

Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 18, 2026

"WE HAVE FOUND
the Messiah."
JOHN 1:41

First Lutheran Church

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UNITED by Christ, God call us to LOVE one another
As we RECEIVE, DISCOVER and PROCLAIM God's Word.

Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK—CAMBERSHIP

Everett Greisen

OPENING REFLECTION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters.

Amen.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice,
**you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.
We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.
We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.
Turn us to seek your face.**

**Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

The former things have passed away,
and new things God now declares:
Like a spring of water that never fails,
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,
and forgives your sin in ✝ Jesus' name.
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace.
Amen.

OPENING HYMN

***Arise, Your Light Has Come!* ELW #314
(Vs. 1, 2 & 4)**

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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.

KYRIE

ELW page 138

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

***You Servants of God* ELW #825
(Vs. 4)
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray
Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that
through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and
joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORD

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

FIRST READING—Isaiah 49:1-7

Here the servant, identified as Israel, speaks for herself and describes her honored mission. Called before her birth like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, the servant is not only to restore Israel. The servant's ultimate assignment is to bring news of God's victory to the ends of the earth. God in faithfulness has chosen Israel for this task.

¹ Listen to me, O coastlands;
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The LORD called me before I was born;
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

² He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow;
in his quiver he hid me away.

³ And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the LORD
and my reward with my God."

⁵ And now the LORD says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,
and my God has become my strength—

⁶ he says,
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;

I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

⁷ Thus says the LORD,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,
“Kings shall see and stand up;
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

PSALM—Psalm 40:1-11

¹ I waited patiently upon the LORD,
who stooped to me and heard my cry.

² **The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay,
and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.**

³ The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God;
many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the LORD.

⁴ **Happy are they who trust in the LORD!**

They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.

⁵ Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God! In your plans for us, none
can be compared with you!

Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than I can
count.

⁶ **Sacrifice and offering you do not desire;
you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not
required.**

⁷ And so I said, “Here I am; I come.

In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

⁸ **‘I love to do your will, O my God;
your law is deep within me.’”**

⁹ I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly;
I have not restrained my lips, O LORD, you know.

¹⁰ **I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance;**

I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the great assembly.

¹¹ You are the LORD; do not withhold your compassion from me;
may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.

SECOND READING—1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Though God's church in Corinth is a fractious congregation beset with many conflicts, Paul opens this letter by spotlighting the multiple ways God has enriched and sustained its life as part of the divine call into the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION—Alleluia

ELW page #142

The Holy Gospel according to the first chapter of John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL—John 1:29-42

John the Baptist's witness to Jesus initiates a chain of testimony as his disciples begin to share with others what they have found.

²⁹ [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"³⁰ This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³² And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹ He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

MESSAGE

Rev. Sam Mailleue

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult **ELW #696**

(Vs. 1, 4, 5)

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APOSTLES' 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

THE PRAYERS

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, gather the church into one great fellowship. Equip your people to work together for justice and peace, following the example of Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, whose birth we remember this week.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creating God, sustain the web of life on this planet. Protect wild places, endangered species, and vulnerable habitats. Come to the aid of those affected by natural disasters.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Just God, you desire respect and equality for everyone. Raise up prophets who speak truth to the nations. Embolden leaders and those in authority to advocate for people in need.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Healing God, you lift up those who are bowed down by trouble, oppression, or illness especially those on our prayer list and in our hearts. Bring an end to social injustice and inequities of every kind, so that all people may have abundant life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Abiding God, you are present with this congregation. Keep us mindful of our mission and guide our ministries in this community especially the Le Sueur Food Shelf. Kindle in us a desire to help one another. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Faithful God, you promise to be with us always. We remember with gratitude the faithful departed who now rest in you. Strengthen us to the end, that we may see you face to face. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.
Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

Gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY HYMN

Lamb of God ELW #336
(Vs. 1)

CCLI #16787

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of majesty,
no eye has seen, no ear has heard
what you have prepared for those who love you,
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.
Use what we have gathered
to feed us with the reign of God come near,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW page 144

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Holy, holy, holy **ELW page 144**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

Lamb of God ELW page 146

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Radiant God,
we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In the sacrament of his body and blood
you have drawn us to your heart.
Send us from this table with delight,
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

May the triune God,
who has put a new song in your mouth
and tuned your heart for praise
✝ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

O Lord, Now Let Your Servant ELW #313

One License #71962 & #03189

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Welcome to First Lutheran Church

*Whether you are looking for a place of worship
or are just passing through, we hope our service has blessed you
on your journey as your presence has been a blessing to us.*



Acknowledgements:

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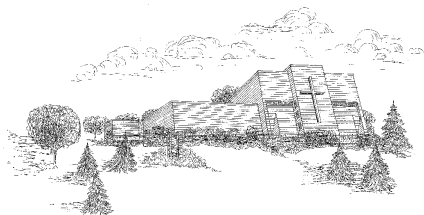
WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

January Ministry Focus: Camperships

Each summer, Bible camps across the country open their doors to children and youth, offering much more than just time outdoors. When we send our kids to summer camp, we are giving them a chance to grow in faith, confidence, and community in ways that last long after the campfire goes out.

When we encourage and support families in sending children to summer Bible camp, we are investing in the faith of the next generation. Camp plants seeds—of faith, leadership, and service—that continue to grow for years to come. Let's help make sure every child who wants to attend has the opportunity to experience this life-giving ministry.

Your financial gifts help remove barriers so every child who wants to attend camp can do so, regardless of a family's ability to pay. By giving toward Bible camp scholarships (camperships,) you are investing in the faith formation of our young people and helping nurture the next generation of disciples. Giving Envelopes will be available in the Gathering Space and in the Media Center in the Entry Way. Thank you for your generosity and continued support.



Weekly Schedule

Sunday, January 18	9:00a 10:15a	Worship w/Holy Communion Annual Meeting
Monday, January 19	10:00a 4:00p 6:00p	Le Sueur Food Shelf Meeting @ First Worship & Music Team Meeting Church Council
Tuesday, January 20	10:00a 10:15a	Coffee/Mary Unit Bible Study/Mary Unit Newsletter Deadline
Wednesday, January 21	9:00a 6:00p 6:30-7:30p 6:30-8p 6:30-8p	Staff Meeting Meal @ UMC RISE RISE UP FLY
Thursday, January 22	5:30p	Scholarship Team Meeting
Sunday, January 25	9:00a 10:15a	Worship First Choir Rehearsal

Worship Assistants

January 18, 2026

Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Liam Haaland
Reader:	Edrie Barton
Usher:	Bob & Joan Reasoner
Greeters:	Stefanie Eischens
Communion Asst:	Sue Michaelis Linda Wentzlaff
Council Member:	Sara Carrigan
Fellowship:	
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	Joan May John Miller
Altar Guild:	Nick & Becky Pollack

January 25, 2026

Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Malcolm Mailleue
Reader:	Rachel Wagner
Usher:	John Miller
Greeters:	
Council Member:	Vic Pengilly
Fellowship:	
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	Dave Johnson Joanne Graff
Altar Guild:	Nick & Becky Pollack