



Union Lutheran Church

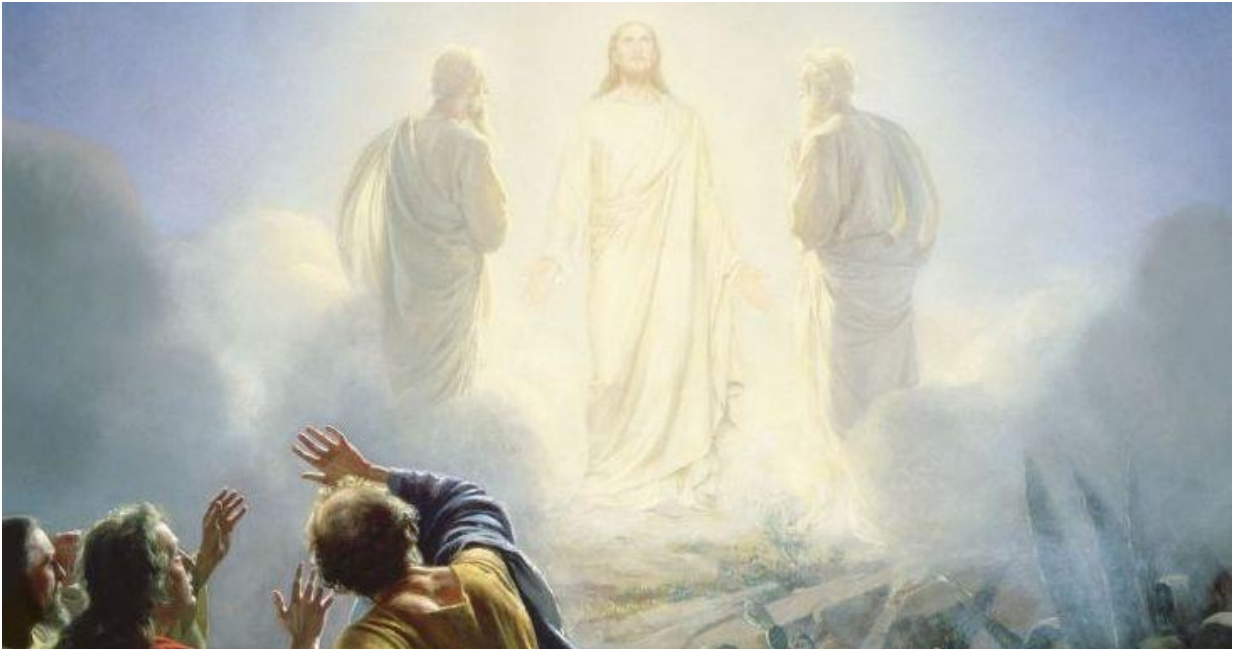
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Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 15, 2026

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

The Common Thread: “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man” (Rev 21:3). That is the point of our readings today. God would dwell in us and have us abide in him. Jesus said, “Abide in me, and I in you” (John 15:4). So we must face his glory, even as Moses dared to do, rejoicing with trembling. Having the Light of God, we must cling to him by faith, paying attention to that Lamp shining in the dark spaces of our hearts. This is the very Word of God, his own beloved Son. Pay attention to him.

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: *Introduction and Toccata in G Major* (by William Walond)

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: *How Good, Lord, to Be Here!*

LBW# 89

- 1** How good, Lord, to be here! your glory fills the night;
your face and garments, like the sun, shine with unborrowed light.
- 2** How good, Lord, to be here, your beauty to behold,
where Moses and Elijah stand, your messengers of old.
- 3** Fulfiller of the past, and hope of things to be:
we hail your body glorified, and our redemption see.
- 4** Before we taste of death, we see your Kingdom come;
we long to hold the vision bright, and make this hill our home.
- 5** How good, Lord, to be here! yet we may not remain;
but since you bid us leave the mount come with us to the plain.

Text: Joseph Armitage Robinson, 1858-1933 (alt.) Words by permission of Hymns Ancient and Modern Ltd. Now Public Domain Tune: Charles Lockhart, 1745-1815

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)

LBW p. 57-58

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen**

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. O God, at the glorious transfiguration of your only Son, you confirmed the mystery of our faith by the witness of the disciples and by your own voice from the cloud. Mercifully complete our adoption as your children, and give us, with our King, an inheritance of his glory. 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.**

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: Exodus 24:8-18

The first lesson was written in the 24th chapter of Exodus.

⁸Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words." ⁹Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, ¹⁰and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. ¹¹And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank. ¹²The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." ¹³So Moses rose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴And he said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you. Whoever has a dispute, let him go to them." ¹⁵Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶The glory of the Lord dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out

of the midst of the cloud. ¹⁷Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. ¹⁸Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

L Here ends the reading.

Psalm 2:1-12 *The Psalm of the Day is read responsively.*

L ¹ Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?

C ² **The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed, saying,**

L ³ “Let us break their chains and throw off their shackles.”

C ⁴ **The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.**

L ⁵ He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,

C ⁶ **“I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain.”**

L ⁷ I will proclaim the Lord’s decree: He said to me, “You are my son; today I have become your father.

C ⁸ **Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.**

L ⁹ You will break them with a rod of iron; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.”

C ¹⁰ **Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.**

L ¹¹ Serve the Lord with fear and celebrate his rule with trembling.

C ¹² **Kiss his son, or he will be angry and your way will lead to your destruction, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.**

New Testament Lesson: 2 Peter 1:16-21

The second lesson is written in the 1st chapter of 2 Peter.

¹⁶We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” ¹⁸we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. ²¹For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

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 17th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

¹After six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. ³And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁵He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." ⁸And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. ⁹And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon: *Jesus' Transfiguration is our Transformation*

Pastor Heidi Punt

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Hymn of the Day: *Beautiful Savior*

LBW# 518

- 1 Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!**
 Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
- 2 Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands, Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;**
 Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.
- 3 Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight, Bright the sparkling stars on high;**
 Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer Than all the angels in the sky.
- 4 Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!**
 Glory and honor, Praise, adoration, Now and forevermore be thine!

Text: Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904 *Gesangbuch, Münster*; Tune: 1677 Silesian folk tune, 1842

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

**Or, We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic 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)

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 Building & Repair Fund.

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

Organ Offertory: *Crusader's Hymn* (by David Hegarty)

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.

P 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 Cantic

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: *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

LBW# 90

1 **Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;
Manifested by the star To the sages from afar,
Branch of royal David's stem In thy birth at Bethlehem:
Anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.**

2 **Manifest at Jordan's stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
And at Cana wedding guest In the Godhead manifest;
Manifest in pow'r divine, Changing water into wine;
Anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.**

3 **Manifest in making whole Palsied limbs and fainting soul;
Manifest in valiant fight, Quelling all the devil's might;
Manifest in gracious will, Ever bringing good from ill:
Anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.**

4 **Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, Present in thy holy Word;
Grace to imitate thee now And be pure, as pure art thou;
That we might become like thee At thy great epiphany,
And may praise thee, ever blest, God in flesh made manifest.**

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-1885 Tune: Christoph Anton, d. 1658

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: *Toccata in E Minor* (by Johann Pachelbel)

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2026 Attendance Report		
February 8	37	Sunday School
February 8	100	Worship & Holy Communion

Teaching Moment: Lutherans at Worship ~ Glossary of Lutheran Terms

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

Lucernarium (*The service of light which begins Evening Prayer.*)

Matins (*see Morning Prayer*)

Maundy Thursday (*The Thursday in Holy Week which commemorates the institution of the Lord's Supper and the foot-washing rite.*)

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

Those Serving on February 15, 2026

Guest Organist: Brenda McCombs

Altar Guild: Robyn Arey and Mary Hutchens

Acolytes (Feb. 15 & 22) Avery Cline and Jesse Morgan, Jr.

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: Scott Misenheimer, Cathy Painter and Ron Vellines

Sending Sunday Visitors Cards: Jennifer Curlee

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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

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God in loving memory of our parents by Ron Chase and Debbie Cauble McPherson.

Transfiguration of Our Lord, February 15, 2026

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

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*

10:30 a.m. Removing the Alleluias

Today 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!

Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Location: Old Pine Center

Time: 5:30 p.m.

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

Ash Wednesday, February 18

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

Worship & Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes

Psalm 51; Joel 2:12-19; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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.

Wednesday, February 18

No Catechism or Choir rehearsals this week.

Thursday, February 19

CMR Youth Planning will meet at ULC

Friday, February 20

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

RSVP Deadline to the church office to attend the 2026 Sunday School Lunch & Vision.

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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)

Sunday, February 22, 2026

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 candles, remembering how we, the human race, rejected Jesus Christ, the light of the world. On Sunday, February 22, the Altar Candles and only 6 candelabra 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.

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

Thursday, February 26

New: 6:00 p.m. Finance Team (*Conference #1*)

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, Robin Huffman, 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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Sermon Notes:

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OUR MISSION: Christ Centered ~ Mission Driven~ Traditionally-Grouped ~
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

