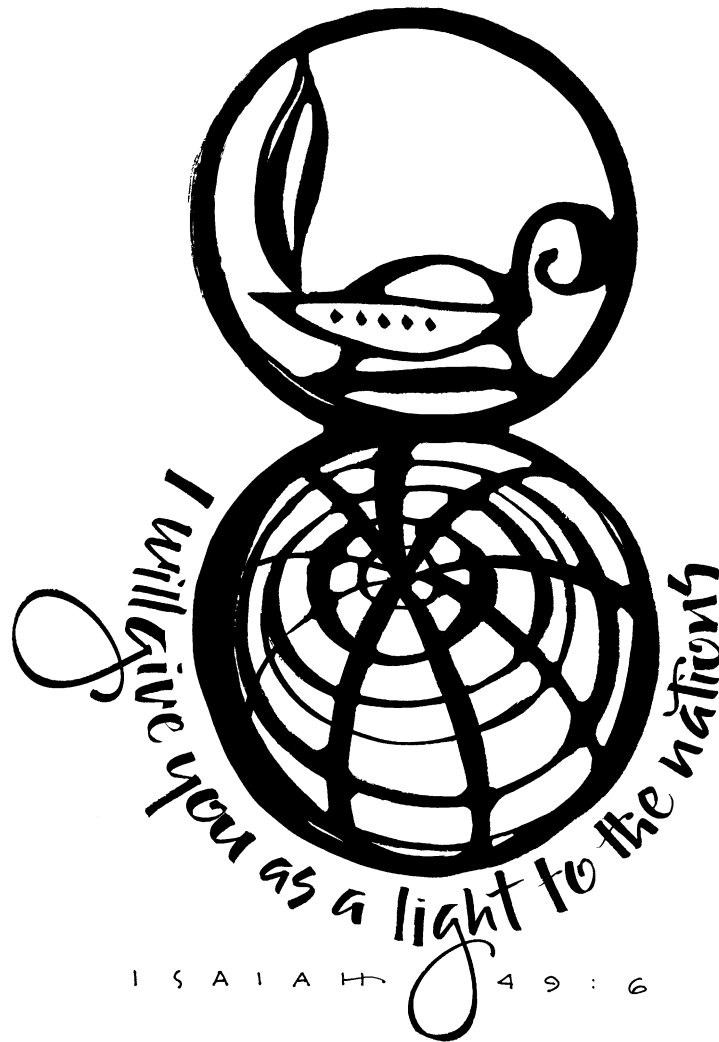


SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others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

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 18, 2026

January 18, 2026
Second Sunday after Epiphany

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.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGAN PRELUDE *Let Us Break Bread Together* - arr. Douglas Wagner

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

***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.

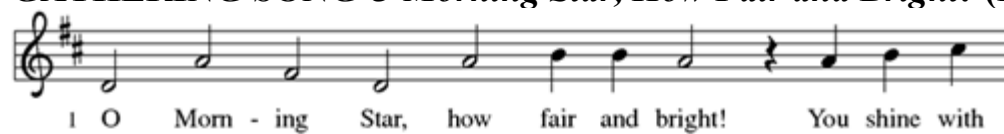
Amen.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

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.

***GATHERING SONG *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!* (ELW 308)**



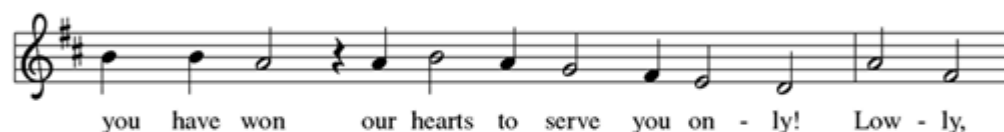
4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us,



when not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him here



and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion. Al - le -



lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life



for - ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!

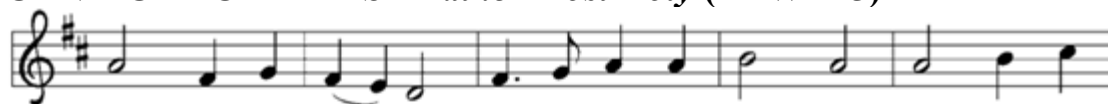
5 Oh, let the harps break forth in sound!
Our joy be all with music crowned,
our voices gaily blending!
For Christ goes with us all the way—
today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out!
Jubilation!
Exultation!
Tell the story!
Praise to Christ, who reigns in glory!

6 What joy to know, when life is past,
the Lord we love is first and last,
the end and the beginning!
He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
transport us to that happy place
beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen!
Come, Lord Jesus!
Crown of gladness!
We are yearning
for the day of your returning.

*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 *Father Most Holy* (ELW 415)



1 Fa - ther most ho - ly, mer - ci - ful, and ten - der; Je - sus, our

4 Lord God Al - mighty, un - to thee be glo - ry, one in three



Sav - ior, with the Fa - ther reign - ing; Spir - it of com - fort,

per - sons, o - ver all ex - alt - ed! Glo - ry we of - fer,



ad - vo - cate, de - fend - er, light nev - er wan - ing.

praise thee and a - dore thee, now and for - ev - er.

Text: Latin hymn, 10th cent.; tr. Percy Dearmer, 1867–1936, alt.

Music: CHRISTE SANCTORUM, Paris *Antiphoner*, 1681

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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.

CHOIR ANTHEM *Lamb of God* - Twila Paris

FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:1-7

A reading from Isaiah.

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

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

- ¹ I waited patiently up- | on 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 com- | pared 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 writ- | ten 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 compas- | sion from me;
may your steadfast love and your truth continually | keep me safe.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

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.

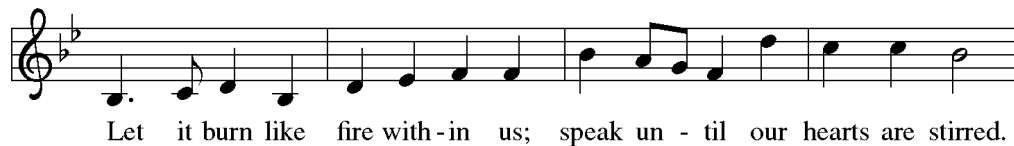
- ¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,
- ² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their 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 (ELW S 205A)**



***GOSPEL: John 1:29-42**

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

SERMON Rev. Julia Brown

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *What Wondrous Love Is This* (ELW 666)



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
 I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink - ing down
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
 Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

WELCOME NEW MEMBER – Jaren Nitterhouse

Please join me as we confirm our faith together in the words of the apostles' creed.

***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: Merciful God, C: receive our prayer.

***PEACE**

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

***OFFERTORY (VS 1 & 3) *For the Fruit of All Creation* (ELW 679)**



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.

3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.

For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,

For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.

most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

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***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

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.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

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**

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste 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. 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 (ELW p. 154)

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 *Let Us Break Bread Together* (ELW 471)

1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing
sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

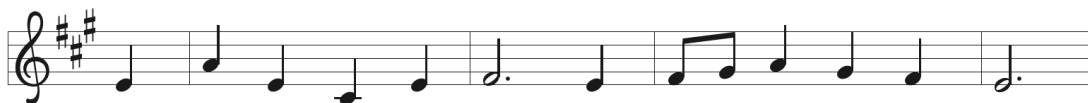
*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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 SONG *Arise, Your Light Has Come!* (ELW 314)



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.
Thanks be to God.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES/SILENT PRAYER

ORGAN POSTLUDE *Postlude in C* - Christian Cappelen

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SERVING TODAY

Interim Pastor	Rev. Julia Brown
Church Office Email Address	office@solomonslutheran.org
Organist	Mary-Jo Bedsworth
Head Usher	Ron Coldsmith
Acolyte	Janice McEntire
Lector.....	Rich McEntire
Securing Offering.....	Janice McEntire
Communion Set-Up.....	Marjorie Dale
Communion Clean-Up	Marjorie Dale
Communion Bread	Janice McEntire
Communion Assist.....	Ron Coldsmith
Attendance last Sunday.....	27

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!

Weekly Calendar Reminders:

January 20 - Property 1pm
 Social Ministry 7:00pm
22 - Choir 7pm

Any pastoral care or concerns can be addressed to Pastor Julia Brown by email
jlouisebrown@msn.com or phone 703-434-9220.

Prayer requests for the following: *Dennis Hose, Sam Brooks, Ellie Martin, Teahana, Carol Locke, Carole Rau, Peggy Weller, William Brindle, Patricia Yetter, Kaitlyn Dovey, Norm Kuykendall, Phil Johnson, Nancy Deardorff, Susie Bingaman, Patsy Wildeson, Glenn Wildeson, James Bersch, Kristen Hardman, Brandan DeShong, Charles Carl, Marty Wenger, Nancy Marshall, Betty Amt, our world & country, Debbie Aschmann, Donna, Karen, Chuck Bedsworth, Linda Mumaugh, Katy Klutz, Becky Ensinger, and all the Homebound. If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire, 717-264-3702.*

Please Be Aware: *We wish to be a praying congregation, and especially for those who are sick or experiencing difficult times. We will continue to name person's (first name only) aloud each Sunday, and we will hold each name for a month. In order to keep our list updated we ask that by the final Thursday of the month, but please call Janice McEntire 717 264-3702 to keep the name on for an extra month. Any name can remain for as long as desired, but we need to hear from the person adding the name, or we will presume the name can be removed. Thank you for your understanding.*

Communion will be served on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month in addition to all church holidays.

Bible Study on John's Revelation. Wednesdays at 10:00 in the fellowship center conference room beginning January 21. Books (*Faithful and True: A Study Guide to the Book of Revelation* by Greg Carey) are available for pickup at the church.

There is a copy of the 2026 Church Directory in your mailbox and extra copies available on the table by the bulletin board in the Sunday School Room.

The 2026 Chart for Altar flowers is on the table in the Sunday School room. The cost of the two vases will be \$60.00 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 \$60.00 with the bulletin information.

Weekends of Wonder: Weekends of Wonder is a children's Christian education program offered by Solomon's UCC. On the second Saturday of every month, children ages 3 years and older can join Solomon's from 9:30 AM until noon for stories, songs, and activities designed to teach about God and God's love. Meanwhile, our hope is that guardians are enjoying a well-deserved sabbath! For more information and to download the registration form, visit <https://www.mysolomonsucc.org/childrens-ministry.html>. **If you would like to volunteer, please contact Pastor Julia to get connected.**

Power Pack Meals: We are once again collecting nutritious food for New Franklin Elementary School students in need during the 2025-2026 school year. Please place the items you donate in the tote in the Sunday School room. If you would like to give a monetary donation, please make your check payable to Solomon's Lutheran Church and put Power Pack Meals in the memo of your check.

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.

The 2026 sign-up charts for Acolyte, Lector etc. are on the table in the Sunday School room. Please sign up for as many as you can.

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.

Music Notes/Hymn Notes:

Our gathering hymn this morning, “O Morning Star How Fair and Bright” was originally written by Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608) and later translated into English by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878). The hymn is sometimes called the “Queen of Chorales,” the “King of Chorales” being Nicolai’s “Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying” (ELW #436). The hymn is based on many different biblical texts including Revelation 21:16, “I am the root and offspring of David, the bright and morning star.” Other names for Christ appear throughout the hymn: Sovereign, Root of Jesse, David’s Son, Lord, Master, heavenly Brightness, Love Divine, and Crown of Gladness. Though in Germany the hymn was used for many years in weddings and funerals, it often appears today in the Epiphany sections of hymnals because of the imagery of light in the text. (umcdiscipleship.org)

Our Hymn of the Day this morning, *What Wondrous Love Is This*, seems to express awe at the love of God and is somewhat reminiscent of the text of John 3:16. The text was first published in 1811, but there are few clues as to the author or composer. The melody has a Celtic influence and first made its appearance in the valleys of the Southern Appalachians. It was included in the historic *Southern Harmony*, compiled by William Walker. The hymn is simple and persistent. Each stanza of the hymn has a single thought which is underscored by repetition. It is this repetition that is said to come from one who has experienced the profound sacrificial love of Christ. However, it is the haunting melody that has made this hymn a popular one in this country. (Hymnary.org; Wikipedia; Discipleship Ministries.org; Lovelace: Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins, pg. 112).

The choir anthem this morning, *Lamb of God (Your Only Son)* was written by Twila Paris (born 1958), an American contemporary Christian music singer, songwriter, author, and pianist. *Lamb of God*, along with *He Is Exalted*, *We Will Glorify*, and *We Bow Down*, are examples of her earlier songs and are found in today’s church hymnals or otherwise sung in church settings. In our gospel reading this morning, John the Baptist repeatedly refers to Jesus as the Lamb of God, making this a perfect choice for the anthem this morning. (If you’d like to follow along, or even join us, the music and words can be found in our hymnal #336)