Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool

February 15, 2026

Transfiguration of Our Lord

Rev. Paul Pfeffer

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Member of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
(ELCA – www.elca.org*)*

All Are Welcome – All the Time!

You do not need to be a member of this church
or Lutheran to participate in any part of worship.
If you wish to take communion, we ask that
you desire a relationship with Jesus.
His body and blood were given and shed for you.

Christ Lutheran Church & PreSchool is a community committed to the work of equity and inclusion, bringing justice and support for all of God's beloveds. We welcome those who are seeking God's love and grace for the first time or as a life-long believer. We welcome because Jesus shows us how to welcome, regardless of race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, economic resources, relationship status, health challenges or anything else that too often divides us. It is in our welcome which we commit ourselves to being an anti-racist space, a space where we seek daily to deepen our work of inclusion in the life of our church. Our unity is in Christ. All are welcome here.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, SHARING OF PRAYER REQUESTS

By Kathy Davis, who will provide updated Prayers of Intercession

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

– Silence for reflection –

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed,
by what we have done and what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may
delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together in Christ. By grace we have been saved.
In the name of + Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.
Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit
that Christ may live in our hearts. **Amen.**

SONG: Beautiful Savior, #838

(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal)

Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee; truly I'd serve thee. Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

> Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
> robed in flowers of blooming spring;
> Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer; He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine; fair is the moonlight, bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer, than all the angels in the sky.

> Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
> Glory and honor, praise, adoration now and forevermore be thine!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and
the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. **And also with you!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

READING – Exodus 24:12-18

The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 2

Why do the nations conspire
and the peoples plot in vain?

The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel together
against the Lord and his anointed, saying,

“Let us burst their bonds apart
and cast their cords from us.”

He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord has them in derision.
Then he will speak to them in his wrath

and terrify them in his fury, saying,
“I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill.”

I will tell of the decree of the Lord:
He said to me, “You are my son; today I have begotten you.

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage
and the ends of the earth your possession.

You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.
Serve the Lord with fear; with trembling kiss his feet,

or he will be angry, and you will perish in the way,
for his wrath is quickly kindled.
Happy are all who take refuge in him.

READING – 2 Peter 1:16-21

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

– Please stand as you are able –

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (SUNG) – ELW 172

Halle, halle, halle – lujah. Halle, halle, halle – lujah.
Halle, halle, halle – lujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah!

READING – Matthew 17:1-9

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.

Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON – Rev. Paul Pfeffer

SONG: How Good, Lord, to Be Here!, #315

Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal

How good, Lord, to be here! Your glory fills the night;
Your face and garments, like the sun, shine with unborrowed light.

How good, Lord, to be here, your beauty to behold,
where Moses and Elijah stand, your messengers of old.

Fulfiller of the past, and hope of things to be;
We hail your body glorified, and our redemption see.

Before we taste of death, we see your kingdom come;
We long to hold the vision bright and make this hill our home.

How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not remain;
But since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

APOSTLES' CREED

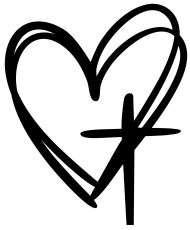
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(on separate sheet)*

Merciful God… **receive our prayer.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**
– *Please share a greeting or sign of peace –*



GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks & praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *(not printed/Presider's book on altar)*

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION AT THE FRONT

All are welcome to receive the Real Presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to receive the sacrament. We ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus Christ. Those who are interested will be invited by an usher to come up the center aisle to the front to select a single-serving Communion kit from the tray, or to receive a blessing. Then return to your seat via the side aisle to open the kit and partake in Communion. An usher will offer a basket to collect the container. *For those worshipping at home, please consider joining in Holy Communion by taking a bit of bread or cracker and a sip of wine or juice.* **All are welcome.**

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SONG: Shine, Jesus, Shine, #671

(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal)

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nation with grace and mercy;
Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there by light!

1. Lord, the light of your love is shining,
   in the midst of the darkness, shining;
   Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us.
   Set us free by the truth you now bring us.
   Shine on me. Shine on me. ***Shine, Jesus, shine…***

2. As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
   so our faces display your likeness,
   ever changing from glory to glory,
   mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.
   Shine on me. Shine on me. ***Shine, Jesus, shine…***

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Calendar:**
  Ash Wednesday Worship – February 18 at 7 p.m.
  PreSchool Open House – Feb. 24 from 4:45 to 6:15 p.m.
  Lay Leader Day in Schaumburg – March 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
  Good Friday Worship – April 3 at 7 p.m.
  Easter Sunday – April 5
  Birthday Bash – April 25
- **Caring Hands** – Meeting from 9 a.m. to noon on the following Saturday mornings – February 21, March 21, April 18, May 16, June 13. Making prayer shawls, comfort blankets, hat and mittens. Reach out for information or projects for home. (CaringHandsVernonHills@gmail.com)
- **Meals in a Bag** – 2 gal ziplocks with all the nonperishable ingredients needed to make a hearty meal – bags and ingredient list/recipe cards available in the Narthex or on our website. We will provide these as needed and encourage everyone to have a couple to hand out.
- **Stock the Pantries! – Non-Perishables Needed.** Bring your donations of nonperishable food, paper goods, hygiene supplies, etc. and we will deliver to local pantries, which need all they help they can get. Also collecting fresh milk, eggs, meat, produce for specific families.Thank you!
- **Sue's Pantry Special Request** – Rice, pasta, Mac & cheese, tuna, canned chicken, zip lock bags with after-school snacks.
- **Here to help.** Do you or someone you know need food or support, especially with the loss of benefits? Reach out to the church at ChristLutheranVH@aol.com or 847-367-5787**.**
- **Alert Whistles & Rights Cards** – On the bulletin table. To use or share as needed.
- **Pray Over Our PreSchool Ministry** – May we continue to effectively bring the message of God's love for all into our community.
- **Donating to Victims of Flood, Earthquake, Fire, War** – ELCA's Lutheran Disaster Response is one of the oldest, most effective and most respected organizations for getting money where it can be put to good use. Donate at ELCA.org. There is also a link on our website under "WORK."
- **Scouting! –** Christ Lutheran is the Charter Organization for Pack 273 & Troop 273. Programs for girls and boys ages Kindergarten through high school, building skills, making connections and having fun. For younger kids, email committee.chair@Pack273VH.org. For older kids, email committeechair@troop273vh.net. Thanks to Holly & Bill Jones and their volunteers for their efforts in leading the groups. Thanks for supporting our Pack/Troop 273!
- **Sue's Pantry** – Sue has moved her pantry to a space in Arlington Heights. We will continue to collect anything needed to keep a home and family clean.
- **Love INC** – Housewares, nonperishables and volunteers. Know a family in need of a bundle of clothes or housewares? Give the details to Natalie! (https://loveinclakecounty.org/)
- **COOL Ministries** – We support the COOL pantry in Waukegan with non-perishables. Collection bins in hallway or give online. (CoolMinistries.org)
- **Prayer concerns?** Consider reaching out so that our network of Prayer Warriors can pray. You may remain anonymous. Email ChristLutheranVH@aol.com with your request. Would you join with us in prayer? Send an email to be included on the prayer mailing list. The task is simple-but-powerful – when time permits, open the email and read/pray with us.
- **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.** Thank you for being part of this community of faith. If you would like to support our service, we welcome donations, which can be provided by credit card or Paypal through the link at the bottom of our webpage, ChristLutheranVH.org. Thank you!