



Union Lutheran Church

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Salisbury, NC 28146
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3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

January 21, 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: *Three Variations on "Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling"* (Rutz)

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)

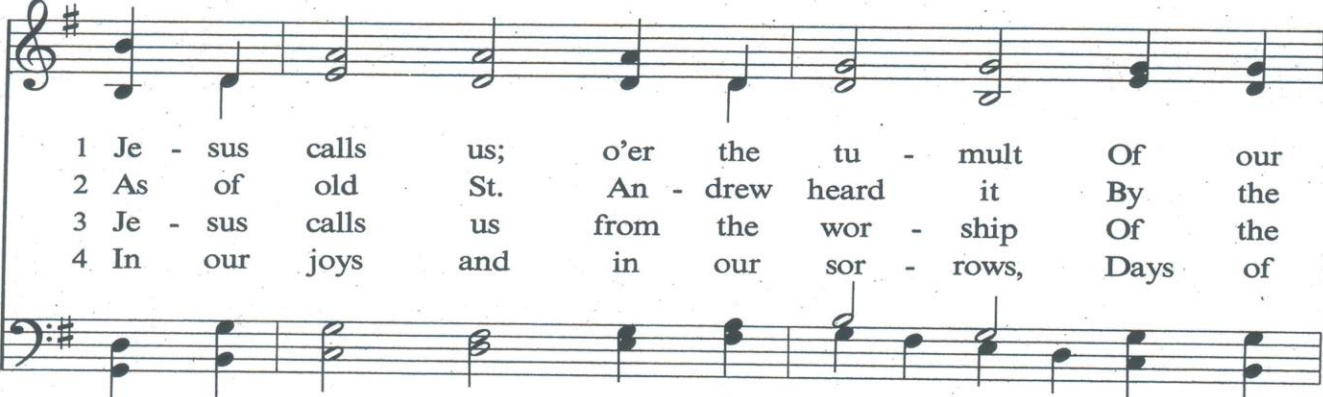
P Gracious God who sent the Light of the World into the darkness of our human sin,
C **We come before you asking for your gracious mercy for all the things we have done and left undone. We have lived in darkness rather than seeking your light; we have ignored your call to serve our neighbors; and we 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.

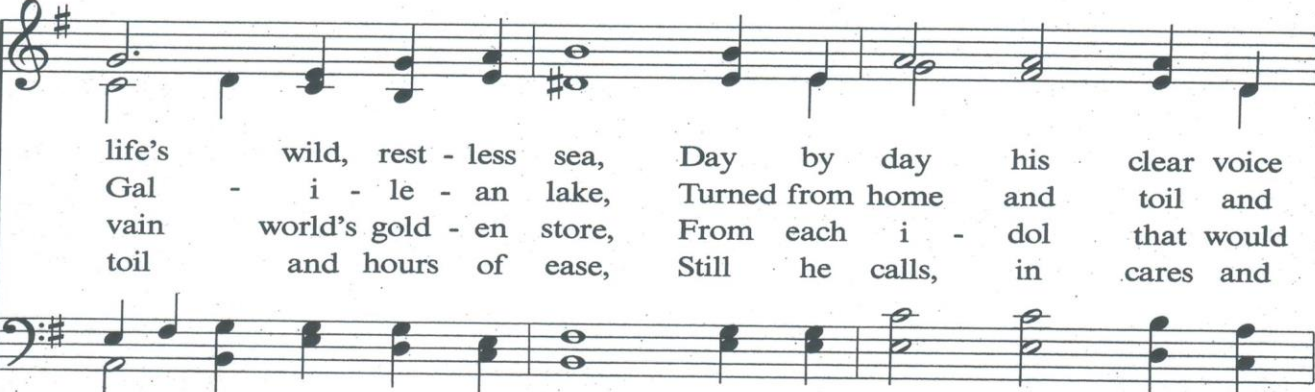
C **Amen.**

Jesus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult

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1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult Of our
2 As of old St. 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



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



sound - ing, Say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me."
kin - dred, Leav - ing all for his dear sake.
keep us, Say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."

**5 Jesus calls us! In your mercy,
Savior, make us hear your call
Give our hearts to your obedience,
Serve and love you best of all.**

* 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, graciously look down on our weakness. Reach out to us with your majestic right hand, and satisfy us with his glory. We ask through the same 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: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ²“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” ³So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days’ journey in breadth. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

L Here ends the reading.

Psalm 62 *sung in unison*

¹For God alone my soul in | silence waits;* from him comes | my salvation.

²He alone is my rock and | my salvation,* my stronghold, so that I shall not be | greatly shaken.

³How long will you assail me to crush me, all of | you together,* as if you were a leaning fence,
a | toppling wall?

⁴They seek only to bring me down from my | place of honor;* lies are their | chief delight.

⁵They bless | with their lips,* but in their | hearts they curse.

⁶For God alone my soul in | silence waits;* truly, my hope | is in him.

⁷He alone is my rock and | my salvation,* my stronghold, so that I shall | not be shaken.

⁸In God is my safety | and my honor;* God is my strong rock | and my refuge.

⁹Put your trust in him al- | ways, O people,* pour out your hearts before him, for God | is our
refuge.

¹⁰Those of high degree are but a | fleeting breath,* even those of low estate can- | not be trusted.

¹¹On the scales they are lighter | than a breath,* all of | them together.

¹²Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no | empty pride;* though wealth increase, set not
your | heart upon it.

¹³God has spoken once, twice | have I heard it,* that power be- | longs to God.

¹⁴Steadfast love is | yours, O LORD,* for you repay everyone according | to his deeds.

Epistle Lesson: Colossians 3:14-17

¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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: *Loving God with Our Spirit*

Pastor Heidi Punt

PRAISE, ADORATION

Praise to You, O God of Mercy

Thanks Be to You

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1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy! Thanks be to you for -
 2 From of old you loved and sought us! Thanks be to you for -
 3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy! Thanks be to you for -

E B/D# A/C# B A F#m E

ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:
 ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:
 ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:

E/B B7 E/G# A F#m7 G#7

3rd time to Coda ⊕ 1 2

thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for -

A F#m7 B7 E B7 E

Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your love, re -

A B/A E/G# C#m F#m G#7 C#m E7

mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us. *to stanza 3*

A B/A E/G# C#m D F#m Bsus4 B7

⊕ CODA

ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

B7 C#m A F#m7 B7 E

**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 Building & Repair Fund. During the month of January, the Benevolence Teaching Moment is on SMI Haiti. Please prayerfully consider giving to the Benevolence Fund.

Anthem: *Carol of the Fishermen* (Sleeth)

Chancel Choir

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

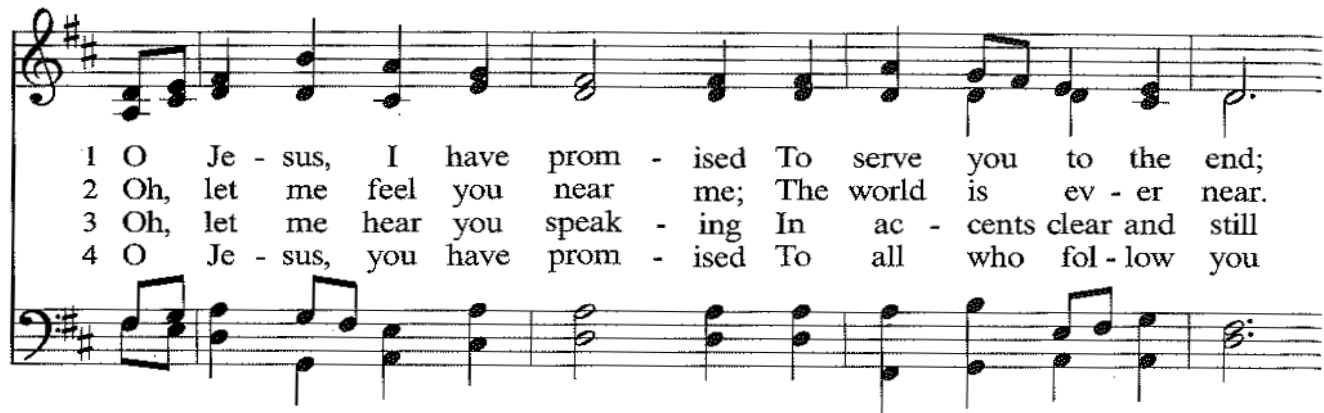
* Benediction

P May God the Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit bless you. 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

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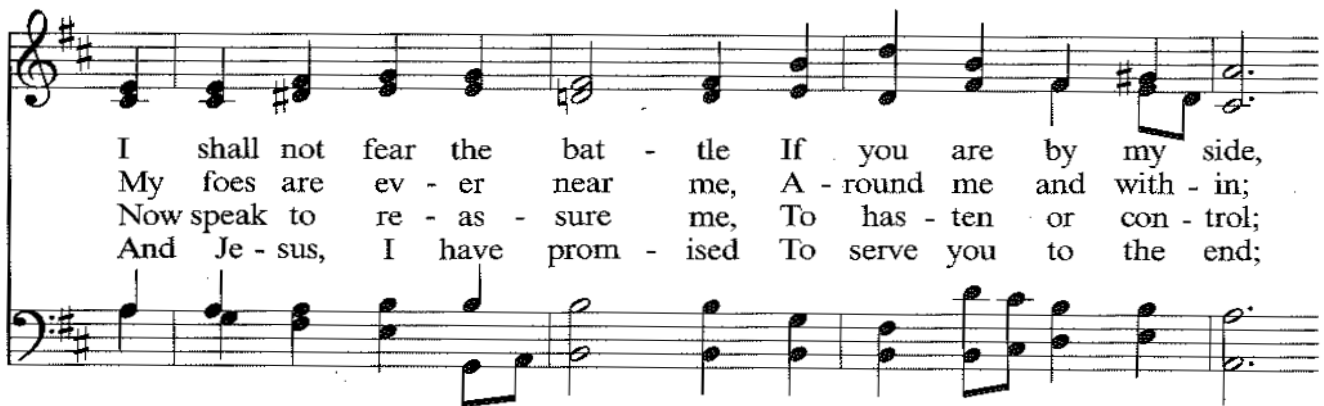
O Jesus, I Have Promised



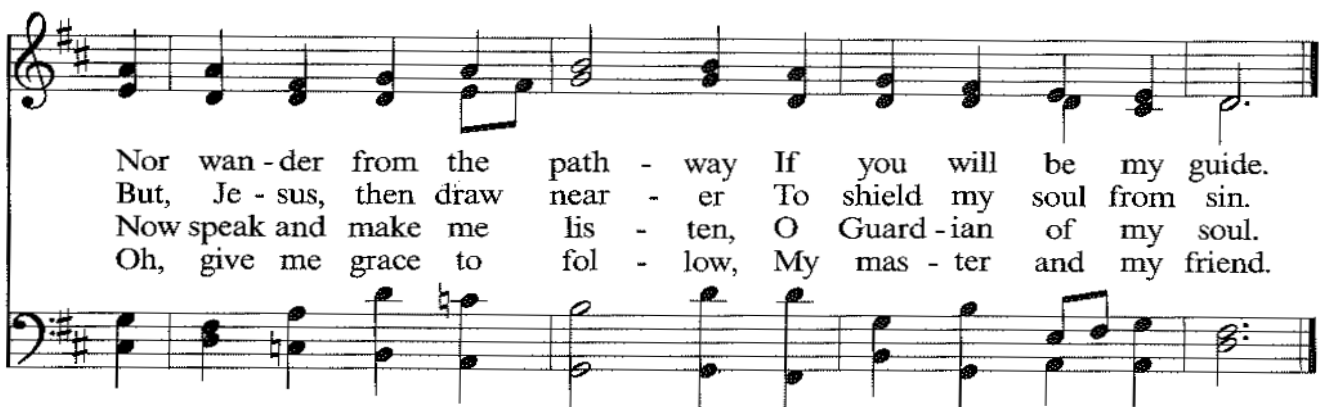
1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised To serve you to the end;
 2 Oh, let me feel you near me; The world is ev - er near.
 3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing In ac - cents clear and still
 4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised To all who fol - low you



Re - main for - ev - er near me, My mas - ter and my friend.
 I see the sights that daz - zle, The tempt - ing sounds I hear.
 A - bove the storms of pas - sion, The mur - murs of self - will.
 That where you are in glo - ry Your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle If you are by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, A - round me and with - in;
 Now speak to re - as - sure me, To has - ten or con - trol;
 And Je - sus, I have prom - ised To serve you to the end;



Nor wan - der from the path - way If you will be my guide.
 But, Je - sus, then draw near - er To shield my soul from sin.
 Now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.
 Oh, give me grace to fol - low, My mas - ter and my friend.

* Blessing & Dismissal (based on Mark 12:28-31)

P Union Lutheran Church you have been equipped and empowered by the Sacrament and the Word of God.

C **We will faithfully love God and love our neighbor.**

P Go and let your light shine!

C **Amen, Amen, Amen**

Postlude: *Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult* (Gordon)

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Those Serving in January

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 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*

New: Brief Called Church Council Meeting following worship.

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



4:00 p.m. ULC Union Youth (Middle/High School)

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

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God.

This Weeks' Activities:

Tuesday, Jan. 23 5:00 p.m. Day Camp planning meeting
6:30 p.m. Faith Formation/Discipleship

Wednesday, Jan. 24 10:30 a.m. Faith Formation/Discipleship
4:30 p.m. Haiti Pastors Bible Study online
6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class
6:30 p.m. Belles & Beaus
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Sunday, January 28

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

9:35 a.m. Sunday School

A Resurrection Sign ~ John 11:1-44

I am the resurrection and the life. John 11:25

Drew Wise Adult Sunday School Class

Faith and Transformation ~ Ezekiel 11:17-21; Romans 12:3-8

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111:1; 1 Corinthians 6:17-20; Mark 12:28-34

Sermon: *Loving God with Our Body*

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

4:00 p.m. Luther League at Union

6:30 p.m. The Love Dare Bible Study (not too late to join!)
Altar Flowers are open for reservation for Sunday, January 28.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, January 30

6:30 p.m. Faith Formation/Discipleship

Wednesday, January 31

10:30 a.m. Faith Formation/Discipleship

2:00 p.m. Chapel Time at Autumn Care

4:30 p.m. Haiti Pastors Bible Study online

6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class

6:30 p.m. Belles & Beaus

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 1

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

Saturday, February 3

5:30 p.m. Chili Cook Off Sunday School Fundraiser

Location: 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 sign up on the form in the Narthex.

Sunday, February 4

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

9:35 a.m. Sunday School

The Thankful One ~ Luke 17:11-19

*Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and He delivered them from their distress.* Psalm 107:19

Drew Wise Adult Sunday School Class

Faith in the Power of God ~ Romans 4:9-22; Isaiah 40:12-31, 25-31

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:1-13; Mark 12:28-34

Sermon: *Loving Our Comfortable Neighbors*

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

4:00 p.m. Union & Salem Youth

6:30 p.m. Love Dare Bible Study

Tuesday, February 6

6:30 p.m. Touchdown Supper for Christian Ed, Sunday School & Volunteers

Wednesday, February 7

4:30 p.m. Haiti Pastors Bible Study online

6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class

6:30 p.m. Belles & Beaus

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 8

10:00 a.m. Good Timers

6:30 p.m. Usher Greeter Appreciation Dinner

Those Serving in February

Acolytes: Robyn Arey, Jordan and Mallory Eagle

Altar Guild: Robyn Arey, Genevieve Baker and Mary Hutchens

Communion Assistants: Robyn Arey, Genevieve Baker and Mary Hutchens

Lay Readers: Robyn Arey and Genevieve Baker

Ushers: Larry Barringer, Phil Cauble, Caylea Cline and Addison Queen

Offering Counters: Jennifer Curlee, Ali Davis and Doris Shepherd

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, Dr. Sean Malone (Pam Vellines’ doctor), Fay Miller (friend of Pat Kluttz); Della Morgan (Pam Vellines’ mother), 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 (1/14)	46
Worship & Holy Communion (1/14)	112
Current Fund (1/14)	\$3,519.50
2024 Weekly offering needed to meet our Ministry Support plan	\$6,267.39

How Can You Serve in January?

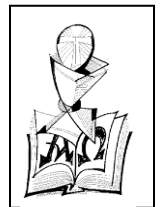


Social Ministry Committee and Sunday School Department invites the congregation to either collect new warm socks for adults in all sizes to put in our homeless bags or mark “Social Ministry” on your check for a financial donation. The committee will use the financial gift to purchase new socks. Please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

Section 3: Service of the Sacrament

The Service of the Sacrament is the celebration of the Sacrament of the Altar. The Sacrament was instituted by Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. The Sacrament is to be celebrated by all Christians until Christ comes again on the Last Day.

Because Jesus instituted the Sacrament of the Altar, it is also called the Lord’s Supper or Communion. In the Service of the Sacrament, those instructed in the faith come to the altar to receive the body and blood of Jesus under the forms of bread and wine. In the Lord’s Supper, Christ comes to be with His holy people and to give forgiveness, life, and salvation.



(A Simple Explanation of the Church Service, Concordia Publishing House, page 19)