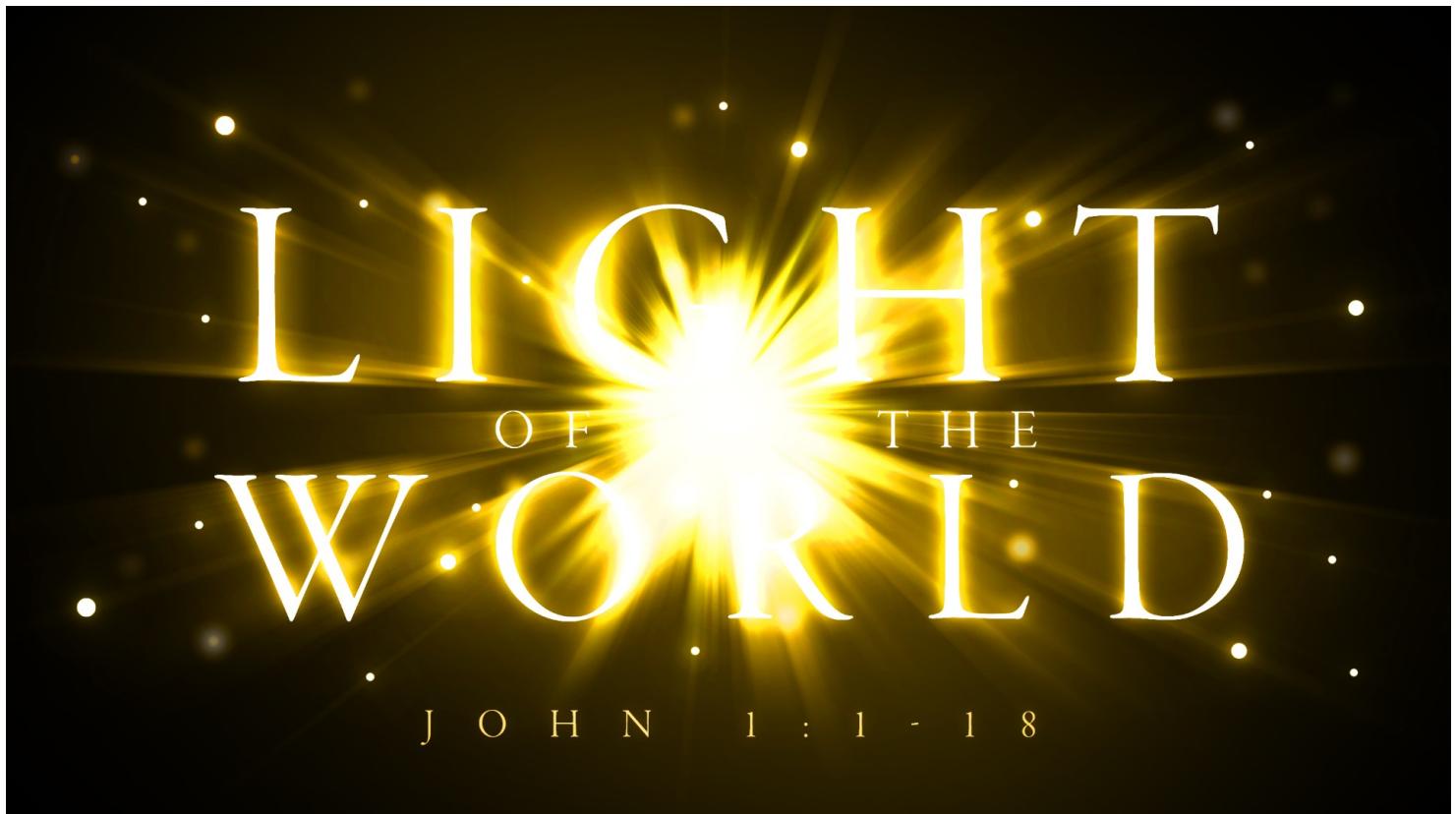


Saturday, January 3rd and Sunday, January 4th 2026
2nd Weekend of Christmas



Worship Services: Saturdays at 5:00pm • Sundays at 9:45am

Parish Education: Sunday School - Grades Pre-K to 6th - 8:30am • Adult Forum - 8:30am
Confirmation - Grades 7 & 8 - Wednesdays 6:30pm

Church Office Hours: Tues-Thurs 9am-2pm • Fri 9am-12pm

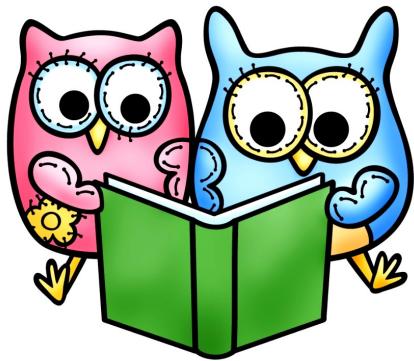
235 S Green Street | PO Box 245 | Somonauk, IL 60552 | 815-498-3667

office@elcastjohns.org | www.elcastjohns.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

for the week of
January 4-11

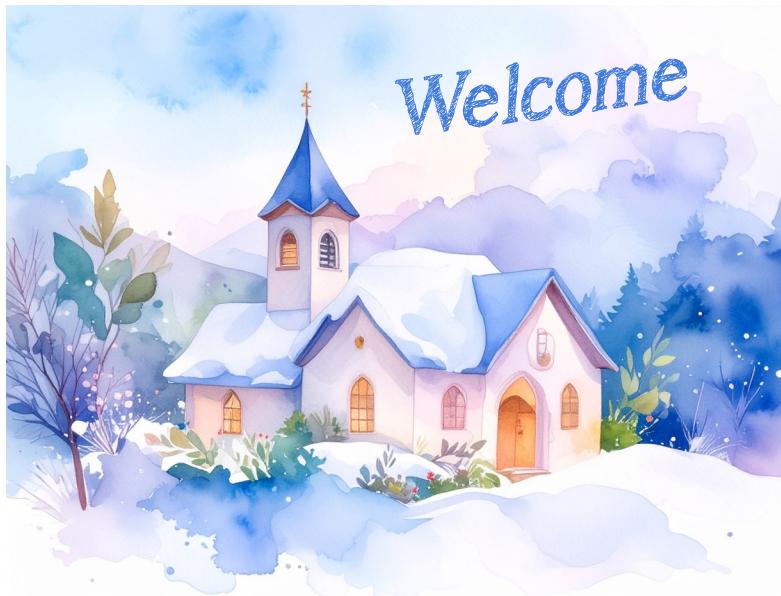
Sunday	8:30am Sunday School & Adult Forum 9:45am Worship - Pastor Paul Gebo
Tuesday	6:30pm MOG meeting
Wednesday	6:30pm Confirmation @ Salem
Saturday	5:00pm Worship
Sunday	8:30am Sunday School & Adult Forum 9:45am Worship



READING BUDDIES

January 27 @ 10:00am

Sign up in the Welcome Center



Growing Hope Globally Gala

Saturday, February 21, 2026

The Traveling Chef

\$150.00 per plate

More info in the Welcome Center



If you'd like to provide flowers for the altar for any given weekend, there is always a signup sheet for available weekends in the Welcome Center.

THE ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD SUNDAY, JANUARY 25TH, 2026 AFTER THE 9:45 WORSHIP SERVICE. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND.

Prayer Requests

Mary Bark
Mary Carlson
Lance Davenport
Lee Gehrke
The Family of Christy Gibson
Marlyn Glover
Sharon Goode

Mike Hamer
Mary Ann Hulon
Linda Johnson
Rhea Lumsden
Linda Martin
Doris Miller
James Moris

Lonnie Murray
Kay Nelson
Roger & Helen
Larry Rogers
Shelly
Lynn Skryzpiec
Lois Spizziri
Rosemary Underwood
Jackie Wendland
Cindy Westbrook
Susan White

Dates to Remember

Month	Date	Occasion
JANUARY	25	ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY	27	READING BUDDIES
FEBRUARY	21	GROWING HOPE GLOBALLY GALA

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Please stand as you are able.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, **☩** one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

C: **Amen.**

P: Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin .
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Reconciling God,

C: **we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation . Amen.**

P: God's grace upon grace flows over you. **☩** Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

C: **Amen.**

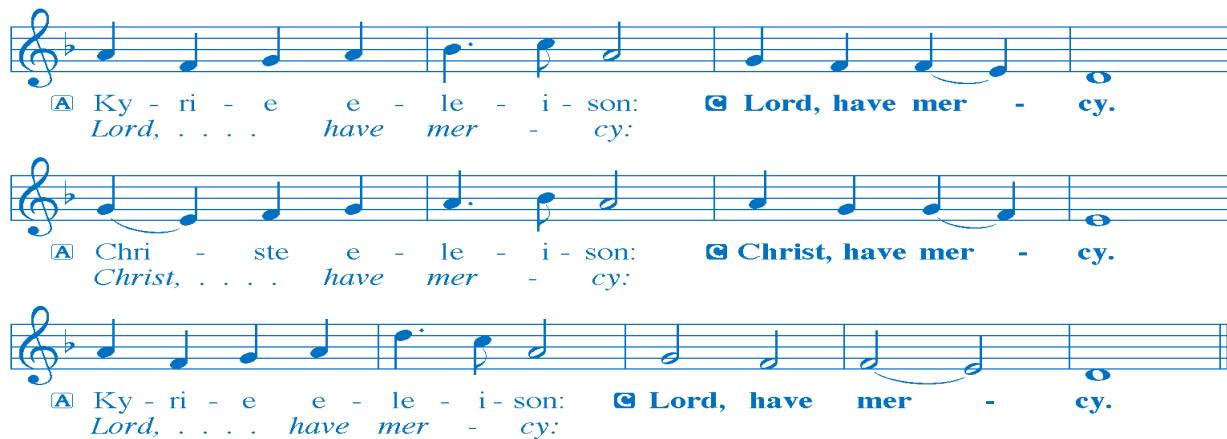
Gathering Hymn ELW 514 O Word of God Incarnate

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



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **C** Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:

A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God,

C: **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.**

Please be seated.

A: The **First Reading** comes from the Book of Jeremiah Chapter 31 verses 7-14

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 147 verses 12-20

A: ¹²Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,
¹³ **who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you.**

¹⁴ God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.
¹⁵ **God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.**
¹⁶ God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.
¹⁷ **God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?**
¹⁸ The Lord sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.
¹⁹ **God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.**
²⁰ The Lord has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments.
Hallelujah!

A: The **Second Reading** comes from Ephesians Chapter 1 verses 3-14
A: Word of God, Word of Life.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

P: The **Holy Gospel** according to St. John the 1st Chapter
C: **Glory to you O Lord.** **Gospel: John 1:1-18**
P: The Gospel of our Lord.
C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day W&P 140 There is a Redeemer

Apostle's Creed

P: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
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.**

Prayers of Intercession

P: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A: ... Hear us, O God.
C: **Your mercy is great.**
P: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior .
C: **Amen.**

The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.
C: **And also with you.**
P: Let us offer to each other the sign of peace.

Offering

Please stand as you are able.

Offering Prayer

P: God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Dialogue

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

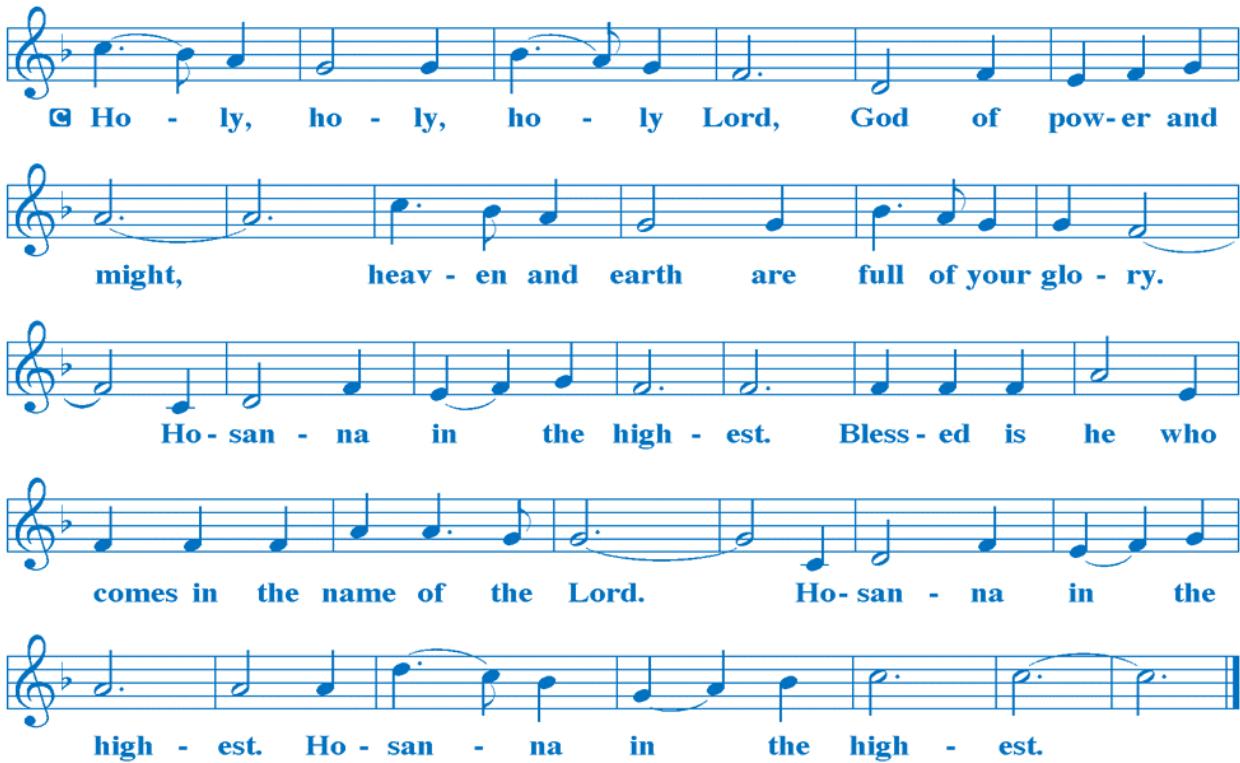
P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

P: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

P: Gathered at and around the Lord's table, we remember with thanksgiving that *"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.'*"

The Lord's Prayer

P: Let us pray together the words our Savior gave us:

C: **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

P: God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

Holy Communion is served.

Please stand as you are able.

Prayer after Communion

A: Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

C: **Amen.**

Blessing

P: The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, **+** bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy .

C: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn ELW 253 He Came Down

Pastor & Assisting Minister process to back of sanctuary during Sending Hymn.

Dismissal

A: Glory to God in the highest!

C: **And peace to God's people on earth!**

A: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

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