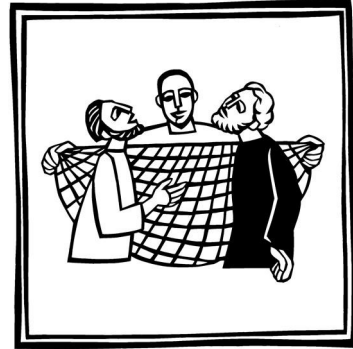


**Third Sunday After Epiphany
January 22, 2023
9:30 am Worship**

**Christ Lutheran Church
Cottonwood, Minnesota**



Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. We are grateful to God you are here.
We pray that you will feel the Spirit and welcome of this faith community,
and we look forward to seeing you again!

“Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.”

(Sundays and Seasons, Augsburg Fortress, 2022)

GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.
Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here.*

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

WORDS OF WELCOME

P: This is the day that the Lord has made,
All: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Please rise in body or spirit.

OPENING WORDS OF FAITH

from Psalm 27

P: God is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? God is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

All: For God will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble, conceal me under the cloak of his tent and set me high on a rock.

P: Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to God.

All: Hear, O God, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me! 'Come,' my heart says, 'seek God's face!' Your face God do I seek.

P: Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

All: For even if my father and mother forsake me, God will take me up.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

All: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy One, source of our renewal,

All: 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.

P: 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 † Christ our Savior.

All: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

Stanzas 1, 3 & 4 ELW# 798

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Lord God,

All: your loving kindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:1-4

¹But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. ²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ."

¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)

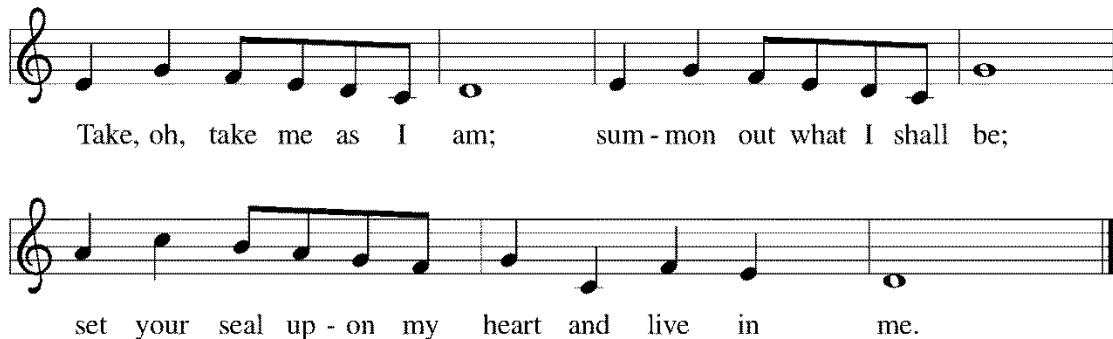
¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. ¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise in body or spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *“Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am”* ELW# 814



Take, oh, take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;

set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell

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GOSPEL READING

Matthew 4:12-23

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the fourth chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee.

¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— ¹⁶the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” ¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

Please be seated.

MESSAGE

Pastor Janel Kuester

HYMN OF THE DAY *“How Firm a Foundation*

ELW# 796

Please rise in body or spirit.

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES’ CREED

All: 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.

SHARING OF GOD’S PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Please share a sign of God’s peace with one another.

Please be seated.

THANKSGIVING

We respond in gratitude for God’s never-failing love and mercy.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

BLESSING OF NEW MEMBERS

Greg and Carol Bossuyt

Josh, Nicole, Lydia and Claire Brusven

Ben, Krishana and Nora Dempcy

Mitchel, Katelyn, Makayla, Braiden and Jameson Eulberg

Zac, Laura, Mally, Collins and Kennedy Fischer

Perry, Rowan and Paisley Fossen

Koreen Hamann

Bradley, Alisha, Grace, Ava and Kipton Handeland

Lyle and Christy Johnson

Zach, Ashley, Addyson, Harper, Beckett and Piper Jorgenson

Kevin, Kalli, Quinn and Piper Louwagie

Mitchell and Amanda McKay

Jamie, Emily, Hope and Grant Norgaard

Ken and Brenda Ristau

Gary and Wendy VanWinkle

OFFERING AND MUSIC

Thank you for your generosity.

Please rise in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Let us pray. Gracious God, in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The congregation responds to the prayer petitions with, "hear our prayer."

LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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.

SENDING

God sends us in mission to the world

SENDING BLESSING

P: God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in peace.

All: Amen.

SENDING HYMN *"Will You Come and Follow Me"*

Stanzas 1, 2 & 5 ELW# 798

SENDING WORDS

L: Go in peace. Follow in the way of Jesus.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

— Thank You For Serving This Sunday, January 22 —

Ushers: Dean Berg, Claire Erickson, Kathie Erickson, Jon Myrvik, Sidnee Olson, and Tracy Sterner

Musician: Marian Kalass

Acolyte: Jovie Benson

Lector and Assisting Minister: Stephanie Lundberg

PA: Shawn Myers and Conner/Corey Moseng

Video Camera: Gary Morken and Larry Isaackson

Altar Care: Michelle Moseng and Heather Velde

Counters: Tracy Sterner and Darla Morken

This Week's Calendar

Today, Sunday, January 22: Third Sunday of Epiphany

Fellowship Time before and after Worship

9:00 am Preschool Sunday School

9:30 am Worship and New Member Blessing

10:45 am Council Meeting

Monday, January 23:

2:00 pm Fieldcrest Communion Service

Wednesday, January 25:

6:00 pm Mission Possible

7:00 pm Confirmation Mentor Week

7:00 pm Third Year Confirmation Parent/Student Meeting

Next Sunday, January 29 Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Fellowship Time before and after Worship

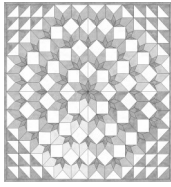
9:00 am Preschool Sunday School

9:30 am Worship



An invitation from Pastor Janel (PJ):

If you are **interested in church membership** or know someone interested, please call PJ at the church office 507 423 5100 or her cell phone 651 726 4003. Email is: pstrjanel@gmail.com



Help Needed

We are needing volunteers to help make the Baptismal Quilts. This could be one individual or a team effort. Please consider serving in this way to be able to continue giving these as a gift for the newly baptized.

A Special Thank You!

We would like to thank Karen Geihl for her years of making the Baptism Quilts. We so appreciate your handiwork and commitment to this church project!

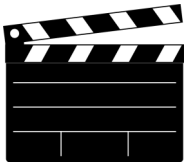


Connections Newsletter Moves to a Quarterly Format

Periodically as a community of faith, we look at ways to be better stewards of what is lovingly and generously given to the church for mission, ministry and maintenance. The church council recently reviewed some costs including the cost of production and postage of sending the church newsletter. In alignment with looking at the costs of production and postage, we are also asking you to consider several items:

- If you are willing to receive the newsletter in *electronic format only*, please contact the church office by emailing christlutheran@christcotton.com. By emailing the church, we will also have the correct email address you wish to use to receive all church communications including the weekly calendar and weekly bulletin.
- If you wish to continue to *receive the newsletter in print format*, we are happy to print and mail you one. We want all to continue to receive updates and news from the church. Please call the church office at 507-423-5100.

There is also a church directory printed on a clipboard on the table at the back of the sanctuary for you to mark your choices.



Lent 2023 - Calling All Actors!

Would you be interested in sharing your dramatic gifts at one of the Wednesday services to tell the story of the difficulties that Jesus encountered when he was on earth? This is a one Wednesday evening commitment. Pastor Janel is gathering the cast for each week together now, so please let her know of your willingness. And don't worry about skill level. Experience is not final criteria – only desire!

Prayer Requests

The Apostle Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:6-7 to, “*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*” Your prayers are a gift to those requesting them, and encouragement for one another as we experience challenges, sorrows, or thanksgivings of any kind.

Health Concerns, as well as Others In Our Hearts and On Our Minds:

Alton Huso, Grant Johnson, Teri Kemmer, Josie Lovsness, Brad Marks,
Lloyd Powell, June Schwartz

All those dealing with illness, addictions, depression, cancer, hunger, homelessness, unemployment, and any challenges in their lives.

Independent Living/Assisted Living/Care Center Residents/Homebound:

Darleen Cole, Irene Evers, Betty Lovsness, Jody Mohr, Donna Neuharth, Bobby Olson, Sonny and Ione Olson, Laurie Pickthorn, Steve Pederson, Margaret Rewerts, Jim Runholt

Families of our Congregation:

Carl, Megan, Jaxon, Cora, and Lakyn Sharkey
Cody and Whitney St. Aubin
Shelby St. Pierre

Grieving Families:

The family of Robert Brinkman (Mary Lund’s stepfather)

Workers in Other Countries, Missionaries, and Local Congregation Missions.

*Robin’s Nest Children’s Home, Jamaica, Kikatiti Secondary School, Tanzania,
and World Mission Prayer League (WMPL)*

Christ Lutheran Church Location: 126 Front Street

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 166, Cottonwood, Minnesota 56229

Office Phone and Voice Mail: 507-423-5100

www.christcottonwood.org

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