

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Second Sunday After the Epiphany January 18, 2026



AS WE GATHER

Called Saints

People often speak about a person's calling in life. They are describing a unique purpose or vocation according to interests and talents. Often, trying to determine a person's "calling" or "destiny" is defined by some innate ability or giftedness found within ourselves, something we were born with or somehow born to do.

Today we hear of God calling otherwise ordinary fishermen Andrew and his brother Simon Peter. They were called by God through John the Baptist to follow the Messiah, the Christ, Jesus of Nazareth. They were called to be disciples and eventually to be sent on Christ's mission as apostles. The prophet Isaiah says even the Savior, the servant of the Lord, was called from the womb by God, "that Israel might be gathered to Him," and called "as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth" (Isaiah 49:5–6). Saul of Tarsus was "called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus," and Saul, now named Paul, reminds the church at Corinth and us that we are "called to be saints" (1 Corinthians 1:1–2). This calling differs from merely surveying interests or abilities within us; it comes to us from outside of ourselves, from the living God, our creator and Redeemer. This calling comes from God to everyone. It is the call of salvation, the divine call that transforms us from sinners into saints. Therefore, this calling depends not on anything within us but solely and totally on the grace and mercy and love of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & BIRTHDAY BLESSING 1/10 Sandy Saeger

♪ Thanks for our friends who celebrate
And God's rich blessings contemplate.
Praise for another year on earth.
Praise to the Lord who gives us birth. Amen.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN "The Only Son from Heaven" #402

Please stand as you are able.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 43:4; 1 Corinthians 6:11*

Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,

People: **to God my exceeding joy.**

Pastor: You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified

People: **in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Romans 13:12; Philippians 1:6*

Pastor: Called by God "to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ", let us give rightful praise and honor God, who calls sinners to repentance and bestows saving faith in our hearts by His Word and Spirit. Behold, the Lamb of God!

People: **Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, mercifully hear our confession. We are sinners and have sinned against You. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors with our whole heart. We cannot free ourselves from our sin. Hear our prayer of confession and let us hear Your call and gift of forgiveness, salvation, and life.**

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to you. And in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

☩ WORD ☩

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Lord, have mercy on us.**

Pastor: Christ, have mercy on us.

People: **Christ, have mercy on us.**

Pastor: Lord, have mercy on us and grant us Your peace.

People: **Lord, have mercy on us and grant us Your peace.
Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *pew hymnal 204*

♪ To God on high be glory; And peace to all the earth;
Good-will from God in heaven; Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing;
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.

To You, O sole-be-gotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior; You take our sins a-way.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heart-felt cry,
Where You in Pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever; Be worshipped and adored.
You with the Holy Spirit; A-lone are Lord Most High;
In God the Father's glory; "A-men"! our glad re-ply.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 49:1-7 (*The servant of the Lord*)

49 Listen to me, O coastlands,
and give attention, you peoples from afar.
The Lord called me from the womb,
from the body of my mother he named my name.
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 right is with the Lord,
and my recompense with my God."
⁵ And now the Lord says,
he who formed me from 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 eyes 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 bring back the preserved of Israel;
I will make you as a light for 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 nation,
the servant of rulers:
"Kings shall see and arise;
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves;
because of the Lord, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 *(God's calling)*

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

2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon 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 was given you in Christ Jesus, **5** that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— **6** even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— **7** so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, **8** who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

VERSE John 1:29b

Alleluia. Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL John 1:29-42a *(Jesus calls the first disciples.)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 1st chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, 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 before me, because he was before me.' **31** I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." **32** And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. **33** I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' **34** And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

³⁵ The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹ He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus^[c] was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). ⁴² He brought him to Jesus.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED *Found on the last page of your pew hymnal.*

Please be seated.

HYMN "Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid" #500

SERMON Pastor Mark Croucher

OFFERING and OFFERTORY

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, we give You praise and thanks for all Your mercies to us and the whole world, especially for salvation and the call to restored holiness through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Make Your Gospel to sound forth throughout the world, causing many to turn to You in true repentance and faith for their eternal salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Bless and defend Your whole church, providing pastors and ministers according to Your will, and make it perfect in love and all good works, established in the faith delivered to the saints. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Preserve our nation in spiritual righteousness and honor. Grant health and protection to all who bear office in our land, that they may know and obey Your holy will. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity especially Liz, Myron, Betty, Karla, Dan, Ian and Luetta. Guard and defend those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on all to whom death draws near. Give consolation to those who mourn. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Remembering those who have served You in years past and who now rest from their labors, keep us in fellowship with all Your saints, and bring us at last to the joy of Your eternal kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
People: Amen.

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. For as He is Your chosen one to redeem all mankind from sin and death, so are all called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon His name as Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

pew hymnal #208

♪ Ho-ly; ho-ly, ho-ly Lord God of Sab-a-oth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name
Sing hosanna in the highest sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;
Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and Passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

AGNUS DEI *pew hymnal #210*

♪ 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.

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.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

Please stand as you are able.

NUNC DIMITTIS *pew hymnal #211*

♪ 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.

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 THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which
we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through
perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not
knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and
Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN "Voices Raised to You We Offer" #795

POSTLUDE

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THE MESSENGER

January 18, 2026

WELCOME! Dear guest, we pray that your worship with us is as spiritually enriching for you as your presence is encouraging to us. We invite you to sign our guest book in the foyer. Please leave your email address if you would like periodic updates from Immanuel. Most importantly, come back and worship with us again next Sunday.

SERVING US TODAY: Rev. Mark Croucher
Dan Henggeler, Organist

IN OUR PRAYERS: Liz Kraft, Myron Kimber, Betty Peuster, Karla Kass, Dan and Ian Henggeler and Luetta Buchholz

THE LUTHERAN HOUR theme for next Sunday, January 25th is "**Cross Words–Words of Power**" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola A crossword puzzle uses an answer only once, but Christ is the answer for all people in every place and time. 1 Corinthians 1:17-18 Listen online at <https://www.lutheranhour.org>.