

**EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD**  
**January 4, 2026**

**MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**34 E. Orange Street**  
**Shippensburg, PA 17257-1993**  
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**717-532-4614**

**Welcoming all**  
**Reaching out in love**  
**Growing together in Christ**  
**Worshiping and serving in Jesus' name**

**Reverend Godfred Effisah**  
**717-532-4614 (church office) or 571-572-0119 (cell)**  
**[pastor@memluth.org](mailto:pastor@memluth.org)**  
**Office hours: Monday to Thursday - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

***Children are an active part of Memorial's community of faith! We welcome you to worship each week! Children's bulletins and Quiet Bags (lots of exciting things to do!) are available at the doors coming from the parking lot. Please take one of each as they may help your children bring smiles into our time of worship!***

**Welcome to Memorial Lutheran Church. As you prepare for Worship, please silence your cell phone.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

## **GATHERING**

### **WELCOME**

### **PRELUDE**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*Please kneel or stand as you are able.*

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

**Amen.**

Trusting in God’s steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reconciling God, **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.**

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! **Amen.**

*Please remain standing or stand as you are able.*

## **GATHERING HYMN** “*The First Noel*”

**ELW 300**

### **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together.

**O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **WORD**

### **FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 60:1-6**

*Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.*

<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup> For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. <sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. <sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. <sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

- <sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;
- <sup>2</sup> **that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**
- <sup>3</sup> that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.
- <sup>4</sup> **Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
- <sup>5</sup> May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.
- <sup>6</sup> **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**
- <sup>7</sup> In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no  
more.
- <sup>10</sup> **May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**
- <sup>11</sup> May all kings bow down before him,  
and all the nations do him service.
- <sup>12</sup> **For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**
- <sup>13</sup> He has compassion on the lowly and poor,  
and preserves the lives of the needy.
- <sup>14</sup> **From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,  
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

## SECOND READING

## Ephesians 3:1-12

*What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.*

<sup>1</sup> This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup> for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup> and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup> a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup> In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup> that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be

made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>  
This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried  
out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in  
boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

***Alleluia. We have observed his star at its rising, and have come to worship him. Alleluia. (Matt. 2:2)***

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 2nd chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

*God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.*

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' " <sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### SERMON

*Please stand as you are able.*

HYMN OF THE DAY *"Brightest and Best of the Stars"*

ELW 303

### NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## **INSTALLATION OF 2026 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**ELDERS:** Linda Basler, Mary Beth Fishel, Susan Lyons

**TRUSTEES:** Matthew Creek, Galen Piper, Ryan Leach

**DEACONS:** Vicky Conner, Linda Eves, Beth Houser, Tasha Koenig,  
Ron Luffy, Jacob McCole, Jan Nichols, Cindy Pimental,  
Karin Vargo

*Please stand as you are able.*

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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.*

Eternal Father, you invite each of us to share in the life and ministry of your Son, Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit to transform our faith family into a community of disciples. In this year of discipleship, teach us how to hear Jesus, to love Jesus deeply, and to share Jesus with everyone we meet. Through the Holy Spirit, guide us to deepen our commitment as disciples of Jesus. Lead us, we pray, to grow as an intentional community, committed to our call to discipleship. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Good and gracious God, we thank you for the beauty of the earth and all creation. Help us to always hear the calling to be good stewards of your gifts, caretakers of all you have entrusted to us on earth. O God, help us to use your gifts wisely and share them generously. Whisper in our hearts the reminder that we are but a temporary guardian of your abundance. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For all our newly elected council members, leaders of our ministries and committees, and all who offer themselves in your name. Give them the joy of service, constant care, and guidance through your Holy Spirit. Help us all to be both willing servants and thankful recipients of ministry, that your name may be glorified, your people live in peace, and your will be done here at Memorial. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Voice of the silenced, you cast the mighty from their thrones and fill the hungry with good things. Grant those in need the courage to demand equality and those with abundance the wisdom to share. Respond to any who call out in need this day (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Redeemer of the saints, you gift us with many people throughout our lives who point the way to you. We give you thanks for the recently departed and all who have loved us (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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.

**Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

## **SENIOR CHOIR OFFERTORY "One Small Child"**

- David Meece

*The Ushers will collect the offering.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

*"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

**ELW 884**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

## **MEAL**

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray together.

**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.**

**Amen.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.**



## PREFACE - EPIPHANY

All honor and praise be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, ever living God, through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord: for at this time we celebrate your glory made present in our midst. In the coming of the Magi the King of all the world was revealed to the nations. For today you have revealed the mystery of our salvation in Christ as a light for the nations, and, when he appeared in our mortal nature, you made us new by the glory of his immortal nature.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

We sing a new song to you, O God of our salvation, for you have done marvelous things.

Since the beginning of time, you have spoken your word, and your light shines in our darkness glory to you O God.

**Glory to you, O God.**

The seas are thundering with praise, the rivers are clapping their hands. The hills ring out with gladness and the trees are shouting their joy. Glory to you O God. **Glory to you O God.**

Your son rules in truth and justice, victorious and merciful is he! We praise your majesty lying in a Manger. Jesus Christ born of Mary and lauded by angels. Glory to you O God. **Glory to you or God.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On 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.

Send your Spirit on us and on this meal of wonder. In this bread, give us the body of Christ. With this cup, reveal the grace of your risen Son and make known to the whole earth your steadfast love. Glory to you, O God. **Glory to you, O God.**

In these dark days, bring the dawn of your righteousness to birth. Hold the living and the dead in your hands. In your good time, awaken the sleeping animals, and revive the dormant plants with your life- given spirits. Glory to you, O God. **Glory to you, O God.**

With trumpets and horns and harps, with the faithful on earth and the host of heaven, we sing to your splendor, Father, Son + Holy Spirit. God most high, Light of the world and judge of the universe today and forever. Amen. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord remember us in your Kingdom, and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## LAMB OF GOD

page 112



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

*Please be seated.*

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*All are welcome at the Lord's table. Please come forward by the center aisle at the usher's direction. If you choose to have wine for communion, take an empty cup from the usher. If you prefer grape juice, receive a pre-filled cup at the altar. If you or a child has never received the sacrament, fold hands to receive a blessing instead. After receiving communion or a blessing, you may choose to remain at the altar for extra time in prayer. When you return to your pew do so by the side aisles. Please deposit the empty cup in the basket.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

**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. Amen.**

## 2026 YEAR OF DISCIPLESHIP

## SENDING

## BLESSING

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

**DISMISSAL**

Glory to God in the highest!

**And peace to God’s people on earth!**

Go in joy. Embody God’s redeeming grace.

**Thanks be to God.**

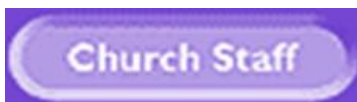
*Please be seated.*

**POSTLUDE**

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*Check out our church website using this QR Code!*



**Mary Kay Dagenhart**

**Karen Larson**

**Doug & Pat Maun**

**Jeanne Naugle**

**Dorothy Railing**

**Trina Ruth**

**All Caregivers**

**Pastor**  
**Pastor Godfred Effisah**

**Organist & Pianist**  
**Nancy Fogelsanger**

**Senior Choir / Bell Choir**  
**Director**  
**Kathy Kerr**

**Parish Coordinator**  
**Amy Piper**