

St. John's Lutheran Church

ELCA

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Reverend Stacy Malzhan

Office Manager & Family/Youth Ministry Director— Karie Peters



Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 8, 2026

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 9 am - 1 pm
Call for an appointment with Pastor Stacy

Email - Pastor Stacy: pastor@stjohnlittlesuamico.org

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Our worship services are live broadcasted and available for future viewing via YouTube. In-person attendance implies consent to be included in the live streamed and recorded worship service.

Meditation

During the prelude, we invite you into a time of reflection. The main doors of the sanctuary will remain closed prior to worship so those who wish may have a time of centering and reflection of the past week, our community, our world, and God's sacrificial and redeeming love for us all.

Church Year Information~ Season: Epiphany • Color: Green

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please see ELW Page 94 in the front of your hymnal.

GATHERING HYMN: Gather Us In (ELW 532)

GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

¹ Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.

³ "Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.

⁴You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

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 them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

^{9a}Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

^{9b}If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹The LORD will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.

¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 112:1-9 [10]

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

² **Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³ Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴ **Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶ **For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸ **Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

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

¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him"—

¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. [¹³ And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴ Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

¹⁵ Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. ¹⁶ "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?"
But we have the mind of Christ.]

Word of God, Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Emmanuel* (WP 36)

Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el,
his name is called Em - man - u - el;
God with us, re - vealed in us;
his name is called Em - man - u - el.

Chords: C, C/E, F, G, G⁷, C, C/B \flat , A, A/C \sharp , Dm, G⁷, G/B, C, C/E, F, G, G⁷, C, C/B \flat , A, A/C \sharp , Dm, G⁷, F/C, C.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 5:13-20*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the fifth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹³“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON ON THE STEPS: *The noisy offering today will be donated to 2026 VBS.*

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Jesus, the Light of the World* (ACS 914)



1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Je-sus, the Light of the world;
3 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je-sus, the Light of the world;



"Glo - ry to the new-born king," Je-sus, the Light of the world.
join the tri - umph of the skies; Je-sus, the Light of the world.
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Je-sus, the Light of the world.
Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the Light of the world.

Refrain



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day, he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

STEWARDSHIP TIME

The apostle Paul reminds us, "God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." With gratitude for God's goodness and in response to God's indescribable gift of Jesus Christ, let us present our tithes and offerings. (2 Corinthians 9:8)

STEWARDSHIP OF GENEROSITY

Thank you for your ongoing financial support of St. John's Ministries.

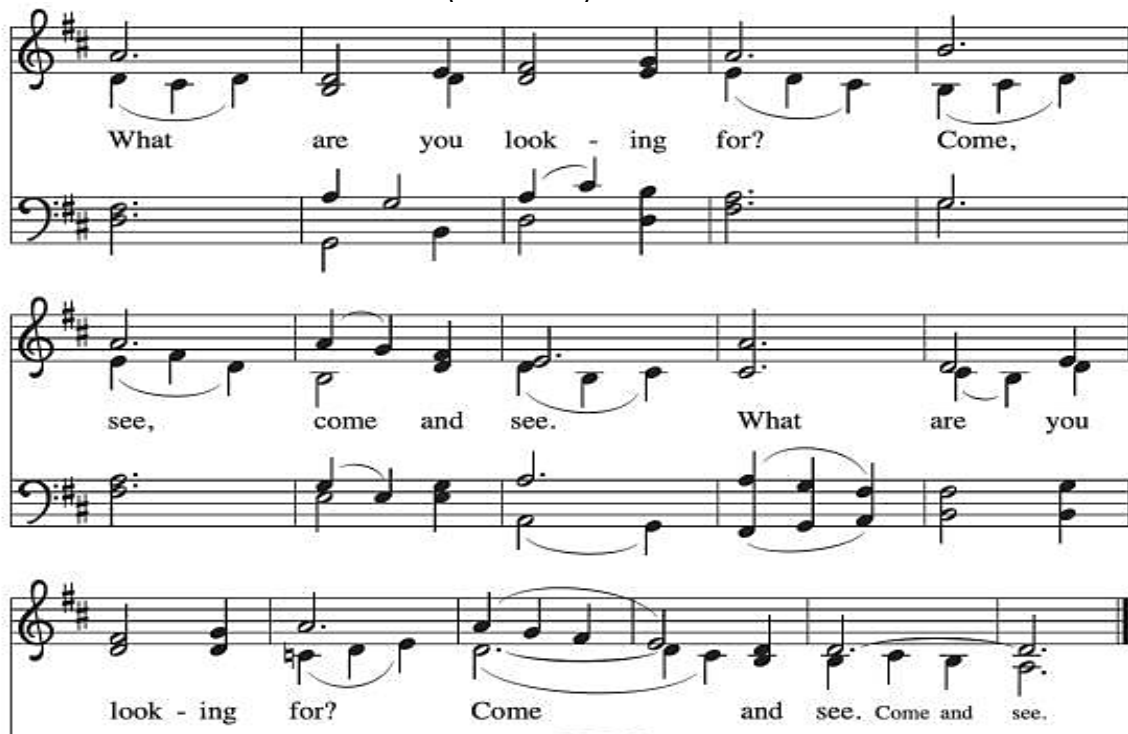
Offerings may be given in the following ways:

- Use the QR code to the right to make a gift.
- Place your offering in the plate when it is passed.
- Enroll in Simply Giving for automatic giving from a bank account or credit card.
(See Karie for more information.)



STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Come and See* (ACS 976)



What are you look - ing for? Come,
see, come and see. What are you
look - ing for? Come and see. Come and see.

PRAYER OF FAITHFUL RESPONSE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

MEAL

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW Page 112)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

LAMB OF GOD (ELW Setting 3)

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS:

We Place Upon Your Table, Lord (ELW 467)

This Little Light of Mine (ELW 677)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: *Go, Make Disciples* (ELW 540)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



Please remember these people in your prayers.

There are **PRAYER CARDS** in the Narthex beneath the nametags and in the pews. If you have a special prayer request, please complete the form and place it in the offering plate or place it in the office mailbox. Your prayer will be added to the Prayer List and **will remain there for 3 weeks**. If you wish to have the person's name continue to be listed, you must notify the church office in writing on a prayer card or by email. Be sure to let us know when someone may be removed from the prayer list as well. If you have questions, please contact Karie in the church office.

Those who mourn:

The family of Nancy Moes

Those who are home bound:


Arlene Matuszewski Fran Koski Arlene Giese
Ron and Diana Sefcik
Edwin Kazik (Father of Karie Peters)
Donna Ward (Sister of Lorna Koch)

Those who are ill/recovering/ have special needs or concerns:

Marie Zirbel Meyer (Aunt of Janet Francies)
Mark Heisel (Friend of Greg & Tammy Yager)
Shirley May (Aunt of Beth Wentz)
Greg Roberts (Son-in-law of Nancy Valentine)
Dave Hansen (Nephew of Doug & Helen Malueg)
Family of Ronny Neitzel (Friend of Tina Douglass)
Peggy Foltz (Sister of Beth Wentz)
Kelly Havlik Lacera (Friend of Desiree Kozlovsky)
Betty Couillard (Sister of Doug Malueg)
Kerry Pranica (Friend of Doris Fleck)
Nick Carter (Friend of Duayne & Pat Rosenberg)
Jill Willner (Niece & Cousin of Ann, Rob & Nikky Urbaniak)
Ron Koch
Joe Kozlovsky
Erin Culbertson (Friend of Doris Fleck)
Yvonne Virtues (Mother of Pat Virtues)
Mike & Carmen Peters (Parents of Tim Peters)
Robin Kinstetter (Co-worker of Kim Dunks)
Kay Koch (Friend of Lorna Koch)
John and Shirley Tramontin (Parents of Tess Smith)
Randy Denneau (Brother of Lorna Koch)
Tylor Georgia (Grandson of Dennis and Bev Possley)
Helen Mohan (Daughter of Tess Smith)
Earl & Shirley Habeck
Ashley Ihrke (Daughter of Tim & Karie Peters' friends Jim & Candy Ihrke)
Carol Barker (Mother of Beth Wentz)
Wayne Wentworth
Eleanor Nickel
Eli Marchand (Son of Michelle Marchand)
Al Reimer (Friend of Pam Giese)

Those who are serving in the Military:

Josh & Cheyenne Perrault- Air Force
Gage Boyd- Air Force (Grandson of Tracey & Pamela Krumrei)
Alex Culbertson-Wisconsin National Guard (Grandson of Dave & Ginny Burkart)
Sam Cooper-Captain, Army Reserves (Son of Jerry & Michelle Cooper)

<i>This Week at St. John's</i>			
Sun, Feb. 8	Mon, Feb. 9	Tues, Feb. 10	Wed, Feb. 11
9:00am , Worship 10:15am , Fellowship Faith Finders! WELCA Meeting		10:00am , Fitness Class Level 2 11:00am , Fitness Class Level 1  6:00pm , Council	5:45pm , Club 9
Thurs, Feb. 12	Fri, Feb. 13	Sat, Feb. 14	Sun, Feb. 15
11:30am , Brown Bag Bible Study	Office Closed	5:00pm , Family Ministry Outing- Dinner & A Show 6:00pm , AA Mtg	9:00am , Worship 10:15am , Fellowship Faith Finders! Worship Team

	<i>Sunday February 8</i>	<i>Sunday February 15</i>
<i>Acolyte(s)</i>	Needed	Needed
<i>Welcome Center</i>	John Warren	Nancy Valentine
<i>Communion Assistants</i>	Nancy Gleffe Three Needed	Ginny Burkart Three Needed
<i>Communion Steward</i>	Nancy Gleffe	Ginny Burkart
<i>Greeters</i>	Kissinger Family	Two Needed
<i>Technology Team</i>	Kissinger Family	Eder Family
<i>Scripture Readers</i>	Amy Spaude	Scott Spaude
<i>Scrip Volunteers</i>	Steve & Angie Larsen Susan Mittelstaedt	Steve & Angie Larsen Susan Mittelstaedt
<i>Offering Counters</i>	Kelly Stellmacher* John Warren	Betty Stevens* John Warren
<i>Ushers</i>	Steve & Angie Larsen Dave Zimmerman	Andy Dorn Fran Miller John Warren