

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 1, 2026

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION –10:00AM

***Congregation Standing**

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

WELCOME

Announcements

Prelude

*** Call to Worship**

P: God is at work.

C: Light pierces the darkness.

P: Love calms fear.

C: Joy tickles sadness.

P: Hope lifts up despair.

C: Peace disarms anger.

P: Kindness dances around hostility.

C: Music sings away troubles.

P: God is at work!

C: Rejoice!

*** Confession and Forgiveness**

P: 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.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

**C: 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

* Gathering Hymn 708

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love”

* 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.

* Glory Be To God

(Setting 10 – page 204)

S 204a

1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.

2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.

3 Ho-ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;

Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
 Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
 Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:

we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
 on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
 Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.

Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
 Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand.
 For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

* Prayer of the Day

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Lesson: *Micah 6:1-8*

¹ Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

² Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³ “O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

⁶ “With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody: *Psalm 15*

¹ LORD, who may dwell in your ¹ tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your ¹ holy hill?

² **Those who lead a blameless life and do ¹ what is right,
who speak the truth ¹ from their heart;**

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil ¹ to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- ¹ on a neighbor.

⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those
who ¹ fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do
not take ¹ back their word.**

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a-
¹ gainst the innocent. Those who do these things shall never
be ¹ overthrown.

Second Lesson: *1 Corinthians 1:18-31*

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the

wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are,²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God.³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,³¹ in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

* Gospel Acclamation

(Setting 10 – Page 205)

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 5th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

The Holy Gospel: *Matthew 5:1-12*

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

Rev. Martha Macgill

Hymn 728

“Blessed Are They”

* The 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**

The Prayer of the Church

* Sharing of the Peace of the Lord

We Offer Our Gifts to the Lord
Anthem

Organ Voluntary

* Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

* The Offertory

Hymn 692

“We Are an Offering”

**We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
We are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands,
Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering.
All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be,
We give to you, we give to you.**

**We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
We are an offering, we are an offering.**

Text & Music: Dwight Liles, b 1957

* Offertory Prayer

L: 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.

C: **Amen.**

* The Great Thanksgiving

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 God thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed rightand join their unending hymn:

* (Holy, Holy Holy)

(Setting 10, page 207)

5207

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav'n 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.

* The Words of Institution

* The Lord's Prayer

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.

* P: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God.

The Agnus Dei (*Lamb of God*)

(Setting 10, Page 208)

1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Distribution of the Sacrament

* Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

* The Prayer after Communion

L: Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

* Blessing

P: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise \pm bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

* **Sending Hymn 546**

“To Be Your Presence”

* Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C: Thanks be to God.

* Postlude

In Bread and Wine our Lord Jesus meets us and we receive His Body and Blood given and shed for our forgiveness. It is a meal of love, forgiveness and renewal. If you are visiting with us today and are a baptized Christian and desire to commune, please do come to the table of the Lord. Children and youth who have not received instruction in the meaning of the Sacrament are cordially invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please come toward as directed by ushers by the center aisle and return by the side aisles.

Lectors for our Services

This Sunday, February 1 – Devon Swanson

This Wednesday, February 4 – Paul Chiarenza

Next Sunday, February 8 – Gary Llewellyn

Next Wednesday, February 11 – Lydia Martin

Ushers – Mark Lathrop, Jeff Smith

Organist – Rae Ann Smith

A/V – Steve, Mark, Joyce

The Bulletins and Communion Bread & Wine is given to the glory of God in honor of son, James' and Shirley's birthdays by Jim & Shirley Smith.

We have a hearing assistance system in the sanctuary. If you are having problems hearing our service, please ask the usher for a receiver.

Hope that you have picked up your name tags from the board in the main entrance. They are in alphabetical order. Please return to the board when leaving. Thanks

This week –

This Sunday –Worship 10:00am, fellowship hall use by Smith's for cornhole – 1:00pm

Monday – Executive – 6:30pm

Wednesday –Healing Service – 6:30pm

Chancel Choir – 7:30pm

Thursday - Bible Study -10:30pm

Friday – Crafts in upper kitchen 11:00am

Diane's Music classes – 10:00am

Ladybird singers – 11:00am

Saturday – Fellowship hall use by Dianne Short – 1:00pm

Next Sunday, Worship – 10:00am followed by Annual Congregational meeting

New Sponsorship list for 2026 is up on bulletin board in the narthex near the front door! If you would like to sponsor Altar Flowers, Bulletin, Communion Bread and Wine or Monthly Newsletter, please sign up for your special Sunday(s).

How we pay for RCI - We pay for Reconciling In Christ from our Special Offering Account. If you wish to contribute to this fund, please donate any time during the coming year. **This WILL NOT be part of our budget.**

Thrivent Choice Dollars - Thrivent Members – Please remember to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Christ Lutheran. If you are a Thrivent member and have Choice Dollars that you have not designated for 2025, **please do so before March 31, 2026**. In April, their year begins and previous year's money will not be available. This money is an enormous help for our fundraising needs. Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-THRIVENT and state "Thrivent Choice®"

Please mark your calendar- **The Annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, February 8th** immediately following the regular Sunday service. The purpose of this meeting is to review committees' annual 2025 reports, elect our 2026 Church Council officers/members, and vote on the 2026 budget.

Information about Church Council. The current slate of officers has agreed to continue for 2026. They are:

President - Dianne Short, Vice President - Lita Havens, Secretary - Sally Buser, Treasurer - Ed Havens, and Financial Secretary - Kristian Fazenbaker

At-Large Council members who are continuing the second year of their term: Mackenzie Agosto, Carolyn Bush, Phillip Bush, Joyce DeMonbrun, Pam Mulligan and Shirley Smith

Council Members ending their term: Eowyn Hansrote and Claudia Knotts

New member Council nominees: Lydia Martin and Jane Miller. (*Note - Nominations can also be made during the annual meeting.*) Please make every effort to attend.

If your committee has not turned in your report for our annual meeting, please do so by Monday, February 2nd.

I am sending out sections of our annual report for you to read. If you would like a written copy of my emails, a limited number is available on the round table.

Please pickup your Financial Statement for 2025 on the round table in the main narthex.

The Mission and Generosity Committee is Seeking New Members – activities and responsibilities include: implementing the Every Member Response/Rejoice Campaign; welcoming new members to the congregation; scheduling periodic Listening Circle events that focus on a variety of topics; administering the church's website; utilizing Tithe.ly products to organize congregational activity and other activities to be determined. We generally meet once a month during the afternoon. All of this is interesting and even fun! So please consider adding M&G to your already full schedule – you won't regret it!!

Phil Bush will be covering hospital needs while Pastor Daniel is away January 18 – February 1. If you or your family are in the hospital, please call church office –Mon-Fri 9-12:00 – 301-729-1010 or Phil Bush 703-728-9084.

As we collect unopened, unexpired, non-perishable items for the LaVale Food Pantry, we'd like to specifically request several items that are needed year-round. *Those items are peanut butter, saltines, dry pasta (1 lb box), breakfast cereal (boxed) and canned kale or spinach. Sometimes the Pantry runs very low on these items, so donations would be appreciated! They can also use canned pasta (Chef Boyardee, Spaghettios) for their emergency food boxes.* Thanks for your generosity!

LAST WEEK'S REPORT – January 25, 2026

Attendance In-Person 10:00am = No service – Heavy snow

Zoom 10:00am =

Wed, January 28 In Person 6:30pm = 5

Zoom = 7

BUDGET OFFERINGS FOR 2026

Received = \$ 1,694.00

No Budget for 2026

BUDGETED ACCOUNTS – JAN-DEC 2025

Actual Income = \$209,718.05

Actual Expenses = (218,656.12)

(\$ 8,938.07)

Labyrinth III (continuation)

Have you been busy making holiday cookies , for some using old family recipes, and so continuing traditions?

Some traditions become dear to us, even to pass on to our children. Traditions may become symbols for persons no longer with us, countries of birth we left, cherished memories of childhood, or other special experiences. So too, I am making some cookies my great grandmothers made, and which are typical of my country of birth at this holiday time. The " speculaas" cooky becomes a symbol to me of my country of birth.

Symbols are steeped in meaning and filled with stories. Symbols can be a wedding ring, a cooky, or a visual imagery of something felt and held precious, or simply believe in, like making the sign of the cross. I promised to tell you of some of the symbolic meanings that became part of the labyrinth as it developed long ago.

(The following information I gleaned from "Walking a Sacred Path," by Lauren Artress, (pp 53-63).

Since early tradition , the center piece was looked upon as a rose, symbolic for human and Divine love. The single rose became a symbol of acceptance of God's love for the world.

In the *mystical* tradition, the rose is a symbol for the Holy Spirit. The six petals in the labyrinth's Center symbolize not only the Holy Spirit in the representation of the rose but also the six days of Creation.

In the *cosmic* realm, the Center can symbolize the earth and the sun, and , according to Keith Critchlow, can also be understood as to symbolize the evolutionary process of Spirit coming into matter.

Each petal of the rose symbolizes one of six stages of planetary evolution. Starting at the left, as you enter the Center, the first petal is mineral, followed by the next five petals as: vegetable, animal, human, angelic, and Unknown. The Unknown is the mystery, or the divine pattern of evolution which is unfolding beyond the grasp of the human mind.

Artess however, points out, that the most important part of the labyrinth is the *invisible* 13-pointed star that radiates from the Center (p.63). (This most likely came from ancient Pythagorean mathematical measurements to design the labyrinth.) The number 13 is the number Christ :12 plus 1.

The number 13 is also symbolic of the thirteen full moons in a year.

The symbols and meanings make me think of archaeological diggings , finding ancient treasures of life dating back so long ago.

But walking the labyrinth need not be so complex. Simply enter the labyrinth and listen with the eyes and ears of your heart, or, in stillness commit your feelings and thoughts to God, and feel energized and encouraged as you exit. There are a myriad of ways to walk, or even dance and sing, on the labyrinth path.

Wishing you a Joyous Christmas and Blessings in the New Year. Till next time, Lydia.

PRAYER LIST FOR FEBRUARY 1, 2026

PRAYER RECIPIENT - MEMBERS

Barb Simmons
 Elwood & Janet Glass
 Mitzie & Jerry Robinette
 Patty Wilson
 Charlotte Luy
 Bill & MarySue Crawford
 Jack Zealand
 Laura Murray
 Pam Mulligan
 Beverly Lang
 Anna Bruck
 Jane Miller
 Ed Havens
 Gail Dawson
 Clem Dawson
 Dave & Lisa Ahern
 Kim Shoemaker
 Fay Crawford
 David LaBuda
 Rosey & Becky McIntyre
 Jonathan and Danielle Ahern
 Tammy Faulkner
 Pam & Dave Judy
 David Tibbets
 Joyce DeMonbrun
 Kathy Powell
 Sharon McKenzie
 Mary Lou Rowles

PRAYER RECIPIENT

	<i>Requested by</i>
Brad & Gregg Dawson, Stephen Overtoom	Gail Dawson
Barbara Williams	Sharon M
Joe Kunsman, Linda Nines, Ellen Hill	Mitzie & Jerry
Brittney Meyers, Talot Omar, Terry Baker	Mitzie & Jerry
Nathan Winters	Dianne Short
Charlotte & Ed Troutman, Arlene Simmons, Amy, Jacie Fairall	Barb Simmons
Carl Chiarenza, Karen Mackert	Paul & Ruth C
Elise & Henry Jack Balber	Jack Zealand
Cheryl Trusler	Joyce D
Cheri Bielen	Jane Miller
Baby Whetzel, Kevin Mistretta, Carolyn Farr, Kendra Morriss, Paula Rose Dian	
Dan Moore, Graham Tower, Lisa Storm, Jaime Pletcher, Karen Ford	Diane K
Richard Clark, Zachary Sutterfield, Alexis Smith	Anne DeVaughn
Diane Davis, Nancy Smith, James Flynn	Antoinette Royster
Joy Kroeger-Mappes Carmen and Lance Jackson	Antoinette Royster
Susie Spiker, Joan Beal, Braden Durst	Shirley & Jim Smith
Gretchen Burke	Val & Gary Llewellyn
Sally, Roger, James Tibbets	Dave Tibbets
Andy Cocco	John Cocco
Marie Turnbull, Steven Suzindlak,	Lita Havens
Dan Carr, Matt Doman	Steven Hansrote
Phil Fisher	Sherry T
Don Ringer, Stephanie Georgiane	Kristan Fazenbaker
Mary Lou Dorsey	Trina Firey
Vic Werner	Barbara Martin
Belinda Keller	Linda McCagh
Barbara Blough	Janice & Dave LaBuda
Galen Dean Krepps	Lisa Ahern
Jared McGensie, Chris Twigg	Patty Wilson and Rosey
Breanna Brown	Debbie Fornwalt
Kamryn Rice	Corinna Hilderbrand
Candy Heverly	Charlotte Luy
Elizabeth Ororke, Brooks Chamers, Barbara Fridengu	L. Marchini
Erin Morrissey	Terri McCagh
Luke Smith	Lydia Martin

Please keep us updated

-the families of Daryl Edmonds & Myesha Silas
 -all people affected by the wildfires and other disasters
 -all people of the Ukraine and all affected by the war
 -all elected officials
 -those who serve in our nation's armed forces including Rick Rounds, Tom Forrest



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 1, 2026