

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Feb 8, 2026

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
And Nursery School
2545 Franklin Ave.
Secane, PA 19018
Office: 610-544-2707

We thank Pastor Carlson for sharing the good news today.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME, WORSHIP NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ GATHERING +

(Please stand as you are able)

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 532

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his-t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way— here in this place the new light is shin-ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en, gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er, gath-er us in and

(Cont'd)



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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CALL TO WORSHIP AND CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Please be seated)

P: 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.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

C: 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: **Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

+ THE WORD +

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 58:1-9a*

¹ Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.

³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"
 Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
 and oppress all your workers.

⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight
 and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
 will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
 a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
 and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
 a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
 to loose the bonds of injustice,
 to undo the straps of the yoke,
 to let the oppressed go free,
 and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
 and bring the homeless poor into your house;
 when you see the naked, to cover them
 and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
 and your healing shall spring up quickly;
 your vindicator shall go before you;
 the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

^{9a} Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
 you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 112:1-9

¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
and have great delight in God's commandments!

² **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³ Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴ **Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶ **For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸ **Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand, as you are able)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the fifth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be

hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

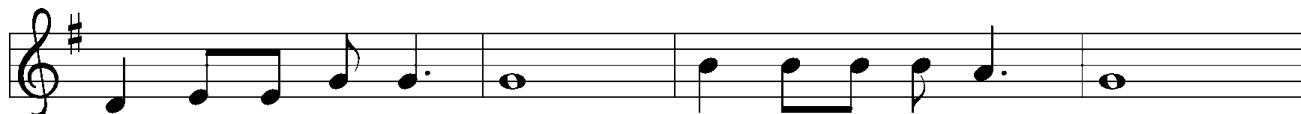
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

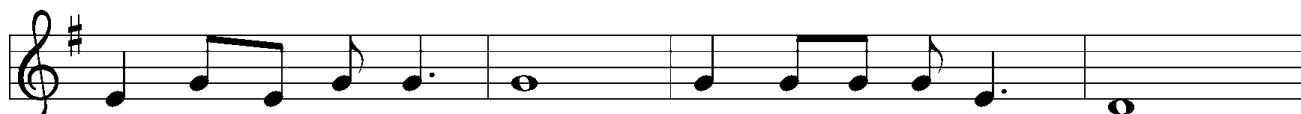
SERMON

Pastor John Carlson

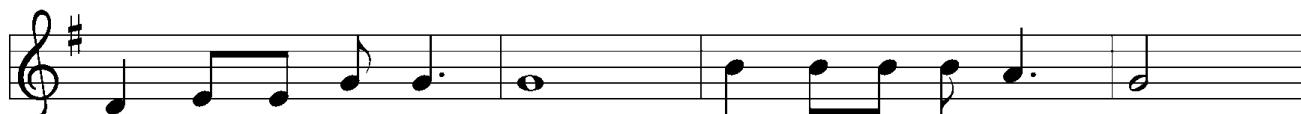
(Please stand as you are able)

HYMN OF THE DAY**ELW 677****This Little Light of Mine**

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH –APOSTLES 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.

(Please be seated)

+ RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD +**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

(response after: Merciful God

C: receive our prayer.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Let us greet one another from our seats in the name of the Lord, saying, 'Peace be with you'.

OFFERING:

A: We worship through our tithes and offering. Now let us joyfully respond to God's goodness, through our personal giving.

It is only through your giving that the ministry and mission of Holy Spirit continues. Many people give electronically and we thank all growing disciples in advance for their generous giving. Offerings can also be dropped in the mailbox or mailed in.

OFFERTORY

Come by Here



1 Come by here, Lord, come by here; come by here, Lord, come by here;
 2 Some-one needs you, Lord, come by here; some-one needs you, Lord, come by here;
 3 Send a bless-ing, Lord, come by here; send a bless-ing, Lord, come by here;



come by here, Lord, come by here.
 some-one needs you, Lord, come by here. O Lord, come by here.
 send a bless-ing, Lord, come by here.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

A: 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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, in the highest.

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 in 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.*

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

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.**

+ SENDING +

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

In Holy Communion, the church shares the forgiving and renewing presence of the Lord Jesus in bread and wine. We invite all to receive this sacrament. Communion will be offered either by intinction or the prepackaged communion cups. You can pick up your prepackaged communion cup before entering the church and receive that from your seat at the appropriate time or come forward to receive the elements from pastor at the rail. Please discard your cups on the way out. Thank you.

P: May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

(Please stand as you are able)

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray:

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 & 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

ELW 866

We Are Marching in the Light of God



Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen'kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen'kwen - khos'.
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the light of God.
nyen'kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen'kwen - khos',
light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,
nyen'kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen'kwen - khos',
we are march - ing in the light of God.

(Cont'd)

Si - ya - ham - ba *(ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo*
 We are march - ing *(march - ing, we are march - ing) oo*

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba *(ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo*
 We are march - ing *(march - ing, we are march - ing) oo*

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

Text: South African traditional; tr. Freedom Is Coming, 1984

Music: SIYAHAMBA, South African traditional

Tr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

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DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C: Thanks be to God.

Jan's Income: \$ 6,239 Average Attendance: 19

Jan's Expense: \$ 8,507

Note: 2 Sundays no service/no deposits

*****PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS*****

Healing:

*Annie Berner
Eileen Maloney
Lisa McDonough
Hugh Mullarkey
Lois Saunders
Betty Lake
Anne Rainsford
Dolores Maurer
Harry Collins
Geralyn Gerakaris
Joan & Harry Chaykun
Nikki Miller
Cyndi Kline
Marie Schall*

*Jackie Bernduer White
Jackie Dewitt
Maureen Colahan
John Turner
Lynn McGrane
Sue Thomas
Jean Cilurso
Phyllis Horton
Lou Vallies
Linda Martin
Bill McVian
Suzie Thomas
Tom*

(If you would like to add someone to the prayer list for Feb, please call the office)

Also please remember in your prayers homebound members: Ruth Dell’Orefice, Jane Croghan, Diane Kuhn, Hank Kuhn, Janet Kline, Dudley Henriques, Gerilyn Gerakaris, and Bob Kerns.

Men & women in our armed forces, firefighters, police officers and emergency services personnel.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

COUNTERS NEEDED – We are in need of one or two counters for the first week of the month. If you are able to volunteer for this, please call the office.

COUNCIL MEETING – Tuesday, Feb 10th at 7:00pm in the meeting room.

COFFEE HOUR – Feb 15 after service sponsored by “TBD”.

ASH WEDNESDAY - Feb 18th There will be a drive thru offering of ashes at White-Luttrell Funeral Home in Ridley Park from 7am – 9am sponsored by the local ministerium.

NEW DIRECTORIES - Will be available by February 8th . Please look on the back table for copies. If you would like one emailed to you, let the office know.

CHURCH'S 75th ANNIVERSARY!

As you may have heard, this year is Holy Spirit's 75th Anniversary. We are going to celebrate this achievement on Sunday, April 26, 2026 during a special worship service and a luncheon. There will be invitations coming to you in the next few months.

We would like to display pictures/mementos at the luncheon for everyone to see Holy Spirit through the years. If you have any pictures (or anything related to the church) that you could lend us, please put your name on it and hand them to Nancy Harris, Gary Pysher or Bill/Cyndi Kline. We will make sure you get them back.

ALTAR FLOWERS - THANK YOU everyone who signed up to sponsor altar flowers throughout the year. 2026 Flower Chart is now on the bulletin board. Please take a dedication form when you sign up and return to office. **Flowers are now \$20 per vase. There are several openings to sponsor flowers in January.**

BULLETIN COVERS –There is a sponsor sign-up sheet to sponsor special bulletin covers for **special occasions**. The cost is \$15.00. Please see sign-up sheet outside the office.

Outreach Activity for Lent

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” - Matthew 25:40

Lent, the seven weeks before Easter is a time for reflection and prayer, fasting or doing without luxury, and charity or service. These are all classic Lent practices.

I thought we would help out people in our neighborhood by supporting the Life Center in Upper Darby, a homeless shelter that provides many services and a meal every day.

The Life Center of Eastern Delaware County is run by the Community Action Agency of Delaware County (CAADC). Severe budget cuts and increased operating costs have caused a very big financial problem for emergency shelters in Delaware County. The CAADC created the Save Our Shelters (SOS) Campaign. This campaign is a cooperative effort between CAADC, the community, and faith-based groups to raise funds to bridge the shelter gaps. The CAADC shelters include: Family Management Center in Chester that serves families, Life Center of Eastern Delaware County in Upper Darby that serves individuals and provides a daily feeding program, and the Wesley House Shelter in Chester that serves families and women.

You can support this campaign by mailing checks made out to the CAADC to:
Attention: S.O.S. Campaign, CAADC, 1414 Meetinghouse Rd., Boothwyn, PA 19061

Another way to help the shelters is to donate items to them. I contacted the Life Center and they gave me a list of their most needed items. **There will be a box in the hallway to collect these items during Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday, February 18th. I hope that the congregation will support this project by filling up many boxes of the following items:**

Shampoo	Cleaning Supplies
Conditioner	Clorox wipes
Toothpaste	Towels
Twin size blankets	Washcloths
Twin size sheets	Paper towels
Pillows	Butter/margarine
Laundry Pods	Milk
Dish detergent	
Plastic spoons (we do not need plastic forks at this time)	



OUR STAFF

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
Director of Music – Samuel Stevenson
Office Secretary – Jeanne Warner

Holy Spirit Nursery School
Pre-K Teacher – Nancy Harris
Teaching Assistant – Colleen Hall
Pre-School & MMO Teacher – Shelly Avila
Teaching Assistant – Michelle Brackin

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GOSPEL MESSAGE

It's Time to Lighten Up!

This is a strange time of year. The days are short, the nights are long, and even though we dream of more daylight, we walk around hoping against hope that there won't be enough sunshine produced for a rodent (okay, a groundhog!) to see its own shadow. A quick scan of today's news can be equally as bleak. It is time for a little more light in an otherwise dark and dreary time.

Enter Epiphany. The missional emphasis of this season shines like a beacon of light and hope in the dead of winter, bringing good news in the middle of this world's not-so-good news. This week God provides the mission in Isaiah—feed the hungry, care for the homeless, clothe the naked. Upon accomplishing this mission God tells the people, "Your light shall break forth like the dawn." Paul continues his Spirit-led mission, encouraging the church in Corinth, "No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him." Jesus teaches his disciples, "You are the light of the world. . . . Let your light shine before others" (Matt. 5:14, 16). Through these words in Jesus' sermon, he gives followers of every day and age a mission to share the light which scatters the darkness.

Whether you are looking in the news or out the window, things may seem pretty dark and dreary at this time of year, but do not miss the light of Epiphany! We are indeed created in God's image, therefore the spark of the divine is alive in all of us. The light shines through us as we live out God's mission for our lives each day. As Epiphany continues, we should all be prepared to let our light shine and share the good news.