

Service of Holy Communion

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

January 18th, 2026



INTRODUCTION

Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.

GATHERING

CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

The congregation stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

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

The congregation sits or kneels. 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.**

Congregation stands

GATHERING HYMN

Come to the Water of Life

printed in bulletin

GREETING

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

KYRIE

A. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

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

C. Lord, have mercy.

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 mercy.

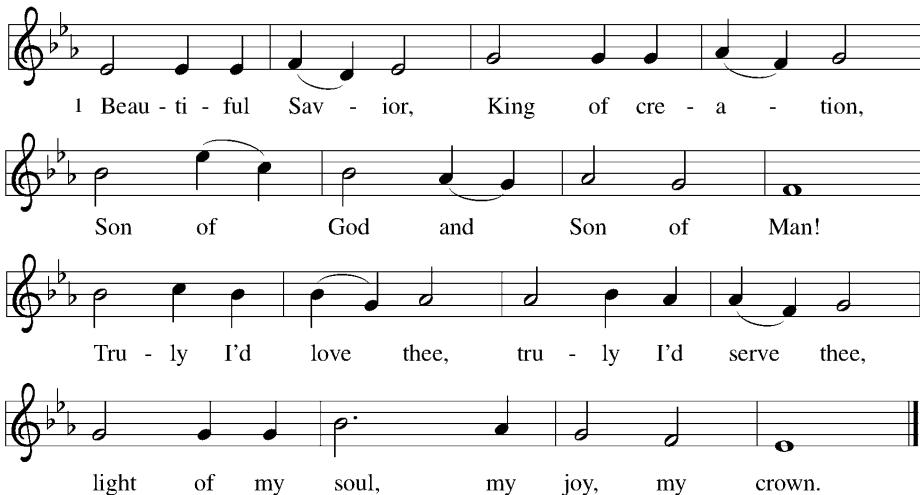
A. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

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

C. Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Congregation is seated

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:1-7

¹ Listen to me, O coastlands;
 pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The LORD called me before I was born;
 while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
² He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
 in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow;
 in his quiver he hid me away.
³ And he said to me, "You are my servant,
 Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain;
 I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the LORD
 and my reward with my God."
⁵ And now the LORD says,
 who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
 and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,
 and my God has become my strength—
⁶ he says,
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
 to raise up the tribes of Jacob
 and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
 that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."
⁷ Thus says the LORD,
 the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
 the slave of rulers,
"Kings shall see and stand up;
 princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
 the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

A. Word of God, word of life. **C. Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 40:1-11 (read responsively)

¹ I waited patiently upon the LORD,
 who stooped to me and heard my cry.

² The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay,
and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.

³ The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God;
many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the LORD.

⁴ Happy are they who trust in the LORD!

They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.

⁵ Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God! In your plans for us,
none can be compared with you!

Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than I
can count.

⁶ **Sacrifice and offering you do not desire;
you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not
required.**

⁷ And so I said, "Here I am; I come.

In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

⁸ **'I love to do your will, O my God;
your law is deep within me.'**"

⁹ I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly;
I have not restrained my lips, O LORD, you know.

¹⁰ **I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your
faithfulness and your deliverance; I have not concealed your steadfast love
and truth from the great assembly.**

¹¹ You are the LORD; do not withhold your compassion from me;
may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:1-19

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our
brother Sosthenes,

² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in
Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call
on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that
has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in
him, in speech and knowledge of every kind ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ
has been strengthened among you ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift as
you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you
to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹
God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus
Christ our Lord.

A. Word of God, word of life.

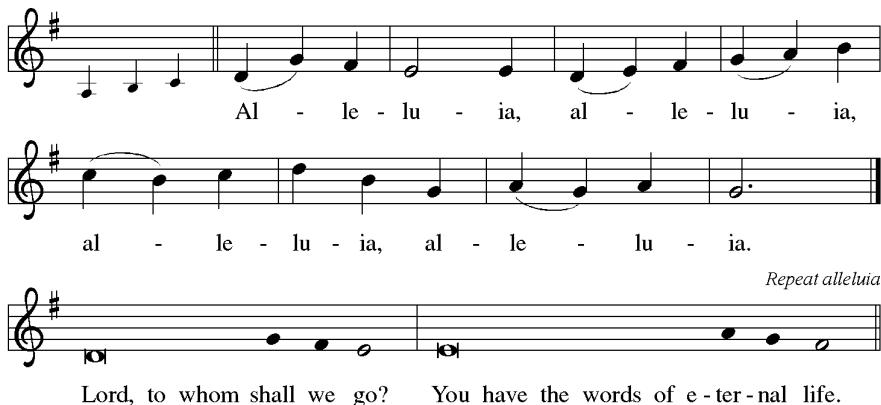
C. Thanks be to God.

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL

Children & Youth are invited forward for a special sermon time with Pastor Peggy.

Congregation stands

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL: John 1:29-42

P. The holy gospel according to John. C. Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹ [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”³⁰ This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.”³² And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?”³⁹ He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed).

⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

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

Congregation is seated

SERMON Seeing Jesus

Congregation stands

HYMN OF THE DAY

Shine, Jesus, Shine

ELW 671

APOSTLE'S 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A. 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.

A. Gracious God, gather the church into one great fellowship. Equip your people to work together for justice and peace, following the example of Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, whose birth we remember this week. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A. Creating God, sustain the web of life on this planet. Protect wild places, endangered species, and vulnerable habitats. Come to the aid of those

affected by natural disasters. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A. Just God, you desire respect and equality for everyone. Raise up prophets who speak truth to the nations. Embolden leaders and those in authority to advocate for people in need. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A. Healing God, you lift up those who are bowed down by trouble, oppression, or illness we pray especially for... those we now say aloud... and those we hold in our hearts. Bring an end to social injustice and inequities of every kind, so that all people may have abundant life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A. Abiding God, you are present with this congregation. Keep us mindful of our mission and guide our ministries in this community. Kindle in us a desire to help one another. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A. Faithful God, you promise to be with us always. We remember with gratitude the faithful departed who now rest in you. Strengthen us to the end, that we may see you face to face. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P. 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.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P. The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C. And also with you.

P. Let us share with each other a sign of Christ's peace.

Congregation is seated

CHOIR ANTHEM

By the Water and the Spirit

Regi Stone, Randy Cox

MEAL

OFFERTORY INVITATION

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via Venmo



Offering can be given by putting it in the offering plate when it is passed, online directly via the QR codes for Tithely or Venmo, or by requesting your bank to send a check to the church. Find more details on our website.

Thank you for your generous gifts!

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Congregation stands

OFFERTORY SONG

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
still guides us on to the end of our days.

God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray... God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE & PREFACE OF THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

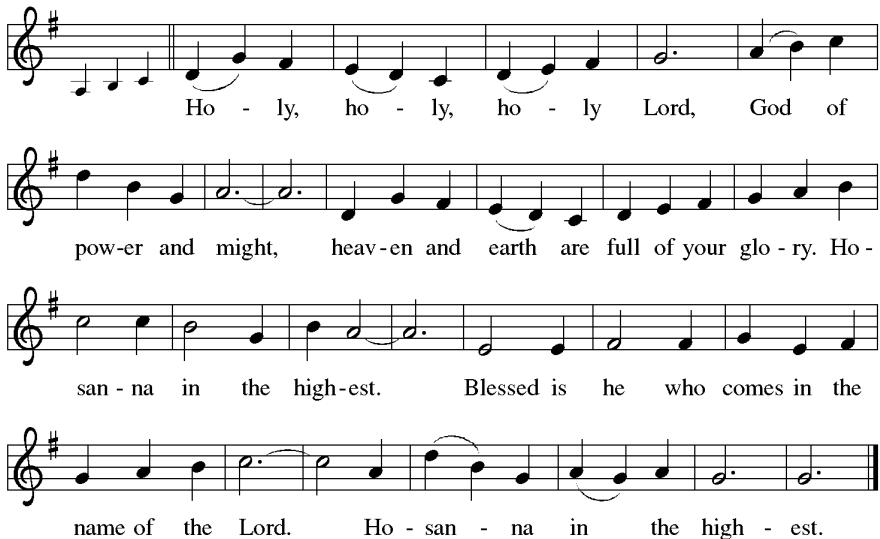
P. Lift up your hearts.

C. We lift them to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P. 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 on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The congregation sits or kneels.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P. Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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 preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Believing in the real presence of Christ, we practice Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcome to Communion this morning. Children may come forward for a blessing.

Please come forward, guided by the Ushers, to receive the bread and wine. Gluten free wafers are available, please note this to Pastor Peggy when you come forward. Grape juice is available in the second communion plate. As you return to your seat via the side aisles you can place your empty cup in the baskets on either side.

P. Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table, taste and see.

COMMUNION SONG

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. The top line consists of four staves of music in common time, treble clef, and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace." The bottom line is a bass line in common time, bass clef, and a key signature of one flat, consisting of a series of eighth and sixteenth notes.

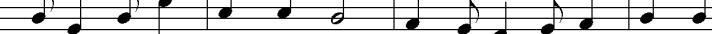
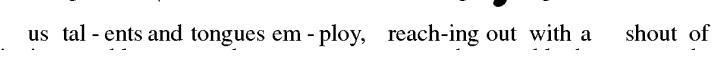
DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

After all have received Communion the congregation stands.

TABLE BLESSING

P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

SONG AFTER COMMUNION

1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:

 bread is bro-ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
Refrain

 Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a - bound!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A. Let us pray... Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P. 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.**

SENDING HYMN We Are Marching in the Light of God ELW 866

DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **C. Thanks be to God.**

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Announcements for January 18th, 2026

Welcome to Holy Counselor Lutheran Church. May you experience the joy of God's presence in our worship!

*If today is your **first time** worshiping at Holy Counselor, please be sure to fill out the "Guest Book" on the table in the narthex and take a welcome bag.*

Please ask our ushers any questions you may have regarding worship this morning. Large print bulletins are available.

Worship is live streamed to our church Facebook page, but the camera is pointed away during Communion and is not on the children when they come forward during A Time for the Child in Us All.

~~~~~  
**Thank you, Emilie Dupont for providing this morning's refreshments!**  
~~~~~

Volunteers for Today's Worship

Lay Asst.	<i>Debbie Lennon</i>
Ushers	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Comm. Asst.	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Tech	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Tellers	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Refreshments	<i>Emilie Dupont</i>

Volunteers for Next Sunday, Jan. 25th

all roles open; sign up on bulletin board

***** **Join us for refreshments after worship*******

~~~~~  
**A HUGE, heartfelt thank you to the congregation for our staff Christmas gifts!**  
**We all feel so blessed by our shared ministry here and we are thankful for**  
**the love, support, and encouragement this time of year and always.**  
**May God bless all of you! Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!**  
**With love, June, Cathy, and Pastor Peggy**  
~~~~~

THIS WEEK AT HOLY COUNSELOR

Sunday, Jan 18: Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am

Worship w/Communion, 9:30am

Choir Practice following worship

Wednesday, Jan 21: Adult Ed, Zoom, 10am & 7pm

Saturday, Jan 24: Sisters in Prayer, Zoom, 8:30am

Sunday, Jan 25: Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am

Worship w/Communion, 9:30am

Annual Meeting/Potluck Luncheon following meeting

Annual Congregational Meeting: Our annual meeting is **NEXT Sunday, January 25th** following worship with a makeup weather date of February 1st. Please plan to attend to celebrate the 2025 year, hear updates about the church, and approve the 2026 spending plan. **A potluck luncheon will follow, please bring a dish to pass.**

Adult Ed Study: Adult Ed is resuming with a **new study of *Twelve Ordinary Men*** by John MacArthur. You can order your book online. There **will be a 7pm session** as well as our usual 10am time for those who are unavailable during the daytime. Please **let Pam Kucks know** if you'd like to participate.

Cluster-wide Grief Study: For the month of February our ELCA cluster will be offering a **4-week series** on grief. It will take place on **Zoom from 7-8pm on Thursdays** (2/5-2/26). It's okay if you can't make it every week. All are welcome!

2026 Calendars for Sale: Happy New Year! Get a new calendar for your home. They are **\$20 each**. All calendar sales go directly to support the church.

Your legacy gift to the church: In your will or trust you can make a difference in the life of the people in this congregation. The new year is always a great time to review your will. Also, as a reminder **if you give electronically** via tithe.ly please update it to reflect your new intent for 2026. Thank you! If you have any questions, please contact John Heeren or Pastor Peggy.

Boiler Replacement & Electric Hot Water Heater: Due to a recent leak, damage and old age of the boiler at the parsonage immediate replacement was needed. Unfortunately, the hot water heater also has a leak and needs to be replaced. Good news is we will be putting in an electric one that will use our solar panels. Please **help support the boiler replacement and hot water heater fundraiser** in the Narthex to cover these costs. **The boiler is almost paid for because of your generosity!** Thank you to all who have given already!

Women's Lenten Retreat: We are hosting our 2nd Annual Woman's Retreat at HCLC on **Saturday, March 7th from 9 am-3 pm**. All women are invited to come explore a Lenten journey this winter about self-care. The day includes Pastor Peggy as our keynote speaker, worship, music, workshops and meditation. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. There is a recommended **donation of \$15** for building use. Please **RSVP** to the office (office@hc-lutheranchurch.org) **by Monday, February 9th**. See Kathy Heeren or Pam Kucks with any questions.

Youth Council Representative: For 2026 we will **need a new youth representative on church council**. If you are a youth interested in this service position, please contact Pastor Peggy or Diane Rossi. Thank you to Kevin, who has been our youth rep and will be heading off to college next year.

Paper Drive: We are running low on **paper towels**. Please contribute to our "Paper Drive" this month. All **donations can be placed** in the fellowship room against the left wall by the chairs. Thank you!

Food Pantry: Thank you for the recent generous food drives, we are still in need of: canned chicken noodle soup, boxed cereal, canned stew, canned chili, rice, children's juice boxes or pouches, 4-pack toilet paper & toothpaste. You can always bring donations of canned goods, paper goods, and hygiene products. All donations can be **placed in the blue bin** by the sanctuary doors. Thank you!

Come to the Water of Life

1 All who are thirst - y for mer - cy, all who are thirst - y for
 2 All who are thirst - y for heal - ing, all who are thirst - y for
 3 All who are thirst - y for beau - ty, all who are thirst - y for
 4 All who are thirst - y for jus - tice, all who are thirst - y for

love; all who are thirst - y for love, for mer - cy,
 touch; all who are thirst - y for touch, for heal - ing,
 truth; all who are thirst - y for truth, for beau - ty,
 peace; all who are thirst - y for peace, for jus - tice,

come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943

Music: WATER OF LIFE, Ray Makeever

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MISSION STATEMENT

*As Children of God,
we are called to share and serve
Christ's love and bring God's word to all.*

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pastor Rev. Peggy Ludlow

President Nancy Knecht

Vice President Frank Urbaniak

Treasurer Claire Speroni

Recording Secretary Dawn McCormick

Financial Secretary John Heeren

Outreach Coordinator Francine Vince

Nurture Coordinator Fred Schoenagel

Administration Coordinator Diane Rossi

Youth Representative Kevin Drache

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Kristina Heeren

Pam Kucks

Matt Moller

Aileen Donovan

Holy Counselor is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Munsee people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

