

GOD'S UNCHANGING PLAN

has always been to adopt us into
his own family

BY BRINGING US TO HIMSELF
THROUGH

JESUS CHRIST

and this gave Him great pleasure

from EPHESIANS 1:5



Welcome to worship at Spirit of Christ!

We are a member congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. We gather here as the living body of Jesus Christ to be nourished and empowered by the Holy Spirit in what we call the “Means of Grace” — God’s gifts of Word and Sacrament. Through these Means of Grace, we receive the promise of the Gospel: that in the Spirit of Christ God forgives us, remakes us, and reigns in us. May the Lord bless your worship today!

January 4, 2026

Second Sunday after Christmas

This morning, we welcome Sophie and Valarie as our sisters in Christ through the waters of Holy Baptism. Sophie and Valarie are the daughters of Cullen Soukup and Alisa Wolens. Sophie and Valarie’s baptismal sponsors are Madison Soukup and Spencer Wolens .

Welcome

O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379

**1 O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the king of angels: *Refrain***

***O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!***

Refrain

**2 Highest, most holy,
Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain***

- 3 Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest: Refrain**
- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! Refrain**

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Confession and Absolution

P Our heavenly Father chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world.

C Yet we choose our own paths and desires.

P He predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ.

C We choose rebellion, isolation, and stubborn independence.

P He has lavished grace upon us and forgiven our trespasses.

C We have hurt our brothers and sisters and held tightly to the hurts they have brought upon us.

P In him we have obtained an inheritance,

C Yet we squander our gifts and abuse our stewardship.

P For all this,

C Lord, have mercy upon us.

We take time in silence to confess our personal and communal sin before God, confident that we will receive forgiveness.

P The apostle Paul tells us that God chose us with this purpose in mind: to make us holy and blameless before him. Because we are

baptized into Christ Jesus we have redemption through his blood and the promise of forgiveness, salvation, and the Holy Spirit who guarantees our eternal inheritance. Baptized and redeemed children of God, in the stead and by the command of Jesus I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. Live out your lives in Christ confident that you are serving his purposes!

C Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

P We share Christ's peace with one another.

The people greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3).

C Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P 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.

C Amen.

Father Welcomes

LSB 605

Father welcomes all His children

Refrain

To His fam'ly through His Son.

Father giving His salvation,

Life forever has been won.

1 Little children, come to Me,

For My kingdom is of these.

Life and love I have to give,

Mercy for your sin. Refrain

**2 In the water, in the Word,
In His promise, be assured:
Those who are baptized and believe
Shall be born again. Refrain**

**3 Let us daily die to sin;
Let us daily rise with Him,
Walk in the love of Christ our Lord,
Live in the peace of God. Refrain**

Holy Baptism

P Holy Baptism is God’s gift to us. In this Sacrament we become a part of the family of God as we are welcomed into the Church, which is the body of Christ. The Small Catechism says “Baptism is not water only, but it is water used together with God’s word and by God’s command.” God’s living Word of promise works powerfully with the water. Baptism is the death of the old sinner and a rebirth into new life in Christ.

C **“I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit.” “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.” (John 3:5; Mark 16:16a)“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”**

(Matthew 28:18b-20)

P How are these children named?

R Sophie Elizabeth Soukup and Valarie Elise Soukup.

P Sophie and Valarie, receive the sign of the cross on your forehead and heart, because you are redeemed by Christ the crucified.

P Today, Cullen and Alisa, you are responding to the command of Jesus and the love that God has shown to Sophie and Valarie in the gift of Jesus himself. I ask you: will you faithfully bring these children to worship, teach them the Lord’s Prayer, the Creeds and

the Commandments, place in their hands the Holy Scriptures, and provide for their instruction in the Christian faith?

R We will, by God's grace.

P On behalf of Sophie and Valarie, do you as their parents reject the devil and all his works and all his ways?

R We do.

P Sponsors, will you pray for Sophie and Valarie, support their parents in their ongoing instruction and nurture in the Christian Faith, and love them in a way that gives an example of Christ's love?

R We will, with God's help.

P Saints of God in this congregation, will you support Sophie and Valarie in their life in Christ?

C **We will, by the power of the Spirit of Christ.**

P I ask Sophie and Valarie's parents, their sponsors, and the entire community to give witness to our faith. Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

C **We do.**

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only son...living and the dead?

C **We do.**

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy catholic church... life everlasting?

C **We do.**

Stand

P Let us join hands and pray as a family the prayer that our Lord Jesus taught us.

C **Our Father who art in heaven...forever and ever. Amen.**

P Sophie and Valarie, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

A *Let us pray: God, you make light to shine in the darkness. You bring new life from death. We are thankful that you have accepted Sophie and Valarie as your own. May they grow in faith and love*

and know always that they are a part of your family and that you are their loving God. May we each know the abundant life you give in Jesus and remember how you joined water to Word to claim us forever.

C Amen.

P Go in peace!

C Thanks be to God!

First Reading

1 Kings 3:4-15

4 The king went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for that was the most important high place, and Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. 5 At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

6 Solomon answered, “You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

7 “Now, Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. 8 Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. 9 So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?”

10 The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. 11 So God said to him, “Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, 12 I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. 13 Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. 14 And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life.” 15 Then Solomon awoke—and he realized it had been a dream.

He returned to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the Lord’s

covenant and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then he gave a feast for all his court.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:3-14

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, 9 he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12 in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 205

C Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:40-52

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

40 And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

41 Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. 42 When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. 43 After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. 44 Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. 45 When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

49 "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" 50 But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

51 Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380

**1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;**

With the_angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!” *Refrain*
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Refrain

2 Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the_incarinate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain*

3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth. *Refrain*

Homily

Stand

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,

**begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from
heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And he will come again with glory to judge both the living
and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church

Sit

Presentation of the Offering

Please sign the Friendship Register located on each pew and pass it to others seated with you so that we may have a record of all those who are worshipping and receiving communion with us today.

Stand

Preface

LSB 208

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 him thanks and praise

Sanctus

LSB 208

**Holy, holy, holy LORD God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your
name.**

**Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Words of Our Lord

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Sit

Distribution

We believe that as we partake of the bread and wine in Holy Communion, Jesus the Messiah is feeding us with his own true body and blood. In eating his body and drinking his blood we receive the promise that our sins are forgiven, and that we will therefore live eternally with God. We also believe that this eating and drinking is a confession of our faith.

If you have been baptized into the Christian faith and you share our understanding of Christ's Real Presence in this meal, you are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood for your benefit. If you do not confess the understanding of the Christian Faith as

expressed by the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, you may still come to the altar to receive a blessing. Please fold your hands to indicate that you will not be receiving the sacrament.

The First Noel

ELW 300

**The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds
In fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay tending their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.**

Refrain

**They lookèd up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. *Refrain***

**And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain***

**This star drew nigh to the northwest,
Over Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain***

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

LSB 374

**1 Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undeiled,
To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place,
Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race
Who have found His favor.**

**2 Angels sang about His birth,
Wise Men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth
Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night,
All the hills were ringing.**

**3 Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined
But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth,
Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth;
Hail the King of glory!**

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

LSB 377

**1 On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring,
On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.**

**2 Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad,
Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin He set us free,
All for to gain our liberty?**

**3 When sin departs before His grace,
Then life and health come in its place,
When sin departs before His grace,**

Then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the newborn King.

- 4 All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night,
All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night:
“Glory to God and peace to men
Now and forevermore. Amen.”

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

LSB 386

- 1 Now sing we, now rejoice,
Now raise to heav'n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art!
Thou my Savior art!
- 2 Come from on high to me;
I cannot rise to Thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit,
O pure and holy Child;
Through Thy grace and merit,
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto Thee!
Draw me unto Thee!
- 3 Now through His Son doth shine
The Father's grace divine.
Death was reigning o'er us
Through sin and vanity
Till He opened for us
A bright eternity.

May we praise Him there!
May we praise Him there!

- 4 Oh, where shall joy be found?
Where but on heav'nly ground?
Where the angels singing
With all His saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing
In heav'nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there!
Oh, that we were there!

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
C Amen.

Joy to the World

LSB 387

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,

**Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**4 He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.**

Announcements

Sending

P Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to Go.

Serving in Worship

January 4, 2026

Pastor

Jason Neel

Usher

Randy Herschman

Elders

Carl Schwanbeck

Wayne Chambard

Reader

Renee Chambard

Organist

Karine Platt

Acolyte

Eden Miller

In our prayers:

Celebrating Birthdays: Jim Gunderson 1/4, Bridget Smith 1/6, Anna Brynteson 1/7, Oliver Welle 1/7, and Gabriel Jauch 1/8.

Baptismal Birthdays: Barb Bassing 1/7.

This Week at a Glance

Today	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Education Hour
	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	Ladies Bible study
	7:00 p.m.	Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Bible study
Thursday	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Education Hour
	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study

Notes of Information:

Tuesday Ladies Bible Study- Our study in "Measured By Grace" will resume on Tuesday, January 6th. at 10:00 a.m. We will continue our discussion of Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well (Chapter 6). Why did Jesus choose her? Why would people listen to her? How did she know that her neediness and Jesus' abundance were a perfect match? Come and see.

Evangelism: Please join the Board of Evangelism on Saturday January 10, 2026, at 10 a.m. to continue the discussion of the survey results. We look forward to your input for the future of witnessing and outreach at Spirit of Christ. Thank you.

Stewardship Messages: *We are strengthened for stewardship through word and sacrament.*

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.”(John 15:16)

2026 calendars: The 2026 youth calendars are available for purchase in the narthex or church office. The calendars are \$10. All the proceeds from the calendars will be given to the youth to support mission trips.

Book Club: Spirit of Christ Book Club will meet in the fellowship hall at 7 p.m. Dates and books are:

January 26 - The Women by Kristin Hannah

February 23 - James by Percival Everett

If you have any questions, please contact Joan Mager

Prayer Opportunity: An Elder will be available weekly at the end of service at the Communion Rail for personal prayer support. If privacy is requested that it will be accommodated.

NACE: At this time NACE is **no longer** taking any clothes at this time. Food needs are canned Fruit, Sides and Peanut Butter. For more information, reach out to Toni Peterson.

Carl’s Movie Minute:

I Was a Stranger. Opens 1/9/26. The true story of a child in civil war-torn Syria 2014. His only wish was ‘I want to be safe!’ The movie is his harrowing story of escape and those unlikely souls who got him out. AMC Coon Rapids 16, Imagine White Bear various show times.

Looking forward to ’26 at least 9 Christian themed movie ready for ’26 release beginning in late January.

<i>Average Weekly Offering</i>	\$6,858
<i>Average offering needed per week to fulfill work plan</i>	\$7,271

Readings for next week:

Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12



SPIRIT of CHRIST
Lutheran Church

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www.Spiritofchristhamlake.org

Our Mission: To live in love for God and one another, reaching out to all people, proclaiming and sharing the love of Christ.

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