

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

February 1, 2026 - Setting 1

The Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Pastor Calvin Konop, Presiding

Jess Christenson, CYF Director

Karina Roth, Musical Director

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

Introduction

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

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

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Canticle of Praise

This is the Feast

ELW page 101

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, **you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, 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!* The bank no longer is accepting pennies- please refrain from including them in the "Noisy Change".

First Reading

Micah 6:1-8

¹ Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel.

³ "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!" ⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

⁶ "With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?"

⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" ⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

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

¹ Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

² **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the
Lord. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their
word.**

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes
against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be
overthrown.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the
debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹
For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through
wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save
those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³
but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and
foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and
Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's
foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger
than human strength.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were
wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of
noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the
wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God
chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to
abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of
God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for
us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and
redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast
in the Lord."

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

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

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

Sermon

Pastor Calvin Konop

Hymn of the Day Let Streams of Living Justice ELW 710

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.*)

God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified.

We pray for social justice and humanitarian aid ministries. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of old growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. Preserve the diversity of life on earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way *We pray especially for 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.**

God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you. 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

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

Build A Longer Table

ACS 1062

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

Rise Up, Saints of God

ELW 669

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. Thank you!

This week we lift up these members: 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: Mitch & Cindy Everson; Gary & Ann Jorgenson; Hana, Tom, Kate & Aaron Crosby; Seth, Kelsi, Aubrey, Blake, Bevie & Teddie Williams; and Kali Blomberg, Ashtyn & Brooklyn Nelson. May God walk with these faithful friends in their journey of peace through Christ.

Our deepest heartfelt sympathies & condolences to Kathy Bolstad for the loss of her dear husband Ed, who passed away last weekend. May our loving Savior give you peace in your soul knowing that Ed has been welcomed into the joy of his Father in heaven. (A memorial service will be in the spring.)

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.

Annual Valentine Cookie Pack: 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. More info in the February newsletter.



Oddz & Endz Payout received \$11,894! Thank you to Patti Beyer & Ann Swallow Gillis for contributing their volunteer hours to Bethlehem! Thanks to all who support & donate! We are grateful!

LENT begins with Ash Wednesday February 18th.
5:30 pm Meal; 6-7pm Worship service.

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.)



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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This Week at Bethlehem:

Sun Feb 1	8:40 AM Choir Practice 10:00AM Worship Service & Sunday School
Tues Feb 3	8:30 AM Staff meeting
Wed Feb 4	12:30 PM Text Study 5:30 PM Community Meal 6:00 PM Worship 6:30 PM Confirmation
Thurs Feb 5	8:00 AM Bible Study 9:00 AM Quilting 6:30 PM Table Tennis
Sun Feb 8	8:40 AM Choir practice 10:00 AM Worship Service & Sunday School 11:30 PM Daisy Troop

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