

Synod-Wide Music Celebration

This event is being held TODAY from 4:00-6:00 PM at Trinity Lutheran, 1010 Sill Street, in La Crosse. Seven choirs will perform. Bishop Felix told those at a training this week that the music “is phenomenal”.

Newsletter Deadline

Please have any items you wish placed in the March-April newsletter to the church office, no later than noon on February 24. Thank you.



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
February 16, 2025
**Inviting People to
Journey with Christ's Family
In Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the “blessed are” and the “woe to” are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.

**(Indicates the people should stand as they are able.)*

Welcome and Announcements

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

Gathering

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

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
our creator,
our protector,
our wellspring of life.

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God,
you speak blessing and compassion into the world.
Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.
We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;
we assume the worst about one another.
Cleanse us from our faults
and release us from their grasp.
Show us your lovingkindness.
Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways.
Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name. You are mine."
In ☩ Christ, you are forgiven.
In the Spirit, you are made free.
Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God.
Amen.

***Hymn "Jesus Shall Reign" ELW #434**

Prayer of the Day
Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Trans-
form the poverty of our nature by the riches of your
grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your
glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SYNOD ASSEMBLY PROJECT

The Synod is asking people to save the rolls from toilet paper and paper towels. In addition, they are asking we save milk caps. We'll put a small container out so you can just drop them in and we'll take care of them from there.

LUKE'S DINER

Join us this Lent as we gather around tables to share a meal and share Jesus' story. Our theme will focus on the many times Jesus broke bread with others throughout the gospel of Luke. This Lent, we will worship as we eat.

The meal at Luke's Diner will consist of soup and sandwich. We are looking for volunteers to provide one or both. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

If you wish to have your son or daughter participate in a first communion class, please speak with Pastor Karen.

THANK YOU'S!

To Louise Buchholz for organizing the valentine project for the Sunday school children and also for mailing the valentine's. The children made extra and Louise took those to the folks at the nursing home in Elroy. **THANK YOU LOUISE!!**

To Scott Niedfeldt for making the cross Karen is wearing. He actually made two. **THANK YOU SCOTT!!**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Live in hope.
Thanks be to God.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God's People; Synod Authorized Minister:
Karen Sparling; Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Leonard
Arndt; Altar: Barb Bever & Karla Richie; Communion Server:
Barb Bever

IN OUR PRAYERS

Gloria Meltesen, Darlene Babbitt, Wayne Schindler, Florence
Dougherty, Laurie Switz Johnson, Heidi Stenerson,
Richie Vlasak, Bud Speicher; Jeremy Munson, Kristy Gwin
Solovey, Lyle Schindler, Gordy O'Rourke, Marilyn O'Rourke,
Bud Osteboe, Larry Arndt, Carol Lydon Fronk, Ed Ross

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Danelle Dougherty, Allen
Roscovious, Robert Cale, Matthew Dutton.

CALENDAR

Today	Children Sing	
	Noisy Offering	
Wed., Feb. 19	Confirmation	5:00 PM
Sun., Feb. 23	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM

WORD

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

FIRST READING

These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.

A reading from Jeremiah 17:5-10

⁵ Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

⁶ They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.

⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹ The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—

who can understand it?

¹⁰ I the LORD test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 1

- ¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
- ² **Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**
- ³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.
- ⁴ **It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**
- ⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
- ⁶ **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

SECOND READING

For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.

A reading from 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God
✠ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion,
and send you in love.

Amen.

Hymn "I Shall Not Be Moved"

Refrain

I shall not be, I shall not be moved.
I shall not be, I shall not be moved;
like a tree planted by the water,
I shall not be moved.

When my cross is heavy, I shall not be moved,
when my cross is heavy, I shall not be moved;
like a tree planted by the water,
I shall not be moved.

The church of God is marching, I shall not be moved,
the church of God is marching, I shall not be moved;
like a tree planted by the water,
I shall not be moved.

Jesus is our captain, I shall not be moved,
Jesus is our captain, I shall not be moved;
like a tree planted by the water,
I shall not be moved.

Fighting sin and Satan, I shall not be moved,
fighting sin and Satan, I shall not be moved;
like a tree planted by the water,
I shall not be moved. *Refrain*

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The joy of the Lord is our strength.
Come, eat this meal of gladness.

Distribution

Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ's table.

"Lamb of God"

ELW p. 191

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourishing God,
**at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink.
Strengthen us for service,
and send us out to embody your good news
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ we pray,
Amen.**

proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL READING

After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.

The holy gospel according to Luke 6:17-26

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁷ [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they
exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son
of Man. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your
reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to
the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their
ancestors did to the false prophets.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Karen Sparling
Synod Authorized Minister

Hymn

“Canticle of the Turning”

ELW#723

***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** (God of grace, **hear our
prayer**)

OFFERING

Offering Hymn “This Little Light of Mine” v.1 ELW #677

OFFERING PRAYER

God of grace,
**your love reaches to the heavens,
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.
Bless what we offer to your service:
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.
Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,
now and always.
Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ