



February 8, 2026
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany



Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

Good Morning and Welcome!

If you are an online worshiper or guest today, please leave a record of your time with us online. Thank you!

[Online Guest Form](#)

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ORDER OF WORSHIP FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Holy Communion Setting One

* Please stand as you are able

PRELUDE “Trio on Westminster Abbey” (David Lasky)

Melanie Payne

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTERLUDE

***CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \dagger one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice,
you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.

Amen.

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares:

Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in \dagger Jesus’ name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

Amen.

***GATHERING SONG** “Rise, Shine, You People!”

ELW 665



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
2 See how he sends the pow’rs of e - vil reel - ing;
3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent his Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark-ness hurl - ing. To all the
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the

us, by death and sin sur-round-ed,
wom-en, who by guilt are driv-en,
world go out and tell the sto-ry
Spir-it calls from ev'-ry na-tion

with grace un-bound-ed.
now are for-giv-en.
of Je-sus' glo-ry.
his new cre-a-tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.

Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, b. 1934

Text and music © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

*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.**

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer-cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer-cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer-cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord.
 Lord, have mercy.
 Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
 Amen, amen.

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE “This Is the Feast”**

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God.
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.
 1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Sing . . with all the people of God, and
 join in the hymn of all creation:
 Pow-er and rich-es, wis-dom and strength, and
 Bless-ing and hon-or, glo-ry and might be to
 hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.
 God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A - men.

Refrain

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

gun his reign. Al - - le - lu - ia. *Refrain*

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

TEMPLE TALK Scouts

Rick Bagwell, Troop 404 (8:30)
Glen Long, Troop 8 (11:00)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:1-9a

¹ Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ² Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. ³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. ⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵ Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ^{9a} Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 112:1-9

¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD and have great delight in God’s commandments!

² **Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³ Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴ **Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶ **For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

**⁸ Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Bonnie Flowers

GOSPEL FANFARE

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia

* GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 5th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13-20

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Kris Schroeder

*HYMN OF THE DAY “O God of Light

ELW 507



1 O God of light, your word, a lamp un - fail - ing,
2 From days of old, through blind and will - ful a - ges,
3 Un - dimmed by time, those words are still re - veal - ing
4 To all the world your sum - mons you are send - ing,



shall pierce the dark - ness of our earth - bound way
though we re - belled, you gent - ly sought a - gain,
to sin - ful hearts your jus - tice and your grace;
through all the earth, to ev - 'ry land and race,



and show your grace, your plan for us un - veil - ing,
and spoke through saints, a - pos - tles, proph - ets, sa - ges,
and quest - ing spir - its, long - ing for your heal - ing,
that myr - iad tongues, in one great an - them blend - ing,



and guide our foot - steps to the per - - fect day.
who wrote with ea - ger or re - luc - - tant pen.
see your com - pas - sion in the Sav - - ior's face.
may praise and cel - e - brate your gift of grace.

Text: Sarah E. Taylor, 1883-1954, alt.

Music: ATKINSON, H. Barrie Cabena, b. 1933

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Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

*APOSTLES CREED

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

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

Organ Solo (8:30): "Humbly, I Adore Thee Verity Unseen" (Callahan)

Melanie Payne

Anthem (11:00): *Cantata 142 Alleluia* (J. S. Bach)

Choir

*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS "As with Gladness Men of Old"

ELW 302 (verse 3)



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid-ing star be - hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,

as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,

so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

*OFFERING PRAYER

God of majesty,
no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you,
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered

**to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING AND PREFACE**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

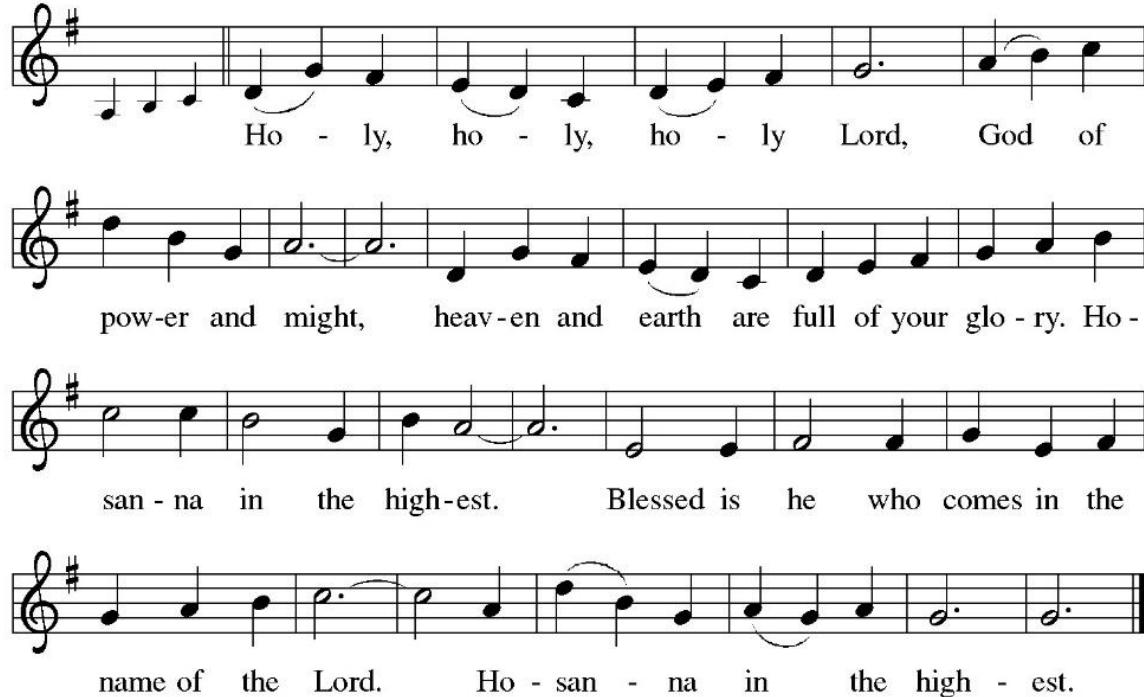
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



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. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

***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**

COMMUNION SONG “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.

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

ELW 490

1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
 2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav-en spreads its van-guard on the way;
 4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,
 pon - der noth-ing earth-ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
 Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
 as the Light of light, de - scend-ing from the realms of end - less day,
 veil their fac - es to the pres-ence, as with cease-less voice they cry:
 Christ our God to earth de-scend - ing comes full hom-age to de - mand.
 he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n-ly food.
 comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark-ness clears a - way.
 “Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!”

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.
 Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

HYMN "Gather Us In"

ELW 532

1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,

van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his-t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way— here in this place the new light is shin-ing,

brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.

Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en, gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er, gath-er us in and

blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ple to-geth-er,

we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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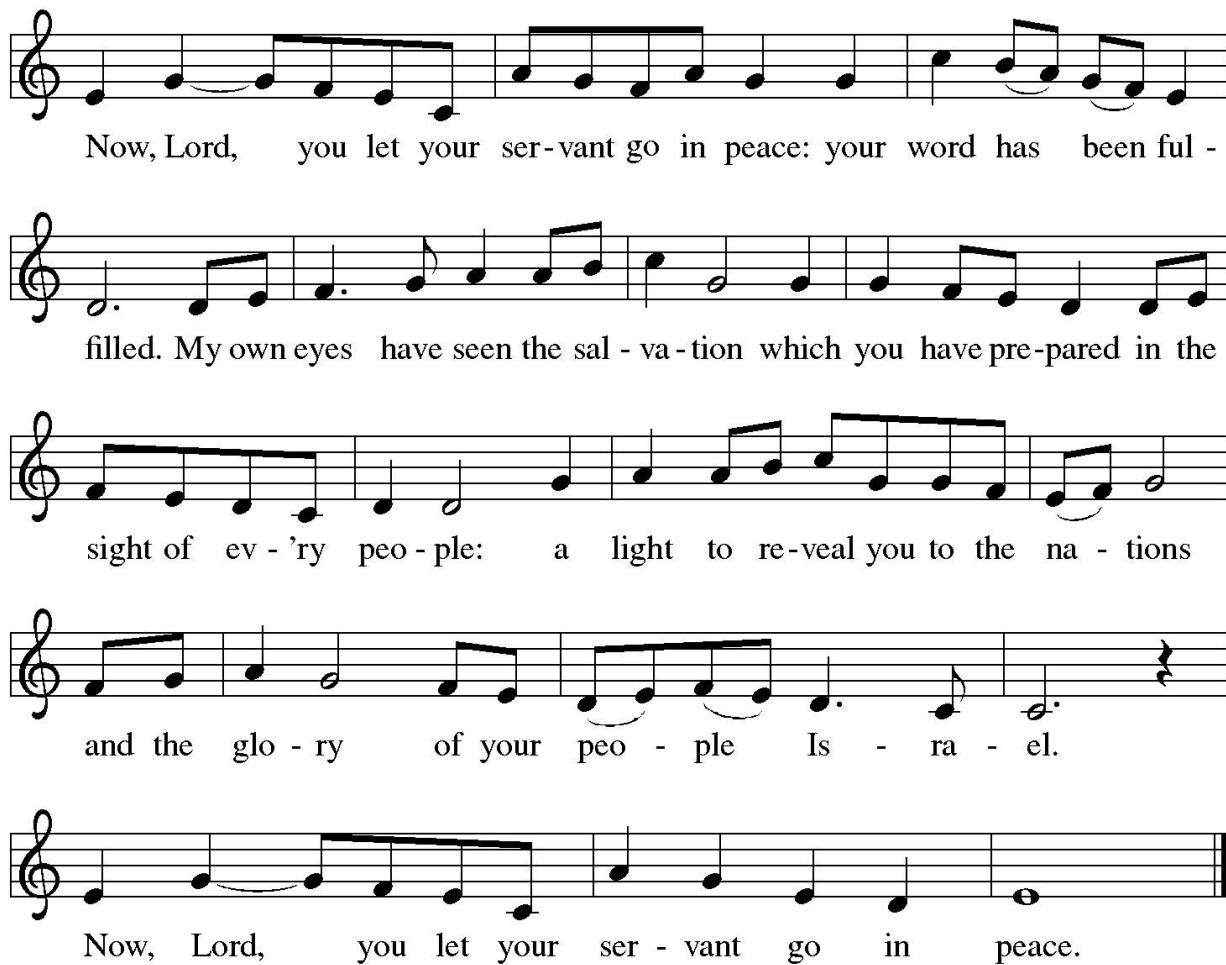
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HYMN “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

ELW 712 (not printed)

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

***POST COMMUNION CANTICLE “Now Lord”**



Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the
sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace.

***BLESSING**

***SENDING SONG “We Are Marching in the Light”**

ELW 866



Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the light of God.
Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the light of God.

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march-ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
 We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march-ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
 We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

Text: South African traditional; tr. Freedom Is Coming, 1984
 Music: SIYAHAMBA, South African traditional
 Tr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **We will! Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE “Duke Street” (David Lasky)

WE REMEMBER IN THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH TODAY

Norma Freymuth	Kenneth	Peggy Mabry
Don & Lizzie Palmer	David	Joel Williemsen
Lindsey & the Porter Family	Bryant	Victoria Zutter
Kevin	David	The Family of Roger Joens
Leighann	Sharon	Bob Gustafson
Connie Stanger	Beth	
Stephen	Kathi	
Rich	Pam	

THE FLOWERS today are given to the Glory of God by the people of Messiah Lutheran.

ALL ARE INVITED to enjoy coffee and fellowship after service in the Fellowship Hall.

NURSERY staffed by Hannah Seitz, is through the double doors in the Narthex leading to the Sunday School classrooms. Newborns, toddlers, and children up to Pre-K are welcome.

YOUTH SPONSORED PARENTS NIGHT OUT FEBRUARY 14. Enjoy a well-deserved night out. We'll take care of the kids. Dinner and fun activities planned from 4:00p – 9:00p. Use this QR to sign up and reserve your spot! Free will donations accepted to sponsor youth activities.



CHECK OUT THE ARTREACH VALENTINE CARDS. Browse the card rack in front of the church office and shop the beautiful handmade (some hand painted) Valentines. ArtReach meets twice monthly on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come join us! Contact meredith.kilby@gmail.com for more information.

FEBRUARY 15: COME FOR THE DONUTS... STAY FOR THE COUNCIL TALK! Grab a donut during coffee hour and chat with current and former council members. Getting involved is a rewarding way to support our wonderful Messiah community and ministries.

CHILI COOK OFF RESCHEDULED FOR MARCH 7TH -- SAVE THE DATE! Warm your heart and your appetite at our Chili Cook-Off on Friday, March 7 at 5:00 PM. Bring your favorite chili to share or come ready to sample and vote. Fellowship, fun, and plenty of cozy bowls await. Everyone is welcome!

INVITATION TO SYNOD REVIVAL. All members are encouraged to attend the SES Revival Days scheduled for Feb 21 in Birmingham and April 25 in Nashville. Get reenergized, connected and inspired. Contact a Council Member for more details and information.

COLD SEASON IS HERE. Flu and Covid seems to be in the air. Please be conscious of possible illnesses. Use the hand sanitizer at the Welcome Center and avoid physical contact if you believe you might be ill. If your health, or someone you love is challenged, consider elbow bumps instead of handshakes. Let's keep each other healthy!

KIT MINISTRY – Bath Towels 27 x 52, Dark Colors FOOD PANTRY – Mac and Cheese

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, February 8

8:30 a.m. – *Service of Worship ELW Setting One with the Lord's Supper
 9:45 a.m. – Adult Bible Study/Sunday School for all ages
 10:30 a.m. - Choir Warm Up
 11:00 a.m. – Service of Worship ELW Setting One with the Lord's Supper
 6:30 p.m. – Notabella Rehearsal

Tuesday, February 9

9:00 a.m. – Comforters

Wednesday, February 10

5:00 p.m. – Confirmation Class
 6:00 p.m. – Wednesday Night Dinner
 7:00 p.m. – Adult Choir Rehearsal

*These services are live streamed on mlutheran.org and on MLC's App

Thursday, February 11

6:00 p.m. – Stephen Ministry
 6:30 p.m. – Kit Ministry
 7:00 p.m. - Church Council

Saturday, February 14

4:00 p.m. - Parents Nights Out

Sunday, February 15 Transfiguration Sunday

8:30 a.m. – *Service of Worship Now the Feast with the Lord's Supper
 9:45 a.m. – Adult Bible Study/Sunday School for all ages
 11:00 a.m. – Band Led Service of Worship ELW Now the Feast with the Lord's Supper
 6:30 p.m. – Notabella Rehearsal

LOOKING AHEAD

February 18 – Ash Wednesday
 February 21 - Youth House of Harvest
 February 22 - Youth Monthly Dinner
 March 29 – Palm Sunday / Egg Hunt
 April 2 - Maundy Thursday
 April 3 – Good Friday
 April 5 - Easter Sunday

ATTENDANCE

January 25 Online: 102

February 1: 8:30 – 88

11:00 - 49

8:30 Worship	
Greeters	Troop 404
Cantor	Lee Smith
Lector	Joan Ellsworth
Ushers	Troop 404
Altar Guild	Janet Smith
Stream Team	Stephen Strand, Daniel Hopkin
Flower Guild	Claire Strand

11:00 Worship	
Greeters	Troop 404
Cantor	Lee Smith
Lector	Jutta DeMarsh
Ushers	Troop 8
Altar Guild	Debbie Neely
Stream Team	Bob Davis
Flower Guild	Claire Strand