



Union Lutheran Church

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2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

January 14, 2024

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

*(Please stand when indicated by *)*

Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) green hymnal

With One Voice (WOV) blue hymnal

P=Pastor, C=Congregation, L=Lay Reader

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Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

GATHERING

* Invocation

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

* Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness

P Arise, shine, your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. We are gathered in this Season of Light to worship God, the Father, the Son, ✝ and the Holy Spirit. (Isaiah 60:1)

C **Amen.**

P Let us humble ourselves before the Lord of all, confessing our sins of which we are aware and for those things that grieve Him of which we are unaware.

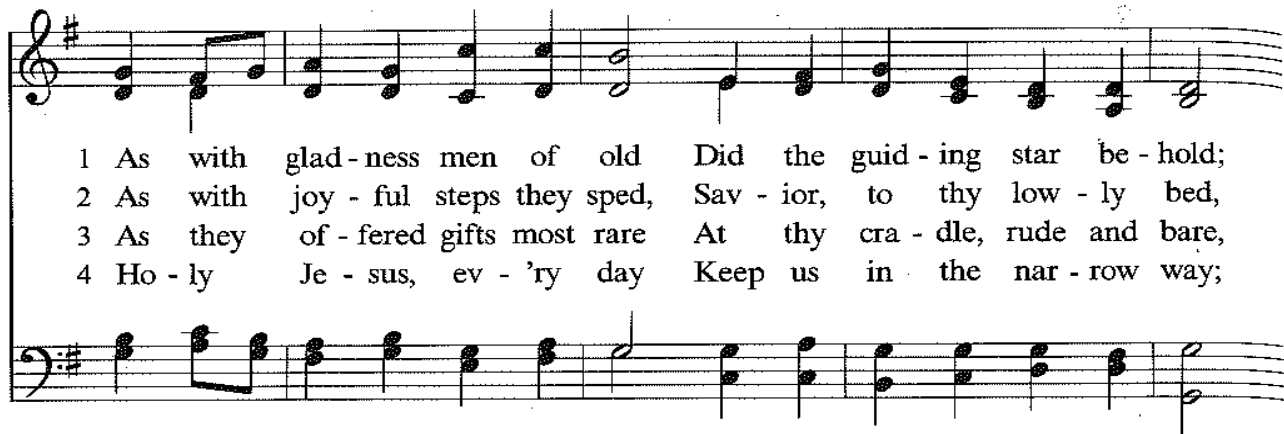
(Silence for self-reflection and examination)

P Gracious God who sent the Light of the World into the darkness of our human sin,
C **We come before you asking for your gracious mercy for all the things we have done and left undone. We have lived in darkness rather than seeking your light; we have ignored your call to serve our neighbors; and we have neglected to show our gratitude for all you've done for us. Forgive us, dear Lord. Let the light of Christ shine upon us and restore us to your salvation, that we might live holy lives here and now, and be with you in eternity. Amen.**

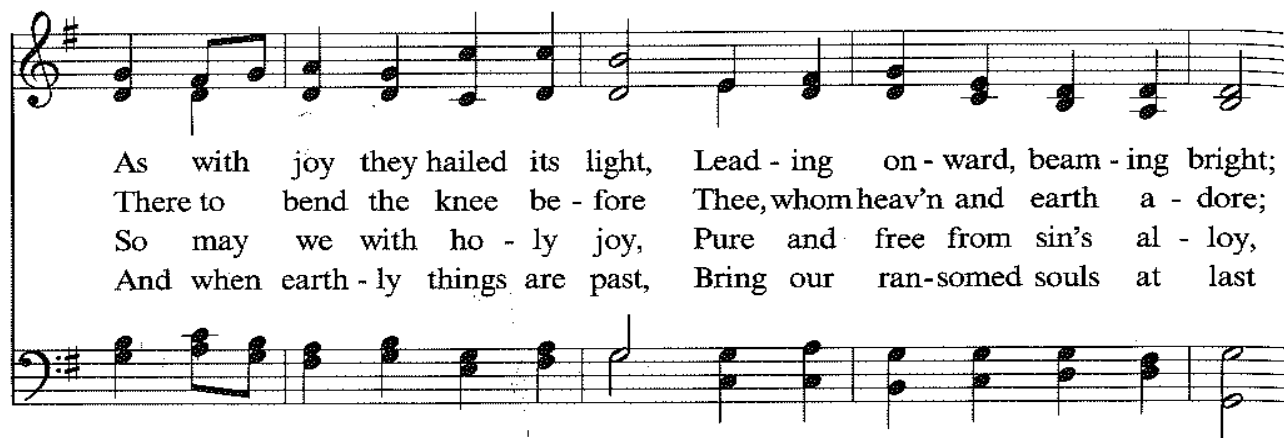
P Lift up your eyes all around and see! Your heart shall thrill and exult in the Lord's mercy. The Holy One of Israel, the Lord your God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit forgives you all your sin and grants you salvation in his holy name.

C **Amen.**

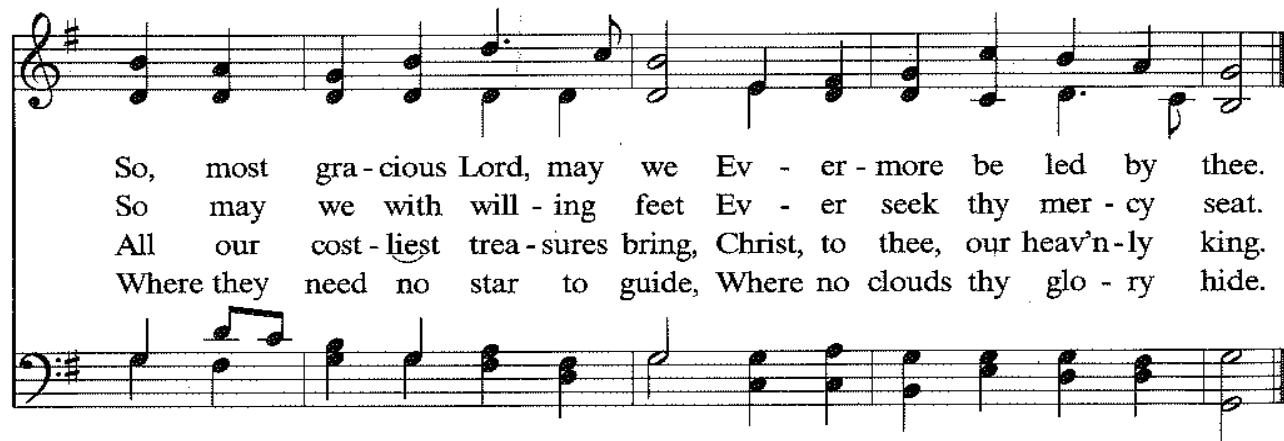
82

As with Gladness Men of Old


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,
 4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day Keep us in the nar-row way;



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,
 And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last



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.
 Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.

- 5 In the heav'nly country bright
 Need they no created light;
 Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
 Thou its sun which goes not down;
 There forever may we sing
 Alleluias to our King.

* Greeting (*Kyrie is omitted during Epiphany*)

P May the glorious light of the Son of God shine upon you, the abiding love of the Father fill your hearts, and the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

* Hymn of Praise (*Glory to God in the highest...*)

LBW p. 58-59

A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

C **Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:**

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen

* Salutation

LBW p. 62

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

* Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray, Almighty and eternal God, you restrain the powers of heaven and earth. Mercifully hear your people's prayers for peace in our time. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

WORD

Old Testament Lesson: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

¹The boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD in the presence of Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision. ²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. ³The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called Samuel, and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶And the LORD called again, "Samuel!" and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant hears.'" So Samuel

went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰And the LORD came and stood, calling as at other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant hears.”

L Here ends the reading.

Psalm 139:1-10 *read responsively*

L ¹ O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

C ² **You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.**

L ³ You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

C ⁴ **Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.**

L ⁵ You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

C ⁶ **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.**

L ⁷ Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?

C ⁸ **If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!**

L ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

C ¹⁰ **even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.**

Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 1:13-23

¹³ Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” ¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. ²² Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³ since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;

L Here ends the reading.

Children's Message

* Gospel Acclamation (*Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?*)

LBW p. 62

C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 12th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

* Holy Gospel: Mark 12:28-34

²⁸ And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” ²⁹ Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” ³² And the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. ³³ And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” ³⁴ And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon:

Pastor Tonya Brittain

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Arise, Your Light Has Come!

1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun-tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro-ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

* Apostles' Creed

LBW p. 65

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.*
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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**

* *Or*, He descended to the dead.

** *Or*, the holy Christian Church,

* Prayers of the Church & Sharing of the Peace

LBW p. 65-66

A Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

After each portion of the prayers:

A Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

* Sharing of the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Offering The Offering is received as the Lord's Table is prepared. All loose offering will go towards the Gerald Bame Scholarship Fund. During the month of January, the Benevolence Teaching Moment is on SMI Haiti. Please prayerfully consider giving to the Benevolence Fund.

Anthem:

MEAL

* Offertory (*"Let the Vineyards be fruitful Lord..."*)

LBW p. 66

**C Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence, and give us
a foretaste of the feast to come.**

* Offertory Prayer

P We give you thanks, O Lord, for your tender mercies and for all that you have so faithfully provided for us. May our gifts be a sign of our love toward you and our desire to do your

holy will. In Jesus' name we pray.

C Amen.

* Great Thanksgiving

LBW p. 68

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 him thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and salutary . . .

(Here the minister continues with the preface appropriate to the day or season, concluding:)

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

* Sanctus (*"Holy, Holy, Holy Lord..."*)

LBW p. 69

C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

* Words of Institution

LBW p. 69

P In 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.

* Lord's Prayer

LBW p. 71

C 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 (*"Lamb of God, you take away..."*)

LBW p. 72

**C 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.**

Distribution of Communion All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the form of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. All who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Gluten Free wafers and grape juice are also available upon request. Please fill out the communion card in the pew and hand to the Usher while following their directions to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.

* Blessing

LBW p. 72

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

* Post-Communion Canticle (*"Thank the Lord..."*) LBW p. 72-73

**C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

* Post-Communion Prayer

**P We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have fed and refreshed us with this Holy
Sacrament. Strengthen us in faith and fervent love toward one another, through your dear
Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, whose body and blood we have humbly received.
C Amen.**

SENDING


* Benediction

**P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to
you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
C Amen.**

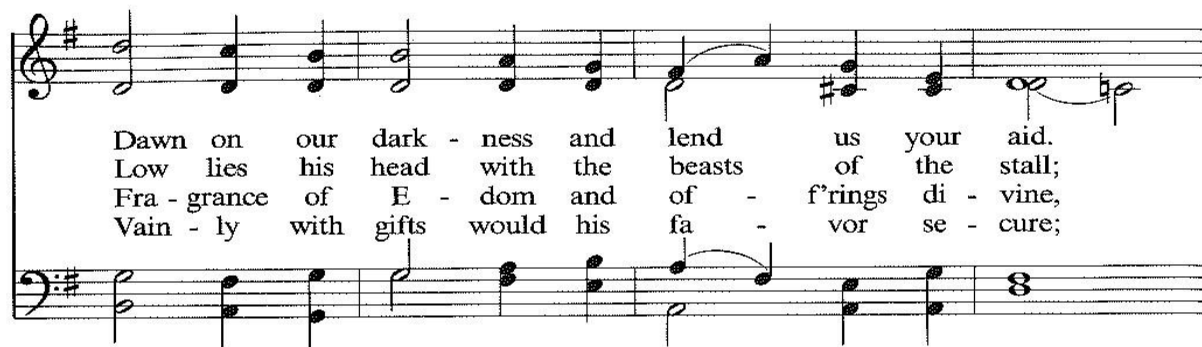
EPIPHANY

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Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning



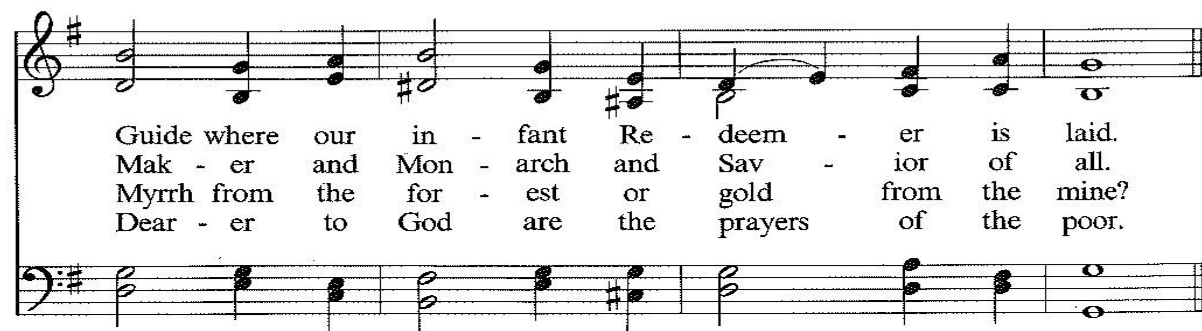
1 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;
3 Shall we not yield him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,



Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
Fra - grance of E - dom and of - f'rings di - vine,
Vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;



Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
An - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
Gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,



Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.
Mak - er and Mon - arch and Sav - ior of all.
Myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?
Dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.

- 5 **Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

* Blessing & Dismissal

P Go with the blessing of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and may the Light of God's Word ever shine within your hearts and lives so that his holy name is praised throughout the world.

C **Amen.**

P Go in peace. Let your light shine!

C **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

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Those Serving in January

Guest Pastor: Rev. Tonya Brittain

We welcome Pastor Tonya Brittain and Gene Brittain to worship today!

Guest Organist: Gene Brittain

Acolytes: Tyler Goodman or Adam Thompson

Altar Guild & Communion Assistants: Deena Lanning and Karen Morgan

Communion Assistant: Robin Huffman

Lay Readers: Deena Lanning, Karen Morgan and Doris Shepherd

Ushers: Phil Cauble, Don and Tara Davis, and Frank Merrell

Offering Counters: Tara Davis, Cathy Painter, and Ron Vellines

Union News

Sunday, January 14

9:15 a.m. Kids Choir (5th grade and younger)

9:35 a.m. Sunday School

Lost and Found Wonders ~ Luke 15

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. Luke 19:10

Drew Wise Adult Sunday School Class

Faith and Trust ~ Psalm 56; Proverbs 3:1-12

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

1 Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139:1-10; 1 Peter 1:13-23; Mark 12:28-34
Rev. Tonya Brittain, Guest Pastor

12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class (lunch provided)

2:00 p.m. Finance

2:45 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Beginner Bells

4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Little Lutherans

6:30 p.m. *Fireproof* Movie

Movie Synopsis: In an attempt to save his marriage,
a firefighter uses a 40-day experiment known as "The Love Dare."

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Tonya Kesler Brittain by her family.

Epiphany Blessing of Doors

Using chalk, mark the current year and the initials of the Magi above the outside doorways to your home. Place a cross in between each of the letters. It should look something like this:

20 ✝ C ✝ M ✝ B ✝ 24

After completing the above markings pray the following prayer:

May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is Lord of all people forever and ever. Amen.

The legendary names of the three Magi are: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. The initials CMB also stands for the Latin words "Christus Mansionem Benedicat" which means: "May Christ bless this dwelling."

The marking over the doors should be left all year round as a sign that yours is a Christian home.

This Weeks' Activities:

Tuesday, Jan. 16 6:00 p.m. 250th Anniversary Committee

Wednesday, Jan. 17 4:30 p.m. Haiti Pastors Bible Study online

6:30 p.m. Belles & Beaus

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, Jan. 18 6:30 p.m. Property, Cemetery & Columbarium Co.

If you will be attending the Church Council & Leadership Retreat on Saturday please contact the church office by Thursday, January 18, as lunch and packets will be provided.

Saturday, Jan. 20 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Church Council & Leadership Retreat (Borders

Concepts, Lexington) This retreat will give Union's leadership an opportunity to discern God's vision for 2024 and help us navigate with refreshed purpose! Committees, organizations, and members are encouraged to come and be part of the discussion.

Pastor Heidi Punt will be participating in the NALC Pastors Conference in Orlando, FL, from Tuesday, January 16-Thursday, January 18. Theme: I Will Give You Rest

Faith Formation/Discipleship Class will resume on Tuesday, January 23, at 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday, January 24, at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, January 21

9:15 a.m. Kids Choir (5th grade and younger)

9:35 a.m. Sunday School

The Seeing Sign ~ John 9

Though I was blind, now I see. John 9:25

Drew Wise Adult Sunday School Class

Faith and Encouragement ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:1-15; 2 Chronicles 20:5-20

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62; Colossians 3:14-17; Mark 12:38-34

Sermon: *Loving God with Our Spirit*

2:45 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Beginner Bells

4:00 p.m. ULC Union Youth

6:30 p.m. The Love Dare Bible Study

The Love Dare Bible Study is a small group curriculum that partners with the movie *Fireproof*, The Love Dare book, and a weekly study for groups to experience and go deeper together. Participants will learn that the challenge to understand and practice unconditional love with their spouse is an ongoing process, but if done God's way, is always worth it.

Features:

- 8 small-group sessions are based on the movie clips from FIREPROOF
- Connects couples to The Love Dare both during the session and throughout the week
- Creates a marriage-centered Bible study experience for individuals and couples

Deadline for February Messenger articles.

Deadline for Yearbook Reports

Altar Flowers are open for reservations for Sunday, January 21.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, February 1

Rescheduled meeting: Worship & Music Committee at 6:00 p.m.

Chili Cook Off Sunday School Fundraiser

Saturday, February 3

5:30 p.m. in large fellowship hall

Karen Barringer, Coordinator



*It's time to cook up your best batch of chili...sweet, spicy, or smokey!
Invite your friends, family, and neighbors!*

*Chili will be voted on so come ready to sample many a chili and select
your favorite by placing money in the jar in front of it.*

Hotdogs and drinks will also be available.

*If you can participate by providing chili and/or desserts, please
contact Karen Barringer.*

Proceeds to benefit the Sunday School Department.

Tuesday, February 6, at 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Heidi will be serving supper as we enjoy fellowship, discussion, and good food at Christian Ed., Sunday School Teachers and Volunteers Touchdown.

Thursday, February 8, at 6:30 p.m.

Phil Cauble will be cooking up something special for the Ushers on Thursday, February 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the small fellowship hall.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

Nursing Home Residents – Brenda Mahaley, Ruth Monroe, Jean Ray, Jay Rusher (Autumn Care)

Homebound/Shut-ins Members – Sarah Bame, Arnold Cauble, Rachel Earnhardt, Tommy & Joan Kerns, Teresa Kesler, James & Jean Kluttz, Glenn Lowder, Frances Norris, William Page, Rev. TC & Mary Plexico, Macky Swicegood, Effie Vellines, Billy Waller & Michael Walton

Sick/Surgery/Recovery –Brenda Cauble, Glenn Eagle, Glenn Honeycutt, Jr., John Knight, Sharon Moore, Kay Morgan, Marvin Nunn, Doris Page, Wayne Vellines & Pat Wiles

Continual Prayer –Bill Broadway, Sharon Peeler Bullock (Sylvia Peeler's daughter), Terry Holt (Frank & Dawn Merrell's friend), Pat Kluttz, Fay Miller (friend of Pat Kluttz); Glen Wall (Frank & Dawn Merrell's friend), Union Fire Department #76, Global Missions (Congo, Slovakia, and Haiti), & those affected by natural or political disasters

Confirmands: Caylea Cline, Mallory Eagle, Landon Kesler, and Noah Trexler

Stewardship Update

Sunday School (1/7)	46
Worship & Holy Communion (1/7)	110
Current Fund (1/7)	\$4,104.00
2024 Weekly offering needed to meet our Ministry Support plan	\$6,267.39



How Can You Serve in January?

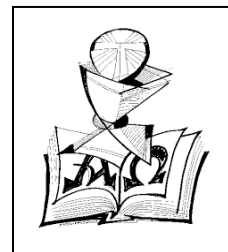
Social Ministry Committee and Sunday School Department invites the congregation to either collect new warm socks for adults in all sizes to put in our homeless bags or mark “Social Ministry” on your check for a financial donation. The committee will use the financial gift to purchase new socks. Please place the socks in the box located on the front pew in the Sanctuary.

Section 2: Service of the Word ~ Offering and Offertory

*In the **Offering**, we gather the gifts that God’s people present in gratitude to the Lord during the **Divine Service**. In the **Offering**, we return to God a portion of the treasure He has given us.*

*The **Offertory** is sung as the offering is brought forward and presented before the altar. During the singing of the **Offertory**, the altar is prepared for the celebration of Holy Communion.*

“What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord...I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem.” Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19



(A Simple Explanation of the Church Service, Concordia Publishing House, page 18)