

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER, E.L.C.A.

255 West Lincoln Avenue Hartford WI 53027

Office Phone: 262-673-2550 Office email: redeemerhartford@gmail.com

Pastor Steve Rutter 715-271-3028 pastorsteve25redeemer@gmail.com

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany February 1, 2026

* Stand as you are able

GATHERING

INVOCATION

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, Savior and Lord of all.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

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 HYMN*

ELW # 522 "As We Gather at Your Table"

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.**

KYRIE (pages 184-185 in front of hymnal)

C: Sing refrain

Lori: For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all: ... let us pray to the Lord.

C: Sing refrain

Lori: That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor...let us pray to the Lord.

C: Sing refrain

Lori: For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family ... let us pray to the Lord.

C: Sing refrain

Lori: For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word ... let us pray to the

Lord

C: Sing refrain

Hymn of Praise*

ELW pages 187-188 in front of Hymnal: "This is the feast ... Allelulia"

Prayer of the Day *

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

MICAH 6:1-8

⁶ Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ² Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³ "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord." What God Requires ⁶ "With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" ⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

P: The Word of the Lord:

C: Thanks be to God

PSALM 15

¹ O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

² Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right and speak the truth from their heart;

³ who do not slander with their tongue and do no evil to their friends nor heap shame upon their neighbors;

⁴ in whose eyes the wicked are despised but who honor those who fear the Lord; who stand by their oath even to their hurt;

⁵ who do not lend money at interest and do not take a bribe against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be moved.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-31

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar?

Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in

the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. ²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards,^[a] not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one^[b] might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in^[c] the Lord."

P: The Word of the Lord: **C: Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation *

ELW# 172 "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"

P: THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 5:1-12

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵ When Jesus^[a] saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying: ³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely^[b] on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

P: The Gospel of the Lord: **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *

ELW 710 "Let Streams of Living Justice"

The Nicene Creed * (Printed inside the back cover of the hymnal.)

Welcome to our WTKM radio and online worshipers, Good News and Prayer Petitions

Prayers of the Church

Response: P: God of mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

Sharing the Peace

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

(you are encouraged to turn to one another and share the peace of the Lord.)

Offering Hymn *

ELW # 708 “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

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.

MEAL

Thanksgiving *

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. **C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Preface *

P: Lord, it is indeed right and our joy that at all times and in all places we give thanks and praise to you. And so with the angels and archangels and with the church on earth and in heaven, we give glory to you O God, through Jesus Christ, as we praise your name and join in the unending hymn:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna, in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest (pg. 144 ELW)

The Words of Institution and The Lord's Prayer *

Invitation to Communion

P: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

Hymn

ELW # 146 “Lamb of God”

Distribution

Communion Hymn *

ELW # 714 “O God of Mercy, God of Light”

SENDING

Communion Blessing *

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 *

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 Hymn *

ELW # 551 "The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve"

Dismissal *

P: Go in peace. As we serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Redeemer Announcements

- Today's Lector Michelle Burton, and our Usher is Donna Lee.
- Next week's Lector is Tom Hostad and our ushers are Kurt & Wendy Hintz.
- Pastor Curt Schneider will be our guest pastor next week.
- The next Women's Bible Study is **Monday, February 9th**, at noon. Bring a lunch and join us.
- A Church Council Meeting will be held on **Monday, February 16th** at 4:00PM.
- Conversations with God: Our next Conversations with God will be held on Thursday, **February 19th**, at 10am. We will take this time to gather for prayer, Scripture, and conversation on a different topic each month. February's topic will be "Love".
- Pastor will be in the office on **Thursday, January 29th** from 9:00am - 12:00pm. Appointments are appreciated, but not necessary. If you wish to meet with Pastor at other times, please contact him directly. Looking ahead, he will be in the office he will be in on **Wednesday, February 4th, Thursdays, February 12th, 19th, and 26th** from 9am-12pm. Pastor will be on vacation February 5th to February 10th
- The Annual Meeting will be held **TODAY following services**.
- 2025 Year End Statements are available on the round table in the Narthex.

Ministry Partners

- Special Giving for February is "Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge".
 - Community Lunch will be served on **Saturday February 28th**, 11:30am, at First United Methodist Church. Fellowship prior to lunch.
- Lincoln Elementary School

In the Nest:

- Casa Guadalupe English Language Learners "ELL" meets Monday & Wednesdays from 6-7:30PM.
- Al-Anon Meetings are held Thursdays at 7:00PM.
- Girl Scouts meet the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays

The Needs of Our Partners:

Lincoln Elementary School.

Clothing winter clothes for children in various sizes snowpants, winter coats, socks, sweatpants for both elementary and middle school, regular gloves, and cups, gloves for playing in the snow. **Snacks** include: Goldfish, Individually wrapped food items, Animal Crackers, and Granola Bars... **NO** bags of nuts.

Food drive/pantry (most helpful in Feb – Summer) cereal, shelf stable microwave meals, canned goods and mac and cheese with cheese sauce (not add milk and butter).

Casa Guadalupe

Clothing: winter coats, boots, mittens, warm clothes, winter hats, socks (gently used items are ok) **Snacks:** Kid snacks - **NO NUTS**, fruit cups, cereal, canned goods. **Other Items:** Books (gently used is ok), new toys.

See The Herald and the giving tree in the coffee area for these and other needs.

**PLEASE JOIN US AFTER TODAY'S SERVICE FOR COFFEE AND SNACKS
IN THE GATHERING ROOM**