

- Today at 11 am - Help us take out the pews from the sanctuary. The Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall will be closed for the week: Jan 23-27.
- Jan 25 –Wed Morning Ladies Bible Study will meet in the basement 10:00 AM.
- Feb 04 – Annual Rolls and Goals for Council and Committee members. (9:00 am)
- CORRECTION: Trivia Night is Saturday. Mar 18.
- Pictures of Pastor Perry and Diane Schefelker at BJC Children's Hospital – Blankets
- Go to FB to see the pics of our new sidewalk leading to the church office in the back and the concrete posts for our parking lot lights are in. Please be careful...

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *1 Corinthians 1:18; Psalm 27:14*

L: The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing,
C: but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

L: Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage;
C: wait for the LORD!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Matthew 4:17; Philippians 3:20; 1 Corinthians 1:18*

L: St. Matthew writes that Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Let us respond by confessing our sins and asking our Lord's forgiveness.

(moment of silent confession)

L: Heavenly Father,
C: we confess our sins to You. We are too much a part of this fallen world. Because our citizenship is in heaven, invade our thoughts, words, and deeds by Your gracious power. Help us to live each day as pilgrims heading to the eternal promised land. Turn us from our sinful direction to follow our Savior's gracious lead, walking in ways pleasing to You for Jesus' sake. Amen.

L: "For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." Be assured that through Jesus' blood-bought rescue, you are already citizens in the Kingdom of heaven. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. C: Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

“Let us share the Peace with one another”

SONG OF PRAISE

“Shine, Jesus Shine!” (video)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, who came from heaven to earth, heal us in body, soul, and spirit that we may serve You in joy, now and always; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The OLD TESTAMENT READING for the 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany is from the Prophet Isaiah, chapter 9.
(Isaiah 9:1–4)

But there will be no gloom for her who was 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 has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

**The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.
You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.**

L: This is the Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

The First EPISTLE to the Corinthians, chapter 1.
(1 Corinthians 1:10 –18)

I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe’s people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. What I mean is that each one of you says, “I follow Paul,” or “I follow Apollos,” or “I follow Cephas,” or “I follow Christ.” Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else). For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Matthew 4:17*

L Alleluia. From that time Jesus began to preach, saying,

C: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 4:12–25* (stand)

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
the people dwelling in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death,
on them a light has dawned."

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

While walking 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. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ. (Please be seated for the Sermon Hymn)

HYMN “Savior, Bring Us to Your Light” [Tune:715]

**Savior, bring us to Your light From the deep and darkened night.
Shine in us Your love and joy, All despair and gloom destroy.
Dimmer flames, yet let us guide Others to Your glorious side.**

**All who stood the earthly test Find a never-ending rest.
Kept within the Father’s care, Hope-filled glimmers gladly share.
Jesus, set our hearts aflame With the brightness of Your name!**

**Fleeting shadows will be gone With the Savior’s coming dawn.
All that Satan’s fog concealed— In the beam of truth revealed.
Hasten, then; prepare the way For the advent of the Day.**

SERMON “Upon Us Light Has Dawned” Matt. 4:12-25 Pastor Vern

CONFESSION OF FAITH THE APOSTLES’ CREED *stand*

**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.**

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Light of the world, use Your Church to enlighten those who live in this world's darkness, and enable our brothers and sisters to find in their Savior the true source of peace and concord. Lord in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Light come to us from above, we ask that You guide, protect, and defend elected officials, police in our communities, and troops deployed, that peace may break out and the Church may prosper. Lord in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L; Lord Jesus, source of light and health and peace, hear the prayers of all who call to You in their illnesses, sorrows, and grief. Today we seek Your help on behalf **Korto Thrune, Theresa Longhorn's 25 year old cousin** who needs a heart transplant and who was disappointed by the cancellation of last week's surgery when it was discovered that that donated heart was not healthy. Uplift the spirits of the Longhorn family as they grieve once again, over **Theresa's 17 yr. old nephew Logan Monk** who suffered an unrecoverable brain injury and is on life-support until donors can be matched. Comfort them in this tragedy with the knowledge that others may be given the hope of good health through Logan's gracious organ donation. Grant also Your holy comfort to **Mark Berens and his family** as they mourn the recent passing of his brother **Matthew Berens**. Shine the light of Your love on all in need this day with blessings and peace so that faith may remain firm until it is replaced by sight. Lord in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Lord of light, send we pray, Your boundless love, Your calming peace, and Your heavenly joy to **Stephanie Williams, Cheryl Vohlken, Hayleigh Williams, Thomas Borsch, Mary Bruns, Nate Ellington, Andrew Mabry, Simoriah Longhorn, Connor Gass, Amy Boggs, Mark Berens, and Paul Monaco** that they may receive more of Your abundant blessing throughout the coming year. Lord in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Almighty God and Creator, You have chosen us as Your own and You give us new life in Christ. In darkness and in light, in trouble and in joy, help us to trust your love, to serve your purpose, and to praise your name. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, that peace may fill our hearts as we live through doubt and change. Enable us to walk in newness of life and fulfill our vocations in the power of Your Holy Spirit, that others may be blessed by You through our service to Christ; Lord in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord who taught and enables us to pray saying:

LORD'S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9-13*)

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.

BLESSING OF THE LORD

Numbers 6:24–26

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.

HYMN No. 411 “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain:

In Him there is no darkness at all
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father. (Refrain)

Refrain:

In Him there is no darkness at all
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

**I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus. (Refrain)**

Refrain:

**In Him there is no darkness at all
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

SENDING

**L: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.**