



Union Lutheran Church

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“WHO HAS KNOWN
THE MIND OF THE
LORD THAT HE MAY
INSTRUCT HIM?”

1 Corinthians 2:16



Knowing-Jesus.com

5th Sunday after the Epiphany

February 8, 2026

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

***The Common Thread:** Why are we to do good works? Is it so that we will be made righteous? Why are we to keep the commandments? Is it so that we will earn favor with God and be rewarded with eternal life? Our boast is not in the good we do, nor is it in our religious zeal. Indeed, we must be ignorant of any personal virtue or piety, being mindful only of “Jesus Christ and him crucified.” At the same time, we must delight in God’s commandments and do good to our neighbor so that our heavenly Father is glorified in our lives. Yet our trust is in Christ, not self.*

Union Lutheran Church welcomes you as you join us in worship this morning. Please fill out the communion/visitor card so that we can be made aware of your presence. If you have questions or are interested in the ministries and life of Union, please see the pastor, contact the church office, or scan the QR code.

We welcome children to be a part of worship. A nursery is also provided for those attending to the needs of infants and small children.

Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) green hymnal ~ With One Voice (WOV) blue hymnal
P=Pastor, C=Congregation, L=Lay Reader

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ORDER FOR WORSHIP

Sola Publishing Alternate Epiphany Liturgy and Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 1

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* (Hobby)

Altar Candles and Candelabras are lit at this time representing Jesus' life and ministry.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Invocation (Isaiah 60:1)

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.

C Amen.

Brief Order of Confession & Forgiveness (Psalm 19:13-14, 51:12; Matthew 5:16, 6:12, 22:29; Luke 17:17; John 3:19-21; 1Thessalonians 4:17; James 4:10; 1 John 1:8-9, 2:17)

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.**

Absolution (Psalm 103:1-4; Isaiah 60:4-5; Luke 24:47; Acts 5:31)

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.

Hymn: *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* (stanzas 1-3)

LBW# 76

- 1** O Morning Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's own truth and light,
Aglow with grace and mercy! Of Jacob's race, King David's son,
Our Lord and master, You have won Our hearts to serve You only!
Lowly, holy! Great and glorious, All victorious, Rich in blessing!
Rule and might o'er all possessing!
- 2** Come, heav'nly Bridegroom, Light divine, And deep within our hearts now shine;
There light a flame undying! In Your one body let us be
As living branches of a tree, Your life our lives supplying.
Now, though daily Earth's deep sadness May perplex us And distress us,
Yet with heav'nly joy You bless us.
- 3** Lord, when You look on us in love, At once there falls from God above
A ray of purest pleasure. Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood
Refresh our souls with heav'nly food. You are our dearest treasure!
Let Your mercy Warm and cheer us! O draw near us!
For You teach us God's own love through You has reached us.

Text: Philip Nicolai, 1556-1608 Tr. hymnal version, 1978 Tr. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608 Setting © 1952 *Orgelchoralbuch*

Apostolic Greeting (Numbers 6:24-26; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

- 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.

Kyrie (Mark 10:47) is omitted during the season of Epiphany.

Hymn of Praise *Glory to God* (Luke 2:14; Revelation 4:11, 5:12-13)

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 (2 Timothy 4:22)

LBW p. 62

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray. Stand watch over your family, O Lord, that we who depend entirely on your heavenly grace may always be protected in the mighty fortress of your love; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Children are invited to come forward for the Children's Message.

Children's Message

Following the Children's Message, the children are asked to sit with their families while the congregation sings This Little Light of Mine.

Hymn: *This Little Light of Mine*

C This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine, This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine let it shine let it shine

CCLI Song # 34680 Harry Dixon Loes © Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 58:3-9a

The first lesson is written in the 58th chapter of Isaiah.

³“Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?” Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the LORD? ⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? ⁸Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’”

L Here ends the reading.

Psalm 112:1-9 *The Psalm of the Day is sung in unison.*

C ¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the Lord*
and have great delight in | his commandments!
²Their descendants will be mighty | in the land;*
the generation of the upright | will be blessed.
³Wealth and riches will be | in their house,*
and their righteousness will | last forever.
⁴Light shines in the darkness | for the upright;*
the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion.
⁵It is good for them to be gener- | ous in lending*

and to manage their af- | fairs with justice.

⁶For they will nev- | er be shaken;*

the righteous will be kept in everlast- | ing remembrance.

⁷They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors;*

their heart is right; they put their trust | in the Lord.

⁸Their heart is established and | will not shrink,*

until they see their desire up- | on their enemies.

⁹They have given freely | to the poor,*

and their righteousness stands fast forever;

they will hold up their | head with honor.

New Testament Lesson: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

The second lesson is written in the 2nd chapter of 1 Corinthians.

¹I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. ⁶Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him” — ¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. ¹⁴The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

L Here ends the reading

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Gospel Acclamation (Psalm 51:10; Ezekiel 36:26)

Hymn: *Change My Heart, O God*

Refrain: **Change my heart O God Make it ever true**
Change my heart O God May I be like You

1 You are the Potter I am the clay Mold me and make me This is what I pray *Refrain*

CCLI Song # 1565 Eddie Espinosa © 1982 Heart And Harp Worship

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

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

Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

¹³{Jesus said,} “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. ¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. ¹⁷Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore whoever relaxes 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. ²⁰For 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.**

Please be seated.

Sermon Series based on 1 Corinthians: *The Mind of Christ*

Pastor Heidi Punt

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Hymn of the Day: *Lord, Speak to Us, that We May Speak*

LBW# 403

- 1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak In living echoes of your tone;
As you have sought, so let us seek Your straying children, lost and lone.**
- 2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead The wand'ring and the wav'ring feet;
Oh, feed us, Lord, that we may feed Your hung'ring ones with manna sweet.**
- 3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach The precious truths which you impart,
And wing our words, that they may reach The hidden depths of many a heart.**
- 4 Oh, fill us with your fullness, Lord, Until our very hearts o'erflow
In kindling thought and glowing word, Your love to tell, your praise to show.**

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879 Tune: Robert Schumann, 1810-1856

Apostles' Creed (*Romans 10:9-10*)

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 (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

P Let us pray that the light of Christ may shine upon the Church, the world, and all people according to their need.

A brief silence

After each portion of the prayers:

P Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, grant to us, dear Father, for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace (John 20:19)

LBW p. 65

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

Offering (Malachi 3:10)

The Offering is received as the Lord's Table is prepared.

All loose offerings will go towards the Mission Outreach Fund.

The monthly benevolence will go towards the Footprints in the Community.

Organ Offertory: *Lord, Speak to Us, that We May Speak* (Albrecht)

MEAL

God invites us to His table.

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Offertory (John 12:46; Ephesians 5:8-14; Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 John 1:5; Revelation 21:23)

Hymn: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* (stanza 1)

WOV# 649

1 **I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.**

God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934 © 1970, 1975 Celebration, admin. The Copyright Co Tune: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934 © 1970, 1975 Celebration, admin. The Copyright Co.

Offertory Prayer (Psalm 27:4, 103:1-14, Romans 12:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:18)

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**

The Great Thanksgiving (2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136)

LBW p. 68-71

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* (Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9; Revelation 4:8)

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 (32)

LBW p. 69

(Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

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.

The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4)

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**

Please be seated.

Those who are assisting with Holy Communion are asked to come forward at this time.

Agnus Dei *Lamb of God* (John 1:29)

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 (Mark 14:23)

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.

Please fill out the communion card in the pew and hand to the Usher as you follow their directions to the communion station.

Gluten Free wafers and grape juice are also available upon request.

Communion Music

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Blessing (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

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

LBW p. 72-73

(1 Chronicles 16:8-11; Psalm 100:4, 105:1-3, 42-43; Isaiah 12:4-5, 55:12)

C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell everyone what he has done. Let everyone who seeks 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 (Matthew 26:26-28; John 6:35)

P Let us pray. 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

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Benediction (Numbers 6:24-26)

LBW p. 74

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

Hymn: *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* (stanzas 4-6)

LBW# 76

**4 Almighty Father, in Your Son You loved us when not yet begun
Was this old earth's foundation! Your Son has ransomed us in love
To live in Him here and above: This is Your great salvation. Alleluia!
Christ the living, To us giving Life forever, Keeps us Yours and fails us never!**

- 5 **What joy to know, when life is past, The Lord we love is first and last,
The end and the beginning! He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
Transport us to that happy place Beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness!
We are yearning For the day of Your returning!**
- 6 **O let the harps break forth in sound! Our joy be all with music crowned,
Our voices gladly blending! For Christ goes with us all the way—
Today, tomorrow, ev’ry day! His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out! Jubilation! Exultation! Tell the story!
Great is He, the King of Glory!**

Text: Philip Nicolai, 1556-1608 Tr. hymnal version, 1978 Tr. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608 Setting © 1952 *Orgelchoralbuch*

Sending (**Matthew 5:16; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Psalm 119:105; John 8:12; Philippians 2:15**)

P Let 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 Union Lutheran Church you are sent!

C **Amen, amen, amen**

Postlude: *O Morning Star, how Fair and Bright* (Leavitt)

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Occasional Services: A Companion to Lutheran Book of Worship

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Due to inclement weather, the 2025 Yearend Contributions will be made available soon.

2026 Attendance Report

Due to Inclement Weather and icy road conditions Sunday School and Worship & Holy Communion were cancelled for Sunday, February 1.

Those Serving on February 8, 2026

Guest Organist: Dawn Merrell

Altar Guild: Robyn Arey and Mary Hutchens

Acolytes (Feb. 1 & 8) Adam Leffew and Addison Queen

Lay Readers: Robyn Arey, Vicki Hunter, or Caden Madden

Communion Assistants: Robyn Arey, Mary Hutchens, Vicki Hunter, Adam Leffew, Caden Madden, and Addison Queen

Ushers: Larry Barringer, Adam Leffew, Addison Queen, and Scott Queen

Sound System: Thad Mulkey, Dusty Morgan, Sr., and Dusty Morgan, Jr.

Offering Counters: Cathy Painter and Ron Vellines

Sending Sunday Visitors Cards: Jennifer Curlee

Teaching Moment: Lutherans at Worship ~ Glossary of Lutheran Terms

Lectionary (The schedule of biblical readings appointed for the days of the church year.)

Lent (The 40-day (excluding Sundays) season of penitence before Easter, symbolic of Christ’s 40 days in the wilderness.)

Lesser Festivals (Days in the church year recalling certain events in Christ’s life (such as the Annunciation and Presentation) and celebrating saints and events in church history (such as the Conversion of St. Paul, Reformation Day, and All Saints Day.)

Litany (Series of responsive prayers for people in their various needs.)

(Lutherans at Worship by S. Anita Stauffer, Gilbert A. Doan, and Michael B. Aune page 93)

Sunday, February 8, 2026

Loose Offering: Gerald Bame Memorial Scholarship Fund

Benevolence: Footprints in the Community

Monthly Project supplies for Footprints in the Community: 50 packs Fruit snacks; 50 packs goldfish; 50 Water bottles; Capri sun any flavor – 200 drinks; 150 plates; 150 Gallon Ziploc bags; 150 2.5 gallon XL Ziploc bags; 150 quart size Ziploc bags; Variety color cardstock; Variety of stickers; Individual size play dough; Food lion gift cards; Amazon gift cards; Hobby Lobby gift cards; and Staples gift cards

9:30 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School

A Parable of a Forgiving Father ~ Luke 15:11-32; 1 John 3:1-3

“This my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.” (Luke 15:24)

9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School

Rabbit Hole Sunday School Class

A Parable of a Forgiving Father ~ Luke 15:11-32; 1 John 3:1-3

Drew Wise Sunday School Class

Baptism and the Lord’s Supper ~ John 1:29-34; Acts 2:38-41; Romans 6:1-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29; Matthew 3:13-17, 28:19-20

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Isaiah 58:3-9a; Psalm 112-19; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12, 13-16; Matthew 5:13-20

Sermon Series based on 1 Corinthians: *The Mind of Christ*

New: 2:00 p.m. Union Youth & Parents

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Tuesday, February 10

9:30 a.m. Piedmont-East Clergy (Conference #1)

2:00 p.m. Mary & Martha Circle (Conference #1)

Program: Deena Lanning & Hostess: Karen Morgan

New: 4:00 p.m. Mission Outreach (focusing on the May Event & meeting in Conference #1)

6:30 p.m. Amos Bible Study (Conference #1)

Wednesday, February 11

Time change: 6:30 p.m. Catechism (*Pastor's Office*)

6:30 p.m. Belles & Beaus

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 12

10:00 a.m. Good Timers

Program: Pastors Heidi & Dieter Punt's Turkey & Greece Trip

Lunch: Mykonos Grill (*Ketner Center, 1714 W Innes St, Salisbury, NC 28144*)

Friday, February 13

6:00 p.m. Line Dancing (*Old Pine Center*)

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Transfiguration of Our Lord, February 15, 2026

God's glory shines from the mountaintop! We are reminded how on the heights, Moses received the Ten Commandments and Jesus was transfigured in full view of three of his disciples. Yet, as the glory of God shines from above, life is lived at the bottom of the hill. The "mountaintop experiences" of God's glory give us a glimpse into the hidden reality of faith that is lived out here on earth.

Loose Offering: Building & Repair Fund

Benevolence: Footprints in the Community

Monthly Project supplies for Footprints in the Community: 50 packs Fruit snacks; 50 packs goldfish; 50 Water bottles; Capri sun any flavor – 200 drinks; 150 plates; 150 Gallon Ziploc bags; 150 2.5 gallon XL Ziploc bags; 150 quart size Ziploc bags; Variety color cardstock; Variety of stickers; Individual size play dough; Food lion gift cards; Amazon gift cards; Hobby Lobby gift cards; and Staples gift cards

Altar Flowers (2 flower arrangements): Open for reservation

9:30 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School

Peter Tries to Walk on Water ~ Matthew 14:22-33; Romans 7:9-25

Peter cried, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him.

(Matthew 14:30-31)

9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School

Rabbit Hole Sunday School Class

Peter Tries to Walk on Water ~ Matthew 14:22-33; Romans 7:9-25

Drew Wise Sunday School Class

The Lord's Day ~ Psalm 118:19-24; Genesis 2:2-3; Matthew 12:1-14, 28:1-10; Exodus 20:8-11;

Romans 14:4-6; Revelation 1:10

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Exodus 24:8-18; Psalm 2:6-12; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

Sermon: *Jesus' Transfiguration is our Transformation*

Transfiguration of Our Lord, February 15, 2026

10:30 a.m. Removing the Alleluias

On Sunday, February 15, we say farewell to Alleluia. Alleluia translates to "Praise the Lord." During medieval times elaborate ceremonies evolved in which the alleluia was actually buried and "resurrected" on Easter. While we won't be burying the alleluia, we will end the service, as we turn away from the beauty of our Lord in his Transfigured Glory, and turn towards the healing Lenten desert which will take us to the Cross and finally back to Easter Joy.

2:00 p.m. Church Council

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You're Invited: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper! 🥞

Join us for food, fellowship, and fun before the Lenten season begins. Let's celebrate "Fat Tuesday" together with a delicious pancake feast!

Location: Old Pine Center

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Proceeds (splitting in half): General Fund and Youth Missions Fund

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Ash Wednesday, February 18

Times: 4:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Worship & Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes

Location: Sanctuary

The tone of Ash Wednesday is one of repentance as the cleansing ashes of Christ's love are inscribed upon our foreheads, the same place where in our baptism we were anointed, washed, and claimed as God's own. Jesus reminds his followers that they are to approach their acts of piety with humility and gratefulness, rather than publicly for the praise of others. Christ is our one true treasure that gives life.

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Wednesday, February 18

No Catechism or Choir rehearsals this week.

Friday, February 20

9:00 a.m. Bible Book Study (*Juice Life*)

6:00 p.m. Line Dancing (*Old Pine Center*)

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During the season of Lent: Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 2 Liturgy, branches and/or twigs in place of altar flowers.

Also in Lent, we will have Assistant Ministers assisting in leading the worship service.

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Sunday, February 22, 2026

Loose Offering: Youth Missions Fund

Benevolence: Footprints in the Community

Monthly Project supplies for Footprints in the Community: 50 packs Fruit snacks; 50 packs goldfish; 50 Water bottles; Capri sun any flavor – 200 drinks; 150 plates; 150 Gallon Ziploc bags; 150 2.5 gallon XL Ziploc bags; 150 quart size Ziploc bags; Variety color cardstock; Variety of stickers; Individual size play dough; Food lion gift cards; Amazon gift cards; Hobby Lobby gift cards; and Staples gift cards

Deadline: newsletter articles

During the Lenten Season, we use twigs and branches instead of flowers to symbolize penitence, spiritual dryness, and preparation for Easter's rebirth, as flowers represent joy and celebration, which are set aside during this somber, reflective season of self-emptying and focus on Christ's sacrifice, mirroring the desert journey. Bare branches signify the spiritual "emptying" of sin, awaiting the new life of Easter, much like dormant plants awaiting spring.

9:30 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School

Adam & Eve's Temptation ~ Genesis 3:1-21; Romans 5:15-17

God said: "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden." (Genesis 3:3)

9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School

Rabbit Hole Sunday School Class

Adam & Eve's Temptation ~ Genesis 3:1-21; Romans 5:15-17

Drew Wise Sunday School Class

Stewardship and Mission ~ Zechariah 8:18-23; Deuteronomy 8:17-18;

Acts 1:6-8, 26:12-20; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15, 9:1-15

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Genesis 3:1–21; Psalm 32:1–7; Romans 5:12–19; Matthew 4:1–11

Sermon: *Weapons of Warfare*

During Lent, the altar candles lit represent Jesus' life and ministry. Each week we will extinguish the candelabra candles, remembering how we, the human race, rejected Jesus Christ, the light of the world. On Sunday, February 22, only 6 candelabra candles on either side of the Altar Candles will be lit.

12 noon 2026 Sunday School Lunch & Vision

You are cordially invited to join us for our **2026 Sunday School Lunch & Vision** on Sunday, February 22, at 12 noon. Lunch will follow after the worship service. We will gather in the Old Pine Center to prayerfully discern God's direction for our ministry in 2026. Your insights and presence are vital as we plan for the spiritual growth of our children, youth, adults and families. Please RSVP to the church office by Friday, February 20.

Sunday, February 22, 2026

4:00 p.m. Luther League (*ULC*)

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Tuesdays, February 24, March 3, 10, 17 & 24

Lenten Meal in the Dutch Meeting Hall at **6:00 p.m.**

Lenten Worship Service at **6:30 p.m.**

A Lenten sermon series on a "Crisis in Identity" explores shifting one's identity from performance, possessions, and cultural expectations to a secure, God-given identity as a beloved child and new creation in Christ. It addresses the internal struggle between false, self-created identities and a gospel-centered identity, encouraging believers to move from insecurity to purposeful grace-filled living

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Wednesday, February 25

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

6:30 p.m. Catechism (*Pastor's Office*)

6:30 p.m. Belles & Beaus

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Friday, February 27

Church Office printing March *Messenger* & Handouts

6:00 p.m. Line Dancing (*Old Pine Center*)

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PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

Nursing Homes – Brenda Mahaley (Autumn Care Room 815), Ruth Monroe (Autumn Care Room 818), Jean Ray (Autumn Care Room 201), Sarah Bame (Brookdale), Pat Kluttz (Brookdale Room 56), Donnell Miller (Bethany Woods, Albemarle), Rachel Earnhardt (The Laurels), Charles Hartley (The Laurels Room 301), Mike Taylor (Trinity Oaks), Ann Tucker (Oak Park Retirement Room 236)

Homebound/Shut-ins Members/Special Needs –Tom Cole, Kiki Deaton, Rachel Earnhardt, Madison “Drew” Harrington, Becky Hartley, Linda Hartley, Pete Honbarrier, Howell and Teresa Kesler, James & Jean Kluttz, Glenn and Betty Sue Lowder, Harold Miller, Rev. TC & Mary Plexico, Macky Swicegood, Billy Waller & Michael Walton

Sick/Surgery/Recovery – Judy Boyd, Ken Davis, Jason Earnhardt, Susan Knight, Doris Ludwick, Patsy Lyerly, Richard and Kay Lyons, Troy Painter, Raelynn Rodgers & Brad Trexler

Continual Prayer – Rita Volker (Pastor Heidi’s aunt), Union Fire Department #76, Global Missions (Congo, SON Ministries, Slovakia & Haiti), especially those affected by political unrest & those affected by natural disasters (Jamacia, Haiti, Alaska, North Dakota, Dominican Republic)

Prayers for Comfort: Larry Barringer and Family, John and Nancy Kesler and Family, Nancy Mulkey and Family

Please let us know...church staff are not automatically made aware of you or your family members and loved ones who are in the hospital, Hospice, a nursing home or shut-ins at home. This means we cannot minister to them without you letting us know. Please contact the church office (704) 636-5092 to keep us informed.

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OUR MISSION: Christ Centered ~ Mission Driven~ Traditionally-Grounded ~
Congregationally Focused (Matthew 28:18-20)

OUR VISION: “Love God and Love our Neighbor” (Mark 12:30-33)

OUR ACTION PLAN: “By feeding, clothing, visiting, helping...” (Matthew 25:35-40)

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2026 Church Council Members

2024-2026

Phil Cauble
Kevin Huffman
John Knight (*Treasurer*)
Thad Mulkey

2025-2027

Karen Barringer
Pete Nguyen (*President*)
Brad Trexler

2026-2027

Don Davis (*Vice-President*)
Ethan Wilhelm (*Secretary*)

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Lay Ministers:

Tara Davis, Vicki Hunter, Steve Hutchens, Elbert Kluttz and Deena Lanning

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Union Lutheran Church

Office Hours: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

Pastor Heidi Punt, Senior Pastor (pastor@ulcsalisbury.org)
Phil Cauble, Facility Manager
Genevieve Baker, ULC Staff Support (office@ulcsalisbury.org)
Pastor T. C. Plexico, Pastor Emeritus

