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February 16, 2025

Epiphany 6

Rejoice in that day...

A collage of numerous stickers. Most are red with the word "JOURNEY" written in white, slanted text. One prominent sticker in the center is green with the word "REWARD" written in white, bold, sans-serif text. The stickers are scattered and overlapping, creating a textured background.

REWARD

...for behold, your reward is great in heaven.

Luke 6:23

We Welcome Our Visitors who are with us this morning.

We hope that you are uplifted by the Gospel at our worship service.

We invite you to join us every Sunday. Please sign our guestbook in the entry.

If you would like more information about our church, please contact the pastor.

✠ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 1 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) ✠

Greeting and prayer: (Pastor)

Opening Hymn: "Before the Throne of God Above"

CW21 561

1 Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a strong and per - fect
2 When Sa - tan tempts me to de - spair and tells me of the guilt with -
3 Be - hold him there, the ris - en Lamb, my per - fect, spot - less right - eous -

plea; a great High Priest whose name is Love, who ev - er lives and pleads for
in, up - ward I look and see him there who made an end of all my
ness, the great un - change - a - ble I AM, the King of glo - ry and of

me. My name is grav - en on his hands, my name is writ - ten on his
sin. Be - cause the sin - less Sav - ior died, my sin - ful soul is count - ed
grace. At one with him, I can - not die; my soul is pur - chased by his

heart. I know that while in heav'n he stands no tongue can
 free; for God the just is sat - is - fied to look on
 blood. My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my

bid me thence de - part, no tongue can bid me thence de - part.
 him and par - don me, to look on him and par - don me.
 Sav - ior and my God, with Christ my Sav - ior and my God.

Text: Charitie Lees DeCheney Bancroft, 1841–1923
 Music: Vikki Cook, b. 1960

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SERVICE OF THE WORD

(Worship Supplement, p. 12)

Invocation

We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

- P** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful by nature. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy upon me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

P God our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. Through faith in Him, which was created in you by the Holy Spirit, you are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

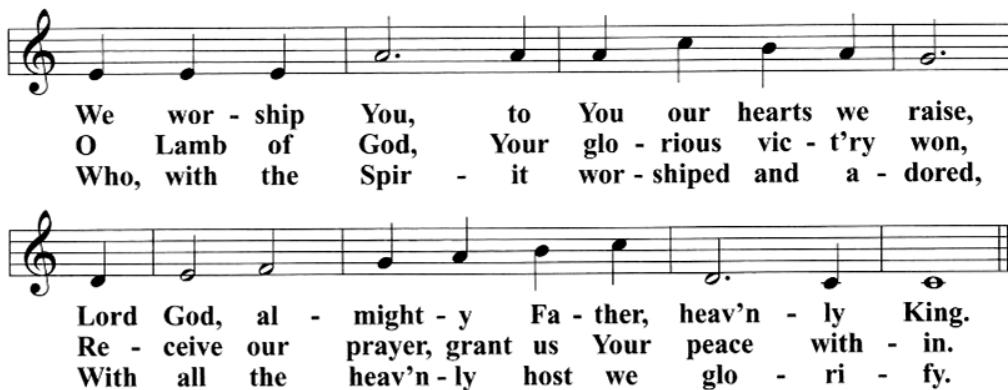
C Amen.

Kyrie *Latin for "O Lord." We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life.* W.S. p. 13

C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy
on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

Gloria in Excelsis *Latin for "Glory to God in the highest."* W.S. p. 13

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 - shiped 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 of the Day

P We pray:

O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness, to the glory of Your name. We pray this in Jesus' name, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

First Reading

Jeremiah 17:5-8 (EHV)

This is what the LORD says.

Cursed is anyone who trusts in mankind, who seeks his strength from human flesh,
 and who turns his heart away from the LORD.

⁶ He will be like a juniper bush in the wasteland.

He will not see good things when they come.

He lives in a dry place in the wilderness, in a salty land where no one lives.

⁷ But blessed is anyone who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him.

⁸ He will be like a tree planted by water. It sends out its roots to the stream.

It does not fear the heat when it comes. Its leaves will remain green.

It is not concerned about a time of drought.

It does not stop producing fruit.

Psalm of the Day – Psalm 30:1-3; 4-5 (Worship Supplement – p. 34)

I WILL EXTOL YOU, O LORD

Antiphon



Psalm Tone



I will extol You, O LORD, for You have lifted me up,*
And have not let my foes rejoice over me.

O LORD my God, I cried out to You,*
And You have healed me.

O LORD, You have brought my soul up from the grave;*
You have kept me alive, that I should not go down
to the pit.

Antiphon

Sing praise to the LORD, You saints of His,*
And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.

For His anger is but for a moment,*
His favor is for life;

Weeping may endure for a night,*
But joy comes in the morning.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Antiphon

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:12-20 (EHV)

P The second reading is from 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

C Sanctify us by Your truth, O LORD. Your Word is truth!

¹² Now if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how is it that some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is pointless, and your faith is pointless too. ¹⁵ Then we are even guilty of giving false testimony about God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise, if it were true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then it also follows that those who fell asleep in Christ perished. ¹⁹ If our hope in Christ applies only to this life, we are the most pitiful people of all.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it!

Alleluia and Verse

When God speaks to us in His Word it is natural for us to respond. We sing "Alleluia!"—meaning, "Praise the Lord!"



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day: 486 *If Christ Had Not Been Raised from Death*

LSB 486

Sermon Text: Luke 6:20-26 (ESV)

²⁰ And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you
and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man!

²³ Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so
their fathers did to the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry.

“Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

²⁶ “Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the
false prophets.

Sermon Theme: What Prize Are You Striving For?

1. The “Consolation” Prize?

† Why is the “**consolation**” Jesus speaks of in **v. 24** really no consolation at all?

2. Or The Heavenly Reward?

† How is our great “**reward in heaven**” (**v. 23**) unlike any other reward?

Application: In what ways have you been tempted to strive for the “consolation” prize of the things of this life, instead of the great “heavenly reward?”

Who and what has Jesus given us to help fight these temptations and keep our hearts and minds focused on the true “prize” of heaven that He has won for us?

Offertory

W.S. p. 16



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.

Sermon Hymn: 932 *Jesus Sat With His Disciples*

LSB 932

Offering *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*

Prayer of the Church *We bring our prayers to God.*

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.**

Benediction *The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

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



☩ A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn: 730 *What is the World to Me?* (please stand for last verse)

LSB 730

Announcements



Welcome! We welcome all our visitors this morning.
Please sign our guest book and come worship with us again soon.

Today:
2/16/25

Choir Practice – 8am
Worship – 9am
Sunday School & Bible Class – 10:15am

This Week: Tuesday – **Ladies Group – 6:30pm**
Wednesday – **Wednesday Bible Class – 6:30pm** (Zoom & In-Person)
Thursday – **Winter Party at Messiah Lutheran School – 8:30am**
Church Council Meeting – 6pm
Friday – **Great Lakes Teachers Conference** (Boerner Botanical Gardens) – **9am**
****No School at MLS****

Church Cleaning: Team #5 (2/15-2/21); Team #6 (2/22-2/28)

Next Sunday: **Choir Practice – 8am**
2/23/25 **Worship – 9am**
Sunday School & Bible Class – 10:15am
Sunday School Teachers Meeting – 11:15am (Pastor's Office)

In Your Mailbox - *Daily Rest* Daily Devotions – (March – June)

Ladies' Group – Tues. @ 6:30pm – Please join us for Ladies Group as we continue our study of a book called *Pew Sisters* (available on Amazon). We will be discussing the third chapter at our meeting this **Tues. February 18th at 6:30 PM**. Contact Lisa Lisak with questions or see the flyer on the bulletin board.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study @ 6:30pm – Please make plans to join us either in-person or online via Zoom for our Wednesday Evening Bible Class. We are studying selected Psalms. To join online please click on Pastor Luke's Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8729663333>

Pastoral "Get to Know Each Other" Visits / Pastor Luke's Contact Info – I am continuing to make "face to face" visits with our members. These include a short devotion and some time to get to know each other. Wherever is most convenient and comfortable for you will work just fine for me (my office, your home, a coffee shop, etc.). Feel free to contact me via email, text, or phone call if you know of a day and time that will work for you. If I don't hear from you, rest assured, I will be contacting you! I look forward to meeting you all and getting to know each other better soon! In Christ, Pastor Luke

Pastor's Contact Info

Email: LBerntal@messiahhc.org † Cell: **402-389-2147** † Church Office: **414-427-9337**

CLC Call News - Sam Naumann of Eau Claire, WI, has **received** the call to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Loveland, CO.<> Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, West Columbia, SC, has **received** the call to St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School, Mountain View, CA.

TVBS - Traveling VBS is a program of the CLC Mission Board which connects willing kingdom workers with CLC congregations across the United States in need of helping hands. Six congregations have already reached out for help so far! There are a variety of ways you can serve: teacher, recess or craft help, local canvassing, etc. Congregation members are delighted to host you for the week and show you local attractions on your downtime. The TVBS program covers your travel expenses. You could volunteer on your own, together with a friend, or accept the challenge as a family mission adventure. E-mail pastor_daub@hotmail.com for further information.

CLC Youth Camp at Pillager, MN - June 8-14, 2025 -

Registration opens **Saturday, March 15th at 10am CST.** CLC Youth Camp at Pillager is for campers entering grades 6th-12th. Camp runs **June 8-14th, 2025.** For more information please visit our website, <https://youthcampclc.wixsite.com/camp>, or contact Amber Casto and Ethan Sydow at youthcamp.clc@gmail.com.

Christ's Explorers Young Adult Retreat – June 19-22

We are pleased to announce that we will be opening up registration for our young adult "Christ's Explorer's Retreat" on **Saturday, March 1, at 9am EST.** The information and registration website is www.ChristsExplorers.com.

Our theme for the retreat is "Discovering Your Purpose". The discussions will be led by Pastor Glenn Oster and Professor Joe Lau.

This retreat is geared toward high school and college aged youth. It is hosted by Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church of West Columbia, SC. The retreat will be held in the beautiful mountains of Bryson City, NC, where we will stay in large group cabins and spend a lot of time outdoors enjoying God's creation. We will have outings to include hiking, river tubing, and outdoor exploration.

The retreat is **June 19-22.** Check-in will begin around 4pm on the afternoon of June 19. The retreat will conclude with a worship service on Sunday morning and dismissal at 11am.

The cost of the retreat is \$150, and this includes all expenses for the weekend (lodging, food, activities, etc.). Due to our lodging capacity, registration will be limited to 50 guests. Contact information is on the website.



CLC Financial Report - January 2025

Operating Funds	Balance 7/1/2024	YTD Revenue	YTD Disbursed	Budget 7 Months	Balance 1/31/2025
General Fund	0	701,801	705,155	765,905	(3,354)
ILC Operations (incl. CLC subsidy)	0	1,096,415	965,829	1,005,725	130,586
Auxiliary Funds					
ILC Improvement Fund (ILF)	110,979	34,092	53,954		91,117
ILC Building Projects	1,560,282	338,576	0		1,898,858
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	120,784	151,968	92,055		180,697
Kinship	169,884	89,202	96,771		162,315
Church Extension Fund (CEF)	2,684,208	345,894	230,573		2,799,529
Student Aid Fund (SAF)	117,317	57,073	148,521		25,869
EduK8 Fund	47,692	19,903	0		67,595
Reserve Fund	79,964	78,733	0		158,697
Auxiliary Funds Totals	\$4,891,110	\$1,115,441	\$621,874		\$5,384,677

General Fund – We thank the Lord for moving the hearts of His people to remember the General Fund in their recent offerings. We received about \$80,000 more than we spent in January, reducing the deficit to just over \$3,000.

ILC Operations – Revenue is up about \$27,000 over the same period as last year while disbursements are up about \$34,000.

ILC Building Projects – Year-to-date contributions have been about \$230,000. The remaining year-to-date revenue of around \$108,000 is from increases in the market value of the investments in this fund.

Church Extension Fund – Year to date revenue consists of payments received of just over \$172,000 from congregations on the loans they owe the CLC, just under \$173,000 of increases in the market value of the investments and just under \$1,000 of contributions to the fund.

Other Auxiliary Funds – The activity in the other funds in the table above is similar to the activity in the same period a year ago.

Stephen R. Lentz, CLC Treasurer

Thomas J. Lentz, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees

Bible Readings:

2/16	Gen. 35:16-36:9 Psalm 46 Matt. 22:15-33
2/17	Gen 36:10-43 Psalm 47 Matt. 22:34-46
2/18	Gen. 37:1-11 Psalm 48 Matt. 23:1-22
2/19	Gen. 37:12-36 Psalm 49 Matt. 23:23-36
2/20	Gen. 38:1-12 Psalm 50 Matt. 23:37-24:2
2/21	Gen. 38:13-30 Psalm 51 Matt. 24:3-14
2/22	Gen. 39: Psalm 52 Matt. 24:15-35

February Ushers

Ted Quade
John Marita
Matt Weibye

February Slideshow
Caleb Gerbitz

Cleaning Team 2/22-2/28

Team 6
M/C Gescheidle
M/J Plockelman
R/A Davis
D. Hein
L/N Schaller

Fruits of Faith	Last Week:	To Date:
Budgetary Offerings*:	\$11,032.30	\$241,866.35
Budgetary Needs:	\$8,571.29	\$274,281.28
Over (Under) Budget:	\$2,461.01	(\$32,414.93)
Missions:	\$300.00	\$2,005.00

***Includes January eGiving: \$6,102.80**
Attendance Last Sun. (2/9): 140



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ONLINE
OFFERING

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