

Zion & St. James Lutheran Churches of Martin County, Minnesota



*Pastor John Henry*

**Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany**

*February 23, 2025*



**Regarding Membership and the Holy Communion:**

We believe that, in the Holy Communion, the bread is truly Christ's Body and the wine is truly His Blood, given to us to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins. As we receive this gift individually, we profess that we are truly one body in Christ—that we are united in one faith and teaching (doctrine). Ordinarily, full participation in this Holy Communion is reserved for those who are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. *Any visitors or guests who desire to partake of the Body and Blood of Christ are asked to please speak with the Pastor or an Elder before the service.*

*Welcome to this time of worship, faith education and Christian fellowship. May the Word of God nourish you for your life and ministry in the days to come.*

**Opening Hymn**

*Christ Is Our Cornerstone*

**912**

**Invocation, Confession & Absolution**

- P** In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **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 then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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** ...I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

**Entrance Psalm**

*Psalm 71:15*



<sup>15</sup>*My mouth will tell of your righteous acts,  
of your deeds of salvation | all the day,\*  
for their number is past my | knowledge.*

***Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.***

**Kyrie**

*LSB pgs. 152-153*

*Repeated 4 times:*

**P** *...pray to the Lord.*

**C** ***Lord, have mercy.***

**P** *Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.*

**C** ***Amen.***

**Gloria in Excelsis**

*LSB pg. 154*

**P** *Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.*

**C** ***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.***

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** *The Lord be with you.*

**C** ***And also with you.***

**P** *Let us pray.*

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** ***Amen.***

### First Lesson

*Genesis 1:1–13*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

<sup>3</sup>And 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 an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” <sup>7</sup>And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup>And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens 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>And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Psalm

*Psalm 27:1–6*



<sup>1</sup>*The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom | shall I fear?\**

***The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I | be afraid?***

<sup>2</sup>*When evildoers assail me  
to eat | up my flesh,\*  
my adversaries and foes,  
it is they who stum- | ble and fall.*

<sup>3</sup>Though an army encamp against me,  
my heart | shall not fear; \*  
**though war arise against me,  
yet I will be | confident.**

<sup>4</sup>One thing have I asked of the LORD,  
that will I seek | after: \*  
**that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD  
and to inquire in his | temple.**

<sup>5</sup>For he will hide me in his shelter  
in the day of | trouble; \*  
**he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
he will lift me high up- | on a rock.**

<sup>6</sup>And now my head shall be lifted up  
above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in his tent  
sacrifices with | shouts of joy; \*  
**I will sing and make melody | to the LORD.**

## Second Lesson

*1 Corinthians 4:1–5*

<sup>1</sup>This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. <sup>2</sup>Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. <sup>3</sup>But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. <sup>4</sup>I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. <sup>5</sup>Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## Alleluia & Verse

*LSB pg. 156*

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

## Holy Gospel

*John 11:17–44*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter.

**G** *Glory to You, O Lord.*

<sup>17</sup>Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup>Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off,

<sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. <sup>20</sup>So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house.

<sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

<sup>24</sup>Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

<sup>27</sup>She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

<sup>28</sup>When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." <sup>29</sup>And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup>When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup>Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." <sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. <sup>34</sup>And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." <sup>35</sup>Jesus wept. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" <sup>37</sup>But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

<sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup>When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." <sup>44</sup>The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon Hymn**     *O Christ, Our True and Only Light*

**839**

**Sermon**

**Apostles' Creed** *inside the back cover of the hymnal*

**The Prayers**

**Offering**

**Offertory for Epiphany** *LSB pg. 537*

**C** *Beautiful Savior, King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love Thee, truly I'd serve Thee,  
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.*

*Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration  
Now and forevermore be Thine!*

**The Preface**

**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.*

**P** *It is truly good, right, and salutary [...] evermore praising You and saying:*

**Sanctus** *LSB pg. 161*

**C** *Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

**The Lord's Prayer** *inside the back cover of the hymnal*

**The Consecration**

**Pax Domini**

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

**C** *Amen.*

## Agnus Dei

LSB pg. 163

- C** *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.*

## Communion Hymns

<i>Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness</i>	<b>636</b>
<i>O Lord, How Shall I Meet You</i>	<b>334</b>
<i>Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i>	<b>686</b>

## Nunc Dimittis

LSB pg. 165

- C** *Lord, now 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 ev'ry people:  
A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

## Thanksgiving & Benediction

- P** *Let us pray... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*
- C** *Amen.*
- P** *The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give ✠ you peace.*
- C** *Amen.*

## Closing Hymn

*All for Christ I Have Forsaken*

**753**

### Acknowledgments

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**Dorie Schwieger and Family** are sponsoring the bulletins and broadcasts for the month of February to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Bob Schwieger who passed away 20 years ago on February 28th. May God continue to bring you comfort and peace.

**You can sponsor the bulletins** (\$10 per congregation) or **online broadcast** (\$25) anytime throughout the year, in honor of a special event or giving thanks to God. Call the church office with your request.

Lutheran Schools in Martin County  
St James Lutheran School, Martin Luther High School  
All Schools and places of learning



**St James**

*Baptism Birthdays:* Kambria Rode, Taylor Crissinger, Sandy Grefe

*Serving our Country:* Sean McCroskey

*Sick & In Distress:* Rochelle Franzen, Tom Koeritz, Myla Roskop,  
Bryce Grefe, Jeff Roskop, Webb Quade, Ronald Schultz,  
Dennis Hagen, Bonnie Baarts, Carole Lohmann, Ardis Osborn,  
Joseph Gonzalez

*Homebound:* Carl Luhmann

**Zion**

*Baptism Birthdays:* Rhett Morris, Julie Baarts, David Nelson, Tyler Wille,  
Nicole Nelson

*Seminary Student:* Timothy Schleusener

*Serving our Country:* Ben Peymann, Kory Brown, Jesse Peterson,  
Lili Bulfer

*Sick & In Distress:* Greg Wallace, Marsha Peterson, Mike Sandersfeld,  
Duane Behrens, Myrna Behrens, Peggy Wille

*Homebound:* Norma Patsche, Yonsey Karasek, David Hinz

**The windows in the parsonage need to be replaced.** Donations toward the parsonage windows are welcome at this time and going forward, as the cost will be approximately \$42,000 with up to 50% required up front. Thank you.

**TUITON ANGEL EGG FUNDRAISER:** the NEW LB Chickens are finally laying eggs (pullet eggs so “smaller” for a little while but still tasty!). Look for eggs in the Narthex at SJL after most Sunday’s moving forward! The previous flock “raised” over \$3,000 over 2.5 years of your generous contributions and helped fund LYF Higher Things trips and expenses...LYF funds are in pretty good shape now so switching to TUITON ANGEL...Call/Text Lynn Becker 507-230-2700 if want direct from the farm...Thanks!

**If you wish to use the fellowship hall at Zion,** please: 1. Contact one of the elders for permission, and 2. Contact Heather in the office to make sure the day and time you want are free. Both of these steps need to be done to complete a reservation. Thank you.



**Zion Members:** We would be honored if you would celebrate with us at our wedding dance on March 1, 2025, 8-11pm, at the Best Western, 1201 Torgerson Dr, Fairmont.

~Amanda Fehr and Brandon Steuber



### **A Guide for Daily Devotions**

*On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, use this bulletin for daily devotions. One these days, pray the Collect of the Day each day, and reread the Lessons as follows: Monday, First Lesson; Tuesday, Second Lesson; Wednesday, Gospel Lesson. You may also want to pray or sing one of the hymns from the previous Sunday.*

*On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, follow this plan to prepare for the coming Sunday.*

#### **Each day, pray:**

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**On Thursday, read**

*Genesis 1:14-2:3*

**On Friday, read**

*2 Peter 1:16-21*

**On Saturday, read**

*Luke 9:18-36*

*You may also want to pray or sing the Hymn of the Day for the coming Sunday:*

**Hymn: 578 Thy Strong Word**



**The Joint Strategic Planning Financial Committee** is interested in your ideas for fundraisers or ways to increase donations/contributions to help support SJL School. You can talk to one of the committee members, (Alan Wille, Gary Peymann, Isaac Wallace, Bart Johnson, Lynn J Becker, and Jennifer Luhmann) or place your idea in the suggestion box found in the Narthex.

Everyone is invited to open the **2025 LWML prayer service** available at <http://www.LWML.org>. You will be encouraged by scripture readings and prayer. The LWML group from St. Paul-Fairmont invite you to view the replay from their February 6 livestream. To view, click on their website: <http://www.splfairmont.org>. Dear Lord, Grant us Your Holy Spirit that in gentleness, we may love one another as You have loved us, so that all people know You, the eternal lover of humanity; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen



**MARTIN LUTHER JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL**  
**SJL & Zion are full association members**

**Enrollment** for students in grades 7-12 for 2025-2026 at Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School is open. **Early bird discounts** apply until March 1st. All students are welcome to enroll no matter what religion they are. Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School is focused on Generating a JESUS Generation "preparing students for discipleship until Christ's return." Choose now to place your student in a school where they will flourish for the next school year and beyond. [www.martinlutherhs.com](http://www.martinlutherhs.com). Principal David Stuckwisch is available any time to answer any questions. Call 507-436-5249.

**The MLHS Junior Class will host a Waffle Feed** on Sunday, February 23 (**NOTE change of date from 2/16**) from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. They will be serving all-you-can-eat waffles and all the trimmings. Cost is a free-will donation.

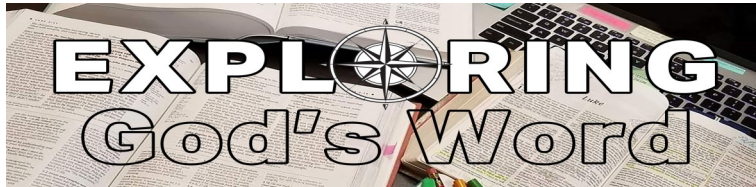
**New students and their families are invited to "Getting to Know You Night"** at Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School on Wednesday, February 26 at 6:00 p.m. Students will give tours, current parents will be on hand to answer questions, classrooms will be open, teachers will be available for questions, and a light supper will be served. Everyone is welcome.

**The Region IV Lutheran Elementary Schools Fine Arts and Science Festival** will be held at Martin Luther JR/SR High School, Northrop on Saturday, March 8th. Students from seven schools are participating. Individual performances begin about 8:00 a.m. Large group music performances will be held following judging completion. Guests are welcome to join in celebrating the God-given talents of our students in Art, Music, Science, Creative Writing and Speech. Concessions will be available. The event is free and open to the public.

LWML will be serving the **Lenten meals on March 12th & 19th**. Please see the sign-up sheets on the table at the back of the church at Zion if you are willing to help bring food. The free will offerings collected at the meals will be designated to SJL School.

**Large Print Hymnals** are available at SJL on the right side of the bulletin boxes, and at ZION on the back table by the communion cards.

**Large print bulletins** are also available by contacting the office.



**Adult Bible Study Opportunities**

**Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class.**

- **Zion:** 8:45am, Narthex. Please join us as we study topics in The Lutheran Witness. Please bring your Lutheran Witness magazine if possible. Extra copies are available.
- **SJL:** 9:45am, Sanctuary. Bring your coffee and join us as we “discover how the events of Jesus’ day impacted his life, ministry and communication. Then let them impact yours.”

**Thursday Adult Bible Class** at 7pm in the church basement at Zion. Zion and SJL members are invited to participate.

**Friday Morning Bible Study** at 8am in the Fellowship Hall at SJL.

 **Issues, Etc.**

**Sundays on KSUM AM 1370 or FM 97.1 @ 9 am**

2/23 The Ash Wednesday Hymn of The Day “From Depths of Woe I Cry To Thee” - Dr. Arthur Just

3/2 Looking Forward to Ash Wednesday - Pastor David Petersen

3/9 The Bible and Gender Ideology - Dr. Mark Rockenbach

3/16 Hymn “God Loved The World So That He Gave”-Pastor Will Weedon



**THE LUTHERAN HOUR TODAY**

**Sundays on KSUM AM 1370 or FM 97.1 @ 11 am**

**Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler**

**"Need to Know" If you don't need God, you won't know God. (John 7:28-29)**

<b>Those Serving our Lord</b>		
	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>
<b>SJL 2-23</b>	Paul & Cindi Tomlinson	Oakley Bohlsen
<b>3-2</b>	Rick & Jody Uttech	Cristian Drayer
<b>ZION 2-23</b>	Alan & Peggy Wille	Lydia Murphy
<b>3-2</b>	Carter Wille & Tyler Wille	Alex Pittman
<b>SJL Ushers:</b> Mike Steuber, Lonny Becker, Chase Hillmer, David Rode		
<b>Elders:</b> Kevin (Z), Daryl (SJ) <b>SJL AG:</b> Cheryl Becker, Dar Quade		

<b>THIS WEEK WITH OUR LORD:</b>		<b>Feb 23 - Mar 2, 2025</b>
<b>CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Mon - Fri 8:00 AM - Noon</b>		
<b>Office phone: 436-5289 Pastor phone: 219-713-1604</b>		
<b>Email: sjlnorthrop@gmail.com Website: sjlnorthrop.com or zionfraser.com</b>		
<b>Sunday</b>	Divine Worship	<b>(SJ) 8:30 AM, (Z) 10:00 AM</b>
	Sunday School/Bible Class	<b>(Z) 8:45 AM, (SJ) 9:45 AM</b>
	MLHS Waffle Breakfast	<b>(ML) 10:00 - 1:00 PM</b>
	SJL Family Fun Day	<b>(SJ) 2:00 - 4:00 PM</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	Chapel	<b>(SJ) 8:40 AM</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	Chapel	<b>(SJ) 8:40 AM</b>
	Confirmation Class (6th & 7th grades)	<b>(SJ) 4:00 PM</b>
	Confirmation Class (8th grade)	<b>(SJ) 5:00 PM</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	Chapel	<b>(SJ) 8:40 AM</b>
	Joint Adult Bible Class	<b>(Z) 7:00 PM</b>
	Eve Circle	<b>(SJ) 7:00 PM</b>
<b>Friday</b>	Joint Morning Bible Study	<b>(SJ) 8:00 AM</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Transfiguration Sunday</b>	
	Divine Worship	<b>(SJ) 8:30 AM, (Z) 10:00 AM</b>
	Sunday School/Bible Class	<b>(Z) 8:45 AM, (SJ) 9:45 AM</b>

<b>Reflecting our Stewardship – Zion</b>			<b>Feb 16, 2025</b>
Attendance	99 (HC 64)	Home	\$3,230.00
Loose Plate	\$110.50	MN South	\$950.00
Windows	\$250.00	SJL School	\$550.00
Parsonage Window Total Donations: \$28,320.00			

<b>Reflecting our Stewardship – St James</b>			<b>Feb 16, 2025</b>
Attendance	58 (HC 52)	Home	\$2,185.00
Loose Plate	\$320.00	Missions	\$15.00
Online	\$1,891.70	Memorials	\$70.00
MLHS	\$300.00	Tuition	\$300.00
Tuition Angel	\$400.00	Bulletins	\$45.00
<b>Annual Operating Expense: \$580,000.00</b>			
<b>Average Weekly Need: \$11,154.00</b>			
Giving to date: \$77,991.75 Projected Shortfall: (\$632.71 )			