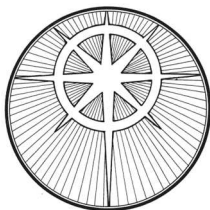


**A Prayer
Upon
Entering
Church**

Merciful God,
we humbly
implore you
to cast the
bright beams
of your light
upon your
Church so
that we, be-
ing instructed
by the doc-
trine of the
blessed apos-
tles, may
walk in the
light of your
truth and at
length attain
to the light of
everlasting
life; through
Jesus Christ
our Lord.
Amen



The Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord

Baptismus Domini + January 7, 2024 + 9:00 A.M.

Welcome to the Lord's Day. He appeared at Bethlehem, and His star appeared to the wise men in the east. Soon, He would make His glory known again at the Jordan River, where the heavens opened at His Baptism and God declared Him the Beloved Son. Still today, Jesus appears among us, revealed in Word and Sacrament, to share that good word of the Father with everyone: You are His beloved sons and daughters of God for Jesus' sake. That Word is the light that scatters the darkness and brings health, life, and holiness to the world.

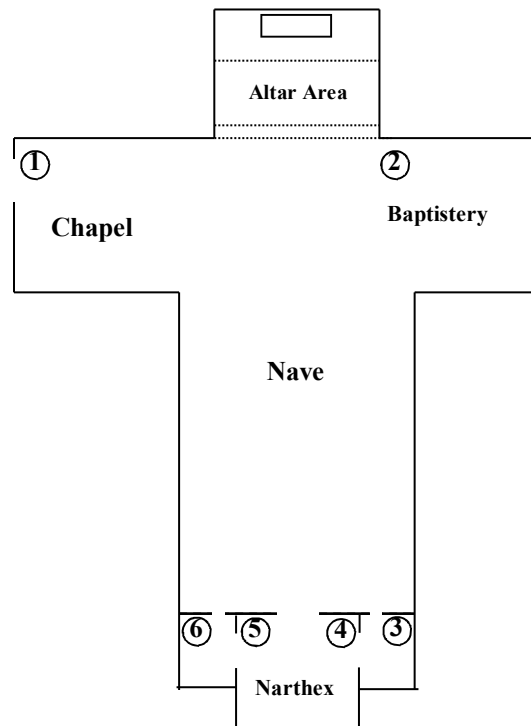
Sharing God's Blessings Today

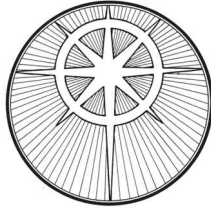
- Sunday's Radio Broadcast, flowers at the altar and bulletins are sponsored by Steve & Marlene Kroening in celebration of their 57th wedding anniversary on January 7th and in thanksgiving for all of God's blessings including Zion.
- The sponsor charts for 2024 for Radio Broadcasts, Flowers and Bulletins are available for you to sign up. The charts are by the stairs by the northwest entry.

To Share Your Offering

Offerings are received in Zion's wooden offering boxes built into the walls of the church. Please see the map, where the boxes are labeled by number (1-6) or ask an usher for assistance.

This returns us to an older and beautiful tradition of the Lutheran church in which offerings are not collected during worship so as to focus more intently on God's gifts and offerings to us.





PRELUDE

Four Interpretations on "As With Gladness Men of Old"
... Jacob B. Weber, Gordon Young, John A. Behnke and Paul Manz

Please stand and turn toward the cross as it is carried into the sanctuary.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"As With Gladness Men of Old" ... LSB #397

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.**

KYRIE

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

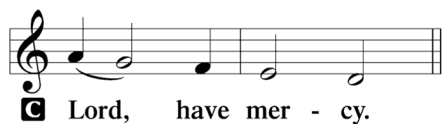
P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the holy Church, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

The holy day of lights, to which we have come and which we are celebrating today, has for its origin the baptism of my Christ, the true Light that lightens everyone coming into the world, and effects my purification...It is a season of new birth: let us be born again! We duly celebrated at his birth - I, the one who presided at the feast, and you, and all that is in the world and above the world . . .

[continued on the next page]

[continued
from the pre-
vious page]

. . . With the
star we ran,
with the magi
we wor-
shiped, with
the shepherds
we were en-
lightened,
with the an-
gels we glori-
fied him, with
Simeon we
took him up
in his arms,
and with the
chaste and
aged Anna
we made our
responsive
confession . . .



P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship
and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.



GLORIA

P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and
Fa - ther: We wor - ship You, we give You thanks, we
praise You for Your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly
Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God: You



take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the
Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For You a-lone are the
Ho - ly One, You a-lone are the Lord, You a-
lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.



☐ And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray . . . Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

*. . . Now we come to another of Christ's acts and another mystery...The Spirit bears witness to his Godhead, for he descends upon one that is like him, as does the voice from heaven...Let us venerate today the baptism of Christ.
~ Gregory of Nazianzus (329-390 A.D.)*

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 42:1-7

- ¹Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my Spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
- ²He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
- ^{3a}a bruised reed he will not break,
and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
- ⁴He will not grow faint or be discouraged
till he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his law.
- ⁵Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people on it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
- ⁶"I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;
I will take you by the hand and keep you;
I will give you as a covenant for the people,
a light for the nations,
- ⁷to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**

PSALMODY *Psalms 85*

L: LORD, you were favorable | to your land;*
you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.

- C: You forgave the iniquity of your | people;*
you covered | all their sin.**
- L: You withdrew | all your wrath;*
you turned from your hot | anger.
- C: Restore us again, O God of our sal- | vation,*
and put away your indignation | toward us!**
- L: Will you be angry with us for- | ever?*
- Will you prolong your anger to all gener- | ations?
- C: Will you not revive | us again,*
that your people may re- | joice in you?**
- L: Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,*
and grant us your sal- | vation.
- C: Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,*
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;
but let them not turn back to | folly.**
- L: Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,*
that glory may dwell | in our land.
- C: Steadfast love and faith- | fulness meet,*
righteousness and peace kiss each | other.**
- L: Faithfulness springs up | from the ground,*
and righteousness looks down | from the sky.
- C: Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,*
and our land will yield its | increase.**
- L: Righteousness will go be- | fore him*
and make his foot- | steps a way.

*Today the
source of all
the graces of
baptism comes
Himself to be
baptized in the
river Jordan,
there to make
Himself
known to all
the world.*

*Seeing Him
approach, John
stretches out
his hand to
hold Him back,
protesting:
Lord, by Your
own baptism
You sanctify
all others;
Yours is the
true baptism,
the source of
perfect holi-
ness. How can
You wish to
submit to
mine? . . .*

*[continued on
the next page]*

[continued
from previous
page]

But the Lord
replies, I wish
it to be so.
Come and
baptize me.
Do as I wish,
for surely you
cannot refuse
me. Why do
you hesitate,
why are you
so afraid? Do
you not real-
ize that the
baptism I ask
for is Mine by
every right?

By My Bap-
tism the wa-
ters will be
sanctified,
receiving
from me fire
and the Holy
Spirit . . . See
the hosts of
heaven
hushed and
still, as the all-
-holy Bride-
groom goes
down into the
Jordan . . .

**All: Glory be to the Father and | to the Son,*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen**

EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. ³¹Therefore, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

VERSE



GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3rd chapter.



☐ Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise to You, O Christ.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

The following verses are chanted as the ministers gather at the font:

Choir: I will pour clean water upon you | says the Lord.*
From all your impurities and all your idols I will | cleanse
you.

C: **Sprinkle me with hyssop O Lord and I | shall be
cleansed;***
wash me and I shall be whit- | er than snow.

Choir: When the goodness and loving-kindness of | God ap-
peared,*
he saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewal of
the Holy | Spirit.

... No sooner
is He baptized
than He
comes up
from the wa-
ters, His
splendor
shining forth
over the
earth. The
gates of heav-
en are
opened, and
the Father is
heard: "This
is my beloved
Son in whom
I am well
pleased."

All who are
present stand
in awe as they
watch the
Spirit de-
scend to bear
witness to
Him. O come
all you peo-
ple, worship
Him! Praise
to You, Lord,
for Your glo-
rious epipha-
ny, which
brings joy to
us all!
~ Ephrem the
Syrian (d.
373 A.D),
Hymns 14

**What is
Baptism?**

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.

**Which is
that word of
God?**

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew:

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matt. 28:19)

**C: I saw water flowing from the | temple,*
and all to whom this water came | they were saved.**

Choir: I will pour clean water upon you | says the Lord.*
From all your impurities and all your idols I will | cleanse
you.

**All: Glory be to the Father and | to the Son,*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen**

P: Do you renounce the devil?

C: Yes, I renounce him.

P: Do you renounce all his works?

C: Yes, I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce all his ways?

C: Yes, I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life ✕ everlasting. Amen**

P: Trusting in our Lord Jesus Christ, the everlasting God and Son of Mary, let us pray.

L: . . . O King of Kings,

C: **receive our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

P: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God’s faithful people, to hear his Word and share in his supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

C: **I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

P: God the Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit bless and guide you, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“To Jordan’s River Came Our Lord” . . . LSB #405

SERMON

“Consider Your Calling”

OFFERTORY “Water, Blood & Spirit Crying” . . . LSB #597

The Choir will sing Stanzas 1 & 2

The Congregation will sing Stanzas 3–5

What benefits does Baptism give?

It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:16)

[continued on the next page]

How can water do such great things?

Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: . . .

Please stand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Blessed are you, heavenly Father, for the priceless gift of your Son, sent into our flesh to redeem the creation. Grant that we may now so eat of his flesh and drink of his blood that we may ever dwell in him, and he in us.

C: Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

And al-so with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

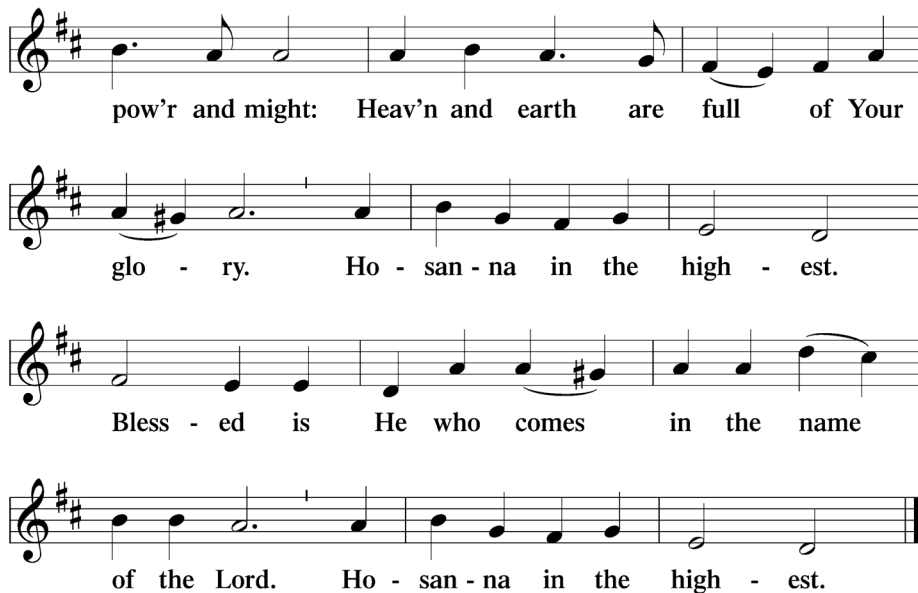
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising you and saying:

SANCTUS ("Holy")

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of



pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

In the same way also he took the cup after the supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me."

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: **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**

... "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying." (Titus 3:5-8)

[continued on the next page]

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next page]

**What does
such baptiz-
ing with
water indi-
cate?**

*It indicates
that the Old
Adam in us
should be
daily contri-
tion and re-
pentance be
drowned and
die with all
sins and evil
desires, and
that a new
man should
daily emerge
and arise to
live before
God in right-
eousness and
purity forev-
er*

ACCLAMATION

P: The Word was made flesh

C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

AGNUS DEI (*"Lamb of God"*)



☐ Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of



God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

The congregation is ushered forward for Communion. If you cannot use the steps to the altar, you may either ask an usher to have Communion brought to you, or you may go to the altar in the side (west) chapel. Those not communing may cross their arms over their chest for a blessing.

Holy Communion is the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which He joyfully gives to His Church to eat and to drink. This gift bestows tremendous benefits. His Body and Blood forgives our sins, strengthens our faith, binds us to the Lord, and unites us with each other. In this is life

and salvation.

The Lord therefore invites to His altar baptized Christians who trust that they will receive in Holy Communion all that He promises there: His body and blood, the forgiveness of sins, union with Christ and His Church, life, and salvation. Know that He gives it to you with great joy.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“Baptismal Waters Cover Me”

... LSB #616

“We Three Kings”



1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a -
 2. Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a -
 3. Frank - in - cense to of - er have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty
 4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing
 5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri -



far, field and foun - tain, moor and moun tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 gain; king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 nigh; prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone cold tomb.
 fice; heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia; al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain



Oh, star of won - der star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

... LSB #398

Please stand after all have received the sacrament.

Where is this written?

St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: “We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (Rom. 6:4)

~ Questions and Answers on Baptism from the Small Catechism, 1529 A.D.

A Prayer
As You Go
Restore the
dignity of
humanity, O
God,
through the
visit of your
only Son.
Having wit-
nessed His
assuming
the burden
of our hu-
manity, pre-
pare us to
experience
His glorious
divinity;
through the
same Jesus
Christ, your
Son our
Lord, who
lives and
reigns with
you and the
Holy Spirit,
one God,
now and
forever.
Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray. O God of wonder, we have tasted your goodness,
and beheld your presence in the Word made flesh. Shine forth
his light in all we say and do, and fill the earth with your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



Please turn toward the cross as it is carried out of the sanctuary.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It”

... LSB #594

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE “The Magi”

... Kenneth T. Kosche

+ **Soli Deo Gloria** +
To God alone be glory

Serving at Worship

<u>Presiding:</u>	The Rev. Christopher S. Johnson
<u>Preaching:</u>	The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde <i>(Pr. Reiff to Bethany at 10:30 am)</i>
<u>Organist:</u>	Kantor Irene Beethe
<u>Trumpet:</u>	Matt Rueth
<u>Choir:</u>	Ivan Beethe, Sarah Gjerde, Ted Gulhaugen, Cyndi Reuter
<u>Radio:</u>	Scott Schubring
<u>Lector:</u>	Landis Holdorf
<u>Acolytes:</u>	Brennan Hochberger, Trevor Kell, Ethan Loppnow
<u>Communion:</u>	Lois Jarosz, Grace Mueller
<u>Elder:</u>	Keith Watson
<u>Ushers:</u>	Amy Meyer, Brant Meyer, Jessica Pagel, Tyler Pagel
<u>Altar Guild:</u>	Bonnie Waack, Anna Mae Zeinemann

Acknowledgements

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Zion Lutheran Church

Sixth and Grant Streets, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403

Those who trust in the Lord shall be like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever. (Psalm 125:1)

Church Telephone: 715-848-7286

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Associate Pastor Christopher S. Johnson
Kantor Irene Beethe
Office Manager Jessica G. Ray
Custodian Cody Augustine
Deployed Chaplain Joseph C. Pinzl
Pastor Emeritus Theodore B. Gulhaugen

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Host of the Wausau Lutheran Hour
Sundays, 9:00 am, WSAU Radio 550AM (or
click "Listen Live" at www.wsau.com)

**Member Congregation of Lutheran Con-
gregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)**