



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

February 8, 2026 - Setting 1

The Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

Pastor Calvin Konop, Presiding

Jess Christenson, CYF Director

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Belonging to Christ, Sharing Christ on the North Shore and Beyond!

Introduction

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

Prelude

Karina Roth

Welcome and Announcements

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.**

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 98

Canticle of Praise

This is the Feast

ELW page 101

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Time

(No Pennies please!)

On the way up the aisles, the children will be collecting coins for the "Holy Cow" fund, which will support ELCA World Hunger. *Find that loose change and hand it to a kiddo!*

First Reading

Isaiah 58: 1-12

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. ⁴ You 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. ⁵ Is 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?

⁶ Is 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? ⁷ Is 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? ⁸ Then 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. ⁹ Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

⁹ If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰ if 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. ¹¹ The 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.¹² Your 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 112:1-10

- 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

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 glory⁸ 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

ELW page 102

Gospel

Matthew 5:13-20

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew. **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. 15 People 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. 16 In 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. 18 For 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. 19 Therefore, 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. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Calvin Konop

Hymn of the Day

Christ, Be Our Light

ELW 715

Confession of Faith

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 God's People

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.*)

Your church does ministry in many and various ways. Keep the baptized true to the mind of Christ, that our works and witness bring hope to a troubled world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your marvelous creation cries out to you. Restore polluted air, soil, and water sources to wholeness. Guard honeybees, elephants, great whales and songbirds from harm, and renew the face of the earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your people in every nation suffer injustice, poverty, and the threat of violence. Guide those in authority to govern with compassion, and bring peace to war zones especially in Ukraine, Sudan, Isreal, Palestine and Venezuela. We pray for our enemies. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your blessings are poured out for all in need. Help and heal any who experience trauma, discrimination, disease, hunger, abuse, or persecution. Comfort those who are sick or grieving. *We pray especially for Mary, Kathy, Kristin, Rolf, Linda, Clayton, Kamryn, Luke, Sarah, Bruce, Lynn, and Katrina.* We pray now for those we name aloud, or in the silence of our hearts. (*A time of silence.*) We pray for all those dealing with issues of mental health or addiction. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your wisdom guides this congregation and its ministries. Sustain our ordained leaders, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers. Form us to be salt and light for the neighbors we serve, following the example of Christ. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your saints rejoice at your heavenly banquet. We give thanks for their lives of faith, especially Joyce Hagen, trusting that we also will be embraced by your eternal love. 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 the Peace

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

Offering

Carry This All
By Alexandra "Ahlay" Blakely

Bethlehem Choir

Offering 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.

Great Thanksgiving

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.**

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy ELW page 108

Thanksgiving at the Table

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Invitation to Communion

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

*Bethlehem Lutheran Church believes in the real presence of Christ in Holy Communion, and we practice eucharistic hospitality. **All persons**, whether visiting or a member, are welcomed to Communion.*

Communion Music

Lamb of God

ELW page 112

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

ELW 712

Post Communion Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in grace unto everlasting life. **Amen.**

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.

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**

Sending Hymn

God's Work, Our Hands

ACS 1000

Dismissal

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude



Karina Roth

NO MORE PENNIES! Unfortunately, the bank no longer accepts pennies so we appreciate only silver coins in the “noisy change” that the children collect during worship. Thank you!

This week we lift up these members: Mary Sanders, Kathy Bolstad, Kristin Lindholm, Rolf Morck, Linda Zenk, Clayton Koss, Kamryn Johnson, Lois Johnson, Butch & Rhonda Schulte, Linda Zenk, Luke Gulstrand, Sarah Coe, Lynn Schulte, Paulina Backstrom, Phyllis Olson, Joan Bieber, Gene & Barbara Erickson, Bruce & Stacey Johnson, Annalisa Winje; Shae Lindholm, Char Anderson, Stacey Schulte, Hank Ferland, Ramiro Acero, Margaret Dahl, Katrina Crouse, Tom Christiansen, Karen Shannon

This week we lift up these members: Guy, Sheila & Patience Sifferath; Martha Williams; Lavona Czaplicki; Parker, Katie & Sophia Slanga; and Pat & Valerie Eliasen. May God walk with these faithful friends in their journey of peace with Christ.



Our Mission of the Month for February is the Activities Department of our local Care Center. We want to provide funds for more social events, equipment for games, and materials

that will allow residents to pursue creative hobbies that they once enjoyed or would like to try for the first time. We know that isolation and feelings of loneliness are harmful to both mental and physical health. Helping to provide for more social interaction is one way our church can show that we care for all of the residents there. **Our committee is planning to host a party at the Care Center on February 14 (Saturday) at 2:00 pm.** We will be hoping for a good turnout of members who will be willing to spend a little time - sharing laughs and showing love and care for the people there.





FEBRUARY 18TH

JOIN US FOR SOUP
SUPPER AT 5:30PM

WORSHIP AT 6:00 PM



Annual Valentine Cookie Pack:

**Friday February 13
@ 10am.** Cookies

should be dropped off
before that time. *Do you
know someone who would
like a cookie pack?* Are
you available to help make
deliveries? If so, please
inform the office.

**Traveler Cards and Local
Grocery Cards** are available
from BLC to members of the
community that need help. Please
contact the office.

Table Tennis every Thursday at
6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.
Paddles, balls and tables will be
available, all you need to do is
show up. **Everyone is welcome**,
absolutely no experience or table
tennis skills are necessary.

**Quilters are down to 3 (three!)
gals! and are seeking more fun-
loving helpers!** Every Thursday
morning at 9 to 11:30am. Come
as you are able. No experience
necessary.



On-line giving is encouraged
using this QR Code or through
automatic transfer. (Forms are
available online & the office.)

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This Week at Bethlehem:

Sun Feb 8	8:40 AM Choir Practice 10:00AM Worship Service & Sunday School
Mon Feb 9	11:30 PM Daisy Troop 3:30 PM Girl Scouts 5:00 PM Girl Scout Leaders 6:30 PM Executive Committee meeting
Tues Feb 10	8:30 AM Staff meeting 5:30 PM Girl Scouts
Wed Feb 11	12:30 PM Text Study 5:30 PM Community Meal 6:00 PM Worship 6:30 PM Confirmation
Thurs Feb 12	8:00 AM Bible Study 9:00 AM Quilting 9:30 AM Esther Circle 6:30 PM Table Tennis
Fri Feb 13	10:00 AM Cookie Pack
Sat Feb 14	2:00 PM Bingo at Care Center
Sun Feb 15	8:40 AM Choir practice 10:00 AM Worship Service & Sunday School 2:00 PM Worship at Care Center

CYF Upcoming Events

Owl Night Lock In, Feb 21-22. Grades 6-12

Communion Learners Classes: March 15, 22 & 29,
11:00am after worship. Grades 3-5 or anyone that
has missed this class.

Bethlehem Builders Club! After school program,
grades 3-5, Wednesdays after school in March. 3:30-
5:30pm

Summer Camp: \$250 scholarships available for
students going to a Christian Camp this summer.

Vacation Bible School: July 13-17, gr K-5. 9-noon.
Youth gr 6-12 can help lead!

See Jess for more information:

507-530-2763, blcyouth@boreal.org