

FEBRUARY 15



ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE WEEKLY UPDATE

2026

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church! **Today is the Transfiguration of Our Lord.** We are delighted to have you worship with us. If you'd like to connect with us, share a prayer request, or learn more about St. John, please complete a yellow communication card located on the back of the pews and place it in the offering plate.

PRAYER REQUESTS

When we pray for each other, we demonstrate Christ's love for each of us

For **Bill Meyer**, is continuing his health struggles

For **Heather Moore**, daughter-in-law of Mike & Willie Moore, dealing with a health issue

For **Alan Ott**, grandson of Michele (Mike) Moore, diagnosed with a tumor at the base of the brain

For **Karma Wisecarver**, daughter of Lee & Peggy Smith, is starting a new treatment in her cancer journey

For **Brian Fowler**, as he slowly recovers from West Nile Virus

Continued prayers for **Jim Fogle, Jon & Linda Leist, Linda Miller, and Shirley & Larry West**

If you have a prayer request, please reach out to Sue Mason, who will email our church members. She can be reached at: 614-260-1107 or at susiemase3@hotmail.com.

IMPORTANT NOTE - Church Council Meeting will be held today, **February 15th**. This will be the first planning meeting with your new council members.

Please join us on **Wednesday, February 18 at 6 pm** for our **Ash Wednesday** service. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, the forty days leading to Easter. Worshipping together, we begin our Lenten journey by confessing the sins that separate us from God, remembering our mortality through the imposition of ashes, and in gathering around the table for Holy Communion, giving thanks to God for the forgiveness of sin and the promise of eternal life through the death and resurrection of Christ. May the Holy Spirit be with us all as we begin our journey, knowing that God's everlasting love is stronger than any sin and brokenness we bring to Him, and that in this season of repentance and renewed direction, the light of Christ shows us the way we are to go.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



Tina Anderson	February 8
Tim Acton	February 16
Jerry Canini	February 23



THE INSIDE STORY BY SALLY ACTON

Today’s Closing Hymn, “**Beautiful Savior**”, often known as Fairest Lord Jesus or the Crusader’s Hymn, is a 17th century German hymn of unknown authorship that praises Christ’s beauty and nature (God and man). Popular belief holds that German knights or crusaders sang it on their journey to the Holy Land in the 12th century. The hymn is a song of adoration that highlights the beauty of Jesus, declaring Him above all nature.

A **BIG thank you to Sue Mason** for stepping in and preparing the Weekly Update over the past two weeks. It is such a blessing to have someone willing and able to serve as a backup when needed. We truly appreciate you, Sue!

The **Altar Flower** chart is in the Narthex where you may sign up to place flowers on the altar. Flowers are \$35. You may leave the money in the envelope under the chart for Linda Leist. Please be sure to indicate if the flowers are for a special occasion, and let Don Hornbeck know if you would like it posted in the Bulletin.



Please place your food donation for the **Food Pantry** in the shopping cart. Thank you—everything is appreciated.



The **Gals & Guys Lunch Bunch** filled Scramblers with laughter and lively conversation this past Tuesday. Between delicious food and great fellowship, it was another wonderful time of sharing stories, catching up, and enjoying each other’s company. We’re already looking forward to the next gathering in March.



Sunday, February 15, 2026

Transfiguration of Our Lord

GATHERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our
hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly
love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus
Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you
and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry
and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown, things we have done and things we
have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by
your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of
life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in
sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace we have
been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.
Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in our hearts through faith.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG (ELW 843)

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light;
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners,
Turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel,
Healing ev'ry dread disease,
Calming storms and feeding thousands
With the very bread of peace.

- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children
With a strong yet gentle word;
Praise the One who drove out demons
With a piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water
To the desert's burning sand;
From this well comes living water
Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

- 3 Praise the one true love incarnate:
Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose for many
That we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
Seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory;
Praise the One who makes us one.

GREETING

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

And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

**Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
We exalt you, we adore you,
We lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you;
Here on earth our songs we raise.**

**Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior,
You have come from heav'n above;
On the cross you died to save us;
Now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us;
In your promise firm we stand.**

**Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you,
God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit,
In the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together the prayer of the day.

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Exodus 24:12-18

At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The “glory of the LORD” settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.

A reading from Exodus.

¹² The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” ¹³ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. ¹⁴ To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 2

¹ Why are the nations in an uproar?

Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

² **Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt,
and the princes plot together,
against the LORD and against the LORD’s anointed?**

³ “Let us break their yoke,” they say;
“let us cast off their bonds from us.”

- ⁴ God whose throne is in heaven is laughing;
the LORD holds them in derision.**
- ⁵ Then in wrath God speaks to them,
and in rage fills them with terror.
- ⁶ “As for me, I have anointed my king
upon Zion, my holy mountain.”**
- ⁷ Let me announce the decree of the LORD,
who said to me, “You are my son; this day
have I begotten you.
- ⁸ Ask of me, and I will give you the nations
for your inheritance and the ends of the earth
for your possession.**
- ⁹ You shall crush them with an iron rod
and shatter them like a piece of pottery.”
- ¹⁰ And now, you kings, be wise;
be warned, you rulers of the earth.**
- ¹¹ Submit to the LORD with fear,
and with trembling bow in worship;
- ¹² lest the LORD be angry, and you perish
in a sudden blaze of wrath.
Happy are all who take refuge in God!**

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 1:16-21

*At the transfiguration, God’s voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son.
By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God’s voice continues to be heard through the word of
scripture.*

A reading from 2 Peter.

¹⁶ We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him

by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹ So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

²⁰ First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, ²¹ because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 205)

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us;

Speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9

Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves.

² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.

⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!”

⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” ⁸ And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

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

SERMON: SEEING AND BELIEVING

HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW 315) *How Good, Lord, to Be Here!*

1 How good, Lord, to be here!
Your glory fills the night;
Your face and garments, like the sun,
Shine with unborrowed light.

2 How good, Lord, to be here! Your beauty to behold
Where Moses and Elijah stand, your messengers of old.

3 Fulfiller of the past and hope of things to be,
We hail your body glorified and our redemption see.

4 Before we taste of death, we see your kingdom come;
We long to hold the vision bright and make this hill our home.

5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not remain;
But since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;**

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead,**

and his kingdom will have no end.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Amy: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

Reader 1: Revealing God, your Spirit sustains the church. Strengthen the faithful with the revelation of Christ transfigured, that we may joyfully follow him in the way of the cross.
Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Reader 2: Life-giving God, creation is full of your majesty. Nurture in us a deep respect for the interdependence of all life, and make us wise and vigilant stewards of your good earth.
Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Reader 3: Peacemaking God, the nations are in turmoil. We pray for an end to violent conflict. Give wisdom to negotiators and sanctuary to refugees. Defend any who are in danger.
Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Amy: Healing God, you desire wholeness for all people. Bring healing to any who are experiencing illness, chronic pain, or mental anguish. We lift up Karma Wisecarver, Bill and Charlotte Meyer, and all those we name in our hearts. Comfort the dying and those who grieve.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Reader 4: Holy God, in our worship we glimpse your glory, hear your voice, and receive assurance of your love. Inspire all who prepare, lead, and participate in worship to serve you with reverence and joy.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Reader 5: Transforming God, you bring life from death. We give thanks for the witness of those who have died in faith, and we praise you for the hope we have in Christ, our Morning Star.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Amy: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share the peace with one another.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for Holy Communion.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal
your glory and love,
that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heav'n 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,
hosanna in the highest.**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,

who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 208)

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
You suffered death our lives to save:
Have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
You set us free from guilt and grave:
Have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
Eternal peace with God you made:
Give us your peace, we pray.**

SONG AFTER COMMUNION (ELW 465)

As the Grains of Wheat

As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
Were gathered into one to become our bread;
So may all your people from all the ends of earth
Be gathered into one in you.

1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
May we share the presence of your love.
As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
Were gathered into one to become our bread;
So may all your people from all the ends of earth
Be gathered into one in you

2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you.
As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
Were gathered into one to become our bread;
So may all your people from all the ends of earth
Be gathered into one in you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

May the Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ grant you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG (ELW 838) *Beautiful Savior*

1 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.

2 Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

3 Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.

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

DISMISSAL

Transfigured by the redeeming light of Christ in your hearts, go in peace. Share the good news with the hungry world.
Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

CONGREGATION JOINS IN SINGING

God be with you 'til we meet again,
By his counsels guide, uphold you,
With his sheep securely fold you,
God be with you 'til we meet again. Amen.

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