

December, 2025

NORTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1327 North Salem Road

La Crosse, WI 54603

NORTH STAR NEWS is a non-profit publication containing information and concerns of members and friends of North Presbyterian Church of La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Sunday Worship:

8:00 AM Service

9:00 AM Sunday School

10:00 AM Service

Virtually - Sunday at 8am on our Facebook Page or Website

Please contact us at:

608-781-5690

office@npclax.org

Office Hours M-Th 9am-2pm

PASTOR:

Rev. Scott Skogen

OFFICE MANAGER & EDUCATION COORDINATOR:

Karla Korish

ORGANIST & ADULT CHOIR DIRECTOR:

Ruth Mashak

FIRST SERVICE MUSICIAN:

Judy Bouffleur



NORTH STAR NEWS

North Presbyterian Church of La Crosse, WI.

Pastor Scott's Scripts

Welcome to Advent 2025. As we gather for Advent, I would like to invite you to join us on Sunday mornings for a unique sermon series. In this Advent season, I'm going to focus on familiar lines from different Christmas hymns that I believe are packed with meaning.

The Advent sermon series is as follows:

November 30th - "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight"

December 7th - "Gloria in Excelsis Deo!"

December 14th - "The weary world rejoices"

December 21st - "Peace on Earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

December 24th - "All is calm, all is bright."

We sing these beautiful lines every year. We know them by heart. The question for us to ponder is...do we know the depth of what they mean? How do they speak to us today? What inspiration can we receive from digging deeper into what they are saying?

Advent is a wonderful season of preparation. It's a season when we "prepare him room" in our hearts once again!

Happy Advent everyone!

See ya in church!

Pastor Scott

HOLIDAY GIVING TREE

If you generously took a tag for a child from the Northside Elementary School,

Wrapped Gifts with Ornament Tags attached must be returned to church by:

Sunday, December 14th

Thank you for sharing the spirit of Christmas with our neighborhood families!



Join Pastor Scott & Debby for a holiday luncheon on Friday, December 19th at Noon in the Fellowship Hall

**They will provide the main dish.
Please feel free to bring a dish to share.**

Holiday Shut-in Gift Bags

The Deacons are asking members & friends of the church to donate for the traditional holiday shut-in gift bags.



- * Lip Balm
- * Books
- * Cards
- * Hot Chocolate
- * Large Print Puzzle/Activity Books
- * Lotions & Hand Soaps
- * Cookies
- * Flavored Crackers
- * Candy & Snacks

Please have the items to the church by December 7th.
Thank you!



We will be sending around an envelope this year during worship services through December 7th for Pastor Scott and Debby's Christmas Card. Or, you are welcome to send cards to the addresses below:

Church Address:
1327 North Salem Road
La Crosse, WI 54603

Home address:
537 Chestnut Drive
Onalaska, WI 54650

THANK YOU!!!



A handcrafted ornament sale will be happening in the Narthex on Sunday, December 7th!

(After each service)

The Sunday School kids have created special ornaments in order to raise money for the International Heifer project. We are learning about their mission this year and will be donating our proceeds to purchase an animal that will better the lives of our neighbors around the world.



Check out their wonderful creations that are sure to add joy to your Christmas season!

NPC Little Food Pantry: Winter

Unbelievably it is time to switch over to our winter food pantry items already. In the cold temperatures, we do not put out canned goods (or glass jars) to avoid freezing, spoilage, and potential illness.

Suggested Winter Donations:

- Ramen Noodles
- Raisins & Nuts
- Instant Potatoes/Stuffing Mix
- Dry Soups, Mixes (pancake etc.), & Sauces
- Cereal/Oatmeal
- Crackers/Granola Bars
- Powdered Milk/Hot Chocolate
- Popcorn
- Rice
- Peanut Butter
- Hormel Complete Meals
- Tuna/Chicken **Packets**
- Instant Mac & Cheese Cups
- Tortillas



Coulee Region Gospel Choir Concerts



The Christmas concerts of the Coulee Region Gospel Choir (CRGC) will be performed on Friday, December 5th at 7:00 pm and repeated on Saturday, December 6th at 2:00 pm.

There is a new larger location for the Coulee Region Gospel Choir Christmas Concerts—it is at “The Venue” in Valley View Mall, 3800 State Road 16, La Crosse, WI. This is the location of the former Ulta Beauty Store in the middle of the Mall. There is plenty of seating and parking. All are invited to attend. A free will offering will be taken to cover expenses.

This year’s Christmas program is “Joy, Joy, Joy.” *The cantata beautifully captures the wonder of Christ’s birth, the hope He brings to a weary world, and the deep, lasting joy that fills every believer’s heart.*



North Presbyterian Church Annual Christmas Cookie Walk

Saturday, December 13th - 7AM – 10AM

The Original La Crosse Area Cookie Walk!

**In 1990, NPC held the first ever
Cookie Walk in the La Crosse area
- that’s 35 years!!**

Here’s how you can help make this year’s Cookie Walk the best one yet:

- Home-baking 5–10 dozen cookies (or more!). The more cookies, the more we raise for church projects!
- Making candy, such as fudge, truffles, bark, etc.
- Donation towards miscellaneous expenses
- Setting up on Friday, December 12th, any time between 7am – 6pm
- Helping at the event on Saturday, December 13th from 7am – 11am

We encourage you to join us in this fun-filled event!

Sign-up sheets are located in the Narthex.

TAX TIPS :

IRS regulations require that all contributions for 2025 be dated and/or postmarked by December 31, 2025

All contribution statements will be mailed on or before January 31, 2026.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, December 14th after the 10:00 a.m. service

This short meeting is to approve Pastor Scott's Terms of Call, approve Elders and Deacons for the class of 2028, and Nomination Committee for 2026.

If you haven't picked-up your Contribution Envelopes for 2026, they are available for pick-up in the Narthex anytime before or after Worship service and during office hours Monday - Thursday 9am-2pm.

If you're considering a switch to online giving (which assists the church with costs), please visit our website (www.npclax.com) and select the "giving" tab for a variety of options.

2026 PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT:

Per Capita is "the tie that binds" - annual giving that unites the entire church in the ongoing and essential work that guides the Office of the General Assembly, the life of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and benefits every congregation and every mid council ministry. Per capita is the primary source of funding for the office of the General Assembly, and is how Presbyterians mutually and equitably share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future.

The Per Capita amount for North Presbyterian members for 2026 remains the same at \$40

"Members" includes everyone who has been confirmed as an Active Member



- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | Joan Zielke | 17 | Holly Grimsli |
| 3 | Chris Lezpona | 18 | Bonnie Clements |
| 4 | Pat Markos | | Matthew Bahr |
| 7 | Scott Hauser | | Cooper Molling |
| 8 | John Conder | 19 | Cathy Harris |
| | Carol Bassuener | | Danielle Martell |
| | Kathy Sierp | | Linda Thompson |
| | Dyanne Brudos | | Tiffany Bean |
| 9 | Trish Biemiller | 20 | Andrew Akey |
| | Brad Mills | 22 | Kay Bjorge |
| 10 | Karen Weis | 23 | Emily Vien |
| | Andrew Martell | 25 | JESUS |
| | Lance Jurgensen | | Henry Richgels |
| 11 | Kathleen Snyder | | Lloyd Payne |
| | Tina McWain | | Brady Olson |
| 13 | Chase Ostrem | 27 | Barb Akey |
| | Nancy Nick | 29 | Ron Carpenter |
| 14 | Linda Payne | 30 | Dick Palm |
| 15 | Mason Mihalovic | | Jacob Bahr |
| 16 | Lisa Colburn | | |
| | Ted Roberts | | |
| | Julie Connelly | | |

NPC bell ringing for the Salvation Army

Thursday, December 11th

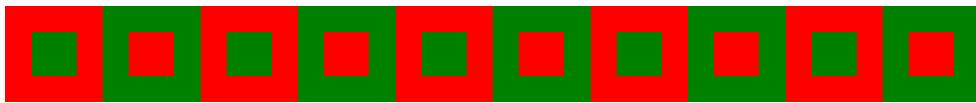
Location: Onalaska Festival Foods

One hour shifts from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sign-up in the Narthex

If someone else is signed up during a time that works for you, please join them! The more the merrier!





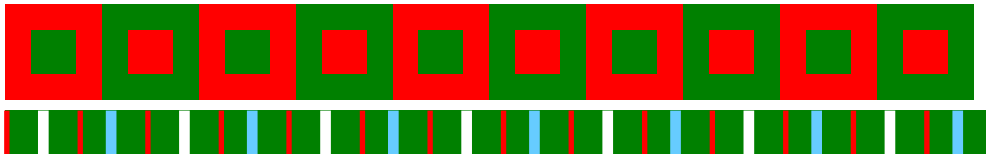
Children's Christmas Program
Sunday, December 21st at the
10:00 A.M. service.

This year we will be presenting...
"The Case of the Reluctant Innkeeper"

Sunday School Families:

Please make every effort to be here during the Sunday School hour through December to prepare for the program. Our choir will be practicing the songs and those with speaking parts will be rehearsing their lines.

We can't wait to share in the celebration of Jesus' birth with everyone!



If you ordered a poinsettia plant in memory or in honor of someone this year, they can be taken with you following the 5:00 Christmas Eve worship service.



Please join us to celebrate the
birth of Jesus at our
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
Wednesday, December 24th

3:00 P.M. Candlelight Service

5:00 P.M. Candlelight Service

JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS CAROLING!



Sunday, December 7th 3:00-6:00 p.m.

On Sunday, December 7th, North Church will go caroling to several care facilities to share our gift of song. This is a super fun fellowship time that brings so much joy to so many! Professional singers and those of us that can't carry a tune are all welcome!

MEET AT CHURCH AT 2:45!!!

We'll distribute song books and figure out carpooling before heading out



Just a reminder that our knitting/crocheting group meets at the church the first Wednesday of each month from 10:00 a.m.-noon. Come work on your projects and enjoy some good conversation with your fellow crafters! Everyone of all skill levels is welcome!

DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	1	2	3 KNIT/CROCHET GROUP 10:00 FELLOWSHIP HALL 	4	5	6
7 Shut-in Gifts Due Kid's Ornament Sale  Caroling 2:45 MEET AT CHURCH	8	9	10 Session Meeting	11 Bell Ringing @ Onalaska Festival Foods 10-4:00 	12  Cookie Walk Set-up 7 a.m.-6 p.m.	13 Cookie Walk 7-10:00 a.m. 
14  GIVING TREE GIFTS DUE BACK	15	16	17	18	19 Christmas Luncheon  Pastor Scott & Debby Christmas Open House- Noon	20
21  Children's Christmas Program 10:00 Service "The Case of the Reluctant Innkeeper"	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 3:00 & 5:00 	25  Office Closed	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3