

**Time After Epiphany
Sunday, January 28, 2024**

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!

All the baptized have a calling in God's world. In the Gospel reading, Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where — or rather whom — we come to. Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet.

(adapted from Sundays and Seasons, Augsburg Fortress, 2023)

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.

GATHERING HYMN “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

ELW# 843

Please rise in body or spirit.

WORDS OF FAITH

from Psalm 111

P: Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;

All: I will praise the Lord in the midst of the congregation.

P: For great are the deeds of the Lord, and the faithful delight in them.

All: The works of the Lord are full of majesty and splendor, and his righteousness endures forever.

P: He has shown the people his power and strength.

All: The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; all his commandments are sure.

P: He has sent redemption to his people and established his covenant forever.

All: Holy and awesome is our God. His goodness endures forever.

WORDS OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

P: Almighty God, our hearts are open to you today; from you no secrets can be hidden. Hear now our praise, our prayers and our innermost thoughts. Send your Holy Spirit to reclaim us, to forgive us and to redeem us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

P: Faithful Lord and Savior, we confess before you that we are bound in sin and that only you can set us free from that bondage.

All: We confess that we have heard you calling us to be your servants in the world, but we fail to trust in you.

P: We confess that we are marvelously and wonderfully made, the crown of your creation, but we fail to treat our bodies as your temple and dwelling place.

All: We confess that you have drawn us into the body of Christ, but we often fail to see others as part of that same body.

P: And so, O Lord, we turn to you in your great mercy, that you might forgive us, renew us and lead us in your ways.

(Silence for a time of self-reflection)

P: Just as in many instances in the Bible, people were invited through a simple invitation by Jesus to “come and see.” Today, we have that same offer extended to us: Come and see all that Jesus has in store for you.

There is forgiveness ☩, restoration and the promise of a future filled with hope.
This is God's gift for you.

All: Amen. Thanks be to God.

OPENING HYMN *"Give to God Immortal Praise"* **ELW# 848**

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. Compassionate God,

All: you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as your Savior. Make whole all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING Deuteronomy 18:15-20

¹⁵The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

L: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

L: Word of God, Word of Life

All: Thanks be to God

Please rise in body or spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “I Love to Tell the Story”**Stanza 1 ELW# 661****GOSPEL READING**

Mark 1:21-28

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.

²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

MESSAGE

Pastor Janel Kuester

HYMN OF THE DAY “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” ELW# 310

Please rise in body or spirit.

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 all.

All: And also with you.

Please share a sign of God’s peace with your neighbors.

Please be seated.

THANKSGIVING

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

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

GATHERING OF OFFERING

*You can give electronically by either visiting
www.christcottonwood.org and setting up a one time or
recurring gift or by snapping on the
QR Code to the right.*



Thank you for your generosity.

Please rise in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Let us pray: O God, maker of all things, through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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.**

Please be seated.

SENDING

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

SENDING BLESSING

P: God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ☩ keep you in peace.

All: Amen.

SENDING HYMN *“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”* **ELW# 789**

SENDING WORDS

L: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Liturgy pieces from Sundays and Seasons © Augsburg Fortress.
Scripture readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA.



The 2024 Annual Meeting Is Today, January 28
following worship.

Grab a cup of coffee and snack and
rejoin us in the sanctuary.

Reports have been emailed and copies can be picked up at the church.

— Thank You For Serving This Sunday, January 28, 2023 —

Ushers: Alton Huso, Doug Warnke, Jon Hoehne, Marvin Kremin, Avery Lundberg, Erik Lundberg, Aubrey Pederson, Mallory Pederson, Natalie Pederson, Scott Pederson, Sydney Pederson

Musician: Marian Kalass

Acolyte: Laia Javens

Assisting Minister: Amy Jo Remmele

PA: Shawn Myers and Conner Moseng

Video: Gary Morken and Corey Moseng

Altar Care: Michelle Moseng and Heather Velde

Counters: Pete Lavin and Darla Morken

This Week's Calendar

Today, Sunday, January 28: Fourth Sunday After The Epiphany

Fellowship Time before and after Worship

9:00 am Preschool Sunday School

9:30 am Worship

10:45 am Annual Meeting

Monday, January 29:

2:00 pm Fieldcrest Devotion Service

Wednesday, January 31:

6:00 pm Mission Possible

7:00 pm Confirmation

Sunday, February 4: Fifth Sunday After The Epiphany

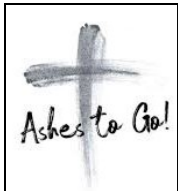
Fellowship Time before and after Worship

9:00 am Preschool Sunday School

9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion - Children Sing in Worship

Looking Ahead to Ash Wednesday and Lent

Ash Wednesday this year is **February 14th**. It is the day that marks the beginning of the Season of Lent, and once again we will gather in worship and celebrate Holy Communion as we begin the journey to the cross with Jesus. As we enter into the Lenten period of 40 days, our worship also includes a time when we mark with ashes the sign of the cross on one's forehead, a ritual which has been part of Ash Wednesday worship over all the centuries. This visible sign not only identifies us as followers as Christ Jesus, but also reminds us of our deep need for God's love and mercy in our lives. The worship service on Ash Wednesday is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.



Ashes to Go

However, if you would prefer to receive ashes and Holy Communion, Pastor Janel will be offering the following times listed below to receive ashes in the drive through area in the front of the church.

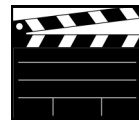
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Or by appointment, call the church office 507-423-5100

Lent 2024 - Calling All Actors!

Would you be interested in sharing your dramatic gifts at one of the Wednesday services. Pastor Janel is gathering the cast together now, so please let her know of your willingness. Most weeks we will need two actors. And don't worry about skill level. Experience is not final criteria – only desire!



Lenten Fellowship Meals



Is this you? We are currently looking for a meal coordinator for the Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday evening meals. Meals will be served at 6:00 pm prior to worship. You will be asked to help coordinate soup makers and other fixings for sandwiches and beverages. You will also be coordinating servers and clean up crew.

So, is this you?

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:

Barb Crouse, Larry Isaackson, Teri Kemmer, John Mackenzie, Kit Mackenzie, Linda Magnuson, Brad Marks, Kathy Martin, Norman Myers, Eleanor Nickolauson, Ione Olson, Linda Olson, Joyce Warnke

All those dealing with illness, addictions, depression, cancer, hunger, homelessness, unemployment, and any challenges in their lives. Areas at war: Ukraine and Israel.

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

Darleen Cole, Jody Mohr, Donna Neuharth,
Bobby Olson, Sonny and Ione Olson, Laurie Pickthorn, Steve Pederson,
Margaret Rewerts, Jim Runholt, June Schwartz

Families of our Congregation:

Ralph Sonny and Ione Olson
Robert Olson
Sidnee Olson

Grieving Families:

The family Sam Smith (Allie Enga's brother)

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

Mfolozi Circuit and ELCSA, Robin's Nest Children's Home in Jamaica, Kikatiti Secondary School in Tanzania, and World Mission Prayer League (WMPL)

Seminarian:

Katherine (Kit) Mackenzie

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