

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany February 8th, 2026

Order of Service

7:45 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
DSI (pg. 151)	Prayer and Preaching
<u>Hymns</u>	(pg. 260)
905, 575, 544, 628, 698	<u>Hymns</u> 905, 575, 544
Wednesday Hymns 887, 575	

Sermon

"The Easy Way Out"
Rev. Wes Gillaspie

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 58:3-9: "Why have we fasted," they say, "and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves and you have not noticed?" Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to humble themselves? Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter? When you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: "Here am I."

1 Corinthians 2:1-12: And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power. We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived"—the things God has prepared for those who love him—these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.

Matthew 5:13-20: Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in

the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven."

Serving in Worship Today

Elders *Charles Zwerk, Dave Miller, Jason Hecht; Ben Bekemeier*
Organist *Calista Daenzer*
Choir *K-1 Choir*
Usher *Brian Knoll; Mike Buchinger*
Altar Guild *Pam Mossner; Jennifer Sage*
Acolytes *Elaine Cook, Aubrey Baase*

Wednesday

Elder *Ben Bekemeier*
Pianist *Heiki Palm*
Usher *Mike Buchinger*

This week at St. Michael's

Today Communion 7:45 a.m.
Bible Class/KidzMin 9 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Mon *Newsletter Deadline*
World Relief Quilting 9 a.m.
Tue Blood Drive 1-6 p.m.
PTL 6:30 p.m.
Trustees 7 p.m.

Adult Choir 7 p.m.

Wed Worship Service 7 p.m.

Next Sun. *Worship Service 7:45 a.m.*

Bible Class 9 a.m.

Communion 10:30 a.m.

Midweek Lenten Worship: Ash Wednesday is Feb. 18th. We will have both the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion that evening at 7:00. Our midweek Lenten theme is "The Seven Deadly Sins." The Seven Deadly sins were first enumerated in the 6th century and later affirmed by scholars such as Thomas Aquinas. They are called "deadly" sins because they can lead to other sins and ultimately cause a person to fall away from the Christian faith. Greed is the first deadly sin in the Passion story of Jesus, revealed when Judas asked, "What will you give me to hand him over to you?" Everyone is encouraged to set aside time this Lenten season for Wednesday worship!

Blood Drive at the Park Hall this Tuesday, from 1 to 6 p.m. Making appointments is appreciated by calling 1-866-642-5663. We hope to see YOU there, giving the gift of life.

Lutheran Laymen's League will meet on Mon. Feb. 16th at 7 p.m. in the overflow room. Noelle Byerley will be our guest speaker. President Wayne Bierlein will bring refreshments for all who attend. Everyone is welcome!

Attention! Cemetery Committee is accepting bids for the 2026 mowing season. Please contact Jason Bierlein (989)529-5733 by 2/23/2026 If interested.

St. Michael's Church Anniversary: We are working on a special project and would love your help! We are looking for people of all ages who

would like to be part of a special anniversary video. Additionally, we are looking for old photos from past events or memories at St. Michael's. If you're interested or have photos to share, please contact Mallorie Rogers at 989-882-7249.

ECC Puzzle Party Fundraiser: Join us once again for a puzzle party to raise funds for the Preschool scholarship program! Saturday, March 14, Cost: \$60/team - up to 3 people. Prizes awarded to the team who finishes first! More information can be found on the bulletin board in the foyer.

Lost and Found may have something you are missing. It is by the coat rack by the kitchen.

Greeting Cards are available for \$1 by the church office.

Dear Member's of St. Michael's...

I would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers while I was recovering, and a special thank you to Pastor Gillaspie for his visits and prayers.
- Don Weber

Attendance

Sun. Feb. 1st 256
Wed. Feb. 4th 56

Other News

The Lutheran Hour airs on WSAM-1400 from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Next Sunday: "Up and Down the Mountain" *Guest Speaker: Rev. Michael Schutz*; Many voices compete for our attention, but above all, listen to the voice of Jesus and hear what He's done for you. Matthew 17:1-9

Valley Lutheran's Auction/Benefit Dinner: February 28, 2026 and brings together a great mix of the VL family - past, present, and future.

Grab tickets to attend at www.vlhsauction.com or join in on the silent auction fun without a ticket beginning on February 26!

Women's Testimony Night: February 11th, as women from FBC share their personal testimony stories about coming to know Jesus as their Savior. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Please join us and bring a friend to hear amazing powerful stories of God's grace and goodness. Sign up at frankenmuthbiblechurch.com/events.

Prayers

Health

Lewis Abraham; Michelle DeCoe; Ben Dzioba; Don Duperon; Hope Hecht; Faith Heinlein; Ann Houser; Barb Kern; Lynn Koviack, Carolyn Navarre; Eugene Palmreuter; Larry Putman; Barb Rupprecht; Rollie Wenzel

Mission

Rev. Matthew and Kali Wood serve on behalf of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Indonesia, based in Medan. Matthew serves the LCMS Asia region as an area facilitator with responsibilities in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Indonesia and Australia as he works with local church leaders to develop ministry strategies and implement FORO meetings to connect local church partners with LCMS districts, circuits, and congregations.

Prayer of the Day

"Heavenly Father, through the grace of the Holy Spirit
You bless Your faithful people with Your gifts.
Grant us wisdom to use

them to Your glory so that we may do those things which are pleasing in Your sight; through Jesus Christ Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen."

