

January 25, 2026
Third Sunday after Epiphany
10:15 AM

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

WELCOME AND GREETING

PRELUDE The Call - Michael Burkhardt

LIGHTING OF THE TRINITY CANDLE

St. John's is a community that is

Ignited by Spirit, Growing in Love.

We begin our worship in the name of the Father,
the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen

GATHERING HYMN ELW 843 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

CALL TO WORSHIP

Children of God, when fears press in on every side, we can proclaim with confidence:

God is our light and salvation! Whom shall we fear?

When our problems overwhelm us and we feel pressed in on every side, we can declare with confidence:

God is the stronghold of our lives! Of whom shall we be afraid?

No matter the troubles we face, we seek after God and to live in the house of God forever.

God shelters and protects us in the day of trouble.

Come, let us worship God with joy, for God is our light and salvation!

We come to worship as bearers of the Light. Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good - will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y, heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we praise you for your glo - ry.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, your lovingkindness 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. **Amen.**

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:1-4 - *SS kids will be reading this lesson*

At the conclusion of the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: I Corinthians 1:10-18

At the conclusion of the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23

At the beginning of the reading:

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion of the reading:

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY TFF 146 I Can Hear My Savior Calling



1 I can hear my Savior calling, I can hear my Savior calling,
2 I'll go with him through the gar-den, I'll go with him through the gar-den,
3 I'll go with him through the judg-ment, I'll go with him through the judg-ment,
4 He will give me grace and glo-ry, he will give me grace and glo-ry,



I can hear my Savior calling, "Take thy cross and fol-low, fol-low me."
I'll go with him through the gar-den, I'll go with him, with him all the way.
I'll go with him through the judg-ment, I'll go with him, with him all the way.
he will give me grace and glo-ry, and go with me, with me all the way.



Where he leads me I will fol-low, where he leads me I will fol-low,



where he leads me I will fol-low, I'll go with him, with him all the way.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.

Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow.

Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you.

You are the fountain of resurrection.

Praise to you for your saving waters:

Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well.

The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock.

Naaman washes his leprosy away,

and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word

that saves us in this sacrament.

Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation.

Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears.

Wash away all that separates us from God and one another.

Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

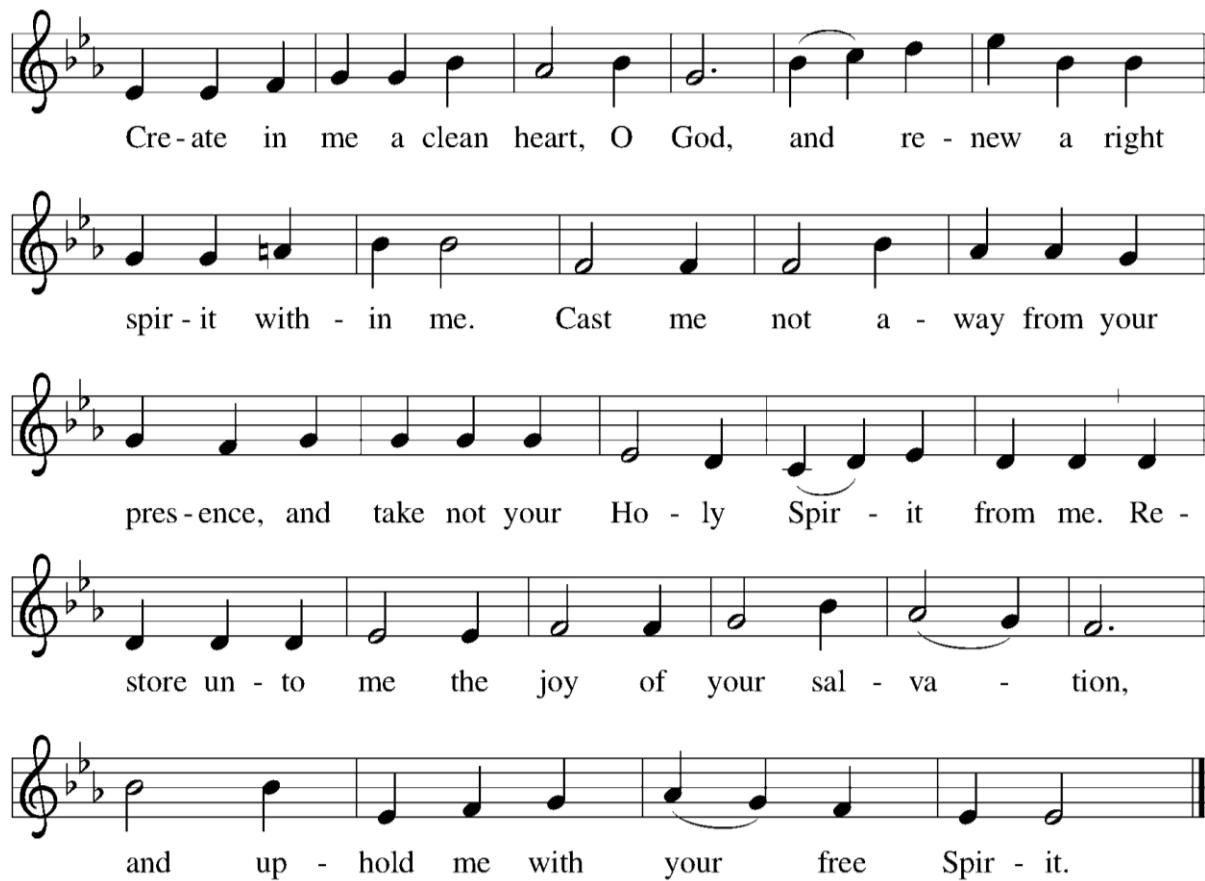
Amen.

Almighty God, who gives us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING Lamb of God - Alice Jordan

OFFERTORY



Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

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. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition will end:

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

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.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

+ SENDING +

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

SENDING SONG ELW 551 The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE Postlude on "Richmond" - Healey Willan

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PRAYER LIST

Please continue to keep the following people connected to our congregation in your prayers: Bob Moran, Leonard Gibeon, David Mounts, Ed & Billie Schanely, Steve Keyser, Andrew Breuninger, Renee Fels, Rebecca Jellen, Richard Ditzler, Joy Miller, Alyson Harvey, Audrey Sell, Marie Wolfe, Erik Ockenlaender, Mary Eberle, Brandon Blanchard, Gladys Kazalonis, Elizabeth Brossett and family, John Moore, Paige Seasock, Tanner Antalosky, Bob Schanely, Will Morgan and Richard Mitchell.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 26	7:30pm Exec Meeting
Tuesday, January 27	7pm Outreach Meeting
Sunday, February 1	No 8am Service
	9am Sunday School
	10:15 Worship
	Great Soup Showdown
	*Lent Newsletter deadline

The Lent Newsletter is in production. Please submit anything you'd like included by Sunday, Feb. 1st.

College student addresses are being collected as we anticipate sending care packages this winter. If you have a college student in your household, please share his/her mailing address with us! Send in your student's address to the church office, email stj.stown@verizon.net!

Sign up for the Sunday morning coffee bar outside of Pastor Becky's office.

Superbowl Grids—they are in the weekly email, sign up today!

RISE Against Hunger NEW DATE is March 22nd. The new sign up will be available in the next weekly email.





Soup & Study – Lent 2026

A Different Way to Journey Through Lent
Where Faith Finds Color

Mondays in Lent | 5:30–7:00 p.m.

Begins Monday, February 23, 2026

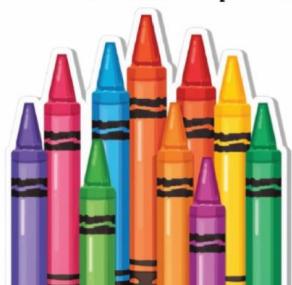
St. John's Lutheran Church, Sumneytown

We'll share a simple meal, meaningful conversation, and time to reflect together using Coloring Lent. This group invites us to talk and color side by side, creating space for reflection, discussion, and quiet moments along the way. The book will also serve as a personal devotional guide throughout Lent, from Ash Wednesday to Easter.

Book: Coloring Lent: An Adult Coloring Book for the Journey to Resurrection

Books are available for \$10

from Pastor Becky, St. John's (pastorbeck74@gmail.com)
or Pastor Stephanie, Friedens (pastor.friedensucc@gmail.com)



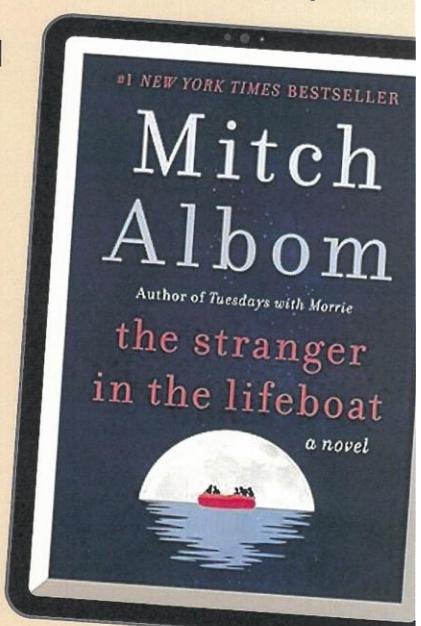
Please bring your own coloring supplies to the Monday gatherings:
crayons, markers,
or colored pencils.
No artistic experience needed.
All are welcome.

St. John's & Friedens Book Group

Breakfast & coffee served

Saturday
February 21, 2026
9:30AM
at Friedens UCC

We will be
discussing the novel
***The Stranger
in the lifeboat
by Mitch Albom***



Questions?

Email Pastor Becky pastorbeck74@gmail.com

Email Pastor Stephanie pastor.friedensucc@gmail.com