



Stable and Secure in  
the New Year

**Welcome, guests!** We hope that in your time here you find yourself challenged about unhealthy thinking, channeled into truth, and changed by Jesus Christ your Savior! It's what we pray God does for all of us, and we want the same benefits for you!

### **What's next?**

If you're just getting back to church or looking for a new church, let this be your road map on the journey.

→ **Come back next week.** Continue to strengthen your connection to God's Word and his people.

→ **Sign up for The Four Key Concepts.** This short course gives you the very basics for a good relationship with God and an introduction to his precious Word, the Bible.

→ **Sign up for Bible Inquirer's Class.** This comparative religions course digs into the Bible's basic teachings while letting you see how other religions and denominations, including ours, handle those teachings. You get to see the Bible's own word on these topics and let God's Spirit show you what the Bible says. This is a prerequisite for membership here because we base membership not on feelings and style but on unity in God's precious truths.

- **Personal Hearing Devices** are available in the pass-through window near the elevator.
- **Please silence** or turn off your cell, for an undisturbed worship hour!
- **Restrooms** are downstairs, through doors on the west wall.
- **For Parents:** If your child is restless during the service, please use the lobby or lower level to quiet him/her down before rejoining worship. Children's worship bags, next to the elevator door, are available for use during the service.
- **Offerings:** Our offerings allow us to participate in God's kingdom work. If you are a guest, you are not expected to participate in the offering. We're just glad you can be here and listen to God's Word with us!
- There are **resources for you and your family** to discover on the display tables in the narthex (lobby). Take home some helpful tools and news – free!

### **Our Mission Statement**

*Learn, love, live for Christ!*

## **Stable and Secure in the New Year**

*What have you got going for you in the new year? What are you looking at that suggests it will be a good year for you and your family? What does our church have to bank on for a positive, productive new year? Let's pay attention to our God's words and find out! There is a way to guarantee it will be a good year...*

### **PASTOR'S WELCOME**

### **OPENING HYMN – *Across the Sky the Shades of Night***

CW 69

- 1. Across the sky the shades of night this New Year's Eve are fleeting.  
We deck your altar, Lord, with light, in solemn worship meeting,  
And, as the year's last hours go by, we raise to you our earnest cry,  
Once more your love entreating.**
- 2. We gather up in this brief hour the mem'ry of your mercies.  
Your wondrous goodness, love, and pow'r our grateful song rehearses,  
For you have been our strength and stay in many a dark and dreary day  
Of sorrow and reverses.**
- 3. Before the cross, subdued, we bow, to you our prayers addressing,  
Recounting all your mercies now and all our sins confessing.  
We ask you, Lord, this coming year to keep us in your faith and fear  
And crown us with your blessing.**
- 5. Then, gracious God, in years to come, whatever may betide us,  
Right onward through our journey home, oh, stay at hand to guide us,  
Nor leave us till, at close of life, safe from all peril, toil, and strife,  
Heav'n shall enfold and hide us.**

## CONFESSION AND ASSURANCES

(with Holy Communion)

*Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns.*

*Because of the differences in backgrounds and denominations, we ask guests who are not yet members of a WELS or ELS church to wait before communing. This will give you time to work with Pastor on joining our fellowship and communing in a way that truly fits God's will and promises.*

Minister: At the close of another year, we look back and see many things we have done that we are not proud of, things that have offended our holy God. We know, too, that there are many other offenses we are not even aware of. Because of our Savior Jesus, we humbly, confidently approach him now and confess our sins to him.

**Congregation: Almighty God, we praise and honor your holy name for your numerous acts of love and mercy this last year on behalf of your people. We especially thank you for the gift of your one and only Son, who paid for us with his life. We acknowledge that we needed him to come: our sinful words, actions and thoughts, as well as our sinful natures, make us unfit to stand before you. "If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?" Remind us of his willing sacrifice and your loving acceptance.**

M: Be at rest once more, O child of God, for the Lord has been good to you: Through Christ your Savior he has delivered your soul from death, your eyes from tears, your feet from stumbling, so you may walk before him in peace!

The Lord be with you!

**C: And also with you!**

M: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise!**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. When the time had fully come, he sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**M:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

## **O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD**

### **DISTRIBUTION**

*During the distribution the congregation may sing hymn 311, Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness.*

## **THANKSGIVING**

**M:** Let us praise our loving God, our glorious Christ, and their enlightening Spirit, from our heart and with our body, life, and whole being!

CW 41, verses 1 and 6

**C:** ♪ **Let all together praise our God before his highest throne;  
Today he opens heav’n again and gives us his own Son,  
And gives us his own Son.**

**For us he opens wide the door of paradise today.  
The angels guard the gate no more; to God our thanks we pay,  
To God our thanks we pay.**

## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON: Romans 14:7-9 – *Why are you alive?*

<sup>7</sup>For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

<sup>9</sup>For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

### SECOND LESSON: Matthew 7:24-27 – *Built tough for the new year*

<sup>24</sup>Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup>The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. <sup>26</sup>But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup>The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.

**PSALM 119b** – *What a request!*

found on page 110 in the front of the hymnal

**HYMN** – *O Lord, Our Father, Thanks and Praise*

CW 72

- 1. O Lord, our Father, thanks and praise in this new year we render,  
For every evil had to flee before you, our defender.  
Our life was nourished, we were fed with rich supplies of daily bread,  
And peace reigned in our borders.**
- 2. Lord Jesus Christ, our thanks and praise in this new year we render;  
Your reign has kept your people free, has shown your mercies tender.  
You have redeemed us with your blood; you are our joy, our only good,  
In life and death our Savior.**

3. **O Holy Spirit, thanks and praise in this new year we render,  
For you have led our eyes to see your truth in all its splendor  
And thus enkindled from above within our hearts true faith and love  
And other Christian virtues.**
4. **Our faithful God, we cry to you: still bless us with your favor,  
Blot out all our iniquity, and hide our sins forever.  
Grant us a happy, good new year and, when the hour of death draws near,  
A peaceful, blest departure.**

**MESSAGE**

***My Presence Will Go with You***

Exodus 33:14-15

<sup>14</sup> The LORD replied, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

<sup>15</sup> Then Moses said to him, “If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.”

*Taking the message home:* \_\_\_\_\_

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**OFFERING**

*This is a good time to sign the Friendship Registers. Please share as much as you would like, ask a question, indicate change in contact information, etc.*

## RESPONSIVE PRAYER

M: O God our Father, by your mercy and might, one year comes to a close and the next one begins. Looking back on this year, we see the abundance of blessings you have showered on us.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

We think of the good times, and we remember the hardships.

**C: We thank you for your great love and mercy!**

M: The greatest blessing of all is the gift of your Son who redeemed us from all sin. This good news is our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, comfort the grieving, and give hope to the despairing. No one needs to live without you!

**C: Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

M: As we make our plans for the new year, help us to make them in accordance with what pleases you.

**C: We place these plans in your hands, knowing that you will bless and prosper them according to your will.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

To your great love and protection we commit ourselves, all those we love, and all we do for you, knowing that you alone are our sure defender and the only source of good.

**C: Amen!**

**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.**

**HYMN – *Father, Let Me Dedicate***

- 1. Father, let me dedicate all this year to you,  
In whate'er my earthly state, in whate'er I do.  
Not from sorrow, pain, or care freedom dare I claim;  
This alone shall be my prayer: Glorify your name.**
- 2. Can a child presume to choose where or how to live?  
Can a father's love refuse all the best to give?  
More you give me ev'ry day than the best can claim;  
Help me trust you that I may glorify your name.**
- 3. If you have for me a cross and its shadow come,  
Turning all my gain to loss, shrouding heart and home,  
Let me think how your dear Son to his glory came  
And in thankfulness pray on: "Glorify your name."**
- 4. If in mercy you prolong joys that now are mine,  
If on life serene and fair brighter rays may shine,  
Let my glad heart, while it sings, you in all proclaim  
And, whate'er the future brings, glorify your name!**

**CLOSING PRAYER**

**CLOSING BLESSING/HYMN – *Go, My Children, with My Blessing***

CW 332

- 1. Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.  
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing – you are my own.**
- 2. Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Here you heard my dear Son's story; here you touched him, saw his glory.  
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.**

- 3. **Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;  
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit’s power filled you; here his tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.**
  
- 4. **I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace;  
I the Lord will smile upon you and give you peace;  
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.  
Go, my children; I will keep you and give you peace.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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*Serving in God's House this Evening*

**Officiant** ..... Pastor Chris Cordes  
**Organist** ..... Laurie Silfies  
**Elder on Duty** ..... Jerry Dittbenner



**Special Prayers List:** Chary Heideman; Al Maasz; Konner Mathiowetz; Peyton Moldan;  
 George Piotter; Lorelei Tauer; William Trebesch



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