

**January 25, 2026**  
**Third Sunday after Epiphany**  
**Conversion of Paul**



**Christ's Lutheran Church**  
700 East Pennsylvania Avenue  
Oreland, Pennsylvania

*Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
connects individuals to God, each other, and the community.*

## Welcome to Worship at Christ's Lutheran Church!

In the days after the Epiphany of Our Lord we commemorate not only Paul's seeing the light but his saintly effort thereafter at being the light. Having our eyes opened by the Spirit of God in holy baptism, having been enlightened by the word read and proclaimed in the assembly, and having regained our strength in the Lord's supper, we too are converted—turned again to follow in God's way.

### GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

#### Prelude

#### Welcome and Announcements

*Please stand in body or spirit as you are able.*

#### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the Creator of heaven and earth,  
the Word who spoke life into being,  
the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Mighty God, lover of justice,

**you call us to life in community,  
but we have served our own interests  
at the expense of our neighbors.  
We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.  
We say the right words,  
but our hearts are far from you.  
Turn us to seek your face.  
Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,  
that we may do justice, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

The former things have passed away,  
and new things God now declares:  
Like a spring of water that never fails,  
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,  
and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name.  
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,  
and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

## Gathering Song

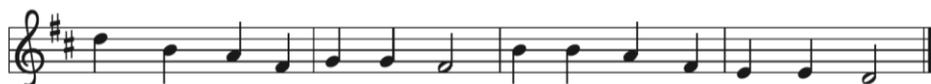
## Faith Begins by Letting Go ACS # 1004



1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,  
2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - 'ry's roots a - live  
3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,



tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:  
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,  
shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;



pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.  
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.  
till we find the com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

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## 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.**

*Our HOP, “Will You Come and Follow Me” (called “The Summons”), was written by John Bell, an Irish theologian. The hymn was first published in 1987 and the song asks a series of 13 questions, a record for any hymn. We need to sing all 5 verses as we’re challenged to “leave yourself behind” and to “risk the hostile stare” (stanza two), “set the prisoner free” and “kiss the leger clean” (stanza three), and “use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around” (stanza four). The tune is a traditional Scottish ballad entitled “Kelvingrove.” Bell wrote that “the purpose of singing is to engage people in a fuller participation and stretch their faith and encourage them to live in a manner that reflects justice.”*

**Hymn of Praise**

**Will You Come and Follow Me  
ELW # 798**

**Please see the next page for the hymn.**



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call  
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call  
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call  
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call  
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't  
 your name? Will you care for cruel and  
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners  
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -  
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?  
 kind and nev - er be the same?  
 free and nev - er be the same?  
 side and nev - er be the same?  
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as  
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the  
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be  
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer  
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I  
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and  
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"  
 pray'r in you and you in me?"  
 mean in you and you in me?"  
 sound in you and you in me?"  
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

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## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, by the preaching of your apostle Paul you have caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world. Grant that we may follow his example and be witnesses to the truth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### THE WORD

***God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.***

#### First Reading

**Acts 8:1-3, 9:1-22**

A reading from Acts, chapters 8 and 9.

<sup>1</sup> And Saul approved of their killing him.

That day a severe persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria. <sup>2</sup> Devout men buried Stephen and made loud lamentation over him. <sup>3</sup> But Saul was ravaging the church by entering house after house; dragging off both men and women, he committed them to prison.

<sup>1</sup> Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" <sup>5</sup> He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup> But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." <sup>7</sup> The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. <sup>8</sup> Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." <sup>11</sup> The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named



<sup>5</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

<sup>6</sup> The earth has brought forth its increase;  
God, our own God, has blessed us.

<sup>7</sup> May God give us blessing,  
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

**Response**

**Second Reading**

**Galatians 1:11-24**

A reading from Galatians, chapter 1.

Paul writes: <sup>11</sup> I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin, <sup>12</sup> for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

<sup>13</sup> You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. <sup>14</sup> I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. <sup>15</sup> But when the one who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace was pleased <sup>16</sup> to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the gentiles, I did not confer with any human, <sup>17</sup> nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterward I returned to Damascus.

<sup>18</sup> Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days, <sup>19</sup> but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord's brother. <sup>20</sup> In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie! <sup>21</sup> Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia, <sup>22</sup> and I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea that are in Christ; <sup>23</sup> they only heard it said, "The one who formerly was persecuting us is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy." <sup>24</sup> And they glorified God because of me.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand in body or spirit.*



*Please be seated.*

**Children's Message**

**Pastor Axel Kaegler**

**A Moment of Prayer**

**Cradling Children in His Arm**

**ELW # 444**



Cra-dling chil - dren in his arm, Je - sus gave his bless - ing.



To our babes a wel-come warm he is yet ad - dress - ing.



Take them, Lord, give life a - new in the liv - ing wa - ters!



Keep them al - ways near to you as your sons and daugh-ters!

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Johannes H. V. Knudsen, 1902–1982  
Music: GAUDEAMUS PARITER, Johann Horn, 1490–1547  
Text © 1976 Johannes H. V. Knudsen, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**The Message**

**Pastor Axel Kaegler**

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

Hymn of the Day

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

ELW # 504



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -  
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
 your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## **Apostles' Creed**

Let us name and proclaim the God who saves us, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Please kneel or sit as you are able for the prayers.*

## **Prayers of Intercession**

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.

*A brief silence.*

Holy One, you entrust the message of the cross and the mission of the gospel to the church in every land. Guide the newly baptized and deepen the faith of all who follow Christ. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Holy Creator, you lavish creation with splendor, and we praise you for the gift of life. Teach us to live as wise stewards, sharing the earth's resources with all inhabitants of this garden planet. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Holy Judge, your power is love, and you judge the nations by the measure of Christ. Free any who are unjustly accused or wrongly condemned. We pray your guidance for those in authority. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Holy Father, you care for vulnerable young children, frail elders, and any who are sick. We pray especially for Bob, Jim, Mary Jane, Mark, Matt, Shane, Michael, Virginia, Hans, the Engstrom family, the Rothenheber family, the Daniels family, the Wendte family, and the Miller family. We pray also for all who are affected by natural disasters. Provide for their needs and relieve their suffering. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Holy Giver, you gather, forgive, and shape us as disciples of Christ. Nurture in us a spirit of patience and respect, that we may love one another as you love us. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Holy Savior, you free us from the power of death. Lead and guide us until we come at last into the communion of all your saints in light. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

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.**

### **Passing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*You are invited to share God's peace with those around you  
and to greet those who are worshipping online.*

*Please be seated.*

Flute: Carol Copland

*Before the night had turned to day,  
Before the light of morn,  
before the stars did drift away,  
Jesus Christ was born.*

*Please stand.*

**Offertory Hymn**  
**Verse 3**

**In the Bleak Midwinter**  
**ELW # 294**



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;  
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;  
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894  
Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

## Offering Prayer

Our God is a generous God,  
**providing manna in the wilderness.**

Our God is a steadfast God,  
**with us even unto the end of the age.**

Our God is a God of newness and calling,  
**inviting us to honor new visions and embrace new dreams.**

Israel was fed with manna from heaven.  
Elijah was sustained by bread and meat brought by ravens.  
The disciples traveled with a common purse,  
sharing their gifts with one another.  
Christ invited those gathered at the Feast of the Five Thousand  
to witness a generosity beyond what they could imagine.  
The ancient church shared all things in common,  
believing that the call to communal spiritual growth  
is also a call to give back to God what God has given us.  
In keeping with this history and heritage, trusting that God provides us  
with everything we need to do, what we are called to do, and be who  
we are called to be, we gather our offering - the first fruits of our labor.  
We commend them to God, the source of our blessings and hope.

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Generous God, you invite us to live generous lives,  
trusting that you have given us to each other to work together:  
**We are better together.**

In service to our neighbor, in love for all creation,  
and in proclamation of your good news for all:  
**We are better together.**

Bless these gifts we've gathered,  
give us generous hearts,  
honest commitment to the call you've placed before us,  
and sincere trust that we can rely on your grace and sufficiency  
as we continue to serve you and your people.  
**Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

May the triune God,  
who has put a new song in your mouth  
and tuned your heart for praise  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

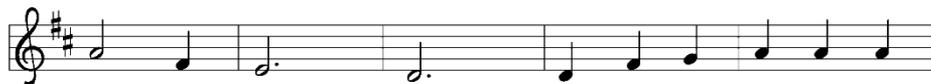
# The Sending Song

# I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

ELW # 815



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,  
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

### *Refrain*



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934  
Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson  
Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**Thanks be to God**

## Your Prayers Are Invited

*We hope you will add the following people to your personal prayers. Those who are listed longer than 6 weeks can be found on the long term prayer list through the link in the weekly e-news or the monthly Link newsletters. To add a name to the prayer list or provide an update, please contact the office.*

Bob

Jim Brenneman

Mary Jane Brenneman

Matt Cirigliano (friend of Pastor Kaegler)

Mark Lance (Stephanie Staerk's cousin)

Shane Morrissy

Hans Noerr (friend of Don & Pat Hallman)

Michael Nugent (Stephanie Staerk's cousin)

Virginia Staerk (Stephanie Staerk's sister-in-law)

*The flowers on the altar today have been sponsored by  
Linda & Rick Daniels  
in memory of Linda's son, Christopher Trickel  
and Linda's father, William Heilemann.*

### Online Giving

*To make an offering to support the work of Christ's Lutheran Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, you may use this QR code to access our site for secure online giving.*



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Ministers	The People of Christ's Lutheran Church	
Senior Pastor	Reverend Axel Kaegler	
Director of Spiritual Formation	Becca Shelor	
Director of Music	Ken Selinger	
Administrative Assistant	Lorraine Pfeiffer	
Preschool Director	Sally Mead	
Sexton	Pete Carr	
Assisting Minister	Steve Seyfried	
Soundboard	Diane Polis	
Livestream	Rick Daniels, Don Hallman, John Melnick, Paul Zieger	
Counter(s)	Lori Stevens	
Closer	TBD	
Assisting Minister next Sunday	John Frantz	

**This Week at CLC!**

<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 am	Family Tables (chapel)
	9:00 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:30 am	Worship at CLC and online
	11:30 am	Annual Meeting (sanctuary)
<b>Monday</b>	9:30 am	Monday Morning Men
	10:00 am – 6:00 pm	PBJ Collection (chapel)
	11:00 am	CLC Yarners (200)
	7:30 pm	BS Troop 1 (PH)
<b>Tuesday</b>	9:00 am – 10:45 am	PBJ Collection (chapel)
	10:00 am	Family Stages (chapel)
	6:00 pm	Lions/Tigers (203/204)
	7:00 pm	AOL Scouts (200)
	7:00 pm	Webelos (PH)
	7:00 pm	Pub Theology (Tannery Run)
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00 am	Bible Study (200)
	7:00 pm	AA (PH)
<b>Friday</b>	8:00 pm	AA (200)



**Please sign up through the link in the weekly e-news or by contacting Betty Messer at [betty.messer508@gmail.com](mailto:betty.messer508@gmail.com).**