

St. Luke

Lutheran
Church

Knowing,
Sharing, and
Celebrating
Christ



FEBRUARY 12, 2023
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Welcome to 9:30 am Worship

35 Wilson Ave, PO Box 338; Gilbertsville, PA 19525
610-367-9738 www.stlukegilbertsville.org

PRELUDE

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

setting, Gordon Young ©1960 Harold Flammer, Inc

GATHERING HYMN:

ELW 832 My Lord of Light

Text: Christopher Idle, b. 1938, ©1980 Jubilate Hymns, admin.Hope Publishing Company; Music: English folk tune; arr. Alice Parker, b. 1925, Arr.©1995 Augsburg Fortress.

HYMN OF THE DAY:

ELW 772 Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.; Music: William H. Havergal, 1793-1870.

COMMUNION:

Come Down, O Love Divine

setting, William H. Bates ©2008 Concordia Publishing House

SENDING HYMN:

ELW 818 O Master, Let Me Walk with You

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt.; Music: H. Percy Smith, 1825-1898.

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The Rev. Dr. Susan Folks,
Interim Pastor

Lincoln Noecker,
Director of Music

Valerie Schlegel
Dir. Handbell & Youth Choir

Marsha Staub,
Office Administrator

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Dave Janzow, Vice President
Pam Reifsnnyder, Secretary
Scott Moyer, Treasurer

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Donna Conrad

Michael Ferraro

Connie Hukari

Dave Janzow

Tim Kenna

Bonnie Kuser

Pam Reifsnnyder

Tom Undercuffler

Joe Vendetti

St. Luke Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Lenapehoking people and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit Calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit.
who makes all things new,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal,
**we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,
and cannot free ourselves.**
We have not practiced your righteousness.
Our hearts have turned away from you.
For the sake of the world you so love,
forgive us,
that we may be reconciled to one another
for the glory of your holy name.
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 ✠ Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

My Lord of Light

ELW 832

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

O God,
**the strength of all who hope in you,
because we are weak mortals
we accomplish nothing good without you.
Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do,
and give us grace and power to do them,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING:

A reading from Deuteronomy 30:15-20

[Moses said to the people:] ¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸

declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:1-8

¹Happy are they whose way is blameless,
who follow the teaching of the LORD!

**²Happy are they who observe your decrees
and seek you with all their hearts,**

³who never do any wrong,
but always walk in your ways.

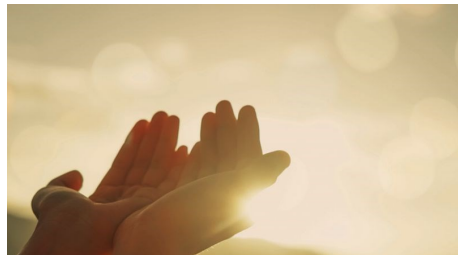
**⁴You laid down your commandments,
that we should fully keep them.**

⁵Oh, that my ways were made so direct
that I might keep your statutes!

**⁶Then I should not be put to shame,
when I regard all your commandments.**

⁷I will thank you with a true heart,
when I have learned your righteous judgments.

**⁸I will keep your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me.**



SECOND READING:

A reading from 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

¹Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? ⁴For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

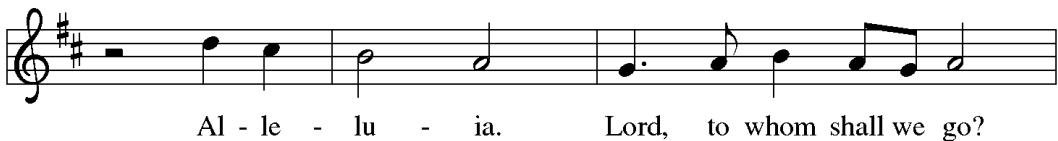
⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. ⁹For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or spirit

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL:

The holy gospel according to Matthew 5:21-37

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ²¹“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

³¹“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³²But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ ³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for

you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Susan Folks

Please rise in body or spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways* **ELW 772**

CREED

Together, let us confess our faith using the words of the 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.**

The assembly is seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Inspire your church that it may be a sign of life throughout the world. From the exploration of faith with children and new believers to missionaries and bishops, shape lives of faithfulness, so that all find abundant life in your ways. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Nourish your creation. Accompany all who plant and water. Bless the work of farmers; provide for subsistence farmers facing drought and climate change. Give strength to those who mourn the dead in Turkey, Syria, and all surrounding areas affected by the earthquake. Guide the work of agricultural scientists toward sustainable ways to feed the world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Give growth where there seems to be no hope for life. In nations and regions where reconciliation seems impossible especially in Peru, Ukraine, Syria, and Gaza, empower peacemakers with your Spirit. Where death holds sway through violence, disease, and hunger, equip relief workers to bring hope. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Nurture all in need. Bring healing to all who experience trauma caused by systems of injustice and destructive relationships. Give courage to those struggling to repent and those seeking reconciliation. Sustain all who work for restoration. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Encourage this congregation. Call us to a common purpose and keep us from quarrelling. Turn our hearts toward you and guide our leaders, so that our choices may be lifegiving for all. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Thanks be to you for the lives of all who have died in Christ, especially Cyril, Methodius, and Martin. Teach us to follow them in your ways and gather us with them into the promise of eternal life with you. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We give to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

*Thank you for your continued generosity to St. Luke
and the mission of God we share.*

An offering plate is located near the front entrance to receive your gifts.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Liberating God,

you break the bonds of injustice

and let the oppressed go free.

Receive these offerings in thanksgiving

for all your works of merciful power,

and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.

You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

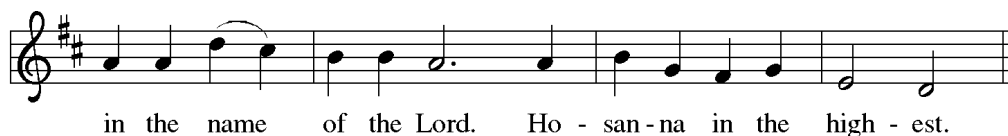
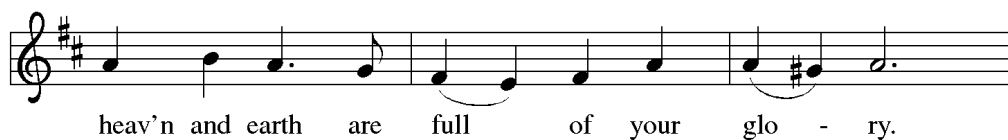
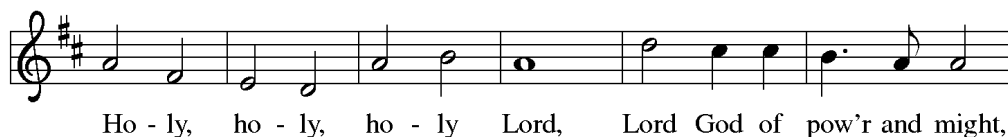
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the
hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All are welcome to the table. If you will be coming to the altar for communion, please follow the ushers' instructions. Those who are choosing to stay in the pew, using the prefilled cups, and those who need to have the pastor bring the elements to them should wait for instructions from the pastor. Children are most welcome to accompany their parents to the altar for a blessing.

Come and taste the joy of the Lord!

COMMUNION SONG

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

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

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

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Holy One,
**we thank you for the healing
that springs forth abundantly from this table.
Renew our strength to do justice,
love kindness,
and journey humbly with you. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

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

Please rise in body and spirit.

BLESSING

Church, receive this blessing.

The God who faithfully brings forth justice
and breaks the oppressor's rod

✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,
today and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

O Master, Let Me Walk with You

ELW 818

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Knowing, sharing and celebrating Christ.

POSTLUDE

From Sundayandseasons.com



Lectionary for February 13-18

Monday – Psalm 119:9-16; Exodus 20:1-21; James 1:2-8

Tuesday – Psalm 119:9-16; Deuteronomy 23:21—24:4, 10-15; James 2:1-13

Wednesday – Psalm 119: 9-16; Proverbs 2:1-15; Matthew 19:1-12

Thursday – Psalm 119:33-40; Exodus 22:21-27; 1 Corinthians 10:23—11:1

Friday – Psalm 119:33-40; Leviticus 6:1-7; Galatians 5:2-6

Saturday - Psalm 119:33-40; Leviticus 24:10-23; Matthew 7:1-12

Today's Worship Leaders:

Worship Minister: The Rev. Dr. Susan Folks

Director of Music: Lincoln Noecker

Lector: Ron Ball

Ushers: Ron Hukari, Dave Janzow

PRAYERS FOR Health and Healing:

- Roberta Windish, cancer treatments, (friend of Ron & Celeste Ball)
- Chris Jensen, medical testing (friend of Pam Ferraro)
- Sally Byrnes, additional eye testing (friend of Mike & Pam Ferraro)
- People of Bohodukhiv
- Gabby Witman-Ayers, 17 yr. old hospitalized with cancer
- Emalyn Moyer, heart surgery, 9-year-old daughter of Alex and Jackie Moyer

PRAYERS FOR those in grief:

- Family & friends of Betty Shenk
- Family & friends of Richard Nyman (Trudy Durante's father)

PRAYERS FOR those Needing Continued Prayers:

Bob Arobone

Tom Bucks

Kristopher Yoder

Jalen Gray

Larry Kuser

Sharon Smith

Bonnie Ritter

PRAYERS FOR those at home:

Charles & Gloria Christman

Jean & Bill Christy

Marie Geiger

Paul McFarland

Ruth Nice

Helen Penketh

Clayton & Ann Rhoads

Cookie Stasik

IN OUR PRAYERS: This morning in our prayers we remember the saints whose commemorations fall during this week:

February 14 Cyril, monk, 869; Methodius, bishop, 885; missionaries to the Slavs

February 18 Martin Luther, renewer of the church, 1546

TODAY

Please come to Memorial Hall after the service today to fill bags for the United Way homeless project. This is Ron Ball's Action Team project. The 2023 Thrivent Live Generously t-shirts are available to thank you for helping.

Endowment Applications

2023 grants from the endowment fund at St. Luke are available for charitable organizations. An application can be obtained by calling Marsha in the church office at 610-367-9738 or by emailing stluke19525@outlook.com. Applications are due back by March 31.

The BOYERTOWN ALUMNI MARCHING UNIT is having their 46th ANNIVERSARY SPRING CONCERT On Saturday, April 29th at 3:00PM in the Donald J. Kuszyk Auditorium at Boyertown Middle School West

We are looking for new Members to join our Organization. If you live or know someone in the Boyertown Area School District or graduated from Boyertown High School, we invite you to break out that instrument that you packed away in a closet or attic. If you don't feel comfortable about playing the Spring Concert because you have not touched your instrument in many years, I urge you to attend some of the practices to get back in the swing of things.

The following practices will be held upstairs at the Keystone Fire Company. We start practice at 6:00 PM and end at 8:00 PM.

January 22, 29, February 2, 19, 26; March 5, 12, 19, 26; April 2, 16

The following practices will be held at Boyertown Middle School West
April 23, 26, 28

Pastor Susan Folks will be on vacation From Monday February 13 to February 17.

Date	Week of February 12-18	Location
Sunday, February 12 6th Sunday after Epiphany	9:30 am Worship & Annual Meeting 10:30 Bible Study	Nave Yarn Room
Tuesday, February 14	6:30 pm Cherub Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	Choir Room Memorial Hall
Wednesday, February 15	1:00-4:00 pm CCR Shopping 7:00 pm Handbells	CCR Sanctuary
Thursday, February 16	6:30 pm Girl Scouts	Memorial Hall
Friday, February 17	8:30 pm AA Meeting	Class Room Downstairs
Worship Leaders	Sunday, February 19	Sunday, February 26
Lector	Dave Janzow	Mike Romasco
Ushers	Gary Fronheiser, Ron Hukari	Dave Girton, Ron Hukari
Office Volunteers	Pat Hallman (Feb. 16)	Donna Biehl (Feb. 23)

100th Anniversary Campaign

Pledges received year to date: \$96,430
Actual monies received to date: \$123,344

Worship and Stewardship			
<u>Our January Commitment</u>		<u>Our Generosity</u>	<u>Overage/Shortfall</u>
Budget	\$16,330	\$8,891	- \$7,439
Mission Support	\$680	\$ 583	- \$ 97



EARTHQUAKE IN TURKEY

YOUR LOVE IS NEEDED

The needs of our neighbors in Turkey are growing every hour. Lutheran World Relief is already working with their trusted local partners to reach children, women and men in desperate need.

Your gift to Lutheran World Relief's emergency response fund will deliver urgently needed support and care, like:

- Food, water and other critically needed items
- Temporary shelter
- Medicine and supplies for clinics

At this time, financial gifts are the number one need to assist our neighbors who are injured, hungry and displaced from multiple earthquakes.

HOW TO GIVE

You can give directly through Lutheran World Relief at lwr.org/quake or by mailing to Lutheran World Relief, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061. Please write "QUAKE" in the memo line. Gifts can also be made through our congregation. Write "QUAKE" in the memo line and we will rush a check from the church to Lutheran World Relief.

**Until your love reaches
every neighbor.**



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

LWR.ORG/QUAKE



READER

Epiphany 6

- Today is the **sixth Sunday** in **Epiphany**.
- During Epiphany, we remember the **wise men** from the east.
- The wise men traveled a great distance to **see** and **honor** Jesus.

Answer the questions below to learn more about the path of Jesus' life.

1. The wise men traveled from the:

- a. north
- b. south
- c. east
- d. west

2. Frankincense comes from

- a. trees
- b. flowers
- c. rocks
- d. the bottom of a stinky backpack

3. Jesus spent the first few years of his life in

- a. Egypt
- b. Bethlehem
- c. Corinth
- d. Montreal

4. Who was John the Baptist's father?

- a. Joseph
- b. Zechariah
- c. Kevin
- d. Job

5. In the book of Matthew, Jesus gave a sermon that was called the

- a. Parking lot
- b. Ship
- c. Lake
- d. Mount