

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 2026

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION –10:00AM

***Congregation Standing**

WELCOME

Announcements

Prelude

*** Call to Worship**

P: Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth."

C: May we live according to that call.

P: Where life is seen as dull and boring and devoid of any meaning,

C: may we bring flavor, excitement, and meaning by spreading the message of God's love.

P: Where sadness is the rule and people are living in despair,

C: may we bring the joy of Jesus and the shout of gladness in what God has done.

P: Where everything seems ordinary and every day seems the same,

C: may we bring the news that God has made everything new.

P: Jesus said, "You are the light of the world."

C: May we live according to that call.

P: Where people are afraid because of the dark forces at work in the world,

C: may we bring the light of Christ's love, which wipes fear away.

P: Where people are caught in addictions and habits that are ruining their lives,

C: may we enlighten them with the message that Christ came to heal them.

P: Where people are huddling in the shadows, unable to move,

C: may we be beacons of hope that lead people to the glory of God.

* Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † 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 † Jesus' name.
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace.

C: Amen.

*** Gathering Hymn 815**

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

*** Greeting**

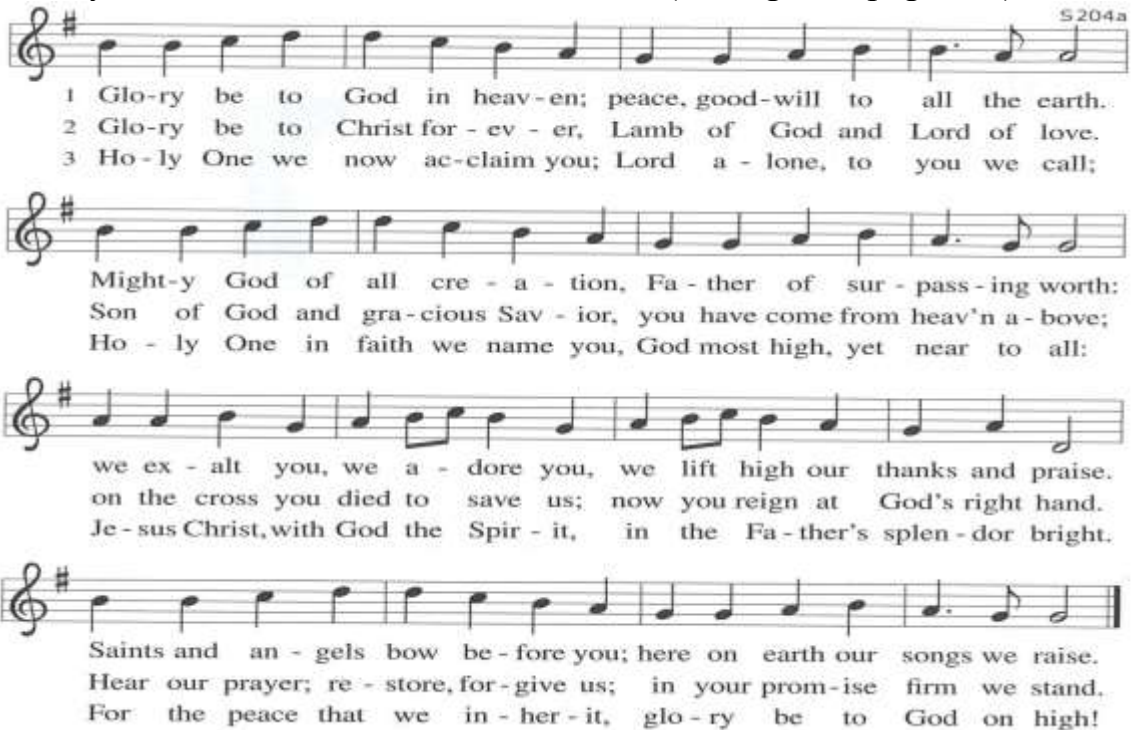
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*** Glory Be To God**

(Setting 10 – page 204)

S204a



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**

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Lesson: *Isaiah 58:1-12*

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.”

^{9b} If you remove the yoke from among you,

the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry

and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,

then your light shall rise in the darkness

and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually

and satisfy your needs in parched places

and make your bones strong,

and you shall be like a watered garden,

like a spring of water

whose waters never fail.

¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;

you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;

you shall be called the repairer of the breach,

the restorer of streets to live in.

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

Psalmody: *Psalms 112:1-10*

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

² **Their descendants will be mighty ¹ in the land;**
the generation of the upright ¹ 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 gener- [|] ous in lending
and to manage their af- [|] fairs with justice.

⁶ **For they will nev- [|] er be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlast- [|] ing 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 up- [|] on their enemies.**

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

¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth
and [|] pine away; the desires of the wick- [|] ed will perish.**

Second Lesson: *1 Corinthians 2:1-16*

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. ¹³ And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴ Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God’s Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else’s scrutiny.

¹⁶ “For who has known the mind of the Lord
so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.

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 5:13-20*

[Jesus said:] 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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

Rev. Daniel Swanson

Hymn 715

“Christ, Be Our Light”

* 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)



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)



5208

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 ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

* **Sending Hymn 665**

“Rise, Shine, You People!”

* 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 8 – Gary Llewellyn
This Wednesday, February 11 – Lydia Martin
Next Sunday, February 15 – Anne DeVaughn
Next Wednesday, February 18 – Debbie Fornwalt

Ushers – Mark Lathrop, Jeff Smith

Organist – Rae Ann Smith

A/V – Kathy, Dave, Joyce

The Altar Flowers and Communion Bread & Wine have been given to the glory of God by Ed and Lita Havens with humble gratitude for Ed being in remission from lung cancer.

The Bulletins have been given to the glory of God in recognition of Ben Buser's 3rd birthday by Sally Buser.

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, followed by Annual Congregational meeting

Monday – Church Council – 6:30pm

Wednesday –Service – 6:30pm

Chancel Choir – 7:30pm

Thursday - Bible Study -10:30pm, Sarah McGuire using fellowship hall – 6-8:00pm

Friday – Diane's Music classes – 10:00am

Ladybird singers – 11:00am

Next Sunday, Worship – 10:00am, Blood Pressure Screening, Adult SCS

February is Black History Month – Antoinette Royster has assembled a display in the main narthex. Please take time to check it out.

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](https://thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 800-THRIVENT and state "Thrivent Choice®"

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be today, February 8th immediately following our 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. Please attend!

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!!

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 – February 1, 2026

Attendance In-Person 10:00am = 34

Zoom 10:00am = 9

Wed, February 4 In Person 6:30pm = 12

Zoom = 7

BUDGET OFFERINGS FOR 2026

Received = \$ 3,580.00

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” cookie 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 cookie, 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 m y s t i c a l 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 c o s m i c 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 8, 2026

PRAYER RECIPIENT - MEMBERS

Pam Mulligan
Barb Simmons
Elwood & Janet Glass
Mitzie & Jerry Robinette
Patty Wilson
Charlotte Luy
Bill & MarySue Crawford
Jack Zealand
Laura Murray
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 Tibbetts
Joyce DeMonbrun
Kathy Powell
Sharon McKenzie
Mary Lou Rowles

PRAYER RECIPIENT

Brad & Gregg Dawson, Stephen Overtom	<i>Requested by</i> 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	Diane K
Dan Moore, Graham Tower, Lisa Storm, Jaime Pletcher, Karen Ford	Antoinette Royster
Richard Clark, Zachary Sutterfield, Alexis Smith	Anne DeV Vaughn
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 Tibbetts
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 Chambers, 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



Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 2026