

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

2903 State Hwy 155 PO Box 130 Sayner, Wisconsin 54560

A member congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

And

Augsburg Lutheran Churches (ALC)

February 8, 2026

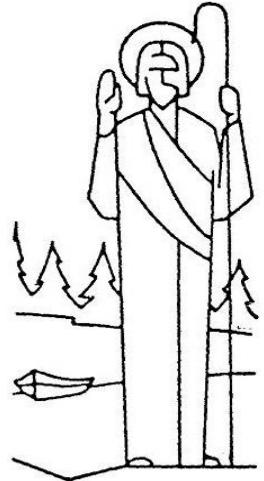
Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the
North American Lutheran Church (NALC)
and
Augsburg Lutheran Churches (ALC)
Website: www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org

Telephone: (715) 542-3701
Ministers: The people of the Parish

Council:	
President: Mike Pockat	715-892-4488
Vice President: Sharon Rice	715-891-0259
Tracey Ahlborn	612-716-6008
Jim Luebke	262-689-5456
Jeanne Kroll	715-542-2797
Ken Beier	715-891-2705

Church Service Sundays at 9:00 a.m.



WELCOME GUESTS

*We invite you to sign our guest book and/or complete a visitor card to help us remember you. Here at Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church we celebrate Holy Communion whenever we gather, and we would like to invite you to join us, as **all** are welcome to the Lord's table here.*

Thank you for joining us.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Empowered by the power of the Holy Spirit and rooted in the Good News of Jesus Christ, we are a loving community that follows Jesus & seeks to hear the Word of God and practice it in our daily lives.

Recorded Services:

All Sunday services at Shepherd of the Lakes are recorded and put on You Tube.

Go to the Church website at www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org and look for the  symbol.
Click on this symbol to take you to the Church's YouTube site.

*For those of you worshipping with us at home – You can mail your donations to:
Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church 2903 State HWY 155, PO Box 130 Sayner, WI
54560*

Or on the church website – www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org

You can donate through our PayPal account.

“Thank you for your continued support of our ministry together.”

Readings for February 15, 2026 6th Transfiguration of Our Lord:

First Reading	Exodus 24: 12-18
Psalm	2
Second Reading	2 Peter 1: 16-21
Holy Gospel	Matthew 17: 1-9

Finding God in the Clouds

We often speak of mountaintop experiences as those joyous times we look forward to with excitement and look back upon fondly, such as summer camp or an annual hiking trip. The mountaintop moments in today's readings were different: awe-inspiring, yes, but also full of devouring fires, clouds, and fear. Vision is obscured, the familiar becomes unknown, and nothing is the same. People get lost in fires, clouds, and fear, unable to find their way, but God's presence is where we get both lost *and* found. Many biblical encounters with God involved fear, pointing to the awesome reality of God that is much more than the gentle shepherd we often imagine (though God is that, too). God is, as C. S. Lewis famously said, "not a tame lion" (*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, London: HarperCollins Children's Books, 2001, p. 197). The truth is, we can no more plan our mountaintop times with God than we can stay there forever, as much as we think we would like to. God's place is to invite, ours to respond, faces bowed to the ground.

Eventually, of course, the time comes to leave that mountain, walking with Jesus down to the valley and getting dusty with the ashes of daily life. Many churches symbolically "roll up the Alleluias" today, recognizing that this is the end of a glorious season celebrating Christ's light and the entrance to a no-less-real season of Jesus' and our own lives, the "valley" season of Lent. But that doesn't mean there is nothing to do down in the valley. On the contrary, the traditional disciplines of Lent—fasting, prayer, and gifts to the poor—all help us maintain the eyes, ears, and heart to see and hear God whenever and however God appears.

CONTACT INFO:

Treasurer – Jean Maines (715) 542-4213 or (715) 891-3344

Email: treasurer@sotlsayner.com or jmaines2012@gmail.com

Secretary – Sharon Brooker (715) 892-7049

Email: secretary@sotlsayner.com or plclerk@gmail.com

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES AT 9:00 A.M.

Holy Communion is offered at every service. All are welcome. The Sunday service will be live-streamed and recorded and available for viewing on YouTube later on Sundays.

Thank You to Karen for leading today's worship service.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Bible Study will be held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 10 am. The study will again be based on “The Chosen”.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School will be offered every Wednesday (as long as school is in session) after school. The bus will drop the children off at approximately 3:45. Lessons/project time will last until 5 pm. We welcome you to get your children - or grandchildren - involved!

ALTAR FLOWERS - INFORMATION ON HOW TO SIGN UP

Contact Person - Jo Ann Kehl Cell 715-892-0413

The Sign-Up Sheets are located in the Narthex on the shelf under the Lutheran Rose.

STEP ONE:

Sign up for the date you wish to provide the set of two altar bouquets

STEP TWO:

You can provide flowers in two ways:

1. You may purchase your own flowers and bring them to church.

2. You may contact Jo Ann Kehl and she will order them for you. Just let her know what flowers you would like and how much you would like to spend. You can then write a check to Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church for that amount and designate it as *Altar Flower Donation*.

ANY QUESTIONS? Contact Jo Ann

CALL COMMITTEE

Here are the Call Committee members. Please feel free to contact them if you have any questions.

Lloyd Andersen	(715) 892-3513
Karen Carter	(715) 542-4049 or (715) 525-1733
Ginger Eade	(608) 317-9563
Shawn McCormick	(715) 605-2552
Joanne Pierce	(414) 477-5804
Charlie Rice – Chairman	(715) 617-1398 or (715) 479-9336

HUMANE SOCIETY OF VILAS COUNTY

The church will be holding a fundraiser for the Humane Society of Vilas County on Saturday, March 7, 2026 from 11 am – 3 pm. They will be serving Soups and Sandwiches for free-will offering in the community room.

Wish List Ideas from the Humane Society website:

(Cash is always welcome!) Cat litter Pine Sol Storage Totes Stamps
Piddle Pads Bleach Spray cleaner/with Bleach Laundry Soap
Dryer sheets Dish soap Toys

**The Annual Meeting has been re-scheduled to
Sunday, February 15th after church service.**

2025 Giving Statements were mailed out last week.
Please let Jean Maines know if you did not receive your statement yet.

IN CASE OF PASTORAL EMERGENCY, PLEASE CONTACT
Mike Pockat, Council President (715) 892-4488 or
Sharon Rice, Council Vice-President (715) 891-0259

LENTEN SERVICES

Lenten services begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18th. This year, we will be starting our Soup Suppers on that same night. Church school is done at 5 pm, Soup Supper begins at 5 pm, and Ash Wednesday Service begins at 6 pm.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for those dealing with current issues:

Jim C., Dick, Alyce

(Please let us know if/when names should be removed from this “current issues” list or moved to “ongoing list”)

Pray for those with ongoing health issues:

Larry, Mary Lou, Graham, Ericka, Mike, Shelle, Sharon G., Bob B., Ron, Carolyn, Beth, Shirley, John, Kim,

Pray for those serving in the Armed Forces:

Adam & Brittany, Brooks, Will, Sgt. Keara, Alex, Jared, and Dylan

Pray for those in nursing homes or homebound:

Elisabeth

Pray for peace and consoling comfort for the families of those who have passed:

Special Prayers

Please keep our church council, the Call Committee and every member of this congregation in your prayers as we search for a new Shepherd.

*Please or email Jean Maines at treasurer@SOTLsayner.com or text her at 715-891-3344
or contact Sharon Brooker at plclerk@gmail.com or text her at 715-892-7049
if you would like to be included on the prayer chain list or if you are in need of prayers.*

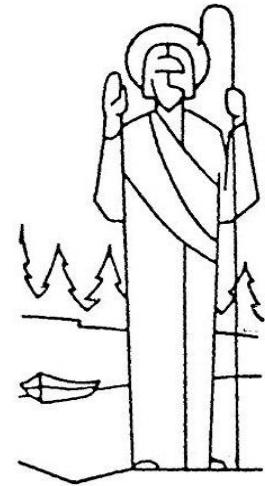
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Welcome and Announcements

Invocation

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism)



We begin our worship this day in the name of the Father, and of the \dagger Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

Mighty and loving God,

**We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We seek our own way. We divide the body of Christ. In your
mercy, cleanse us and heal us. Let the words of our mouths,
the thoughts of our hearts, and everything that we do be filled
with the Holy Spirit in faith, hope, and love.**

Amen

Thus says our God: “The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare.”
God’s mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of \dagger Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“Gather Us In” ELW 532 (Please Stand as you are Comfortable)

Gather Us In

1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,

van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his-t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way— here in this place the new light is shin-ing,

brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.

Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en, gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er, gath-er us in and

blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ple to-geth-er,

we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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Opening Dialogue

God spoke through the prophet, “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.”

God calls us by name, we belong to God.

“When you pass through the waters...”

God will be with us.

“When you pass through the rivers...”

God will be with us.

“When you walk through the fire...”

God will be with us.

God is our Savior, we are precious in God’s sight.

Come let us worship our Savior, who leads us into life.

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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God,

You sent your only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us to believe with joy what the Scriptures proclaim, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(Please be seated)

First Lesson **Isaiah 58: 1-9a[9b-12]**

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 112:1-9 [10]

¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord
and have great delight in God's commandments!

² **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;**
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

³ Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴ **Light shines in the darkness for the upright;**
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶ **For they will never be shaken;**
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

⁸ **Their heart is established and will not shrink,**
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

[¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine**
away; the desires of the wicked will perish.]

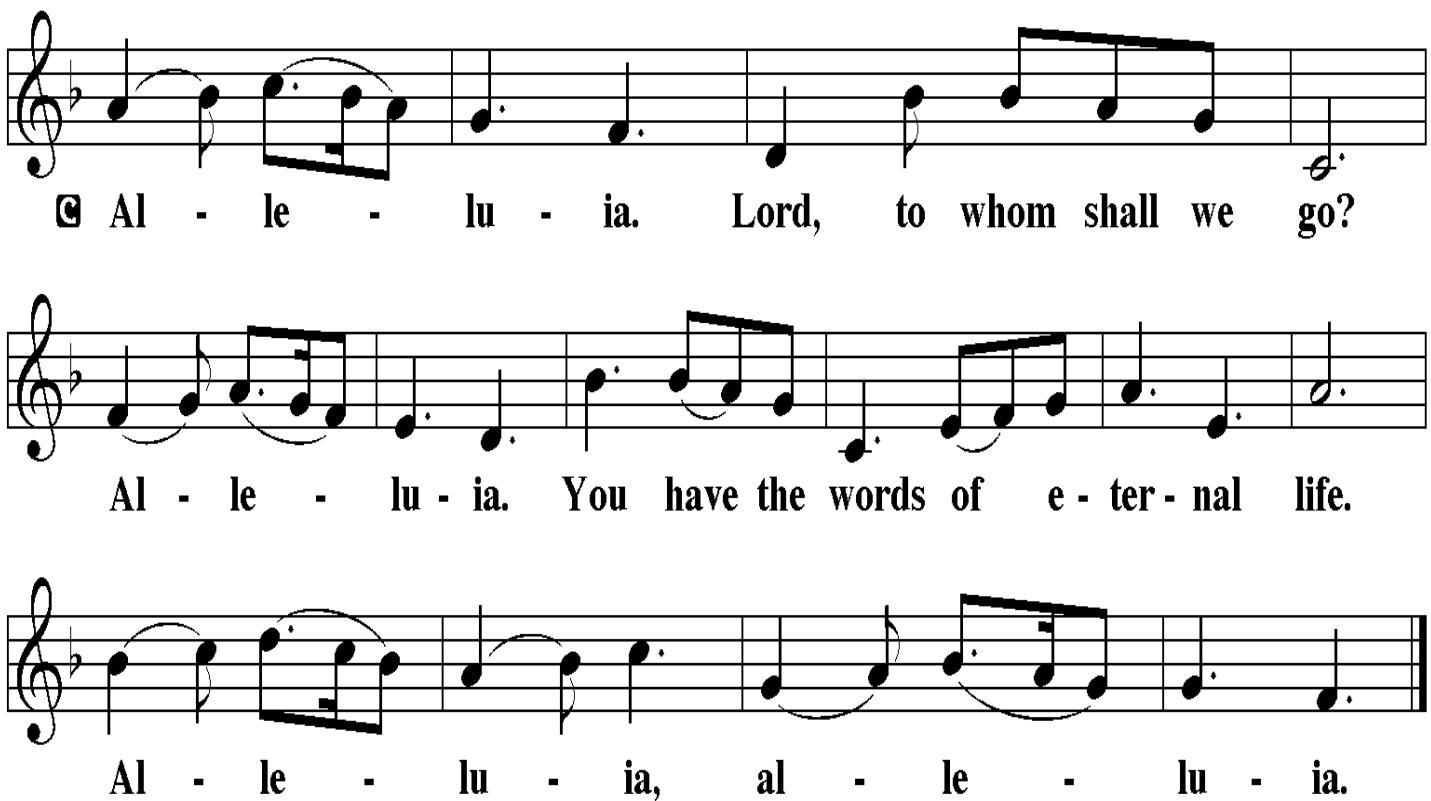
Second Lesson **1 Corinthians 2: 1-12[13-16]**

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Alleluia

(Please Stand as You are Comfortable)



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

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

Gospel Reading

The Holy Gospel According to.....
Glory to You, O Lord.

Matthew 5: 13-20

The Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

(Please be Seated)

Hymn of the Day ***“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies” ELW 553***

Please stand as you are comfortable

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;

Sun of righ - teous - ness, a - rise, tri - umph o'er the shades of night;
joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer - cy's beams I see,
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief;

Day-spring from on high, be near; Day - star, in my heart ap - pear.
till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

Apostles Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

(Please greet your neighbor as you and your neighbor are comfortable, then be seated)

Offering

(Our offering is received and the Lord's Table is prepared)

Offertory Prayer

Blessed are you,

O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Great Thanksgiving

(Service of Distribution)

The Lord be with you.....

and also with you.

As we gather before these consecrated elements of bread and wine for the celebration of Holy Communion, we hear again the story of God's mighty acts and of the love shown us in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. With thanksgiving we remembered that "in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

We are given assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of his Holy Spirit. As we prepare to receive this bread of life and this cup of blessing, we pray that we may be strengthened through our participation in the body of Christ.

LORD'S PRAYER

I invite you to join with me and let us pray with confidence the words that our Savior gave us.

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.

As often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. All is ready, all are welcome, our Lord and Savior invites us to come.

Invitation

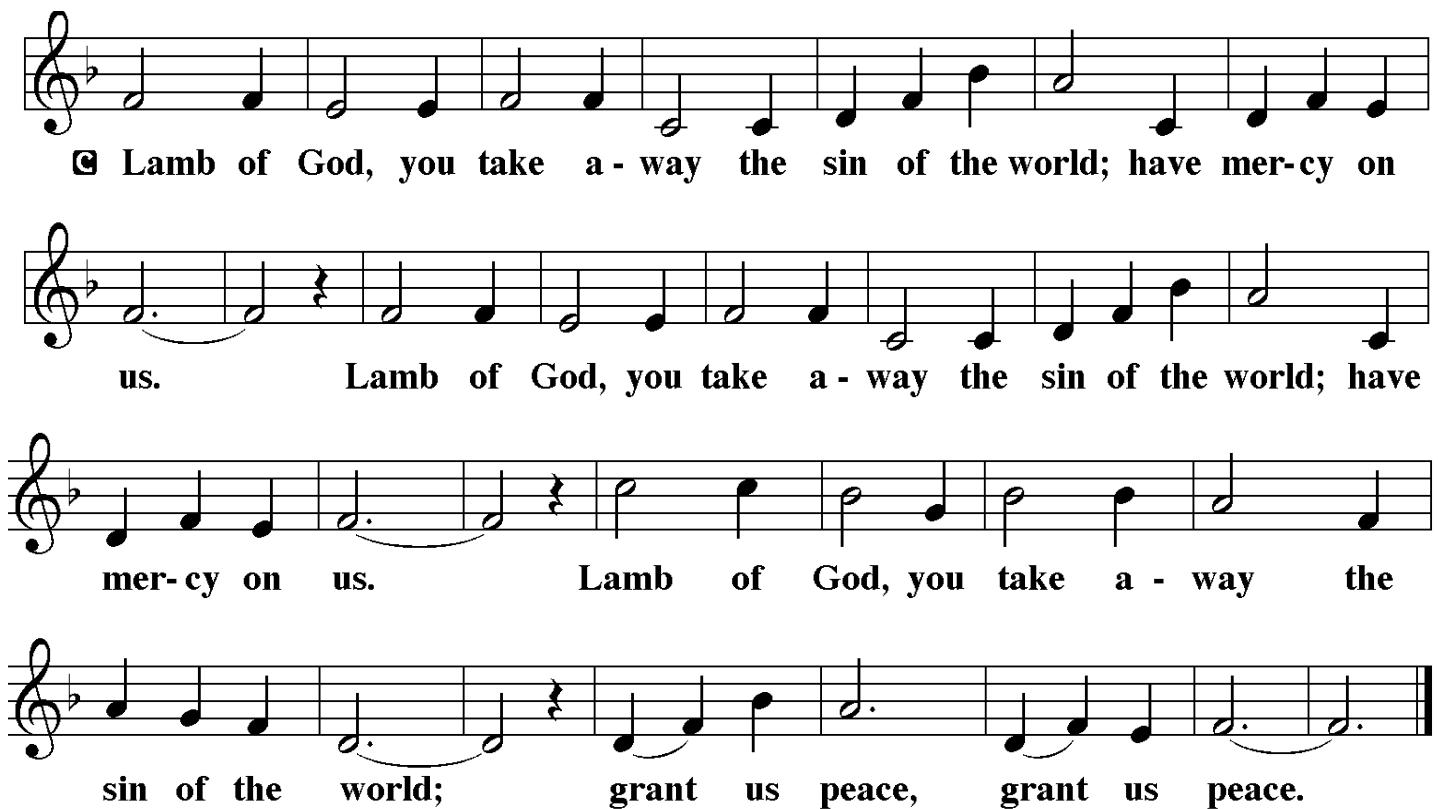
All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with, and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. Small children and others that wish not to commune may come forward for a blessing.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE.

Please come forward as the ushers direct, receive the bread in your hand and then receive the wine by dipping the host into the wine (chalice). Grape juice is also offered as an alternative to the wine in the clear chalice. We also have gluten free wafers for those in need, simply ask for them when you come forward.

Communion Distribution

Please be seated and come forward as the ushers direct.



C 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.

Communion Songs

“Christ, Be Our Light” ELW 715

Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. 3 Long-ing for food, man-y are hun-gry. 4 Long-ing for shel-ter, man-y are home-less. 5 Man-y the gifts, man-y the peo-ple, man-y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, hope, man-y de-spair. Your word a-lone wa-ter, man-y still thirst. Make us your bread, warmth, man-y are cold. Make us your build-ing, hearts that yearn to be-long. Let us be ser-vants



your ho-ly peo-ple, light for the world to see. has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv-ing voice. bro-ken for oth-ers, shared un-til all are fed. shel-ter-ing oth-ers, walls made of liv-ing stone. to one an-oth-er, signs of your king-dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark-ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath-ered to-day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service” ELW 712
Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

1 Lord, whose love in hum - ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu - man need,
2 Still your chil - dren wan - der home-less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal - ing light
4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,

who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer-cy's per - fect deed:
still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up - on our quick-en ed sight,
to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;

we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com-pas - sion bids us bear,
hope and health, good-will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,

con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.
stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.
that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984
Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985
Text © 1961 Oxford University Press.
Arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress.

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Communion Blessing *(Please Stand As You Comfortable)*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Communion Prayer

Gracious God,

In this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and \dagger give you peace.

Amen

Closing Hymn

“When Morning Light Gilds the Skies” ELW 853

Please stand as you are comfortable

When Morning Gilds the Skies

1 When morn-ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries:
 2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:
 3 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heav'n is known
 4 Let all of hu - man - kind in this their con - cord find:
 5 Sing, sun and stars of space, sing, all who see his face,

may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning shad - ows fall,
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer
 than “Je - sus Christ be praised!” There to the e - ter - nal Word
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round
 sing, “Je - sus Christ be praised!” God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,

this rings my cur - few call: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 has none that can com - pare with “Je - sus Christ be praised!”
 the e - ter - nal psalm is heard: oh, Je - sus Christ be praised!
 ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 to - day and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

Text: German hymn, 19th cent.; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.
 Music: LAUDES DOMINI, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896

DISMISSAL

Go in the love, light, and life of the newborn Christ, to serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Please join us for coffee and fellowship after the service.
Second Sunday of each month join us for brunch after the service.**

Calendar for Week of February 9 to February 15, 2026

Tuesday	February 10, 2026	Bible Study "The Chosen"	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday	February 11, 2026	Church School	3:45 p.m.
Thursday	February 12, 2026	Text Study	9:00 a.m.
Sunday	February 15, 2026	Worship Service	9:00 a.m.

Next Council Meeting:

Annual Meeting on February 15th begins at 10:30 a.m.

Upcoming Events:

Ash Wednesday – start of Lenten Services and Soup Supper (Sign-up sheets in the Narthex)

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*Check our calendar of events on the church website for
times and dates of events and worship services.*

Website: www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org

FaceBook: Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church – Sayner, WI

Instagram: sotlsayner



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