

St. John Lutheran Church



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ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Rev. Tammy P. Harmer

Deacon Betsey Eley & Deacon Ken Weaver

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY • JANUARY 25, 2026

Reverent Reflection

Prelude

Welcome

Church Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

- P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
- C. **Amen.**
- P. O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C. **Amen.**
- P. Most merciful God,
- C. **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**
- Amen.**
- P. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sin. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: Listen, God Is Calling (#513)

Apostolic 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. 147

- P. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**
- P. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**
- P. 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.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**

- P. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
C. **Lord, have mercy.**
P. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C. **Amen.**

Canticle p. 149

- P. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.
C. **Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**
**Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**
This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.
P. The Lord be with you.
C. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Word

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4

¹ There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the Lord] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

Response: "The Lord is my light and my salvation."

¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

⁴ **One thing I ask of the Lord; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek God in the temple.**

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the Lord. R**

⁷ Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸ **My heart speaks your message — “Seek my face.” Your face, O Lord, I will seek.**

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger. Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation. **R**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

¹⁰ Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹ For it has been made clear to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹² What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation p. 151

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—

¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.”

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. ¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Children’s Sermon

Anthem

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

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

Holy One, you entrust the message of the cross and the mission of the gospel to the church in every land. Guide the newly baptized and deepen the faith of all who follow Christ.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy Creator, you lavish creation with splendor, and we praise you for the gift of life. Teach us to live as wise stewards, sharing the earth's resources with all inhabitants of this garden planet.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer**

Holy Judge, your power is love, and you judge the nations by the measure of Christ. Free any who are unjustly accused or wrongly condemned. We pray for those in authority (local and national officials may be named).

Merciful God, **receive our prayer**

Holy Lover, you care for vulnerable young children, frail elders, and any who are sick (especially). We pray for all who are affected by natural disasters (individuals or situations may be named). Provide for their needs and relieve their suffering.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer**

Holy Giver, you gather, forgive, and shape us as disciples of Christ. Nurture in us a spirit of patience and respect, that we may love one another as you love us.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer**

We pray for peace throughout the world: in our nation, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Sudan, and all war-torn areas. We pray for our military and their families.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer**

Holy Savior, you free us from the power of death. Lead and guide us until we come at last into the communion of all your saints in light.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

Great Thanksgiving p. 152

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.**

Preface p. 153

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. p. 153

Lord's Prayer

Let us 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Communion p. 154

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion Hymns: Spirit of Gentleness (#396)

Jesus Calls O'er The Tumult (#696)

Let Us Break Bread Together (#471)

Prayer after Communion

Blessing

Sending Hymn: Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ (#674)

Dismissal

Postlude

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	9:30 am	Sunday Morning Worship Service
	10:30 am	Band Rehearsal
	10:45 am	Sunday School/CIA
	11:15 am	Youth Chime/Vocal Choir
	11:30 am	Bell Choir (<i>every other Sunday</i>)
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Band Rehearsal
Thursday	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Ongoing		Shelf Stable Milk Collection Diaper Collection for Pantry, Holy Communion, Berlin
Sunday, January 25th	After Worship Service	St. John's Church Annual Congregational Meeting
Tuesday, February 3rd	7:00 pm	Bible Study in the Parish House
Monday, February 9th	7:00 pm	Council Meeting in the Parish House
Wednesday, February 11th	2:00 pm	Valentine's Tea in the Parish House Tea Room
Saturday, February 14th	11:30 am	Community Luncheon in the Ed. Building
Wednesday, February 18th	Noon	Ash Wednesday – Imposition of Ashes
Wednesday, February 18th	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship Service
Wednesday February 25th	6:00 pm	Lenten Soup Supper in the Ed. Building

Please note: All activities, dates and times are subject to change.

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following in your prayers for healing:

Jen Bailey	Tracey Drew	Tracey Kelly	Bill Murray	Eric Sprengel
Krystal Booras	Indie Fisher	Carl Knopp	Renate Murray	Bill Steel
Michael Botti	Rhea Fryor	Eunice Knopp	Erica Polito	Bill Todt
Brian Byrnes	Bob Garner	Donna Leek	Samantha Reed	George Vaneman, Sr.
Randy Cantoral	Angela Guedes	Tim McCarthy	Kimberly Rickert	George Van Wagner
Janet Cappuccio	Stan Harmer	Joanne McVelli	Ashley Rosser	Beverly Warming
Sandra DeRitis	Michelle Walk Hewitt	Larry Mirabile	Dorcas Schellhas	Mary White
Helen Dominic	Valerie Hoffmann	Melanie Miles	Finn Schureman	Helen Yezusko
Frank Donovan	Makenzie Jack	Kent Montford	Gladys Sheppard	Bob Zielsdorf
Marie Lentine Douglas	Ed Kagen	Sue Murphy	Frank Siderio III	

Please notify the office if you want to add or remove a person from this list.

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION

Altar Flowers are available for dedication for \$30. Please fill out the envelope located in the pew rack at least one week before you wish to dedicate the flowers. The card may be placed in the offering plate or left in the office. Please be sure to note the date on the white board in the Narthex. Please see Pat Reed to make payment.

WORSHIP BULLETIN DEDICATION

The cost (\$23) of the Weekly Worship Bulletin to fully cover the cost of paper and printing is donated by Henry and Marie Fickenscher in memory of their loved ones.

This Worship Bulletin is printed on paper that is made with renewable resources from third-party certified, sustainably managed forests.

Please place any Worship Bulletins to be discarded in the recycle bin in the narthex.



**We are accepting donations of
Shelf Stable Milk for Our Lady of Peace Food Bank.**
Donations in the form of cash or check will also be welcome.

Holy Communion Lutheran Church of Berlin Baby Pantry need:



BABY DIAPERS
(especially larger sizes)

Collection is in the Narthex.

**ANNUAL ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

PLEASE JOIN US

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026
after the Worship Service
in the Education Building



Tuesday, February 3rd
7:00 pm
in the Parish House



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, February 9th
7:00 pm in the Parish House



**Special Valentine Tea at
St. John's Lutheran Church**
Wednesday, February 11th at 2:00 pm
in the Parish House Tea Room
All Are Welcome!

Listen, God Is Calling

Neno lake Mungu

513

Refrain
Leader All

Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we,
Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,

ne - no la wo - ko - vu, te - na je - ma. ma.
of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.

Leader All

Ye - su a - li - se - ma, Mka - hu - bi - ri.
1 Je - sus gave his man - date: share the good news
2 Let none be for - got - ten through - out the world.
3 Help us to be faith - ful, stand - ing stead - fast,

Leader All *Refrain*

Ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la wo - ko - vu.
that he came to save us and set us free.
In the tri - une name of God go and bap - tize.
walk - ing in your pre - cepts, led by your Word.

Spirit of Gentleness

396

Refrain



Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness



call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,



stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.



- 1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
- 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,
- 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
- 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes.



then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;
and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;
then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;
From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the e - ons you called to each thing:
and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,
and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,
our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.



“A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings.”
then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.
when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.
With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo - ple a - rise.

Refrain

Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult

696



1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult of our
2 As of old Saint An - drew heard it by the
3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
5 Je - sus calls us! By your mer - cy, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his clear voice
Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and
vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
may we hear your call, give our hearts to your o -



sound - ing, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me":
kin - dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
be - dience, serve and love you best of all.

Let Us Break Bread Together

471

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

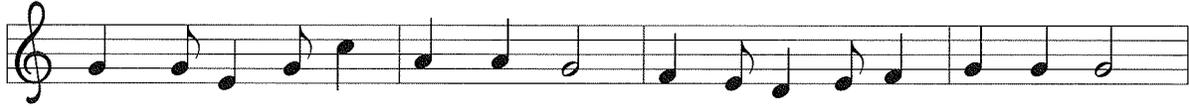
Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

674



- 1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
- 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
- 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

Refrain



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980

Text and music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company

LINSTEAD

LM and refrain

SAVE TIME . . . no need for checks or envelopes

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ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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ST. JOHN'S STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Tammy Harmer

Deacons: Betsy Eley/Ken Weaver

Administrative Coordinator: Pat Reed

Treasurer: Henry Fickenscher

Head Usher: Ted Adams

Music Director/Choirmaster: Janice Smith

Instrumental Music Director: Ken Weaver

Sexton: Betsy Eley

Webmaster: Tom Schofield

Publications Director: Marie Fickenscher