



ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

OUR MISSION:

TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

TO MAKE DISCIPLES

TO EMBODY GOD'S LOVE

Introduction

Who are the blessed ones of God?

For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross.

For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness.

In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

Thanks be to God!



FEBRUARY 1, 2026

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP 9:00AM

BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00AM

YOUTUBE LIVE STREAM 10:00 AM



Assisting in Worship Today

Preaching: Pastor Quentin Surace

Organist: Emily Schuttenberg

Acolyte:

Lay Reader: Kermit Nash

Greeters: Cheryl Brown, Marcheta Campbell

Ushers:

Assisting Minister: Kermit Nash

Crucifer:

Communion Assistants:

Council Duties:

Attendance last Sunday, January 25th was **You Tube only**. Service cancelled due to ice and snow.

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

10:00 AM

FEBRUARY 1, 2026

**Please stand as able*

P: Pastor; A: Assisting Minister; C: Congregation

GATHERING

Setting 2 ELW

GATHERING MUSIC (9:45AM)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (9:55AM)

PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES BY ACOLYTE

Instrumental

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: 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.

P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely. *Silence is kept for reflection.* Mighty God, lover of justice,

C: **you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

P: The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in ☩ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins. C: Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!"

VS. 1-3,6

ELW # 873

***KYRIE (Setting 2) Pastor sings the verses, assembly sings the refrain.**

ELW p.120-121

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

C: Amen.

WORD

LESSONS

Micah 6:1-8, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Kermit Nash

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

"Alleluia"

ELW p.124

GOSPEL READING

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. C: **Glory to you, O Lord**

Matthew 5:1-12

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Quentin Surace

SERMON

Pastor Quentin Surace

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

"Let Streams of Living Justice"

ELW #710

***APOSTLES' CREED**

ELW p.127

***PRAYERS BY ASSISTING MINISTER**

A: 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.....Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

***SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE**

MEAL

THE OFFERING

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

vs. 1-3,5

ELW #302

OFFERING PRESENTATION/RESPONSE “Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow”

ELW #885

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heav’nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PROPER PREFACE FOR EPIPHANY**

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (sung)**

ELW p.130

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow’r and might, heav’n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION FOR HOLY COMMUNION: II**

ELW p.134

***THE LORD’S PRAYER** P: Lord, teach us to pray . . .

DISTRIBUTION

We welcome all who believe Jesus is Lord to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. An usher will guide you to the center aisle to receive communion. You may return to your seat by the outer aisle. If you are not able to come forward, please notify an usher by raising your hand and communion will be brought to you. After communing all who wish may go to the altar for prayer. You may also come forward for a blessing.

AGNUS DEI (LAMB OF GOD)

ELW p.135

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“O God of Mercy, God of Light”

ELW #714

SENDING COMMUNION TO SICK AND HOMEBOUND PRAYER

ELW p. 72

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION BY ASSISTING MINISTER**

A: Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

SENDING

***BLESSING** P: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ✠ bless you now and forever. Together let us proclaim our mission:

C: To proclaim the Gospel. To make disciples. To embody God’s love. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

“The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”

WOV #723

***Dismissal:** P: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **C: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Instrumental

Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

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

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Matthew 5:1-12

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

Church Staff

Pastor: Pastor Quentin F. Surace
Music Director: Emily Schuttenberg
Family Ministries Director: Wendy Hefner
Finance Secretary: Deanna Butcher
2025 Church Council President: Terry Hefner

Custodian: Larry Smyre/Mark Oakley
Secretary: Patricia Hoke
Preschool Co-Director: Randyl Abernathy
Preschool Co-Director: Maria Wright