



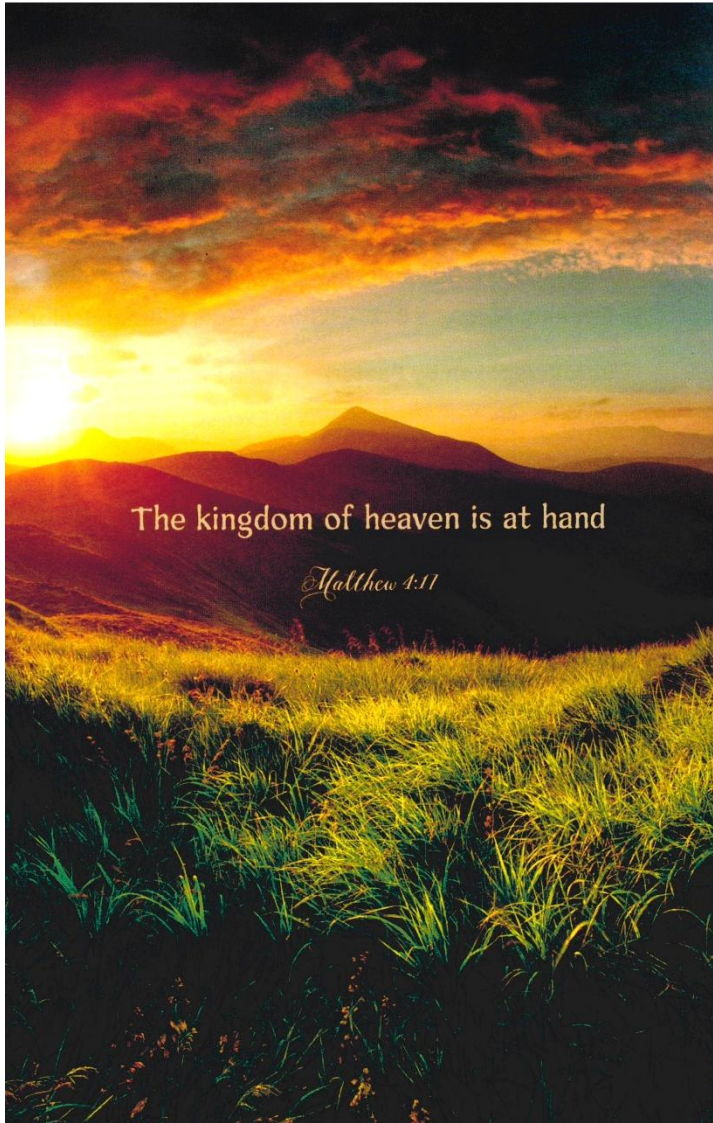
Reach out to all

Embrace His Gifts

Announce His coming

Commit to Christian Living

Honor His Word



St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Ron Moritz, Deacon Ed Smallcombe

Sunday, January 25, 2026

Opening Hymn "Son of God, Eternal Savior" vs 1 & 2"

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

P: Let us then confess our sins to God the Father.

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**C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

#### OT: Isaiah 9:1-4

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future, he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

<sup>2</sup> The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. <sup>3</sup> You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. <sup>4</sup> For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

**Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18** - <sup>10</sup> I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. <sup>11</sup> My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. <sup>12</sup> What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ."

<sup>13</sup> Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup> I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> so no one can say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup> (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.) <sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. <sup>18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

**Gospel: Matthew 4:12-25** - When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— <sup>14</sup> to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: <sup>15</sup> "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—<sup>16</sup> the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." <sup>17</sup> From that time on Jesus began to preach, "**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.**" <sup>18</sup> As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> "**Come, follow me,**" Jesus said, "**and I will send you out to fish for people.**" <sup>20</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, <sup>22</sup> and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. <sup>24</sup> News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them. <sup>25</sup> Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, <sup>[b]</sup> Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

## Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who, for us men for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe one holy and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Sermon Hymn: # 953 - "We All Believe in One True God"**

**Sermon: "Follow the Leader" Matthew 4:17-23**



Pray for our country, for our military, for our healthcare workers & first responders, for those that are sick, for those in need, for those who have lost loved ones, for our home-bound, for wisdom for our leaders, and for all of your concerns. Prayers of Strength and Comfort for the Ukrainian People and wisdom for all NATO Members. Pray for all your concerns.

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Benediction**

**Closing Hymn: "Son of God, Eternal Savior" vs 3 & 4**

## SERMON REVIEW FOR JANUARY 25, 2026 "Follow the Leader" Matthew 4:17-23

**Introduction: "It can be dangerous to follow the wrong leader."**

Examples from our recent past.

### I. We follow Jesus as I \_\_\_\_\_

A. The calling of the first disciples  
(they knew OF Jesus, but did not yet know Jesus)

B. Disciples are formed:

1. When Jesus "C \_\_\_\_\_ us"
2. When we respond with 'P \_\_\_\_\_ Faith'

Two aspects of Faith:

- Each must believe for S \_\_\_\_\_
  - Each must believe in person of Jesus
3. Discipleship is a P \_\_\_\_\_ (or, pilgrimage)

### II. We have been called by Jesus Christ

A. Disciples gather as the "B \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ"

1. We follow our L \_\_\_\_\_
2. The L \_\_\_\_\_ must always be Jesus!

B. Always ask, "What serves C \_\_\_\_\_?"

"What shares His Love with my N \_\_\_\_\_?"



**ADULT BIBLE CLASS & Jr. Bible Class meets today.**

**LWML/Ladies Aid will meet on February 10th at 10:00 am.**



**January - Domestic Assault Shelter**  
-Domestic Assault Shelter provides a safe haven for individuals and families in an abusive environment





**Happy 10th Birthday Jude!**  
*Please join us downstairs in Zimmerman Hall after service to celebrate Jude's special day!!!*

**The Ground level door** will be open Sunday Mornings for those who wish to avoid climbing the hill. Also shortly after the service begins, both doors will be locked.



On Sunday where there is severe weather, Church may be cancelled. Notice of a cancellation will be on WWMT-TV Channel 3 will go out to all members that we have emails for.

**On Saturday, Jan 31st, Trinity Lutheran in Sturgis** will be hosting Seminarian Sergiu Trifa from Romania who is currently serving his Vicarage Year in Central Europe. Come hear how the Fort Wayne Seminary is educating foreign students to prepare them to be shepherds throughout the world. Sergiu will be preaching at the 5 pm service on the Jan 31st. And will greet people afterwards. A **Free Will Offering** will be taken to support his travel expenses.



**Sock-A-Way Dimes**

Donation to St. Joseph County Victim Services For those of you who are not aware of St. Joseph County Victim Services and their function, this is an organization consisting of groups of state trained volunteers who are available 24 hrs, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. If any emergency personnel feel that they would like Victim Services to assist, a call is made to 911 and they in turn page the on call team out. The on-call team provides short-term comfort and support to victims and/or family of victims during their time of crisis. Types of calls they respond to are fatal or serious injury car accidents, house fires, farm

accidents, etc. Their support relieves a tremendous burden from the emergency personnel. These groups provide temporary housing, stuffed animals for children, blankets, gloves, socks, etc. They also provide meals for the firemen and other responders. Our LWML group has donated \$350 toward this very worthwhile volunteer group to purchase items for these families..

### **LWML Shoe Collection**

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Colon, Michigan is once again conducting a footwear collection project. Since St. Paul's is in our LWML zone, we are participating in this project. All footwear will be dropped off at Colon and then sent to Changing Footprints, a non-profit organization, who realizes the great need for shoes around the world as protection from diseases and a gateway to education. They collect new and used shoes for distribution to homeless, disaster-stricken, or underprivileged people locally, nationally, and internationally at no charge to the recipients. Recycling also keeps these shoes out of the landfill. If you have footwear that no longer fit, that are taking up room in your closet, or simply are tired of them, this is a way of giving it a new life. Shoes they are collecting include: leather, plastic shoes, boots, flip-flops, slippers, cleats, heels, sandals, men's shoes, work boots, moccasins, children's footwear, etc. Do not worry about the condition the shoes are in. Old shoes are dismantled, ground up into components, and used to make padded recreational flooring and athletic surfaces. There are some guidelines: No shoe boxes. If you have multiple shoes, place them in 13 gallon plastic bags. Please bring any unwanted footwear to Church and put in the box so designated in the Narthex. All footwear must be donated by

February 15, 2026.

***Thank you to all for your generosity.***

***Linda Johnson, LWML President***