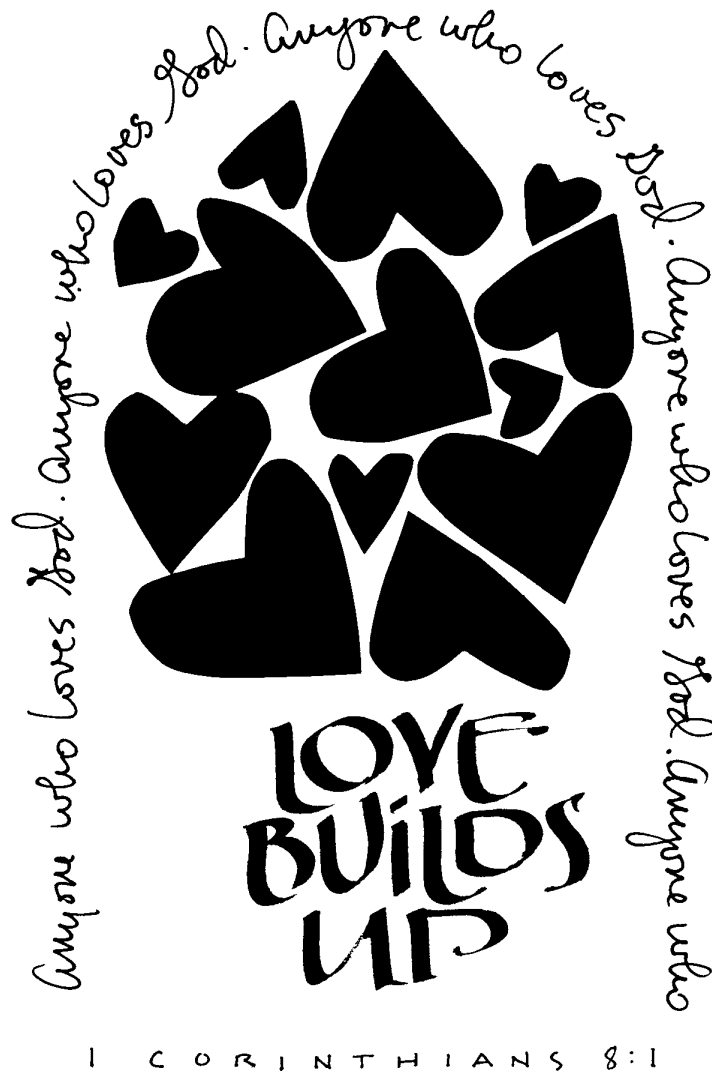


SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 28, 2024

January 28, 2024
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God, our rock and refuge,
we pour out our hearts before you.
We have known you but have not always loved you.
We have wounded one another
and sinned against you.
We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit
dwelling in each of us.
Remember your covenant.
Renew your creation.
Restore us,
that we might proclaim your good news to all.
Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.
God has spoken:
The time of grace is now.
In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.
By the authority of ✝ Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
You are God's beloved.
Amen.

*Please stand, as able.

***GATHERING SONG *Open Your Ears, O Faithful People* (ELW 519)**



1 O - pen your ears, O faith-ful peo - ple, o - pen your ears and hear God's word.
 2 They who have ears to hear the mes - sage, they who have ears, now let them hear;



O - pen your hearts, O roy - al priest-hood, God has come to you.
 they who would learn the way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.

Refrain



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
 God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
 God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
 God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
 God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: Hasidic traditional; Willard F. Jabusch, b. 1930, English version
 Music: YISRAEL V'ORAITA, Hasidic tune
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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.

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE *Christ, Be Our Light* (ELW 715)**

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
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***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM *There is a Balm in Gilead* (ELW 614)

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

A reading from Deuteronomy.

Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any

prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 111

(read responsively between lector and congregation, beginning with the lector)

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with ¹ my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the ¹ congregation.

²**Great are your ¹ works, O LORD,
pondered by all who de- ¹ light in them.**

³Majesty and splendor ¹ mark your deeds,
and your righteousness en- ¹ dures forever.

⁴**You cause your wonders to ¹ be remembered;
you are gracious and full ¹ of compassion.**

⁵You give food to ¹ those who fear you,
remembering forev- ¹ er your covenant.

⁶**You have shown your people the power ¹ of your works
in giving them the lands ¹ of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithful- ¹ ness and justice;
all of your pre- ¹ cepts are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forev- ¹ er and ever,
because they are done in ¹ truth and equity.**

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your cove- ¹ nant forever;
holy and awesome ¹ is your name.

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the begin- ¹ ning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God’s praise en- ¹ dures
forever.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Alleluia! Lord and Savior

Alleluia! Lord and Savior



Text: Gracia Grindal, b. 1943

Music: UNSER HERRSCHER, Joachim Neander, 1650–1680

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***GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON REV. ALAN WILSON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* (ELW 886)



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
- 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!
- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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***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 CHURCH** (*Please respond.*)

P: God of grace, C: receive our prayer.

PEACE

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

OFFERTORY *In the Bleak Midwinter Verse 3*



3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894
Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.
Blessed are you, Holy One,
for all good things come from you.
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table,
that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus,
in whose name we pray.
Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

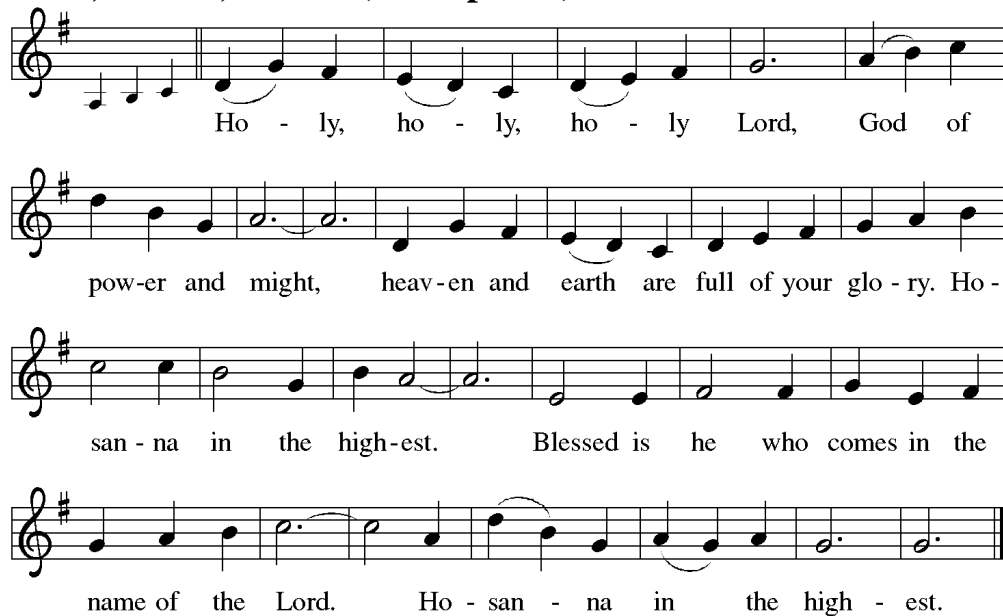
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 108)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

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.

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.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.
Come and see.

COMMUNION

Continuous - Please continue down center aisle at the direction of the usher. After you receive the bread, you may take a cup of red wine or white grape juice from the tray. Please place your empty communion cup in the basket. Gluten free wafers are available, ask the Pastor when you come forward. Please notify the Head Usher if you would appreciate receiving Communion at your seat rather than walking up to the altar, the Pastor and Communion Assistant will be happy to bring Communion to you.

COMMUNION SONG



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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN *Healer of Our Every Ill* (ELW 612)

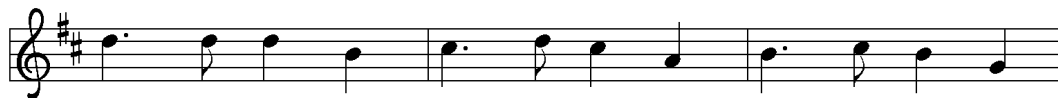
Refrain



Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,



give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.



- 1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
- 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
- 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
- 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your



Refrain

peace and glad-ness; Spir-it of all com-fort, fill our hearts.
still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir-it of all kind-ness, be our guide.
way of heal - ing; Spir-it of com-pas - sion, fill each heart.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen

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*COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.
Giver of every gift,
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.
Raise us to life by your power
for the benefit of all and to your glory,
now and forever.
Amen.

*BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

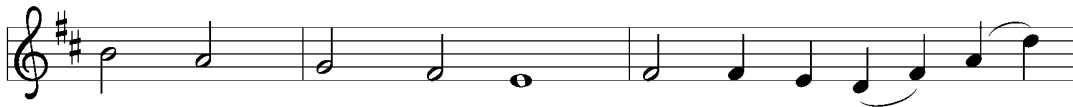
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

*SENDING SONG *Jesus Shall Reign* (ELW 434)



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

Thanks be to God.

EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLE/SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

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SERVING TODAY

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Church Office Email Address	office@solomonslutheran.org
Pianist	Heidi Shenberger
Head Usher	Ron Coldsmith
Acolyte	Wayne Dale
Lector.....	Kathy Bowen
Securing Offering	Janice McEntire & Brian Coldsmith
Communion Set-Up.....	Ilona & Jerry Laney
Communion Clean-Up	Ilona & Jerry Laney
Communion Bread	Janice McEntire
Communion Assist	Janice McEntire
Attendance last Sunday.....	41

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the Glory of God.

Welcome Visitors! We welcome you to our worship service. We hope your visit with us will be a time of blessing. If you have any concerns, please talk to the Head Usher. We invite you to worship with us again!

Prayer requests for the following: *Friends & family of Ronnie Bingaman, Karen, Phil Johnson, Tim Tweedy, Missy Moreui, Becky Ensinger, Ron Bunting, Rose Wishard, Bobby Seilhamer, Sam Mull, Lilly Chiado, Bernie Harris, Phyllis Brehm, Catherine Plummer, Bonnie Hudson, Marty Wenger, Virginia Detwiler, Callie Mummert, Matthew, Lexi and Brooke Bowen, Jim & Carole Darr, Beth Floyd, Sarge and Barb Weaver, Tina Smith, Patricia Yetter, Nancy Marshall, Darrell Veilleux, Linda Wepking, Bill and Jane Brindle, Jean Jackson, Marjorie McMullin, Joe Mock, Ina Shreiner, Genny Grant, Frances Kramer, Linda Russ, Carol Locke, Betty Amt, Ukrainian Nation, Peace for the World.* If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire. **Please Be Aware: If you would like to remain listed on the next month's list, or if you would like to have your name removed from the list before the end of the month, please call the office.**

Weekly Calendar Reminders:

February 1 – Choir Practice 7PM

We welcome Pastor Alan Wilson to lead our worship this morning. Pastor Wilson has been here several times recently, so we welcome him back! Pastor Mike is helping lead a worship service at St. Paul AME Zion Church in Gettysburg this morning. Pastor Mike will be in the office here tomorrow.

There will be two Ash Wednesday services on February 14: Noon and 7:00PM. Both services will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. Ash Wednesday begins Lent. The ashes are made from the palms we wave on Palm Sunday. Wearing the ashes reminds us of our mortality and focuses our hearts on our need for repentance.

If anybody has palms in your home from last year, please bring them next weekend and leave them in the Sunday School room. They will be used to make ashes for Ash Wednesday.

The 2023 Annual Contribution Letters are in your mailboxes. Please pick up your letter. The letters left in the mailboxes will be mailed. If your statement is incorrect, please contact Janice McEntire, Financial Secretary.

Epiphany Jazz Worship – Frist Lutheran Church (43 W. Washington Street, Chambersburg, PA 17201) is pleased to invite you to worship with us on Sunday, February 4 at 10:45 a.m. AS THE Buzz Jones Quintet from Gettysburg leads us in an Epiphany Jazz Liturgy and worship with Holy Communion on this day. Parking is available kitty-corner from the church in the Southgate Shopping Plaza.

Cancellation Notification. In the event of inclement weather, Solomon's will announce that our worship services are cancelled by sending an email to the entire membership who have email addresses. Also, the phone message on the office phone at the church (717-267-2266), will announce when services are cancelled. **On a weekend, this will be done by 4:00pm Saturday.** If you receive an email notifying you of a cancellation and if you know a friend who does not have email, please contact them. **If the church office does not have your current email address, please let Kimberly in the church office know this as soon as possible, so it can be updated!** Above all, safety is our most important concern, so please do not take any unnecessary chances.

There will be a Congregation Meeting on February 25th after the worship service to approve the annual report.

Souper Bowl time is here - The Super Bowl is February 11. We don't know who will be playing yet. As soon as we know who is playing, we will have two boxes in the Sunday school room identified with the teams. Place a can of soup in the box of your choice. Based on the number of items in each box, we will determine Solomon's Souper Bowl winner.

Please consider signing up for altar flowers for the 2024 calendar year. There are a lot of available Sundays.

We are looking for 2 volunteers to attend our Synod Assembly on June 1 at Trinity Lutheran Camp Hill. Please call Ron Coldsmith if interested.

If you are not taking your altar flowers home, please let Kathy Bowen know to whom or to where you would like them donated. Thanks.

If you are in need of pastoral care, please notify Pastor Mike Allwein at 717-357-3814.
Sunday Morning Bible Study - Pastor Mike 's Bible study is held every Sunday, beginning at 9:00 a.m. We conclude at 9:50 a.m., to prepare for worship. We look at one of the Scripture texts for the following Sunday. If you cannot join us every week, please join us when you are able! The Bible is our Book of Faith!

Copies of today's sermon can be found in the office room at the rear of the worship space. Pick one up before service if this will be helpful in hearing the sermon; or, pick one up to take home if you wish to use it reflect on throughout this upcoming week.

The 2024 Chart for Altar flowers is in the office to the left when entering the front door of the sanctuary. The cost of the two vases will be \$50.00 per week. You will continue to provide Kimberly with the information for the bulletin prior to the week before the Sunday you choose. Include the cost of \$50.00 with the bulletin information.

Power Pack Meals: The need for nutritious food for New Franklin Elementary School students in need. Please consider donating individual serving size fruit and vegetable cups, individual packages of mac-n-cheese, Chef Boyardee, 8 oz bottles of water, juice boxes, and yahoo chocolate drink. Monetary donations are accepted as well, please write "power pack meals" in the memo of your check.

Bulletin Announcement Forms are in both pamphlet racks. Please submit all bulletin announcements to the office by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday for inclusion in the bulletin.

Council Minutes, Monthly Financial Statement and Committee Minutes are available in the library for anyone to read.

JANUARY 28, 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



Jesus shows his power over evil.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 1:21-28	Jesus teaches in the synagogue
Monday	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	A new prophet like Moses
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Love builds up others
Wednesday	Acts 10:34-43	Gentiles hear the good news
Thursday	Luke 4:31-37	The man with the unclean spirit
Friday	Matthew 4:1-11	The temptation of Jesus
Saturday	Psalm 111	Praise for God's wonderful works
Sunday	Mark 1:29-39	Jesus heals many people

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

They [worshipers] were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching-with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."

Mark 1:27 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of power and might, we thank you for being with us in the challenges of life; help us to live lives of praise to you through Jesus Christ, the Holy One of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, in your grace and mercy you remember us and feed us. We thank you for this meal and your faithfulness to all. In Jesus' name, amen. (Psalm 111:4-7)

A Blessing to Give:

May the power of God protect you through Jesus.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Think or talk about a time you felt your life was out of control.
- Do you turn to God when life feels out of control? Explain.

HYMN OF THE WEEK

God of Grace and God of Glory



DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 1:21-28.

It is revealing that in this reading in Mark, the first act of Jesus beyond teaching is an exorcism. What is doubly revealing is that in the Gospel of John, there are no exorcisms. For Mark, this act of Jesus is critical. A man with an unclean spirit was helpless in the face of powers he could not control. Sin, the human condition of brokenness and alienation from God, is the fundamental power that we cannot control. Whatever form it takes, an unclean spirit taps into a life that needs redemption. The unclean spirits of murder, adultery, false witness, racism, and more are examples of our readiness to thoughts and actions that destroy instead of give life. Jesus came to redeem us so that we may live lives of praise to God and love for all others. It is quite fitting that Jesus' first act is an exorcism. Jesus will do battle with myriad forms of human brokenness and win. This is Mark's way of describing the *"beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God"* (Mark 1:1).

Discuss: How would you describe the good news of Jesus for us?

Pray: **Almighty and merciful God, we give you praise for your power that conquers evil for the sake of all that you have created through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help someone who feels powerless over a specific situation?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

February 2 is the Church festival day for the "Presentation of the Lord." The festival recalls that forty days after his birth, Jesus was presented at the temple in Jerusalem. This festival is also known as "Candlemas" because of the tradition of blessing candles for use throughout the coming year. This is associated with Simeon's words about Jesus being *"a light to reveal God to the nations."* (Luke 2:32) Light a new candle to use this year as part of your devotions and pray: **Lord God, thank you for giving us Jesus as a bright light in our lives. Bless us as we gather around this candle. May it remind us that Jesus is with us. Amen.**