

# Candlemas

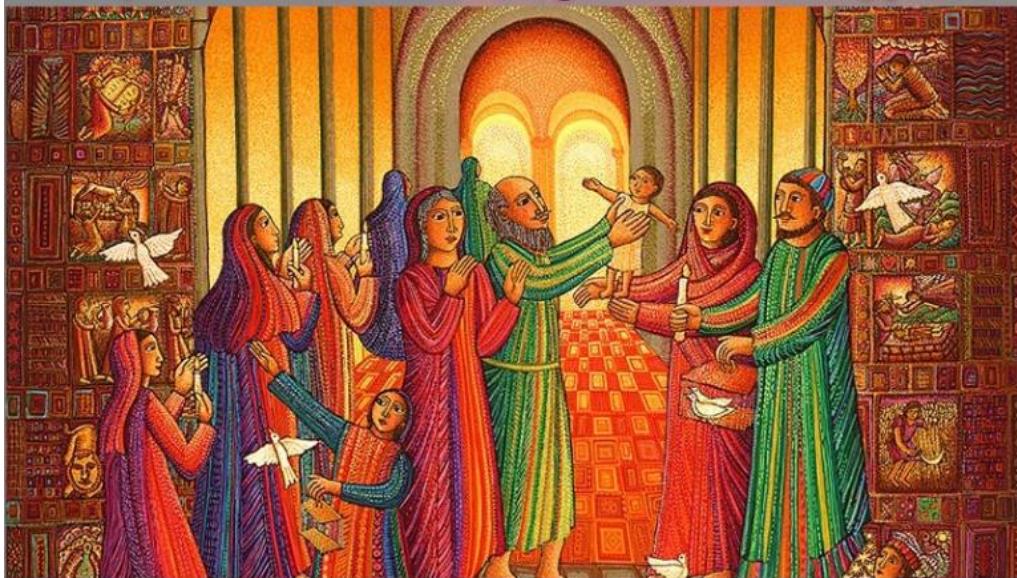
## Fourth Sunday in Epiphany

ELW Holy Communion, Settings Eight and Ten  
February 1, 2026

### Faith-Bethany Partnership

One partnership, two campuses within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**"This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed**



**so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—  
and a sword will pierce your own soul, too."**

### Introduction to the day

Forty days ago we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we recall the day on which he was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to God and shown to his people. As a sign of his coming among us, his mother was purified, as we now come to him for cleansing. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognized him as their Lord, as we today sing of his revealing. Today we celebrate both the joy of his coming and his searching invitation, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his ministry and call lived out in us.

[www.bethanyishpeming.org](http://www.bethanyishpeming.org) | [www.faithishpeming.weebly.com](http://www.faithishpeming.weebly.com)

715 Mather Avenue | 180 County Road PPO  
Ishpeming, Michigan 49849  
906-486-4351 | 906-486-9083

# Faith-Bethany Partnership — One Partnership, Two Campuses

*Serving Ishpeming | ELCA, Northern Great Lakes Synod*

## *WELCOME*

We are **one partnership, worshiping across two campuses** – Bethany Lutheran Church and Faith Lutheran Church – serving Ishpeming and its surrounding neighborhoods. Rooted in Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, we believe God’s grace is for all people and all creation, calling us into lives of compassion, justice, service, and hope.

### **You are welcome here.**

Whoever you are, whatever your story or questions, you are free to listen, to join in as you are able, and to be met by the living presence of God.

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## *ONE PARTNERSHIP, ONE BODY*

From the earliest days of the Church described in Acts, God’s people gathered in different places while sharing one faith, one mission, and one Spirit. We claim that same invitation today.

**Our life together as one partnership is not something entirely new.** In the early decades of the 20th century, Lutheran congregations in this region often lived as shared or multi-point ministries, shaped by geography, population, and mutual care. Within that wider pattern, Bethany and Faith share a remembered history of cooperation and pastoral connection, reflecting a long-standing trust that the Spirit’s work was not limited to a single building or neighborhood. What we are living into now is a faithful renewal of a way of being church that has served this place before.

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## *SERVING THE EDGES TOGETHER*

As one partnership with two campuses, we serve the edges of Ishpeming; east and west, long-established neighborhoods and changing communities. We understand these “edges” not as margins to be forgotten, but as holy places where God is already at work.

Across both campuses, we seek to be present with our neighbors, attentive to local needs, and open to partnership; trusting that Christ’s body grows not by centralizing power, but by sharing life.

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## *OUR SHARED CALLING*

Together, we live a simple and faithful commitment:

### **Serving God, Community, and Individuals**

by developing, strengthening, and sharing a **witness to the message of the Gospel**; through an increased understanding of **our ministry and our daily living**, both individually and as a congregation.

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## *ROOTED IN PLACE, OPEN TO THE WORLD*

Our partnership is shaped by generations of people who built lives, families, and faith in Ishpeming; across changing industries, cultures, and seasons of challenge and renewal. As part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Northern Great Lakes Synod, we also join the wider church in ministries of mercy, justice, and accompaniment both within, and beyond, our local context.

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## *A PLACE FOR YOU*

Whether you are new to church, returning after time away, carrying faith or doubt, or seeking community; there is space for you here.

One partnership.

Two campuses.

Many gifts.

One body in Christ.

**Grace and peace to you: welcome.**

## *HONORING THE LAND*

With gratitude and humility, we acknowledge that we gather on the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabeg — the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples — who have stewarded this region since time immemorial. We honor their enduring presence and commit ourselves to walk gently on the earth and seek right relationship with all our neighbors.

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## **WELCOME**

When the time came for Mary and Joseph to bring Jesus to the temple, they encountered two elders—not powerful, not prominent, but faithful beyond measure.

### **Simeon and Anna waited for God's promise.**

One was told he would not see death before he had seen the Messiah. One remained in the temple for decades, worshiping with fasting and prayer, watching for redemption.

### **They recognized the light when it arrived.**

## **PRELUDE**

*You Are My All in All*  
words and Music by Dennis Jernigan

# **Gathering**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

*Please stand, as you're willing and able, in body or in spirit.*

## **CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Guided by the Spirit, Simeon took the child in his arms and praised God.

### **Our eyes have seen your salvation.**

A light for revelation to the nations, and glory for your people Israel.

*Our confession is that we have forgotten whose we are and therefore who we are – created and lovingly made to walk in God's way of peace and live in God's peace; we confess as an opportunity to begin reconciliation, with one another and with God.*

### **When Christ is revealed, love and wonder rejoice.**

And yet Simeon spoke plainly: this child would not only comfort—he would confront.

### **Fearful power trembles before the truth.**

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. **Amen.**

Simeon knew that the light he welcomed would reveal the inner thoughts of many and be a sign that would be opposed. Trusting the mercy of the God who knows us completely, let us turn now in confession.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Mighty God, lover of justice,  
you have revealed your light in Jesus Christ,  
and we confess that we have not always welcomed it.**  
**You call us to life in community,  
yet we have served our own interests  
at the expense of our neighbors.**  
**The light has shown us what is broken,  
but we have turned away.**  
**We have chosen comfort over truth,  
silence over witness,  
and safety over love.**  
**Like those who stood in the temple,  
we marvel at your salvation—yet resist what it asks of us.**  
**Search our hearts, O God.**  
**Reveal what we have hidden,  
and heal what we have feared to name.**  
**Turn us again toward 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.**

Hear the good news. Simeon held the child and said, “My eyes have seen your salvation.” That salvation is for you. 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. **Amen.**

The light has not come to condemn you, but to free you. May the Spirit give you courage to live for others, strength to walk in the truth you have seen, and peace to rest in God’s mercy. **Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG

*As With Gladness Men of Old (ELW 302)*



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid-ing star be - hold;  
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,  
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,  
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;  
 5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;  
 there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;  
 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,  
 and when earthly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last  
 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.  
 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.  
 all our cost-liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly king.  
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.  
 there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

## 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.**

*This greeting, based on 2 Corinthians 13:13, is a call-and-response between the worship leader (often the pastor) and the congregation. This greeting is more than a simple salutation; it is a blessing and a recognition of God's presence, here and now, and of God's grace.*

*The Kyrie, from the Greek "Kyrie eleison" (meaning "Lord, have mercy"), is a prayer of supplication, a plea for God's grace and forgiveness. In many ELCA traditions, the Kyrie is a threefold repetition of "Lord, have mercy" (Kyrie eleison), often followed by "Christ, have mercy" (Christe eleison) and then "Lord, have mercy" (Kyrie eleison) again.*

## KYRIE

*Refrain*

Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev'ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the  
 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the  
 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for  
 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the

u - ni - ty of all; for  
 hun - gry and the poor; that  
 friends and fam - i - ly; for  
 wa - ter and the word; that you

this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
 we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
 life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

*Refrain*

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray, together.

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom by revealing your salvation in the arms of the lowly and through the faithful witness of those who have waited in hope. You give your kingdom not to the powerful, but to the pure in heart and the hungry for truth. Give us eyes to see the light you have shown us, courage to live honestly in its revealing glow, and a hunger and thirst for justice that does not shrink from the cost of love. Strengthen us to persevere 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.

*The Prayer of the Day is born out of the lectionary (texts), and is the primary invitation to the radical love offered through the Gospel of the day, focused on the primary themes we might experience together, across the church and traditions.*

*Please, be seated.*

## SERMON FOR THE YOUNG, AND YOUNG AT HEART

*The People are invited forward for an invitation to see themselves in God's story with us anew.*

## Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-5

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of Hosts.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**



*Spoken responsively, with the congregation following the lector, in the bold print.*

<sup>1</sup> Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

**Who may abide upon your holy hill?**

<sup>2</sup> Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,

**who speak the truth from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup> they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;

**they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.**

<sup>4</sup> In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the Lord.

**They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

<sup>5</sup> They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

**Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.**



## ANTHEM

*Christ Be Our Light*

by Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

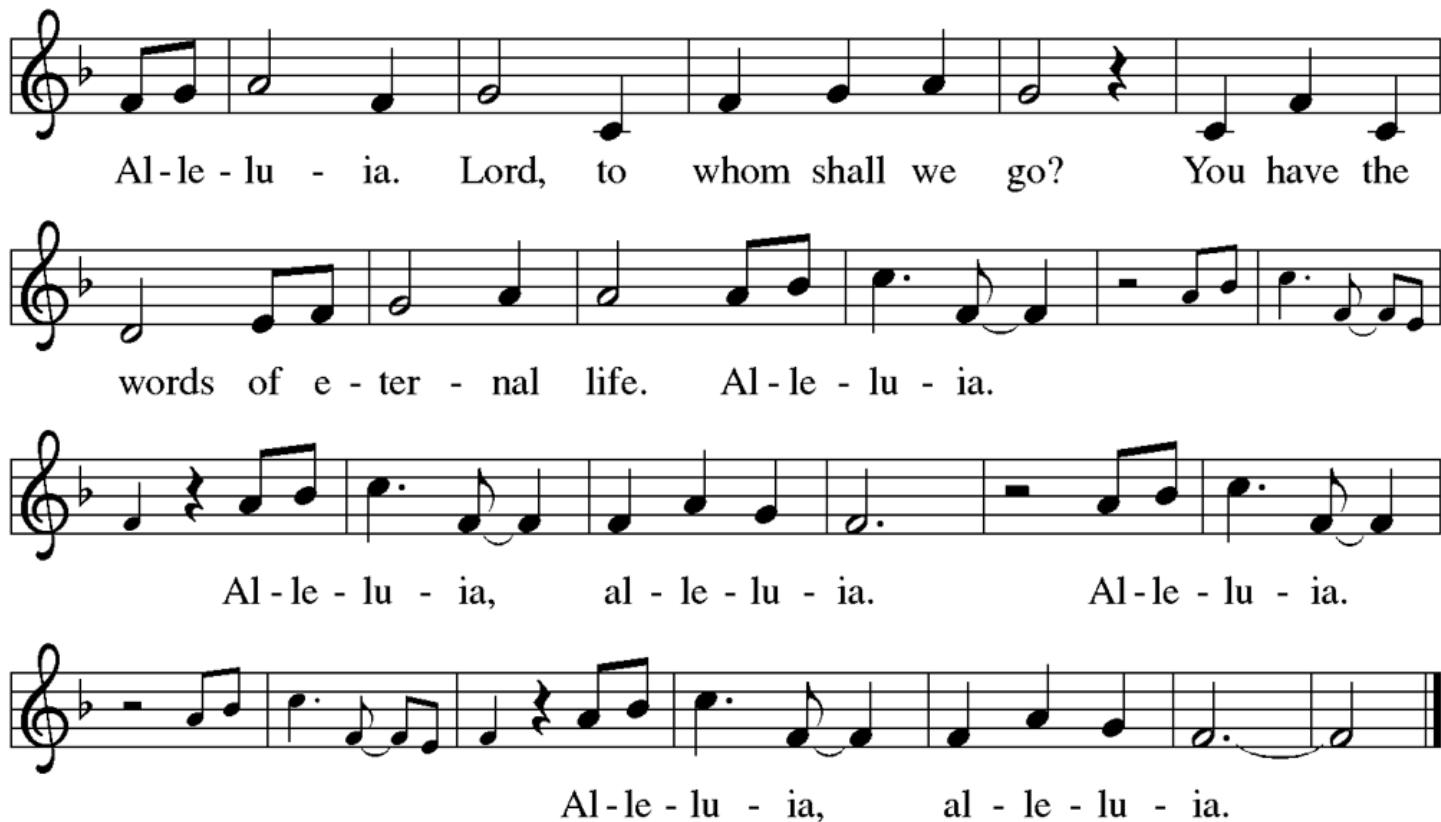
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Since the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his Siblings in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand, as you're willing and able, in body or in spirit.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



*The Gospel Acclamation serves as a welcome and a call to listen to the Word of God, expressing faith and anticipation for the Gospel reading. During Lent, the "Alleluia" is omitted, and a different acclamation is used, often a verse from the Lectionary.*

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

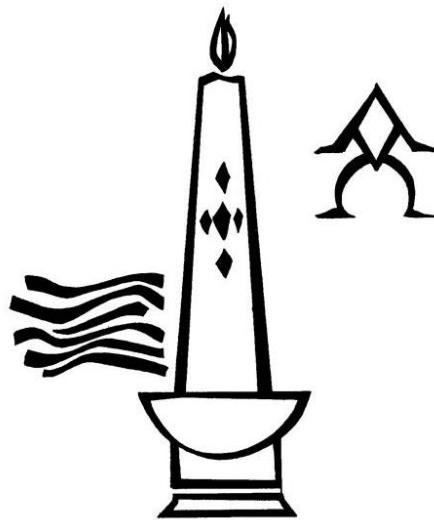
“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word,  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**



*Please stand, as you're willing and able, in body or in spirit.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*This Little Light of Mine (ELW 677)*

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

## CANDLEMAS LITANY

At that very moment, Anna came forward. She did not keep silent.

**She spoke about the child to all who were waiting for redemption.**

Her long watching turned into proclamation. Hope, once seen, could not be contained.

**Once we have seen the light, we cannot pretend we are still in the dark.**

*We light our candles, recognizing the invitation to hold the Light of Christ*

## BLESSING OF CANDLES

Blessed are you, O God, source of everlasting light. You fulfilled the hope of Simeon and set Anna's voice loose with praise.

**Blessed be God forever.**

Bless these candles, prepared for the year ahead. As they are lit in sanctuary and home, remind us:

**This is Christ's light, not our own.**

A light that brings peace, and a light that demands courage.

**A light no darkness can overcome.**



## HYMN OF INVOCATION

*Jesus, The Light of the World (ACS 914)*



1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing,  
2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise,  
3 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored,  
4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!

Je-sus, the Light of the world;  
Je-sus, the Light of the world;  
Je-sus, the Light of the world;  
Je-sus, the Light of the world;



“Glo - ry to the new - born King,”  
join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!  
hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!

Je-sus, the Light of the world.  
Je-sus, the Light of the world.  
Je-sus, the Light of the world.  
Je-sus, the Light of the world.

*Refrain*



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

## TOWARD THE TABLE

Simeon was ready to depart in peace because he had seen salvation.

**We come now to receive that same gift.**

Anna spoke to all who were waiting.

**Send us out to speak and serve.**

Having seen the light, we turn now from the manger toward the table, and from the table toward a world still longing for redemption.

**Christ is our light. We will walk in it.**

*You may extinguish your candles, recognizing the movement of the Spirit in the curling smoke, inviting our movement, with the light, up from and out of this place.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

*Prayers of intercession are prayers that ask God to intervene on behalf of people and causes in need. They can be used in worship services and for personal prayer.*

*Silence is held for preparation.*

God our wisdom, renew the church in the power, and light, of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for social justice and humanitarian aid ministries. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of old growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. Preserve the diversity of life on earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way. We lift up those Siblings who have invited us to walk with them in prayer, whether silently or aloud, now. .... .... .... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*Please, be seated.*

*"Passing the peace" is a ritual where members share God's peace with one another, typically through a handshake or other gesture, symbolizing unity and reconciliation before receiving communion. The practice of "passing the peace" is rooted in scripture, where Jesus greets his disciples with "Peace be with you" and the apostle Paul begins his letters with "Grace and peace be with you".*

# Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## OFFERING

Ways to support the ministry here at in Ishpeming with either Faith, or Bethany, or both:

- Certainly, you are welcome to take part in our “noisy offering” collection, by placing your gifts **in the containers passed** by our Usher Team, each Sunday during this time.
- Today’s Noisy offering will support the Room at the Inn.
- You are invited to set up a one-time or recurring donation by **texting ASSIST to 844-920-4105**; be sure to have your preferred method of sharing ready.
- Use this **QR Code** (to the right). Open your camera app on your phone, place the QR code in the center of your camera’s view-field, and select the Vanco link that appears!
- Offerings will be assigned to the campus you name, or by the affiliated envelope you use. You may designate a specific partnership building online; or designate offerings by applying a note of intent, or reaching out to the office, by phone or email, and expressing your intent with your name and amount offered.



*We give thanks for your sharing of gifts and generosity!*

*Please stand, as you’re willing and able, in body or in spirit.*

*Accept, o Lord, the Gifts we Bring (WOV 759)*



- 1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
- 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea-sure.
- 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we’re a - ble.  
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be-comes a ho - ly trea-sure.  
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum-bly we a - dore you.

## OFFERING PRAYER

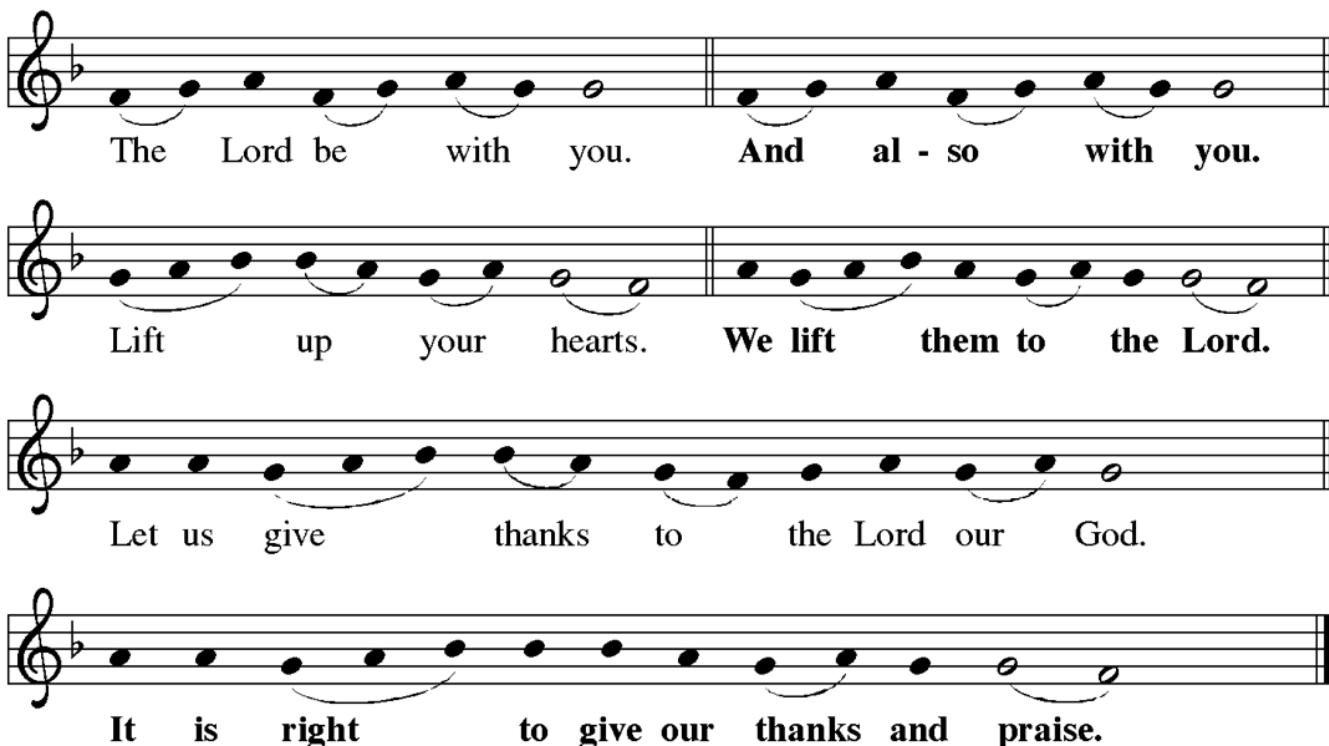
Let us pray, together.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, **you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*The service of Holy Communion is at the heart of Christian faith and life. In this sacrament, two essential realities occur for the benefit of God's people. First, God gives us his Son's true body and blood, through which we receive the forgiveness of sins. Second, the people of God's church are joined with one another as we share a mysterious and intimate bond as fellow members of Christ's body. This sacrament, together with the proclamation of God's Word, lies at the core of Christian worship. We Lutherans often describe our ministry as "Word and Sacrament". Both elements of worship are essential. There have been periods in the history of the Lutheran church where the frequency of Holy Communion waxed and waned. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, a liturgical renewal began, and one of the results was the restoration of weekly Communion. At Bethany, we follow that cadence.*

## Great Thanksgiving

### DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

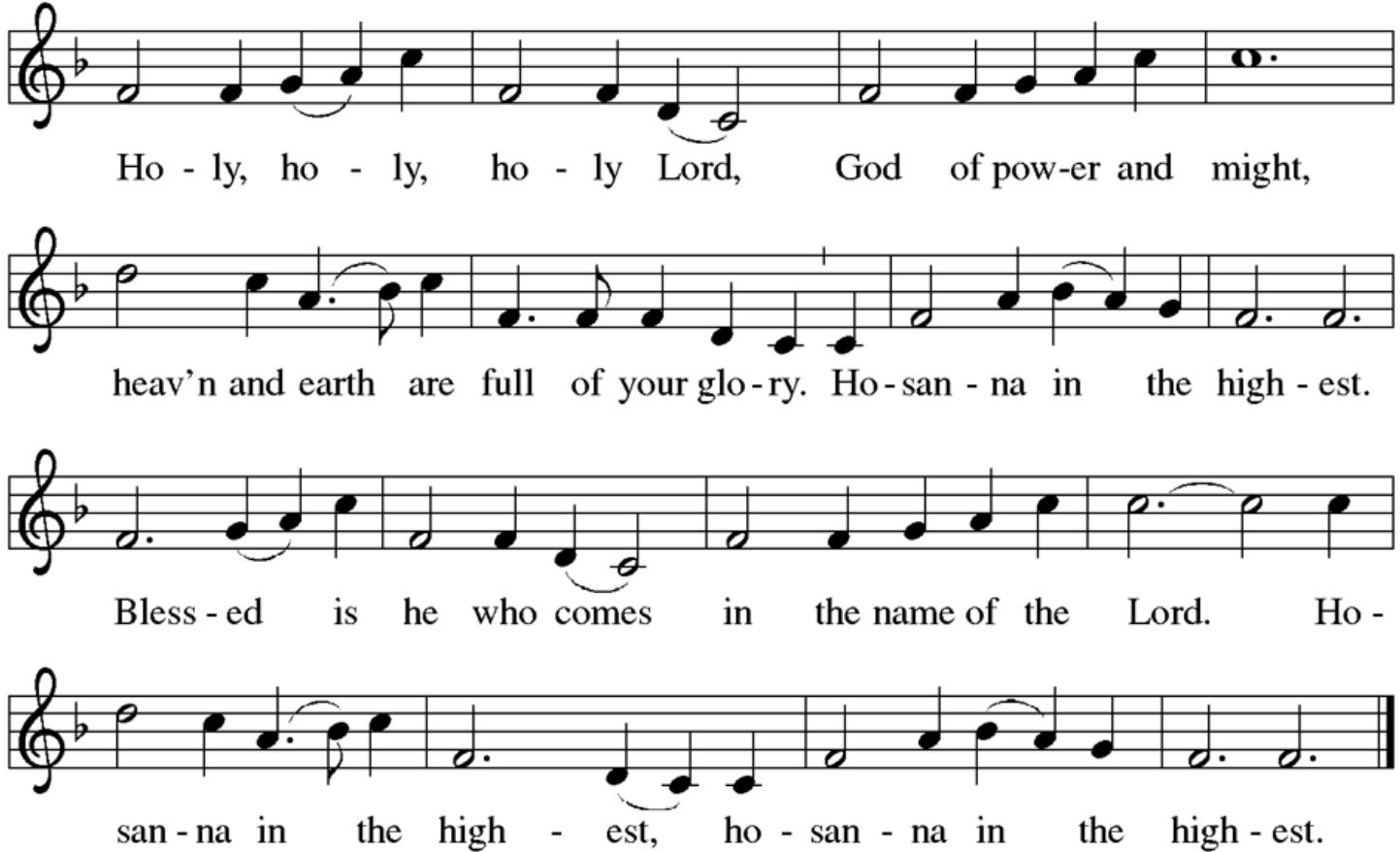
## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*The Preface introduces us to the next part of the service, where we are invited into God's presence for the sharing of the meal. It is an ancient aspect of Christian liturgy. St. Hippolytus mentions that in the early 3rd century, Christians were using a preface in worship. This exchange has survived for centuries almost word-for-word in our liturgy!*

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory...

...Do this for the remembrance of me.

...we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

We invite you to use the words of the Lord's Prayer that speak loudest to you, and experiencing the rhythms of the Spirit that speak to each of us, creating both dissonance and resonance. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

**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.**

Isä meidän, joka olet taivaissa  
Pyhitetty olkoon sinun nimesi  
Tulkoon sinun valtakuntasi  
Tapahtukoon sinun tahtosi  
Myös maan päällä niin kuin taivaassa  
Anna meille tänä päivänä  
Meidän jokapäiväinen leipämme  
Ja anna meille meidän syntimme anteeksi,  
Niin kuin mekin anteeksi annamme niille  
Jotka ovat meitä vastaan rikkoneet  
Äläkä saata meitä kiusaukseen  
Vaan päästä meidät pahasta  
Sillä sinun on valtakunta  
ja voima ja kunnia  
iankaikkisesti. Aamen.

**O Great Spirit, our Father from above,  
we honor your name as sacred and holy.  
Bring your good road to us, where the  
beauty of your ways in the spirit-world  
above is reflected in the earth below.  
Provide for us day by day—the elk, the  
buffalo, and the salmon. The corn, the  
squash, and the wild rice. All the things  
we need for each day. Release us from the  
things we have done wrong, in the same  
way we release others for the things done  
wrong to us. Guide us away from the  
things that tempt us to stray from your  
good road, and set us free from the evil  
one and his worthless ways. Aho! May it  
be so!<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> Wildman, Terry M.. First Nations Version: An Indigenous Bible Translation of the New Testament (p. 10). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please, be seated.*

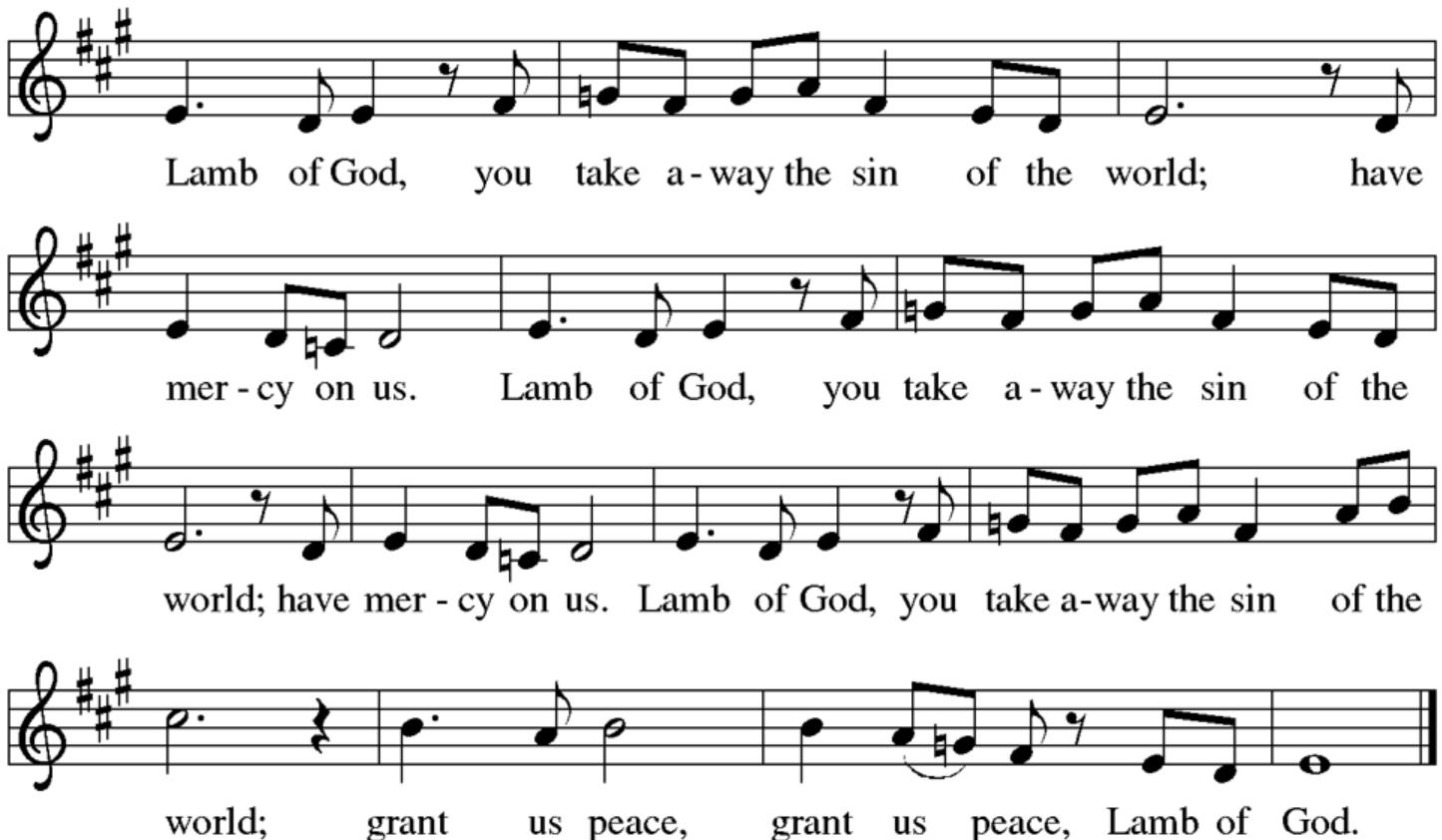
## COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
**Amen.**

*Holy Communion, also known as the Lord's Supper, or Eucharist, is a central practice where the crucified and risen Christ is believed to be truly present, offering his body and blood as food and drink, and is celebrated every Sunday and festival. We believe that the presence of Christ is in, with, through, around, and under the elements of bread and wine. We hold that there are two Sacraments (sacred acts of divine institution), Communion and Baptism, both outward and visible signs of an inward and spiritual grace coupling earthly elements with divine command.*

*At the invitation of an usher, you may come forward for the Eucharist or a blessing. Gluten free bread is available, upon request – please voice your need to the pastor. Both grape juice and wine are available in each passed tray; please take the option that best suits your expression and embodiment of this celebration at God's Table. All are welcome here.*

## LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

# COMMUNION SONG

*Build a Longer Table (ACS 1062)*



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,  
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;  
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.  
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.  
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.  
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.  
 Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,  
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,  
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,  
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.  
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.  
 Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel-come here.  
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

*Please stand, as you're willing and able, in body or in spirit.*

## **POST-COMMUNION COMMENDATION**

May the body and blood of Christ, God with Us, strengthen **✚** and keep us. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray, together.

God of abundance, **with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*Please, be seated.*

## **Sending**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please stand, as you're willing and able, in body or in spirit.*

## **BLESSING**

Almighty God, Creator, **✚** Redeemer, and Sustainer, bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**



## SENDING SONG

*Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart (ELW 873)*

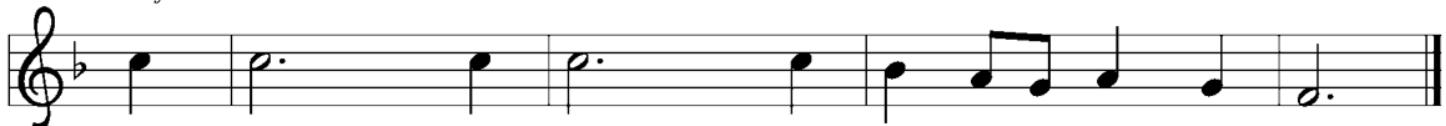


1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing;  
2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,  
3 With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints on earth  
4 Still lift your stan - dard high, still march in firm ar - ray,



your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.  
send forth the stor - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.  
pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest mirth.  
as pil - grims through the dark - ness wend till dawns the gol - den day.

*Refrain*



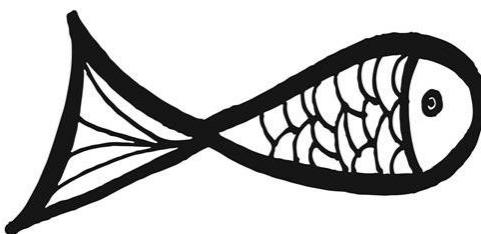
Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

## DISMISSAL

The light of Christ is in you; go forth bravely, Called in bright partnership! **Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

*Trumpet Voluntary*  
by John Travers



## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

### **Presentation of Our Lord**

#### **Monday, February 2, 2026**

Forty days after the birth of Jesus we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There they were greeted by Simeon, an aged priest who offered the song "Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace," as well as by the prophet Anna, who spoke of the redemption of Israel.

### **Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, died 865**

#### **Tuesday, February 3, 2026**

A monk who helped bring Christianity to Scandinavia, Ansgar returned to Germany where he was named bishop of Hamburg. He is remembered for his love for poor people.

### **The Martyrs of Japan, died 1597**

#### **Thursday, February 5, 2026**

Christianity was brought to Japan in the sixteenth century by Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries. The religion was suppressed, however, and in 1597 twenty-six missionaries and converts were crucified. Nevertheless, Christianity survived and later prospered.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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## THE MINISTERS OF THE DAY

Presiding Minister: Pastor J. Michael Mills

Communion Assistant: Bill B.

Lector: Denise Kaukola Mason

Music Director: Tonya Perry

Organist: Linda Hurrell

Coffee Host: Heather Swanson and Sarah Makis

Altar Guild: Jill Carter, Rae Elliot, Ruby Kaukola, Wendy Penhale

## CALENDAR

Today	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany
	9:00A      Choir practice
	10:00A     Partnership Worship/Online with Pastor J. Michael Mills
Tuesday	9:00A      Quilters at both Campuses
	2:00P      Worship at Teal Lake Senior Center with Pastor J.
Wednesday	9:30A      Weight Watcher Support Group
	5:15P      Partnership Bell Choir practice
	6:30P      Partnership Choir practice
Thursday	<b>NO</b> Singing Bowls
Friday	<b>NO</b> 4-Ish Card Night
Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany
10:00A	Partnership Worship at Faith Campus

Church office hours Bethany Campus:     Monday-10:00A – 5:00P

Tuesday – Jan not in office     Wednesday 10:00A – 11:45A, 1:45P – 5:00P

Thursday 10:00A – 4:00P     Friday 11:00A – 2:00P

Church Office hours Faith Campus:     Tuesday 10:00A – Noon

Thursday Noon – 2:00PM

*Please contact the office if you would like to make an appointment to see Pastor J.*



Beginning Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, a new Women's Circle is forming in our Parish! Supporting our working population, we hope to gather femme voices together to learn, grow, and engage service projects that will partner resources and skills with our neighbor young adults, on Saturdays to be identified. Scriptural study will occur monthly, on second Thursdays, 6-8PM. Our study will be centered in Rev. Dr. Wilda Gafney's Women's Lectionary, guiding us through the strength of our biblical femme ancestors that are often overlooked, or left out, of ordinary preaching and teaching in our institutions. If you're interested in engaging this Circle of learning, growth and fellowship, please contact Terra Frustraglio or Denise Kaukola-Mason, [hope\\_circle@bethanyishpeming.org](mailto:hope_circle@bethanyishpeming.org)

Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 6-8PM, Faith-Bethany Partnership at 715 Mather Ave. Campus, in Ishpeming



## 2026 Congregational Annual Meeting

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church will hold its Annual Meeting on **Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**, beginning at 11:30AM (after worship), in the Fellowship Hall. We are inviting our Siblings to participate in whatever way works best for you, either in person or

online. We will be voting on the 2026 Spending Plan, as well as lifting up those who may be interested in joining the Council in 2026, as we continue to live out our discernment of God's Call in this place and time. We will make the meeting Zoom link available soon.

# We are planning a Youth Mission Trip

When: July 13 - 20

For: Current 8 - 12<sup>th</sup> graders

To: Winston-Salem NC

RSVP: By January 28



We will be hosted (housed) at a local partner church and engage in a week of relationship building, education, storytelling, and service alongside formerly or currently homeless individuals.

## Ready to make a difference?

Contact your youth ministry leader by **January 28th**:

• Stacy



906-361-9123



stacymc6@gmail.com

• Pastor Alex



414-218-1620



lachappy@gmail.com

• Pastor Tim



563-581-0929



tdjohnst@gmail.com



Superior Conference Youth Event