



Sunday, January 25, 2026
Third Sunday After Epiphany

The East Koshkonong Lutheran Church
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FACEBOOK PAGE – Please “Like” us on
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Ministers of East Koshkonong ~ All the people of God
Presider ~ Pastor Eric Hanson
Organist ~ Judy Rusch
Choir Director ~ Vicki Schuh
Assisting Minister ~ Carolyn Lien
Acolyte ~ Hank Wierzba
Lector ~ Joy Graffin
Greeter ~ Rosenthal Family
Ushers ~ Frodel Family
Offering Counters ~ Brenda Schroeder & Leila Carl & Diane Ash

Sermon One with Children

Gathering Hymn **Dearest Jesus, at Your Word # 520**

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**

Prayer of the day

A: Lord God, your loving kindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

Choir: Bread of the World

First Reading Isaiah 9:1-4

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.

¹ There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.³ You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.⁴ For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

L: Word of God, word of life. C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm : Psalm 27:1, 4-9

The LORD is my light and my salvation. (Ps. 27:1)

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then ¹ shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I ¹ be afraid?
⁴ **One thing I ask of the LORD; one ¹ thing I seek;**
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to
gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God ¹ in the temple.
⁵ For in the day of trouble God will ¹ give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- ¹ on a
rock.
⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies ¹ who surround me.**
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoic-
ing; I will sing and make music ¹ to the LORD. R
⁷ Hear my voice, O LORD, ¹ when I call; have mercy on me and ¹ answer me.
⁸ **My heart speaks your message— ¹ “Seek my face.”**
Your face, O LORD, ¹ I will seek.
⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- ¹ vant in anger.
Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of ¹ my
salvation. **R**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God's salvation.

¹⁰ Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among

you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose.¹¹ For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters.¹² What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ."¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name.¹⁶ I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew 4:12-23

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee.¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali,¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:¹⁵ "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers.¹⁹ And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people."²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him.²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them.²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

Sermon Two

Hymn of the Day **Will You Come and Follow Me #798**

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

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 for those in authority Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Holy Lover, you care for vulnerable young children, frail elders, and any who

are sick . We pray Kurt, Ernie, Ron, Danelle, Ronald, Jackie, Judy, Mary Lou, Lisa, Landon, Ed, Kathy, Cherie, Gary, Barb, Lindsay, Betsy, Jim, Chris, Robert, Michelle, Karen, Monica, and Gwendolyn. 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.

Kindle in us a desire to help one another. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

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.

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

Noisy Offering-For Sunday School Mission Project for ELCA World Hunger

Offering Prayer

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.

C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue

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.**

Words of Institution

P: 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, 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.

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.**

Invitation to Communion

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

Prayer after Communion

A: 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 your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen**

Blessing

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. **C: Amen.**

Sending Song I Love to Tell the Story #661

Dismissal

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

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Calendar

Sunday, January 25, 2026

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

5:30 p.m. Worship

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

Sunday, February 1, 2026

9:00 a.m. Worship – Sunday School Sings

10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship & Bingo

Announcements

We are glad you joined us! We hope that you will experience the good news in mind, body, and spirit as we pray, listen, sing and share the peace of Christ and the meal of Holy Communion. You are invited to worship in as many ways as you are comfortable and able. In this bulletin, **bold print** indicates congregation's responses. The presence, energy, and noise of children are most welcome here! The sound of children in worship is the sound of a new disciple being formed. This congregation is glad to share in this work. We welcome and invite children to participate in worship. **2025 noisy offering donations made through ELCA World Hunger**; 1 Clean Water Well System, 1 Family Farm, 2 Community Vegetable gardens, 2 Fruit Tree farms, & 4 Honeybees. Thank you for your generosity!

The annual Meeting will be Sunday, February 15 after worship. Please submit all items for the annual report by Sunday, February 1.

Sunday School will be singing on February 1. Bingo to follow service.

Bible study will start on February 3 at 10a.m. We will begin season 5 of the Chosen .

Copies of the budget will be available on Sunday, February 8 - Council member & Judy Lund will also be available for any questions.

The South-Central Synod of Wisconsin is thrilled to host our annual **LEAD** event on **Saturday, February 7, 2026, from 9:00 am to 3:30pm at Messiah Lutheran Church in Madison (5202 Cottage Grove Rd. Madison)** This year's theme is Forward, for us in the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, "forward" is not a solo hustle, it is a communal calling. We are the Church, together, called and sent in our varied vocations for the sake of the world God loves.

Registration closes on January 26, 2026

GIVE PLUS

You may make a secure offering/donation to EKLC by following the directions below. All donations are secured through Vanco. Thank you for your generous offering in this way! **Online giving directions**, you may set up recurring donations or make a one-time donation.

Go to www.eastkoshkonong.org and click on Donate. Create a profile through this secure website, if you haven't already, and complete the form on the website.