

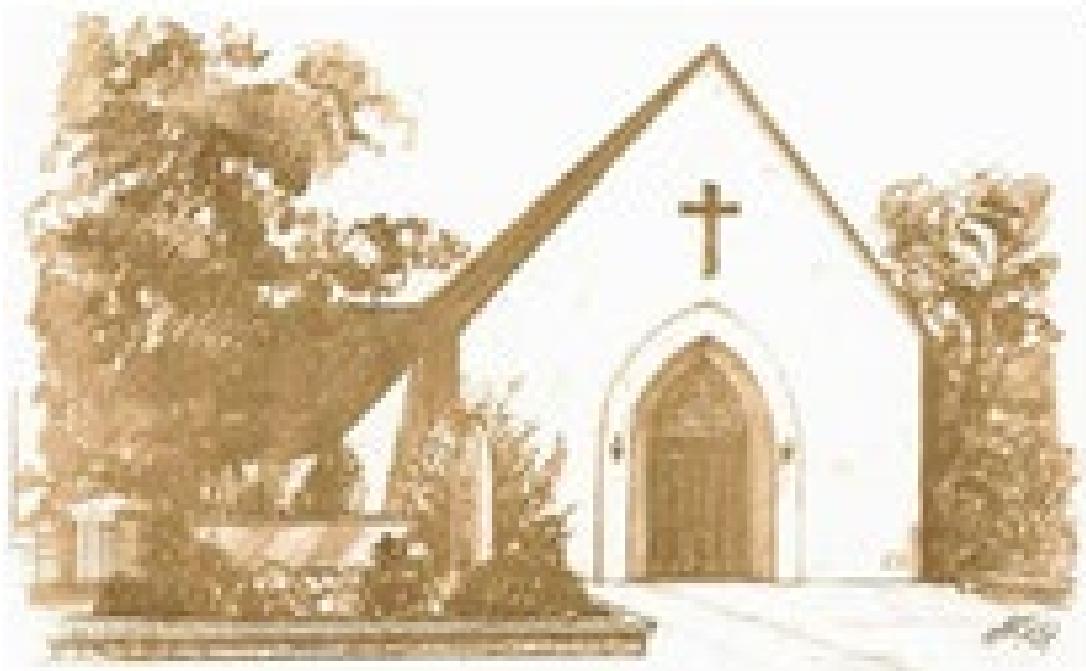
Lutheran Church of the Cross

†

4465 H Street, East Sacramento, CA 95819
916-456-8880

Facebook - Lutheran Church of the Cross-Sacramento
Web page - www.cotcsac.org

January 18, 2026 - Second Sunday after Epiphany



Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

Welcome to Church of the Cross.

We pray our worship today blesses your life.

Lutheran Church of the Cross

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE "All Are Welcome"

Mark Coldiron

WELCOME

Susan Fossum

OPENING HYMN "Brightest and Best of the Stars"

ELW 303 (*stand*)

CONFESION AND FORGIVENESS

L 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.

C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

L Mighty God, lover of justice,

C you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests sometimes 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.**

L The former things have passed away,
and new things God now declares:

Like a spring of water that never fails,
God covers us in the righteousness
of Christ, and forgives our sin in Jesus' name.
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L 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.

C Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Jacquie Haney

First Reading ... Isaiah 49:1-7

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.”

Psalm 40:1-11

(read responsively)

¹ I waited patiently upon 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 compared 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 written 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 compassion from me;
may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.

Second Reading ... 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

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.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading ... John 1:29-42

(Please rise for the Gospel)

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).

L The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Susan Fossum, Sharon Hermosillo

HYMN OF THE DAY "Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult" ELW 696

APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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 INTERCESSION

L As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

After each petition the Leader will say: Merciful God,

Response: receive our prayer.

L Gracious God, gather the church into one great fellowship. Equip your people to work together for justice and peace, following the example of Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, whose birth we remember this week. Merciful God,

L Creating God, sustain the web of life on this planet. Protect wild places, endangered species, and vulnerable habitats. Come to the aid of those affected by natural disasters. Merciful God,

L Just God, you desire respect and equality for everyone. Raise up prophets who speak truth to the nations. Embolden leaders and those in authority to advocate for people in need. Merciful God,

L Healing God, you lift up those who are bowed down by trouble, illness, or oppression. Bring an end to social injustice and inequities of every kind, so that all people may have abundant life.

We pray for your blessings upon those on our prayer list and those we now name aloud or silently... Merciful God,

L Abiding God, you are present with this congregation. Keep us mindful of our mission and guide our ministries in this community. Kindle in us a desire to help one another. Merciful God,

L Faithful God, you promise to be with us always. We remember with gratitude the faithful departed who now rest in you. Strengthen us to the end, that we may see you face to face. Merciful God,

L Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

C Amen.

L Let us pray together the prayer our Lord has taught us.

The Lord's Prayer

C 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

OFFERING *You may place your Offering and your Prayer Requests in the Basket at the table in the back of the Sanctuary. At that time, you may also light a candle at the table of votives in honor or memory of someone, or for any need.*

SPECIAL MUSIC "Siyahamba/This Little Light of Mine" **Mark Coldiron**
Arr. Sandra Eithun

OFFERING PRAYER

L God of glory,

C great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace.

Amen.

BLESSING

L The triune God, glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,
bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN "We Are Marching in the Light" **ELW 866 (stand)**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C Thanks be to God.

L May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

L Let us share the peace of the Lord with each other as we leave today.

+++++

WE LEAVE TO BE THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD

CHURCH OF THE CROSS

Douglas Whiteaker, Council President 916-606-8976

Kevin Brown, Church Secretary 916-628-6382

Jacquie Haney, Facilities Manager 916-456-8880

Church Email: sacchurchofthecross@gmail.com

NOTES & EVENTS

- Sunday, Jan. 25 – WELCA General Meeting to plan the 2026 activities.
Bring snacks to share.
- Sunday, February 1 – Annual Congregational Meeting following Service.
Pot Luck Lunch.

Welcome Home Drive: Help Our Neighbors Start Fresh

Imagine moving into your first home with nothing. Lutheran Social Services of Northern California is housing 220 of our unhoused Sacramento neighbors over the next few months, and they need our help to set up their new homes.

We're collecting new items to create Welcome Baskets: bed linens and pillows, towel sets, cleaning supplies, kitchenware, and paper goods.

The first 89 residents move in February 2, so the need is urgent.

Sign up to contribute: [**Questions?** Email \[SacAdvLSS2026@gmail.com\]\(mailto:SacAdvLSS2026@gmail.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044EADAE2BA1FFC52-61409956>Welcome</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Let's make sure our neighbors feel truly welcomed home.

WELCA at Cross is overseeing this project but ALL are invited to help us. Bring Items for donation to the table in the Social Hall. Or go online to donate.

If you want to bring a check, make it payable to Church of the Cross with "LSS" in the memo line and we will send one big check.

PRAYER REQUESTS AND ANSWERED PRAYERS

Wil Hale, Kevin's brother-in-law, who is having surgery for basal cell carcinoma on his head on January 22.

Dee Emmert, our past interim Pastor, and family on the death of her mother, Jacque Emmert. Nelly Quiban, grandma of Heaven and Hunter, and of Harmony and Holden (Douglas Whiteaker's children) who has been diagnosed with stage 4 brain cancer.

Prayers for Mark and Patricia who were in 2 auto accidents recently.

Sonya Tafejian, Tami Stoddard's sister, who is fighting a very aggressive breast cancer after successful surgery.

Lisa Mulz, who lost her dog, Petra, due to cancer. Also, for Lisa's mom who is on hospice.

Deanna Ransom who has vertigo and issues with her gall bladder.

Jim Dugan, friend of the congregation, who has early onset Alzheimer's.

Blair Bagley, Julie Andrews' friend who is recovering from Chiari 1 Malformation brain surgery.

Chuck Hines, as he goes through another round of chemotherapy for additional spots of lung cancer, and his friends Elaine Hussey (leg wounds and breathing difficulties); Don Jennings (cardiac stents); Ken Kohler (dementia and in hospice care); Kathy Russell (breathing difficulties due to fungus infection); Ken Smith permanent injuries leading to disabilities.

May Drobny, who fractured her hip but is recovering at home.

Donya Wiken, who is homebound.

Julie Nemes' friend Danica and her husband, Abraham, who is struggling with Parkinson's. And, thanks from Julie's son Brad, who received favorable biopsy results.

Judy Kaylor, who is in hospice care and for her daughter, Tina Anger, who is in a care facility.

Sue Fossum's sister-in-law, Nancy, who is in hospice. And for Mark, Sue's brother.

Fossum's sister in law Deb - prayer for a successful outcome for colon surgery on 12/22.

Sarah - Fossum family friend who is awaiting surgery and treatment for breast cancer.

Emma - Fossum close family friend - prayers for understanding and positive outcomes related to health concerns. Ongoing prayers for Fossum neighbor and close friend Jen who has just finished radiation for breast cancer.

Jackie Walters who is suffering from rheumatoid arthritis. Also, Hans, Jackie's husband who has Parkinson's.

Julie Andrews' sister-in-law, Marilyn, who is in a care facility. Also, her sister-in-law, Pat.

Paul Santos, Jacquie Haney's brother-in-law hoping to receive a kidney transplant.

Erin Sullivan, Jacquie's friend, prayers for continued healing after beating breast cancer.

Karin Kretz, a member who had eye surgery and is now in assisted living.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
PARTICIPATING & PARTNERING IN SERVICE
Here is a sample:

- 1) St. John's Program for Real Change - Preparing & serving dinners at Women's & Children's Shelter**
- 2) Fortunate Feast - Christmas Event for Families in need**
- 3) LSS of Northern California's program for Youth who have aged out of the Foster Care system**
- 4) River City Community Services - Food closet**
- 5) Habitat for Humanity**
- 6) Rock Point Navajo Reservation - Providing school supplies, Christmas gifts for children and more**
- 7) "Run to Feed the Hungry" Care Station - supporting Sacramento Food Bank**
- 8) Blue Star Moms - Sending "care" packages to our troops**

Some projects receive support funding by Thrivent Financial - A Non-Profit Fraternal Benefit Society that returns funds from financial products purchased by members to fund endeavors in the Community.

Other Groups That Use Our Facility:

- 1) Al-Anon**
- 2) Women's AA**

**Come Join Us in Our Service
to Our Community**

**Worship For All Ages - Sunday 11:00 a.m.
Pet Friendly - Bring your Dog, Cat, or other Friends
WE ARE AN OPEN and DIVERSE ASSEMBLY
ALL ARE WELCOME !!**