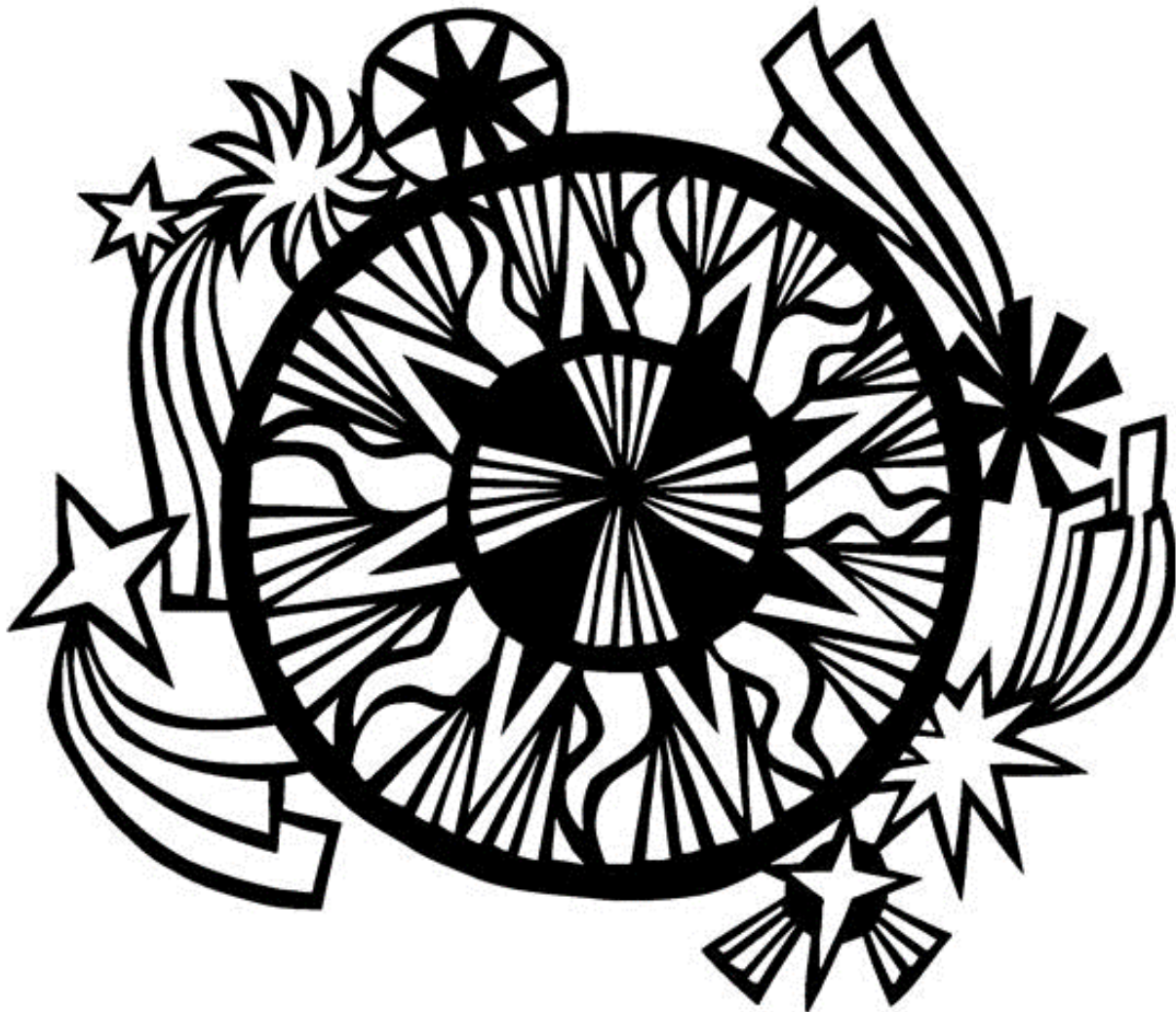




Covenant Lutheran Church, ELCA



*We welcome you to Worship as we celebrate
this second Sunday of Christmas!
January 5, 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 5, 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

Let us sing....

Praise be to God!

Who dared to take on human flesh and dwell among us.

Praise be to God!

Who did not turn back in the face of evil and death.

Praise be to God!

Who continues to dance through our lives even now.

Let all that have breath sing praise to God.

Children's Time

Gathering Hymn

Angels, From the Realms of Glory

ELW 275

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.**

Canticle of Praise

Kyrie

ACS p. 12

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

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

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-14

A reading from Jeremiah, the thirty seventh chapter.

⁷ For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." ⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹ With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back; I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path where they shall not stumble, for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. ¹⁰ Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock." ¹¹ For the Lord has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their

mourning into joy; I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord. The word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Psalm Reading

Psalm 147:12-20

A responsive reading from Psalm one hundred and forty-seven.

¹²Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!

**¹³For he strengthens the bars of your gates;
he blesses your children within you.**

¹⁴He grants peace within your borders;
he fills you with the finest of wheat.

¹⁵He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly.

¹⁶He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes.

¹⁷He hurls down hail like crumbs — who can stand before his cold?

¹⁸He sends out his word, and melts them;
he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.

¹⁹He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel.

²⁰He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances. Hallelujah!

Vocal Choir

Siyahamba

South African freedom song

arr. Victor C. Johnson with Lars Forde, djembe

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:3-14

A reading from Ephesians, the first chapter.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,
⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that

he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory. The word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

ACS p. 14

Gospel

John 1:1-18

The Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and

cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ ”) ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known. The Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Wendy Moen

Hymn of the Day

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW 270

Prayers of Intercession

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A brief silence.

O God, you reveal yourself in this assembly. In water, wine, and bread, show us again and again your grace upon grace, that your church boldly testifies to your love. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself in creation. In seedlings and planets, microorganisms and galaxies, awaken us to the cry of the earth. As you nourish your people like a watered garden, empower us to nourish our creaturely companions. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself in every land and in the farthest parts of the earth. Deliver peoples who suffer under oppressive regimes. Thwart the foolish plans of unjust leaders. Give wisdom to our elected officials. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself in every human being. Help us recognize your image in our siblings in Christ who are in the strong grip of addiction, depression, anxiety, hopelessness, or other illness (See Prayer Insert). < full 5 second pause >. Grant us compassion in our care for your people. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself anew every day. In this new year, renew this congregation and its ministries in our witness to the good news of the

incarnation. Transform the way we have always done things into your new future for us. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself in the lives of your holy ones. We give you thanks for those who set their hope on you, trusting the inheritance we receive in you. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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 heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.

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.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that,

beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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 p. 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

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.
Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

Communion Hymns

Lamb of God

ACS p. 25

What Feast of Love

ELW 487

The First Noel

ELW 300

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

Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

Blessing

The God of love, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Let Our Gladness Have No End

ELW 291

Dismissal

Go in peace. Encourage one another in Christ. **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:

- ✝ **With gratitude for dedications** please pick up a plant and spread Joy with it, if you wish
- ✝ **Much gratitude for the generous giving in the many ways spreading hope to our world**
- ✝ **Lunch Bunch- NOTE: Meeting the 2nd Wednesday in Jan 8! At Café on Main in Edgerton**
- ✝ **Bible Study** is returning Wed **Jan 8** in the Gateway Room or by Zoom at **5:30pm Please Join**
- ✝ **Book Group 2nd Thur at 1pm Jan 9** book title and gathering location information to come
- ✝ **Feed our Souls-** the 2nd Friday of the month- **Jan 10 10:30a-1:30p** at St. Marks in Madison
- ✝ **Join Movie Night in the Cinema Jan 17** watching **Wild Robot at 6:30pm-** Popcorn provided
- ✝ **Social Action Team** meets each 2nd Monday, **Join Jan 13 at 630pm in the Gateway Room**
- ✝ **American Red Cross Blood Drive** at Covenant **Jan 20 1-6pm** Signup online or just walk in
- ✝ **'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 **Vocal Choir:** Kristin Johnson, Larry Judd, Laurie Judd, Angie Kettner, Eileen Nelson, Jack Nelson, Millie Proper, Jim Seamonson, Gwen Speth, Donna Tarpinian, Glenn Van Rossum, accompanist Meghann Proper, djembe Lars Forde and director Beth Gardner, for offering their gifts and sharing their lovely talents with us today and throughout the year!

WORSHIP NOTES

Pastor: *Pastor Wendy Moen; Acolyte:* *Brayden Edwards;*
Greeters: *Linda Harrison, Penny Vodak;*
Assistant Minister: *Deb Oakland; Lector:* *Penny Vodak;*
Communion Assistants: *Jamie Anderson, Philayne Chose, Ann Nelson;*
Organist/Pianist: *Meghann Proper;*
Ushers: *Tom Chose, Jack Cope, Stephen Peterson, Peder Melhuse;*
Sound/projection: *Lars Forde, Amanda Burian;*
Altar Guild: *Unassigned;*
Communion Prep: *Christy Unzicker;*
Altar Flowers: *A great way to celebrate any special occasion with church family!*

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