

Welcome to Worship at  
***Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church***

Growing Together for Christ

*Rev. Ken Gibson, Pastor*

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[www.joyfulharvest.org](http://www.joyfulharvest.org)



January 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2026	Third Sunday after Epiphany
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We worship in-person and on-line at 9:00 am. There is a link on our website to join the on-line Worship Service through Zoom!  
Stay safe and God bless!

## Gathering

### Welcome/Greeting/Announcements

### Confession & Forgiveness

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.

**C: 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.

**Amen.**

### Call to Worship

P: Come out of the shadows and into God's light!

**C: We will not play hide and seek, but will make a pilgrimage to God's heart.**

P: Lay down all which is a burden to you!

**C: We will give our fears to God, who is our help in every moment.**

P: Follow the One who will lead you to new life!

**C: We long to live in God's presence every day of our lives.**

**Gathering Songs:** Here I Am to Worship  
*(Please join us in "Sharing the Peace")*  
Jesus, Messiah

### Prayer of the Day

### Word

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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.

A: Word of God, Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**PSALM: Psalm 27:1, 4-9**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>4</sup> **One thing I ask of the LORD; one 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 in the temple.**

<sup>5</sup> For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

<sup>6</sup> **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup> Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

<sup>8</sup> **My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.” Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

<sup>9</sup> Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger. Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18**

<sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> For it has been made clear to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup> 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.” <sup>13</sup> Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup> I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup> I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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.

A: Word of God, Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord!**

P: <sup>12</sup> Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to....

P: This is the gospel of the Lord!

**C: Praise to you, O Christ!**

**Children's Message**

**Tessa Ancona**

**Sermon**

**Pastor Ken Gibson**

**Hymn of the Day:** You Are Mine

**Prayers of Intercession**

A: "Merciful God", ... **C: "Receive our prayer"**

**Offering:** Friends, an offering is an act of Worship, given freely to share God's love through this congregation. Please place your offering in the basket as it is passed around, you may come forward to put your gift in the offering plate, or send your gifts to the church at: **5050 N. Johnsburg Rd.,** Johnsburg, IL 60051 or give online at [www.joyfulharvest.org](http://www.joyfulharvest.org)

**Offering Prayer**

**Lord's Supper**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Words of Institution**

**Lord's Prayer**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus has taught us:

**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:** *Christ is truly present with us today, especially in the gifts of bread and wine. God's table is open; we invite you to join us at the Lord's Table! After the choir is served, come up the center aisle, from front to back. If you are unable to come forward, please let the pastor or another worship leader know, and we will bring communion to you. If you do not receive communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing, simply keep your hands folded. The dark colored liquid is wine, and the light-colored liquid is juice. Please let the pastor know if you need a gluten free wafer. All are welcome!*

**Communion Song:** O Come to the Altar

**Prayer After Communion**

**Sending**

**Sending Song:** You Never Let Go

**Sending and Benediction**

P: Let us take God's light into the world.

**C: We will go to join others in pilgrimage of trust.**

P: Let us go to gather the burdens of others.

**C: We will take away their fears and offer them to Jesus, who helps everyone in every moment.**

P: Let us go to live in the Spirit's presence.

**C: We will follow the Spirit into the peace which is offered to all of God's people.**

**Commissioning**

P: At Joyful Harvest Church,

**C: our mission is growing together for Christ.**

P: As disciples of Jesus Christ, we value:

**C: Family Worship, Relying on Prayer, Unity in Christ, Instruction in the Word, Telling Others, and Service to God's Community.**

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

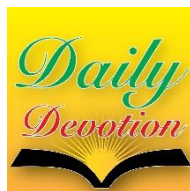
**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Announcements**

*If you are looking for a place to worship with your family, join us any Sunday at 9:00 am! Thank you for worshipping with us today.*

### **Daily Devotionals with Pastor Ken Gibson @ 8:00am.**

Pastor Ken has started doing daily devotionals on FaceBook live every weekday at 8:00am. Go out to FaceBook and search for "Pastor Ken Gibson". Be sure to find the correct one, as there are multiple. Then send a friend request to join the group. He is looking forward to seeing you there!



**Blood Drive! Sat. Feb 28, 8:00am-12:00pm:** Please help fill the need for blood donations. More than 75 percent of all Americans reaching age 72 will need donated blood within their lifetime; 97 percent will have a loved one who will need blood. You can register online at <https://donateblood.versiti.org> or walk-ins are always welcome.



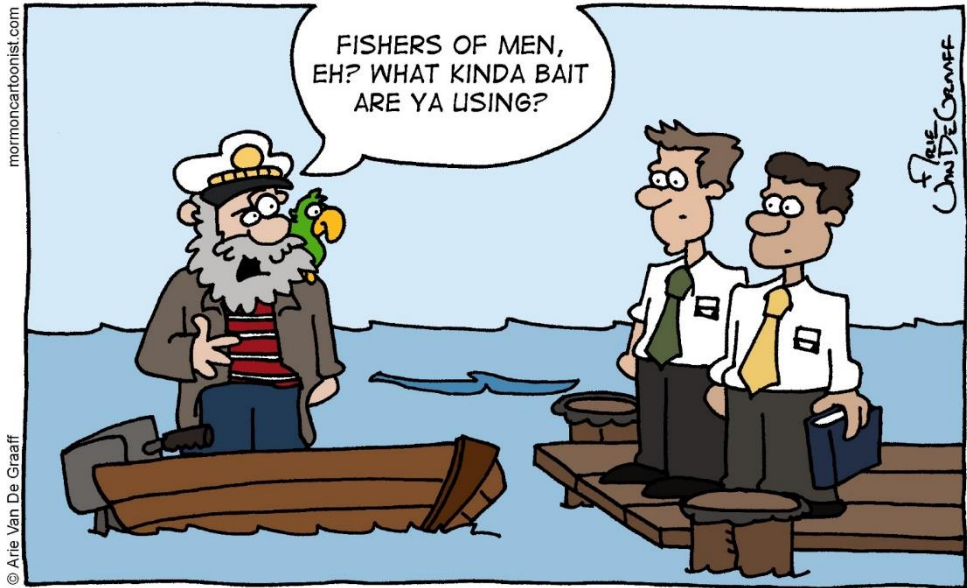
**Weekly Calendar**

Sun. Jan 25	<b>Tijuana Mission Meeting</b>	10:30 a.m.
Tue. Jan 27	<b>Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast</b>	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Jan 27	<b>Food Pantry Service Opportunity</b>	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Thur. Jan 29	<b>Food Pantry Service Opportunity</b>	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Sun. Feb 01	<b>Sunday Worship</b>	9:00 a.m.
Sun. Feb 01	<b>Faith Formation Class</b>	10:30 a.m.

**Upcoming Events**

Sun. Feb 08	<b>Giving Closet</b>	11:00-1:00 p.m.
Wed. Feb 18	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	TBD
Sat. Feb 28	<b>Versiti Blood Drive</b>	8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

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JANUARY 25, 2026  
THIRD SUNDAY  
AFTER EPIPHANY



*Jesus lights our way, calling us to follow him.*

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 4:12-23	Jesus calls his first disciples
Monday	Isaiah 9:1-4	A new day is coming
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Divisions in the church
Wednesday	Isaiah 42:1-9	A light to the nations
Thursday	2 Corinthians 4:1-12	Treasure in clay jars
Friday	John 8:12-20	Jesus is the light of the world
Saturday	Psalms 27:1, 4-9	Trust in God
Sunday	Matthew 5:1-12	Sermon on the Mount

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*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. Isaiah 9:2 (NRSV)*

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, you who reject sin and death, bring light and life to your world through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

May this gift of food remind us of your light that shines in the world. We pray for all those in need of food today. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the light of Christ shine on you.



## WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What does the word “hope” mean to you? What gives you hope?
- In what ways does Jesus give His followers hope?

## DEVOTIONS



*Read:* Matthew 4:12-23.

The Epiphany season continues with a focus on the reign of God made complete in Jesus. His reign challenges every power and authority on earth. Jesus begins his public ministry when hearing of the arrest of John the Baptist by the governing powers. He moves from Nazareth to Capernaum which is located in Zebulun and Naphtali. The land had been dominated by foreign powers from the time of the Assyrians down to the Greeks and then the Romans. Now, through Jesus, *“the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light”* (v. 16). Jesus’ reign brings life, not death, light, not darkness. In Jesus the work and will of God shines brightly. He gathers disciples and leads people into God’s reign of life and hope: *“Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people”* (v. 23).

*Discuss:* Where do you experience the light of Christ in your life today?

*Pray:* **The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

## SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you give hope to someone in need?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Epiphany is a season that emphasizes the light of Christ in the world so that we may follow Jesus without fear. Make a list of things that can make you afraid. Light a candle and name these fears aloud.

*After each fear is named say:* **“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”** (Psalm 27:1).

*At the end, pray:* **As we face our fears remind us that you are with us through the Lord Jesus Christ, the one who calls us to live free of our fears and anxieties. Amen.**



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