

# + Third Sunday after the Epiphany +

January 26, Year of Our Lord 2025 / DS4

## + Confession and Absolution +



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

### Invocation

*Matthew 28:19b; 18:20*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### Exhortation

*Psalm 124:8; Psalm 130:3–4; Luke 18:13*

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

### Confession of Sins

**C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

### Absolution

*[John 20:19–23]*

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## + Service of the Word +

## Introit

*Psalm 102:18–22; antiphon: v. 13*



**[P]** You will arise and have pity on | Zion;\*  
it is the time to favor her; the appointed | time has come.  
**[C]** **Let this be recorded for a genera- | tion to come,\***  
**so that a people yet to be created may | praise the LORD:**  
that he looked down from his | holy height;\*  
from heaven the LORD looked | at the earth,  
**to hear the groans of the | prisoners,\***  
**to set free those who were | doomed to die,**  
that they may declare in Zion the name | of the LORD,\*  
and in Jerusa- | lem his praise,  
**when peoples gather to- | gether,\***  
**and kingdoms, to wor- | ship the LORD.**  
**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.**  
You will arise and have pity on | Zion;\*  
it is the time to favor her; the appointed | time has come.

## Kyrie

*Mark 10:47*

**[A]** (sung) In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**[C]** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

**[A]** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**[C]** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

**[A]** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

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



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

## Gloria in Excelsis

*Luke 2:14; John 1:29*



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro- claimed at Je-sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa-ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with your spirit.

**P** Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** Amen.

## Old Testament Reading

*Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10*

All the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel. So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. . . .

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. . . .

They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**C** Praise the LORD, all nations!  
 Extol him, all peoples!  
 For great is his steadfast love toward us,  
 and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.  
 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
 bring an offering, and come into his courts!

**Choral Anthem** *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

**Epistle**

*1 Corinthians 12:12–31a*

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Verse of the Day

Luke 4:18a

- P** Alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. Alleluia.

## Alleluia and Verse



## Holy Gospel

Luke 4:16–30

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.  
**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus] came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives  
and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the



synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself.' What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well." And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. But passing through their midst, he went away.

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

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

### **Apostles' Creed**

**C** 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.**

## Hymn of the Day: 401 From God the Father, Virgin-Born



1 From God the Fa - ther, vir - gin - born To us the  
 2 Be - gin - ning from His home on high, In hu - man  
 3 Glide on, O glo - rious Sun, and bring The gift of  
 4 A - bid with us, O Lord, we pray; The gloom of

on - ly Son came down; By death the font to con - se -  
 flesh He came to die; Cre - a - tion by His death re -  
 heal - ing on Your wing; To ev - 'ry dull and cloud - ed  
 dark - ness chase a - way; Your work of heal - ing, Lord, be -

crate, The faith - ful to re - gen - er - ate.  
 stored, And shed new joys of life a - broad.  
 sense The clear - ness of Your light dis - pense.  
 gin, And take a - way the stain of sin.

5 Lord, once You came to earth's domain And, we believe, shall come again;  
 Be with us on the battlefield, From ev'ry harm Your people shield.

△ 6 To You, O Lord, all glory be For this Your blest epiphany;  
 To God, whom all His hosts adore, And Holy Spirit evermore.

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: Antiphoner, 1753, Grenoble Text and tune: Public domain

**+ Sermon +**

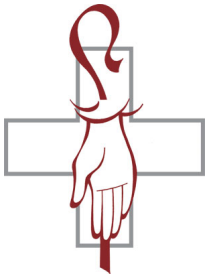
**All Spoke Well of Him**

### Announcement of Offering and Greetings of Peace

The people may 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).

**+ Prayer +**





World: For **Hurricanes Milton and Helene flood relief** and recovery in the Southeast. For **Camp Linn Haven** (North Carolina) flood cleanout and reconstruction. For God to cease the wars between modern-day **Israel** and the **Hamas** and the conflict between **Ukraine** and **Russia**.

Vocation: For our singles, parents, grandparents, and families. For Recent Baptism of **Sunday H. Smith**, daughter of Cole and Tamia, (baptized 12/22). For recent Baptism of **Rowan Blankenbeckler** (baptized 12/15).

Birth of **Autumn Lea** (granddaughter to Rick & Lisa Gift). For **Joshua**

**Arguien and Adelaide Yoder** who were married on 9/20. For **Turner and Mandy Gough** who were married on 12/30. For **veterans and our military** (including **Carter Felt, Casey Lawson, Tyler Smith** and **William Smolter**). For **those serving in hospitals and homeless shelters**. For **teachers** in our community schools. For our circuit's seminary students: **Aaron Wade, Sam Bohnet, Vicar Daniel Bueckman**, and **Vicar Alex Ogden**. For **Elijah & Faith Miessler** (upcoming blessing of their marriage on 1/18). For **children and families** dealing with difficult situations due to drugs, alcohol, violence, abuse, stress, and strife. Birth of **Hudson Hamby**, born 12/12 (Great-grandson of Becky Hamby).

Loss and Mourning: For the family of **Peggy Gullickson** (Tom Wittkopp's sister in Spokane, WA). For the family of **Pete Gay** (Catherine Boute's bother in-law). For the family of **Curtis** (Joshua Buslovich's brother in Virginia) who passed away. For the family of **Phyllis Strege** who passed away 9/18 and whose memorial service was held at Praise on 9/26. For the family of **Nancy Vesper** (Jim's mother) who passed away 9/9. Family of **Brad Barnett** (Phil & Carol's son) who passed away and whose memorial service was 9/3. For many remembering loved ones who passed away.

Health: For **Sharon Yoder** health and hospice care at home. For **Neil Gulas** recovering from open-heart surgery (Suzanne Nunnink's father). For **Darrel Wehmeier** (Deb Wales's brother) multiple internal lesions, cancer tests. For **Fred Hansen** (recovering from flu and for heart valve consult). For **Gary Kubin** hip surgery rehab. For **Linda Davis** heart valve procedure consut. **Ted Frazier** migraines that required recent hospitalization. For **Will Wade** knee surgery rehab. For **Brian Strege** knee replacement rehab. Pastor **Kent Dockery** knee surgery recovery. For **Sandy Bagley** knee pain and stroke recovery. For **Barbara McGillick** nerve root pain in back. For **Emma Lu Kerekes** health and hospice care (in Oak Ridge). For **Marty Smith** strength and comfort for dealing with cancer (Tyler and Megan Smith's father[-in-law]). For Katie Felt's uncle, **Tim** in Florida, final months. For **Don Hammond** heart a-fib (Joan Large's son). For **Rachel Ernst** upcoming rescheduled surgery. For **Ed McGillick** persistent dizziness and tendencies to fall. For **Bill Frazho** (Paul Ruble's brother-in-law) lung and overall health. For **Steve Pierce** recovery from bladder cancer surgery on Friday (uncle of Seth and Tina Pierce). For **Bill** who has started chemo for cancer (friend of Seth and Tina Pierce). For **Ron Williams** (back at Foothills) and for his wife Pamela. For **Barbara Moyers** recovery from back surgery (now home). For **Carole Vitzthum** (and **George** taking care of

her). For **Garrison** with ALS (student of Amy Mohr's daughter, Coleen Williams). For **Dominic Steer** (Steve Kaiser's brother-in-law) health. For Jerry & Jennifer Kropps's mothers: **Louise Kropp** and **Marie Guinn** (both turning 90 and recently diagnosed with lung mass [Louise] and cancer [Marie]). For **Linda McMichael** (hamstring and knee fractures healing). For **Dana** (Ed & Sandy's) niece recovering from tongue and throat cancer surgery. For **Bradley Happel** (Becky Hamby's brother) open heart surgery/quadruple bypass recovery. For **Mary** (Ed & Sandy Bagley's daughter) health. For **June Latham** (Phyllis Bembas' sister) stroke and vision recovery. For **Edward Faberzak** (son of friends of Jim Vesper, former Navy serviceman) fighting cancer. For **Pastor Ed Maanum** kidney acceptance. For **Fred Goddard** (nephew of Mary Ellen Brown) lung cancer treatment. For **Steve Greene** (friend of Jim Vesper) dealing with multiple cancers. For **Andrew** (son of a friend of Laura Bisconte) treatment for a mass in the base of his brain. For **Larry & Cathy Wacker's daughter** and **son-in-law's** health and cancer treatments. For **Carol** (Alex Hick's aunt) recent diagnosis of frontal lobe dementia. For **Tim Smith** heart health. For **Tom Williams** maintenance chemo treatments. For **Janeen Meier** healing for physical and mental health (Maureen Roberts' sister and Pastor Roberts' Aunt). **Debbie Johnston** kidney health. **Bob McDermott** dealing with Parkinson's symptoms. For **Alan Stremsterfer's mother** health issues. For **Lisa Stremsterfer's father** health and stability. **Aurora Stevens** back and shoulder pain treatments. For **Kathy Bigger** (friend of Donna Wall) pancreatic cancer. Andrew Hebar's **Aunt Kara** (health).

**Birthdays:** Robbie M 1/25, Jonathan H 1/26, Rick G 1/28, Kathleen DC 1/29, Judy K 1/29, Luke J 1/30, Dell A 2/3, Lisa S 2/5, John B 2/6, Judy D 2/6, August J 2/8

**Anniversaries:** Chuck & Candace P 2/4

**Benediction** for those worshipping on the livestream.

## **+ Service of the Sacrament +**

### **A Word to Our Guests and Visitors about Communion at Praise**

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very Body and Blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death and resurrection until He comes. Scripture warns that those who come forward to eat and drink our Lord's Body and Blood in an unworthy manner do so to their great spiritual harm. The Lord's Supper is also a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar. Therefore, any who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet to desire to receive the Sacrament (Communion), are encouraged to seek guidance from the pastor.

## Preface

*2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with your spirit.

**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 that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

*p. 161 or 178*

- [P]** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, ...now and forever.  
**[C]** Amen.

### Lord's Prayer

- [C]** 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.

### The Words of Our Lord

- [P]** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### Pax Domini

- [P]** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**[C]** Amen.

**Agnus Dei, p. 210 for music**

*John 1:29*

**C** (sung) 1 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.

2 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.

Text: Stephen P. Starke



**Distribution**

Please see our pastor for details about baptism, instruction, and vow of confirmation of our church's teachings prior to taking the Lord's Supper (Communion) at Praise.

**Distribution Hymn: 603 We Know That Christ Is Raised** (see hymnal)

**Distribution Hymn: 617 O Lord, We Praise Thee**

**Distribution Hymn: 583 God Has Spoken by His Prophets**

**Distribution Hymn: 643 Sent Forth by God's Blessing**

**Nunc Dimittis, p. 211 for music**

*Luke 2:29–32*

**C** (sung) 1 O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace,  
For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace:  
A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill,  
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.

2 All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,  
All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One;  
For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,  
God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.

**Post-Communion Collect**

**A** Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**Benedicamus**

*Psalms 103:1*

**A** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## 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.

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## Praise Lutheran Church (LCMS)

Sunday Divine Services weekly at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday Bible Study and Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

Address: 315 Southdowne Dr, Maryville, TN 37801

Phone: (865) 977-5810; Website: **praiselutheran.com**

Online giving: praiselutheran.com (click the blue “Give” button)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PraiseLutheranChurch/>

Staffed Office Hours: Monday through Thurs. 9:00 to Noon, Thurs. also: 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Office Administration: Tina Pierce, [tina@praiselutheran.com](mailto:tina@praiselutheran.com)

Pastor Derek Roberts, [pastor@praiselutheran.com](mailto:pastor@praiselutheran.com), cell: (865) 421-9988 (Day off: Fridays)

DCE: Shelli Haynes, [shelli@praiselutheran.com](mailto:shelli@praiselutheran.com), cell: (909) 226-3179

Congregational President: Dr. Tom Wittkopp, Vice President: Tim Nunnink

Prayer requests: if possible, please submit by 9:00 a.m. on Thursdays

Organist/pianists: Janice Kaiser, Susan Johnson, Gary Schauerma

Choir Director: Laura Bisconte, Choir Pianist: Susan Johnson

Church Calendar: [praiselutheran.com/events](https://praiselutheran.com/events)



**Moved? Changed your email address? Changed cell phone or home phone? Please let the church office know.**

**Two Large Print Hymnals** are available. Please ask those who are helping as ushers to locate a large print hymnal for you.

Visit **[praiselutheran.com/build](https://praiselutheran.com/build)** to see our build completion video!

Building Fund	2024 Receipts	2025 Receipts	Total Receipts
Actual	\$211,037	\$4,584	\$1,182,579
Pledged	\$179,106	\$42,744	\$1,065,270
Remaining	\$31,931 [over]	-\$38,160 [under]	\$117,309 [over]

*Build Project total cost estimate: ~ 2.8 million (approximately 38% funded).*

Gifts to the Build Fund are still encouraged (through at least the extended end of the Capital Campaign in December 2025). Please prayerfully (continue to) give gifts.

**Subscribe to our newsletter** at praiselutheran.com, homepage, right hand side, blue box.  
Need help? Contact tina@praiseluteran.com

PLEASE NOTE: New phone numbers for Pastor Roberts and his family:

Pastor Derek Roberts cell: **(865) 421-9988**

Gretchen Roberts cell: **(865) 336-6265**

Kate Bohnet cell (formerly Roberts, now married to Sam): **(865) 468-9090**

Sophia Roberts cell: **(865) 336-6121**

Jonathan Roberts cell: **(865) 324-9434**

## **Youth and Families**

**Sunday School** (weekly on Sundays) for 2 year olds - 12th grade kids will meet during the Education hour from 9:45 - 10:45. Please see Shelli Haynes or Linda McMichael with questions on specific meeting places for each group.

**Middle and High School Midweek Youth** meet Wednesdays (6-7pm Middle School and 8-9pm High School)

**The LCMS Youth Gathering** is coming to New Orleans July 19 - 23, 2025! Praise will send a group of 11 to the gathering! Please see Linda McMichael or April Torres with any questions.

- **Mardi Gras Bake Sale** Feb 9 Sunday morning in the Narthex. Cash and checks payable to Praise Lutheran (mark: NYG); gluten-free and nut-free options available.
- **BINGO** fundraising event Feb 15. Cost to play is \$10 per person (additional cards are \$3). Drinks and snacks available for purchase.
- **Tidal Wave Car Wash Vouchers** available now. Secure their BEST car wash (normally a \$30 wash) for \$12, or 2 vouchers for \$20. Purchase from our Youth.

**Campfirmation** (yearly event for middleschoolers and highschoolers) at Camp Linn Haven, North Carolina from July 7-11, 2025. Theme for 2025: *The Sacraments: Signed, Sealed, and Delivered*. Designated fundraising events will take place throughout the year.

- **Information Meeting: All parents and students interested** in being part of this wonderful week of learning, please mark your calendars for an information meeting on **Sun, Feb 2**, during the Sunday School hour in the middle and high school Sunday School classroom. The meeting should be about 20 minutes.

### **Youth Catechesis** with Pastor Roberts

Sun, Feb 2 from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. in the large Sunday School Room

Sun, Feb 16 from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. in the large Sunday School Room

**Personalized Lutheran Mugs Available** (member made by Suzanne Nunnink) See order forms in Narthex; suggested donation \$25 each; use, wash, and store here at church or take home if you want. Funds benefit Youth Campfirmation this summer.

### **This Week**

**Church Council Meeting** TODAY in the Social Hall after the 11:00 a.m. service.

**Cards Creation** in the Social Hall at 1:00 p.m. All welcome to come create and care.

**Youth Group** Middle School 6:00 – 7:00 p.m., High School 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**Choir Rehearsal** Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. *Ladies only this week.*

**Men's Bible Study** Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

**Ladies Bible Study** Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall with Barbara Morsch

### **Upcoming Events**

**Feb 2** (NEXT Sun) Campfirmation Info Meeting for Adults and Students 9:45 a.m.

**Feb 9** (Sun) Mardi Gras Bake Sale for National Youth Gathering

**Feb 15** (Sat) Bingo at Praise! Youth fundraiser: \$10 to play, \$3 each additional card

**Feb 23** (Sun) Voters Meeting at 9:45 a.m. Agenda: (re-)election of officers and board members and the previously presented proposed changes to the constitution and bylaws.

**Feb 25** (Tues) Cards Creation

**Adult Catechesis** (Class leading to Membership or a great review of the chief parts of the faith): New class starting soon: See Pastor Roberts to sign up. Time(s) will depend on when the group is best able to meet.

**Servant Leaders at Praise.** At Voters on Feb 23, we will elect new Board Members and Officers whose terms begin Mar 1. We currently could fill out the Boards of Evangelism, Stewardship, plus we need a Congregational Secretary (congregational officer, not to be confused with our Office Admin). Please prayerfully consider serving and then mention to Pres. Tom Wittkopp or Pastor Roberts.

**Little Children in Church.** We love our little children and how blessed we are to have them present in the Divine Service! It is wonderful to hear them learning to pray, sing, and speak the parts of the Divine Liturgy. Thank you, faithful parents, for bringing your children to the House of the Lord to hear and participate! No child is too young or too old. We are all learning and hearing the Word of God and participating in age-appropriate ways. The Spirit is at work. *Concerning noise-levels and what to do:* Most often, members can withstand the occasional sounds of children being children and can still focus on the service. However, when sounds go beyond what is good for your neighbor to hear or focus well, then please remember that the nursery/children's room may be helpful. Then bring them back into the Sanctuary as soon as seems right. It can be an unintended "reward" for a child to get to go play for being disruptive, yet you may discern how long is just right and what's best to help a child reset. The room can serve as a place to encourage calming and being caring for others in church and reminding them why we are here: to hear and honor Jesus.