

# ***LUTHERAN CHAPEL***



**GENESIS 1, 2:1-4A AND MATTHEW 2:1-12**

*"Beginnings"*

**HOLY COMMUNION  
OBSERVANCE OF EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD  
JANUARY 4, 2026**

**[lutheranchapelchurch.org](http://lutheranchapelchurch.org)  
(704) 864-6491**

**LUTHERAN CHAPEL**  
**SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

***BOLD** indicates congregational responses - \* Indicates that all who are able should stand to honor God.*

**GATHER**

**WELCOME AND PRELUDE**

*“What Child is This”*

Arr. by John A. Behnke

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*Matthew 28:19b*

**C: Amen.**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

*1 John 1:8-9*

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let us recite the gift of the Ten Commandments and the Great Commandment and use these teachings to examine our lives.

**THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**

*Exodus 20:1-17*

- 1. I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of slavery; you shall have no other gods.**
- 2. You shall not make wrongful use of the Name of the LORD your God.**
- 3. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.**
- 4. Honor your father and mother.**
- 5. You shall not murder.**
- 6. You shall not commit adultery.**
- 7. You shall not steal.**
- 8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**
- 9. You shall not covet your neighbor’s house.**
- 10. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife or (husband).**

**THE GREAT COMMANDMENT**

*Mark 12:28-31*

**C: You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength...you shall love your neighbor as yourself.**

P: Let us kneel or sit for a time of silent confession and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. 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, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**\*THE APOSTOLIC GREETING**

*2 Corinthians 13:13*

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

**C: And also with you.**

**\*THE KYRIE**

*Mark 10:47, ELW pg. 147*

AM: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

AM: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

AM: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

AM: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

AM: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**\*GLORY TO GOD**

*Luke 2:14, John 1:29, ELW pg. 148*

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you,  
we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;**

**you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*(In Unison)*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**WORD**

**MESSAGE FOR ALL OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

*All who want to come forward for the Message are welcome to do so.*

**STORY OF SALVATION LESSON**

**GENESIS 1, 2:1-4A**

<sup>1</sup> When God began to create the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup> the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>6</sup> And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters

from the waters.” <sup>7</sup> So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. <sup>8</sup> God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup> And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup> Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. <sup>12</sup> The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

<sup>14</sup> And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. <sup>16</sup> God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. <sup>17</sup> God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, <sup>18</sup> to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup> And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” <sup>21</sup> So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” <sup>23</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. <sup>25</sup> God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

<sup>27</sup> **So God created humans in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.**

<sup>28</sup> God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” <sup>29</sup> God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup> God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

<sup>1</sup> Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. <sup>2</sup> On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. <sup>3</sup> So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

<sup>4</sup> These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## STORY OF SALVATION TIMELINE

The timeline below offers an overview of the Story of Salvation lesson from Genesis to Revelation. The + marks where we are now. The memory verse is in bold.

+**Creation** : Fall : Promise : Exodus : Conquest : Judges : Kings and Prophets : Exile :  
Restoration : 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple : JESUS : +Apostles : Last Day : New Creation

## PSALM 147



Text: Psalm 147:12-13, 1-2, 3-4, 14-15  
Tune: Marty Haugen  
© 1987, GIA Publications, Inc.

1. Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem, chant praises to your God.  
The strength of God is your fortress sure, and blessed are your children.

### **Refrain**

2. All praise to you, O gracious God, your goodness fills the earth.  
You raise anew Jerusalem, and gather all your lost ones.

### **Refrain**

3. You heal the hurt and broken heart, you bind up ev'ry wound,  
you number all the stars of night and call each one by name.

### **Refrain**

4. The peace of God shall be your hope, God's finest wheat,  
your food, the word of God fills all the earth, as rapid as the whirlwind.

### **Refrain**

## SECOND LESSON

## EPHESIANS 1:3-14

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 6:68

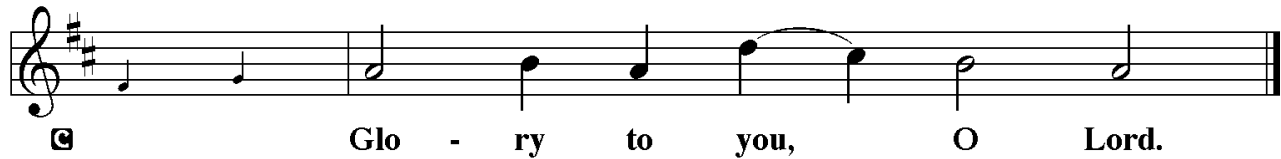
**C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

## \*GOSPEL

**MATTHEW 2:1-12**

*Those who are able may stand to honor Christ during the reading of the Gospel.*

Response after the announcement:

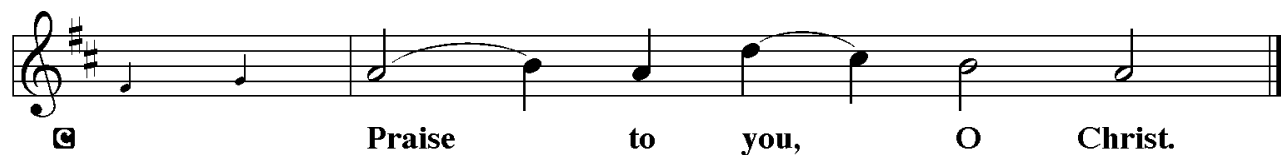


<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



## MESSAGE

*“Beginnings”*

On Creation – Gift of the Goldilocks Zone

Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh

**The Law** is an aspect in the Word that shows our brokenness, sin and need for Jesus’ saving power: Worship is boring. Why do I come to worship day by day, Sunday by Sunday anyway?

**The Gospel** is an aspect in the Word that gives strength, wisdom and hope in Jesus’ ultimate saving power: In the gifts of the Service, Jesus’ Word and Sacrament, song and praise, confession and forgiveness, prayer and purpose, God is shaping us into His godly people.

**So What?:** Enjoy the good creation. Care for the good creation. Come to church every Sunday in 2026 (unless you are sick of course – golden rule!). Rejoice in the name of Jesus throughout 2026.

**\*THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

*All are invited to confess our faith in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If you have not received the gift of baptism or would like to affirm your faith in Jesus and join His mission here, please indicate on the attendance registry and talk to an usher or the pastor.*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven and**

**sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy Christian Church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body**

**and the life + everlasting. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*1 Timothy 2:1-4*

AM: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*A brief silence may be kept. Each prayer will conclude: Lord in Your mercy, and the congregation may respond* **Hear our prayers.**

*Prayers are commended in Jesus’ Name.*

AM: All these prayers and whatever else You see that we need we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**\*THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

*Matthew 5:22-24: Ephesians 4:1-3*

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

**C: And also with you.**

**THE MEAL**

**TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

*2 Corinthians 9:7-8*

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

*“Three Kings from Persian Lands”*

Stan Pethel

**\*OFFERTORY**

*“Create in Me a Clean Heart”*

*Psalms 51:10-12*

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

**\*THE OFFERTORY PRAYER** *(In Unison)*

**C: Blessed are You, O God, maker of all things. Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, 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. Amen.**

**\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** *2 Timothy 4:22, Colossians 3:1, Psalm 136*

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.

**\*PREFACE AND THE HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** *Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9, ELW pg. 153*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**\*THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION** *Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, 1 Corinthians 11*

P: 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.

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9-13*

P: 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.**

**\*LAMB OF GOD** *John 1:29, ELW pg. 154*

**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, grant us peace.**

**\*DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

*All baptized Christians are welcome to Holy Communion. Here we receive forgiveness, the gift of abiding in Jesus, the remembrance of His sacrificial love for us on the Cross, and the promise of eternal life (Luke 24:13-35, John 6:22-59, 1 Cor. 11:23-26). Please request grape juice or gluten free bread if needed. (Please take your communion cup as you leave and discard in trashcan.)*

P: This is the body of Christ given for you. This is the blood of Christ shed for you.

**COMMUNION MUSIC**

*“I Come with Joy”  
“Come to the Table”*

**ELW #482  
ELW #481**

**SENDING**

**\*THE BLESSING**

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
C: Amen.

**\*SONG OF SIMEON**

*Luke 2:29-32*

**Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled.  
My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people:  
A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.  
Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace.**

**\*POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

AM: Giver of every gift, Christ’s body is our food, and we are Christ’s body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.  
C: Amen.

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*RECESSIONAL HYMN** *“We Three Kings of Orient Are”* **WOV #646**

**\*DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord!  
C: Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE** *Procession on “We Three Kings”* Arr. by John Barr

**SERVING THE CHURCH**

Ministers.....People of Lutheran Chapel  
Pastor.....Michael Comer  
Administrative Assistant.....Susan Hibsche  
Director of Music Ministries.....Kathie Riebe  
Choir Accompanist.....Anna Gilreath  
Assistant Minister.....Norman Overcash  
Acolyte.....Luke Hoffman  
Lector.....Beth Swindler  
Crucifer.....Will Clark  
Head Ushers.....Steve Clark and Ervin Hoffman  
First Aid/AED/CPR.....Matt Hoffman  
Council Members of the Month.....Jenny Williamson and Drew Carpenter

# Upcoming EVENTS



**GENERAL INFORMATION:** If your family is in need of a **nursery** attendant during the 10:00 service, please let our ushers know and they will contact one of our attendants. **Restrooms** are located on the bottom floor of the Sanctuary. Additional restrooms are located in the Educational Building and *do not require the use of stairs*. If needed, please see an usher for assistance in locating them.

**TO GIVE TITHES AND OFFERINGS ONLINE:** This QR code goes straight to the “Easy Tithe” page on the website that accepts tithes and offerings electronically.



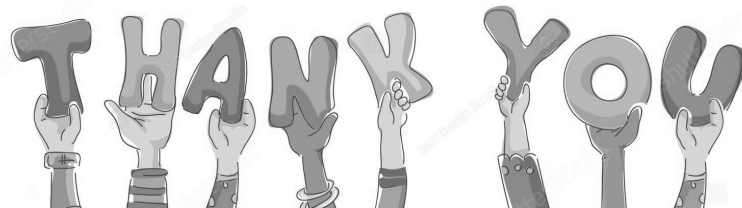
**CIRCLES:** *Esthers Circle* will meet in the Fellowship Hall on **Monday, January 5**

*Rebecca Circle* will meet on **Monday, January 12** at 6:00 pm at Jia, 3418 S New Hope Rd., Gastonia.

**2026 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR:** If you’d like to sign up for a Sunday in 2026, please contact Susan Lewis at 704-914-8451 or email [sudalewi@gmail.com](mailto:sudalewi@gmail.com). We still need flowers for April 19, June 7, July 5, October 25, Nov 1, Nov 8, and Nov 22.

**2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES:** You can now pick up your 2026 offering envelopes in the Narthex. In order to reduce the number of envelopes that are not being used, you may have been assigned a new envelope number. If you are a regular attender, there should be envelopes for you this year. If you would like an envelope assigned to you please contact the church office. Also note that Benevolences has now been renamed NC Synod under the offering flap.

**LOVE OFFERING FOR JANUARY:** The love offering for January will be given to the Cancer Services of Gaston County. Cancer Services provides education about cancer prevention and detection, assists cancer patients, and funds cancer research. The mission of Cancer Services is to serve the community by actively promoting healthy lifestyles and providing support and services needed by people living with cancer. Everyone is personally affected by cancer at some time in their life. By supporting agencies such as Cancer Services, you are helping people who are suffering from this disease.



*We appreciate your generous gift to us and look forward to serving you in the coming year!*

*Lutheran Chapel Staff*

# Weekly CALENDAR



<b>Sunday, January 4</b>	8:30 am	Fellowship with coffee
	9:00 am	Sunday School / Bible Study
	10:00 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	8:00 pm	Faith Group (Fellowship Hall)
<b>Monday, January 5</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Esther Circle</b>
<b>Tuesday, January 6</b>	8:30 am	Preschool
	10:00 am	Clothing Closet Workday
	6:00 pm	Pickup basketball (Gym)
<b>Wednesday, January 7</b>	8:30 am	Preschool
	6:00 pm	Evening Suffrages and Episode of the Chosen (Chapel)
<b>Thursday, January 8</b>	8:30 am	Preschool
	11:00 am	Bible Study (Library)
<b>Friday, January 9</b>	9:00 am	Men's Community Bible Study
<b>Saturday, January 10</b>	9:30 am	Hungry Peeps in (Fellowship Hall)
<b>Sunday, January 11</b>	8:30 am	Fellowship with coffee
	9:00 am	Sunday School / Bible Study
	10:00 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Confirmation (Youth Room)</b>
	8:00 pm	Faith Group (Fellowship Hall)



**DAILY PRAYER - A HOME ALTAR ALTERS THE HOME!:** Sunrise, noon, sunset and at meals are times for daily prayer (*Psalm 1 55:17*). *May God bless you as you turn to Him day by day.*

**THE BIBLE IN A YEAR - Week 2 January 4 to January 11, 2026**

01/04 Morning Reading: Matthew 4—Evening Reading: Genesis 10, 11, 12  
01/05 Morning Reading: Matthew 5:1-26—Evening Reading: Genesis 13, 14, 15  
01/06 Morning Reading: Matthew 5:27-48—Evening Reading: Genesis 16, 17  
01/07 Morning Reading: Matthew 6:1-18—Evening Reading: Genesis 18, 19  
01/08 Morning Reading: Matthew 6:19-34—Evening Reading: Genesis 20, 21, 22  
01/09 Morning Reading: Matthew 7—Evening Reading: Genesis 23, 24  
01/10 Morning Reading: Matthew 8:1-17—Evening Reading: Genesis 25, 26  
01/11 Morning Reading: Matthew 8:18-34—Evening Reading: Genesis 27, 28

**This QR code** goes straight to the Daily prayers page on the website that lists the commemorations and Psalms appointments for the week.



**PRAYER LIST FOR FELLOWSHIP:** Margaret Berghello, Shirley Bradley, Gail Brown, Miles Carpenter, Shirley Carpenter, George Cashion, Delana Clark, Ruby Cook, Baker Hampton, Henry Hoffman, Jason Lineberger, Ann Lowe and Janie Peak.

**FRIENDS OF THE FELLOWSHIP:** Kyle Banes, Rick Belton, Kathy Bradley, Gage Brown, Deborah Carpenter, **Mark Carswell**, Zandra Chavis, Jeff Cobb, Doris Coggins, Genniser Devega, Tucker Doyne, Aishia Duncan, for the family of Gaylord Eastwood, Kenny Falls, Jameson Franklin, Abi Gordon, Jan Green, Jerry Green, John, Kathy Jenkins, Kirk Jordan, Debbie Kerspie, Don Kincaid, Sherry McCart, Bobby Myers, Betty Parlier, Rita Pasour, Jeff Rawls, Jeff Smith, Christy Carpenter Smith, Charlene Sorenson, Judy Turner and Kennedy Williams.

*To share concerns and updates for the prayer list you can contact the church office (704-864-6491) or call/text Pastor Comer (704-787-6439)*

**NEXT WEEK'S LESSONS:**

**Wednesday, January 7 ~ Evening Suffrages**

Psalm 96 “*A New Song*” - Chosen “*Calm Before*”

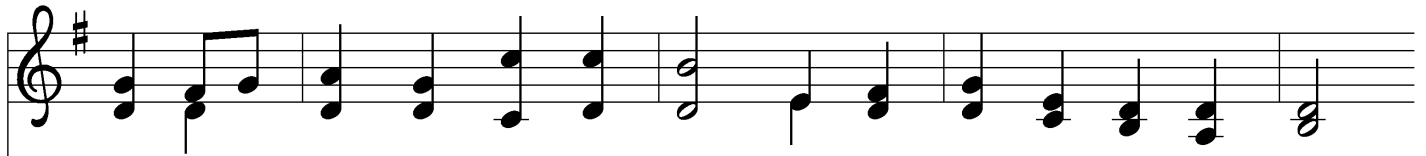
**Thursday, January 8 ~ Story of Salvation Bible Study**

Genesis 1:1-2:4a “*Beginnings*”

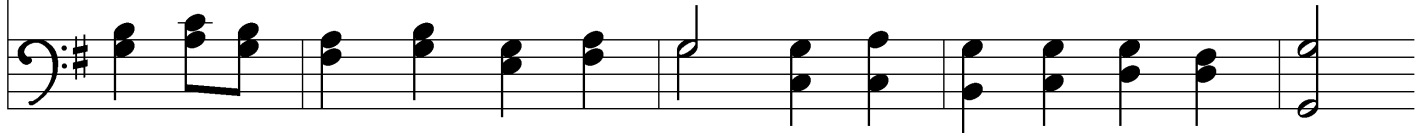
**Sunday, January 18 ~ Ante Communion**

Genesis 3:1-7, 14-24 and Matthew 3:13-17 “*Baptism of our Lord 2026*”

# As with Gladness Men of Old



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;  
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,  
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,  
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;  
 5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;  
 there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;  
 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,  
 and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last  
 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.  
 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.  
 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.  
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.  
 there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.



Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.  
 Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

# O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with  
2 Come, pre - cious dia - mond, light di - vine, and deep with -  
3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there  
4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us,



God's own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!  
in our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!  
falls from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure.  
when not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,  
In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch - es  
Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with  
Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him here



you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,  
of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though  
heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure! Let your  
and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion. Al - le -



ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich  
dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and  
mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For  
lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life



in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!  
dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.  
you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.  
for - ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>5 Oh, let the harps break forth in sound!<br/>Our joy be all with music crowned,<br/>our voices gaily blending!<br/>For Christ goes with us all the way—<br/>today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!<br/>His love is never ending!<br/>Sing out! Ring out!<br/>Jubilation!<br/>Exultation!<br/>Tell the story!<br/>Praise to Christ, who reigns in glory!</p> | <p>6 What joy to know, when life is past,<br/>the Lord we love is first and last,<br/>the end and the beginning!<br/>He will one day, oh, glorious grace,<br/>transport us to that happy place<br/>beyond all tears and sinning!<br/>Amen! Amen!<br/>Come, Lord Jesus!<br/>Crown of gladness!<br/>We are yearning<br/>for the day of your returning.</p> |
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Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai  
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# I Come with Joy



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are  
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion  
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er  
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in  
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

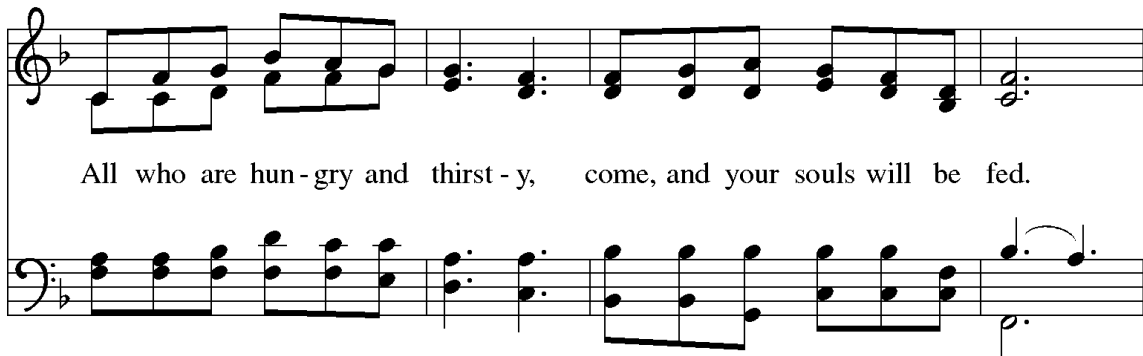
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## Come to the Table



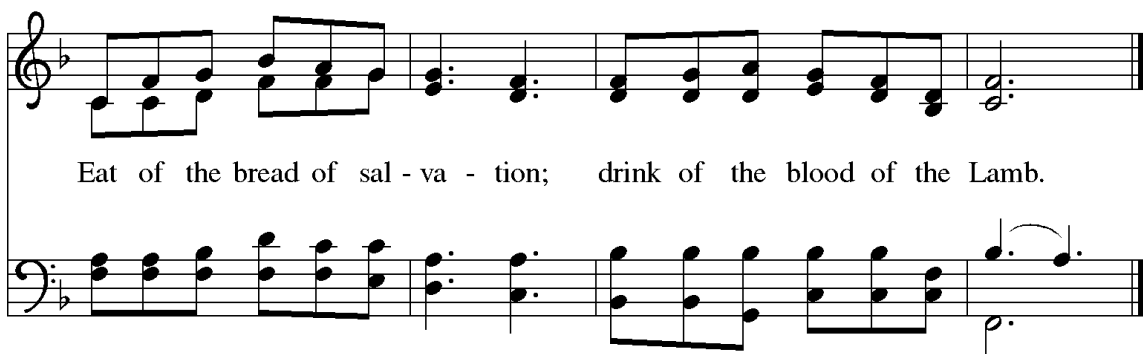
Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

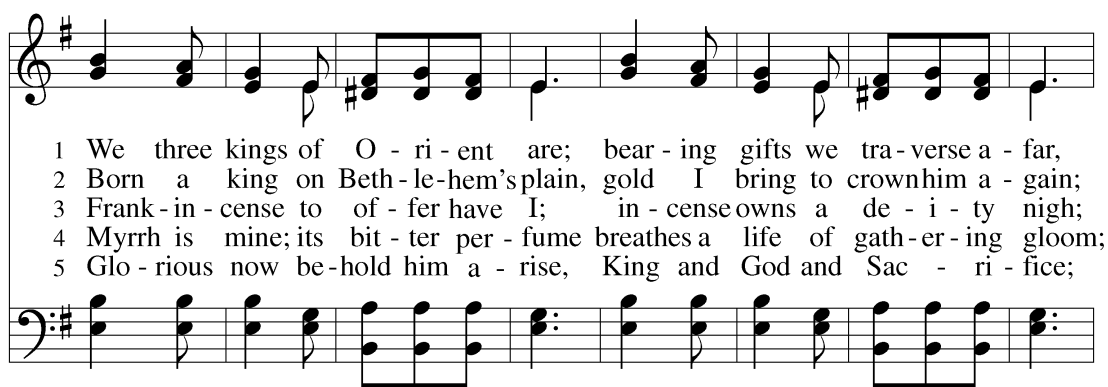
Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

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# We Three Kings of Orient Are



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,  
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain;  
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;  
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;  
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;

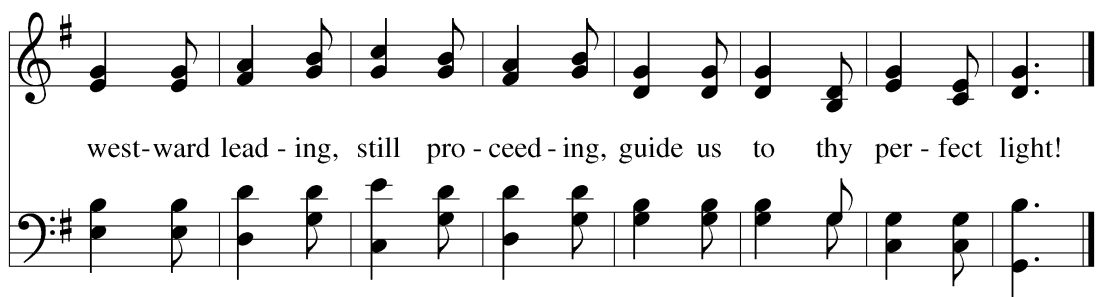


field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
 king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.  
 prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
 heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

## Refrain



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891, alt.  
 Music: THREE KINGS OF ORIENT. John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891