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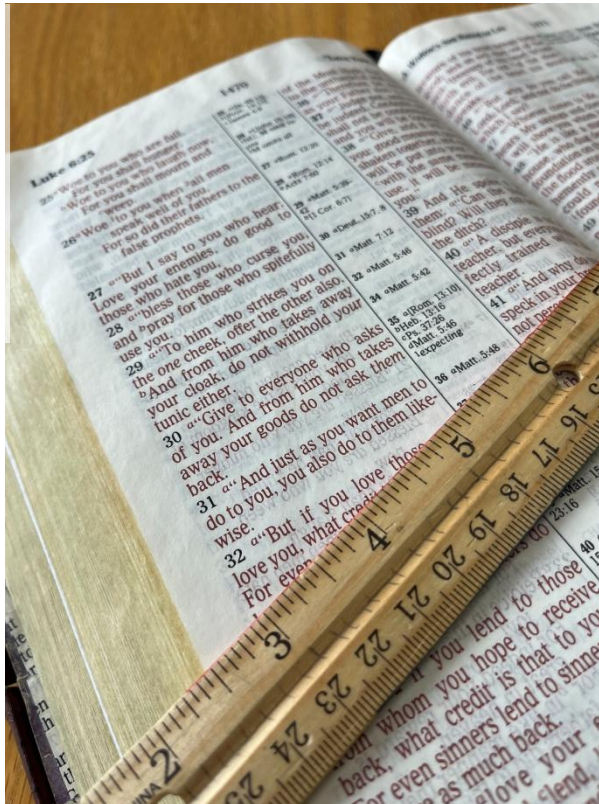
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Phone: 715-529-4030

February 23, 2024

Epiphany 7

"The Golden Rule"



Luke 6:31

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 103 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) ✠

Greeting and prayer: (Pastor)

Opening Hymn: 793 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

LSB 793

Invocation

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

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

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

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

P God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

C **If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** (1 John 1:5, 7-9)

P Let us pray...

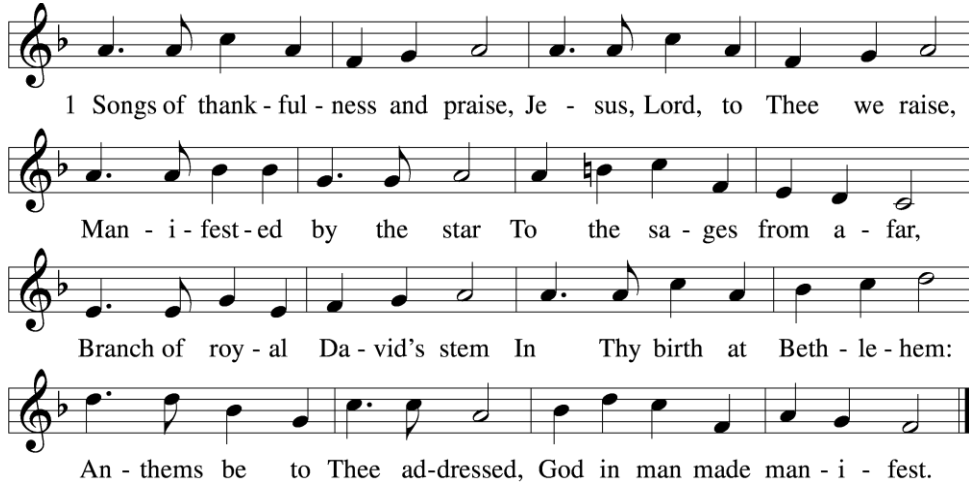
C **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer:**

We confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.

P Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven! With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the joy and peace of forgiveness let us praise the Lord...

“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”

LSB 394 v. 1



1 Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
Man - i - fest - ed by the star To the sa - ges from a - far,
Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In Thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, alt.
Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93
Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

P We pray:

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity. Help us to be loving and forgiving in the same way that You love and forgive us. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Psalm 103 (NKJV – Selected Verses - RESPONSIVE)

P Bless the LORD, O my soul,

C and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

P Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits,

C Who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

P Who redeems your life from the pit,

C Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

P Who satisfies you with good things
C **so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

P The LORD is merciful and gracious,
C **slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

P He does not deal with us according to our sins,
C **nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

P For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
C **so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him;**

P as far as the east is from the west,
C **so far does He remove our transgressions from us.**

P As a father shows compassion to His children,
C **so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him.**

P For he knows our frame;
C **He remembers that we are dust.**

P But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting
on those who fear Him,
C **and His righteousness to children's children,**

P Bless the LORD, all His works, in all places of his dominion.
C **Bless the LORD, O my soul!**

Second Reading

Genesis 45:3-15 (ESV)

P The second reading is from Genesis 45:3-15.
C **Sanctify us by Your truth, O LORD. Your Word is truth!**

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

⁴ So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. ¹⁰ You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' ¹² And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. ¹³ You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." ¹⁴ Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

P Here ends our Scripture readings.

"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

LSB 394 v. 5

5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres - ent in Thy ho - ly Word—
 Grace to im - i - tate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;
 That we might be - come like Thee At Thy great e - piph - a - ny
 And may praise Thee, ev - er blest, God in man made man - i - fest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, alt.
 Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93
 Text and tune: Public domain

**☩ 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: 814 *O Bless the Lord, My Soul*

LSB 814

Children's Sermon - *Children 10 years old and younger are invited to come up front.*

Sermon Text: Luke 6:27-38 (EHV)

²⁷ "But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. ²⁸ Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone strikes you on one cheek, offer the other too. If someone takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes away your things, do not demand them back.

³¹ "Treat others just as you would want them to treat you. ³² If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? To be sure, even the sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even the sinners do the same thing. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you expect to be repaid, what credit is that to you? Even the sinners lend to sinners in order to be paid back in full. ³⁵ Instead, love your enemies, do good and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the unthankful and the evil. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven." ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be poured into your lap. In fact, the measure with which you measure will be measured back to you."

Sermon Theme: God's "Golden Rule"

1. Do unto Others as You Would Have Them Do unto You

† How does the world often misinterpret the "Golden Rule"?

2. Do unto Others Even if They Don't Do it unto You

† What is the most important way God wants us to show our love for others, even our enemies?

Application: Think of some of the challenging and difficult people in your life. Pray that the Holy Spirit to help you show and share with them the love of Christ.

Offertory

LSB 956



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 Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Sermon Hymn: 843 "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

LSB 843

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.

The Doxology

LSB 805

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Public domain

Closing Hymn: 851 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us *(please stand for last verse)*

Announcements



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

Today:
2/23/24

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

Wednesday – **Wednesday Bible Class – 6:30pm** (Zoom & In-Person)
Friday – **Family Game Night – 6:30pm** (Activity Room – see announcements)

Church Cleaning: Team #6 (2/22-2/28); Team #7 (3/1-3/7)

Next Sunday:
3/2/24

Choir – 8am
Worship w/ Communion – 9am
Sunday School & Bible Class – 10:15am

Coming Up: **Lent Begins – Ash Wednesday Worship w/ Communion – 3/5 @ 6:30pm**

Reminder: Our members are encouraged to keep the last two pews reserved for families with small children. Thank you!

A small, white, rectangular sign with the word "RESERVED" written in black, capital letters. The sign is slightly tilted and has a drop shadow effect.



Family Game Night – Friday 2/28 @ 6:30pm – Activity Room –
Please join us for a “Family Game Night” this **Friday (2/28) @ 6:30pm**
in the Messiah Activity Room. Bring your favorite game and a snack
and/or drink to share. Hope to see you there!

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.

NOTE: This will be our last Wednesday Bible Class before the Lent & Easter season begins. We'll
resume again, Lord willing, on April 23rd. To join online please click on Pastor Luke's Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8729663333>

CLC Call News - Pastor Cory Drehle of Berea Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD, has **returned** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO. <> Pastor Johnathan Schnose of Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church, Morris, MN, has **received** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO. <> Sam Naumann of Eau Claire, WI, has **accepted** the call to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Loveland, CO.<> Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, West Columbia, SC, has **returned** the call to St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School, Mountain View, CA. <> Pastor Caleb Schaller of Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI, has **received** the call to Grace Lutheran Church, Valentine, NE, Peace Lutheran Church, Mission, SD, and St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, White River, SD. <> Pastor George Dummann of Salem Lutheran Church, Eagle Lake, MN, has **accepted** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, New Ulm, MN, to serve as their pastor along with his current call.

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

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.



The poster for CLC Youth Camp 2025 features a green background with white and yellow text. At the top, it reads "CLC YOUTH CAMP 2025" in large white letters. To the right, a yellow circle contains the text "GRADES 6-12TH". Below this, it says "JUNE 8-14TH, 2025" and "CAMP JIM, PILLAGER MN". A central collage of photos shows campers engaged in various activities like playing sports and socializing. At the bottom, it states "REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 15TH AT 10AM CST". Small text at the bottom provides the website <https://youthcampclc.wixsite.com/camp> and contact information for Amber and Ethan at youthcamp.clc@gmail.com.

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.

Bible Readings:

2/23	Gen. 40 Psalm 53 Matt. 24:36-25:13
2/24	Gen. 41:1-40 Psalm 54 Matt. 25:14-30
2/25	Gen. 41:41-57 Psalm 55 Matt. 25:31-46
2/26	Gen. 42 Psalm 56 Matt. 26:1-16
2/27	Gen. 43 Psalm 57 Matt. 26:17-35
2/28	Gen. 44 Psalm 58 Matt. 26:36-56
3/1	Gen. 45 Psalm 59 Matt. 26:57-75



SCAN FOR
ONLINE
OFFERING

March Ushers

Mike Cutler Ethan Gurgel Bryon Nelson Sr.	<u>Team 7</u> J/L Lisak E/J Nelson E/H Williams B/B Naumann M/A Whiting
March Slideshow Alex Saunders	

Fruits of Faith	Last Week:	To Date:
Budgetary Offerings*:	\$10,917.00	\$252,783.35
Budgetary Needs:	\$8,571.29	\$282,852.57
Over (Under) Budget:	\$2,345.71	(\$30,069.22)
Kinship:	\$400.00	\$2,901.96
ILC Building Fund:	\$50.00	\$2,049.75
ILC-IIF*:	\$75.00	\$1,220.35

***Includes 2/1-2/15 E-giving: \$5,802.25**
Attendance Last Sun. (2/16): 114

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