

The background is a light beige color with a central, intricate starburst or fractal-like pattern. This pattern consists of multiple overlapping, curved lines that create a sense of depth and light emanating from a central point. The lines extend towards the corners of the image, creating a perspective effect.

LIGHT  
has come

into the  
WORLD!

(John 3:19)



**January 7, 2024**

**Epiphany 1**

*Welcome to our visitors! We appreciate your joining our worship family this morning, and we invite you to sign our guest book. If you would like more information about our church, please contact the pastor at 414-427-9337.*

**Sunday family worship...9:00 a.m.**  
**Sunday school and Bible class follow the service**

**Today's Worship**  
*"I am the light of the world" (Jn. 8:12)*

**Greeting and prayer:**

**Invocation:**

**P:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

**P:** I see him, but not now;

**C:** I behold him, but not near.



P: A star will come out of Jacob;  
C: a scepter will rise out of Israel.

## Hymn 396: *Arise and Shine in Splendor*

### Confession and Absolution:

P: I confess to almighty God,

C: before all the company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned greatly in thought, word, and deed through my fault, through my own fault, through my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray almighty God, for the sake of Jesus Christ, His Son, to have mercy on me, forgive me my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.

P: Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. And in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.



C: 1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,  
3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,  
Of heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing.  
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.  
At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:  
We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,  
O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,  
Who, with the Spir - it wor - shipped and a - dored,  
Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.  
Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.  
With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

## **Prayer:**

P: O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Old Testament lesson:**

**Isaiah 60:1-6....The light of salvation shines out and draws people from every corner of the world.**

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

## **Choir: *The People Who Walked in Darkness***

*The people who walked in darkness awaken to see a great light.  
The people who dwelt in the land of the shadow rise to a star shining bright.*

### *Refrain*

*His name is Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty God,  
Father forever, Prince of Peace.*

*For God has enlarged the nation and prospered the fruit of its land.  
God's people are blest with the harvest of vict'ry, gift from a bountiful hand.*

*The yoke of despair and bondage, the chains and the slave-master's rod  
Are shattered and scattered like dust in a windstorm loosed by the justice of God.*

*For us now a child is given, for all the despised and forlorn.  
The rule of compassion shall rest on his shoulder. God's own Messiah is born.*

*How vast is our God's dominion! How far truth and mercy extend.  
The zeal of the Lord will accomplish its purpose: justice shall reign without end.*

## **Epistle lesson:**

### **Ephesians 3:1-12....By faith, Gentiles too are members of God's family.**

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

## **Nicene Creed**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Hymn 401: *From God the Father, Virgin-Born***

### **Sermon: Matthew 2:1-12**

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

“‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently

for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.”

After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

### **JUST FOLLOW THE SIGNS**

#### **I. Signs given by God**

#### **II. Signs leading to Jesus**

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C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me

not a - way from Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly

Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of

Your sal - va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

## Offering

### The Prayer of the Church

*Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.*

*(Minute of silence)*

P: O God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, we praise You for revealing Your gracious will of salvation through the lamp of Your Word, through the light of Christ. In Jesus, the light of Your salvation has shone in the hearts of people of all nations. Hear our prayers for the life and salvation of all people. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Gracious Lord, as the star spread the news of Your Son's birth over distant lands, so make Your Church and her people to be a shining witness of the Gospel to all people, both near and far. We pray for our fellow believers in India who have suffered damage to churches and property from a recent Cyclone. Provide the means to rebuild and repair, that the light of Jesus may continue to shine out from them. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: O Christ, give wisdom to those who lead. Grant that they govern justly and with faithfulness, according to Your gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lord Jesus, bless all those who are ill, injured, or in mourning. Fill them with the assurance of Your promises, and grant that we may be of help and encouragement to them. We pray especially in behalf of Dick Arndt, father of Kristin Stewart, who is hospitalized at the VA for treatment of several serious health problems. Lord, You are the great Physician for whom nothing is impossible. According to Your will, grant healing to our loved one's body. Above all, sustain him with Your promise to never leave or forsake him. Through Your Word, comfort him with Your forgiving love and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Savior of the nations, we thank You for coming to us in a close, miraculous way by giving us Your body and blood, along with the bread and wine of Your Holy Supper. May this meal refresh and strengthen us for serving You in the new year ahead. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Father, as You led the wise men to Jesus in Bethlehem, so lead us to Him daily in our Bible reading, family devotions, and time spent with one another in Sunday school, Bible classes, and Sunday worship. Lord Jesus, as our Shepherd, be present with us in all our work, play, and activities this week. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Hymn 397: *As with Gladness Men of Old***



## THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.



P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: It is truly good, right, and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whom we behold by faith the light of the world that enlightens all people to the gift of salvation revealed in His sacrifice for the life of the whole world. Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!*



### Words of Institution

**Distribution hymn 358:** *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*

### Nunc Dimittis

*O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace,  
For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace:  
A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill.  
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.  
All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,  
All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three-in-One;  
For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,  
God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.*



P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness.

*My heart has now become Your dwelling,  
O blessed, holy Trinity.  
With angels I, Your praises telling,  
Shall live in joy eternally.  
Lord, may Your body and Your blood  
Be for my soul the highest good.*

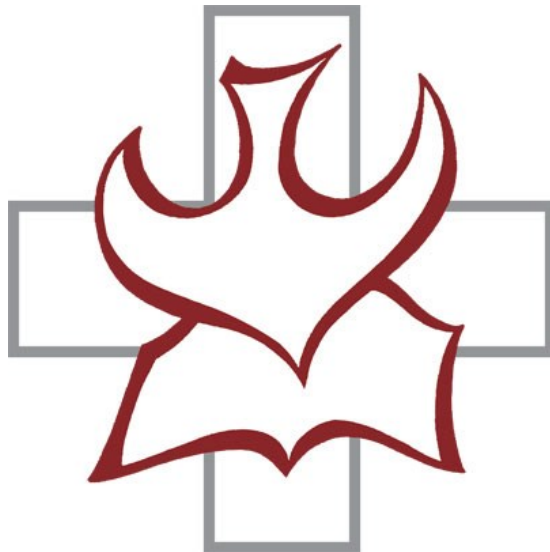


### **Benediction:**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

**Closing hymn 411:** *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*



# Announcements

## De-decorating today

The activity committee is asked to meet after Sunday school/Bible class to take down Christmas decorations and plan for upcoming events.

## Are you wise?

Would you call yourself “wise”? Would you like to be wiser? What is wisdom? This Wednesday’s Bible class will discuss the difference between the world’s wisdom and God’s wisdom in our ongoing study of James. Everyone is welcome to join us either in-person or via Zoom: Meeting ID: 883 3810 1502 Passcode: 155022.

## CLC news...

**BELC Cyclone Aid:** In early December, Cyclone Michaung struck the eastern coast of India and damaged and flooded churches of the BELC, as well as the Martin Luther Bible School (MLBS) pastor training center. Eleven of the fourteen districts of the BELC were affected. A total of 55 churches, as well as the MLBS, were damaged by the cyclone and are in need of repair. The Board of Missions has approved \$12,000 of disaster relief to be sent from Kinship to assist with building repair and reconstruction. Please remember our brethren of the BELC in your prayers, and consider supporting this effort through offerings to Kinship.

**ILC Tour Choir:** For many years the ILC Tour Choir has been granted a special rate for using a charter bus during their yearly tour in holding concerts at various CLC congregations. This year that rate is being discontinued. After comparing the cost of using various bus companies, the common rate would be approximately \$11,000 higher than expected for budgetary reasons. Normally an offering is collected during the tour which will still happen. But this year CLC President Michael Wilke is authorizing this synod-wide announcement to allow others to share in their support of the Tour Choir. This offering would help offset the extra expense needed for the bus. Therefore, if members of CLC congregations wish to support this, please designate your offering to "ILC Tour Choir."

**Walk with the Apostle Paul (Greece and Turkey trip)** - The deadline for registering for the group trip to Greece/Turkey/Italy is this week, January 12th. The trip is currently planned for May 27-June 5, 2024 with a three day extension to Rome for those who are interested. We are currently a couple of travelers short of our minimum group size. If you have been thinking of going, please register this week. The trip will include stops in Athens, Corinth, Berea, Thessaloniki, Philippi, Ephesus and visits to the traditional sites of many of the locations visited by the Apostle Paul as recorded in the Book of Acts. The extension to Rome will include visits to the Sistine Chapel, Basilica of St. Peter, Catacombs, Colosseum, St. Paul's Church, and more. A video of a similar trip can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ul-o6E47MMw>. If you would like more information, please contact Nathanael Mayhew ([nnmayhew@sleepyeyelutheran.com](mailto:nnmayhew@sleepyeyelutheran.com)). Brochures with additional trip details are available upon request.

**2024 CLC Mission Helper Trip:** Applications are still being accepted for the 2024 CLC Mission Helper Trip to Africa. Participants will have the privilege of helping to spread the Gospel to children in Kenya/Uganda, Tanzania, or Zambia in July. The application period will end on January 16th. Find more information and apply online at [www.mht.lutheranmissions.org](http://www.mht.lutheranmissions.org).

**Looking for something to read?** The tract rack in the church entry, the library shelves next to Pastor’s office, and the book case in the copier room have a variety of magazines, pamphlets, books, commentaries, and Bibles. Most are free to take or borrow. Some are available for purchase. See Brittany Albrecht for more information.

## Looking Ahead...

### ♣Tuesday:

**11:00 A.M:** New Perspective, Franklin, service.

**3:00 P.M:** Adult information.

### ♣Wednesday:

**10:00 A.M:** Villa of Greenfield service.

**6:30 P.M:** Bible class.

**7:30 P.M:** Sunday school teachers.

### ♣Thursday:

**7:00 A.M:** Adult class.

**6:00 P.M:** Bd. of Property.

### ♣Friday:

**5:00 P.M:** Bd. of Elders.

### ♣January 18th:

**6:00 P.M:** Church council.

### ♣January 28th:

**11:15 A.M:** Quarterly voters meeting.

<i>Bible Readings:</i>	
1/7	Genesis 18-19; Matthew 6
1/8	Genesis 20-22; Matthew 7
1/9	Genesis 23-24; Matthew 8
1/10	Genesis 25-26; Matthew 9:1-17
1/11	Genesis 27-28; Matthew 9:18-38
1/12	Genesis 29-30; Matthew 10:1-23
1/13	Genesis 31-32; Matthew 10:24-42

<i>January Ushers</i>	<i>Cleaning Teams 1/12-1/19</i>	
Eric Weaver Armando Hart Brian Naumann	Church:	E/H Williams B/B Naumann
<i>January Slideshow</i> Sam Lisak	School:	A. Albrecht Bailey

<i>Fruits of Faith</i>	<i>Last Week:</i>	<i>To Date:</i>
Budgetary Offerings*:	\$6,169.35	\$207,858.55
Budgetary Needs:	\$8,380.21	\$223,756.22
Over (Under) Budget:	(\$2,210.86)	(\$15,897.67)
Missions:	\$100.00	\$2,251.75
Includes 12/16-12/31 e-giving*: \$2,548.50 <i>Attendance Last Sunday: 89, 39</i>		

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