

Reconciling in Christ WORSHIP

Celebrating Diversity as God's Children

SATURDAY- JANUARY 24TH, 2026 - 5PM

SUNDAY- JANUARY 25TH, 2026 - 9AM

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MT. HOREB

A family in faith, reaching out to share in God's love with all people.



WE WELCOME ALL TO ELC!

Everyone. Without exception. Regardless of race, ethnicity, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, faith traditions, physical or mental abilities, financial resources, family status, or personal struggles. We are committed to being an anti-racist community. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we will work to extend God's grace, love, justice, and dignity. You belong here. Your story and your life are valuable. In Christ's love, we welcome you.

MINISTERS
PASTOR

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH
KAREN HOFSTAD

Word of Welcome – Dianne Hirsch

Gathering/Land Acknowledgement

L: Created out of nothing,

C: We come here to be reminded of who we are.

L: Created for goodness,

C: We come with open hearts to be filled with everlasting love.

L: Created as a beloved child of God,

C: We come in celebration of the diversity of the body of Christ.

L: Created with a heart for celebrating the rich diversity of creation, we come trusting in the one who creates, redeems, and sustains us as we acknowledge and honor the Peoria, Sauk, Fox, Kickapoo, Ho-Chunk, and Myaamia peoples upon whose ancestral homelands we gather, as well as all our Indigenous siblings who continue to care for this place - this land - and call it their home.

C: As we live into the diversity that God has created, may we be bold to tell the whole story, for in knowing the truth of who we have been, we come to know more fully who we are called to be. Amen.

Gathering Hymn #641 *All Are Welcome* (vs. 1, 2, 4)

Thanksgiving for Baptism

L: Water is life. Our bodies need water. This community needs water to be resilient and flourish. Plants and animals need water. Water is essential for all of life on this planet to thrive and flourish.

L: We need water for drinking, for washing, for cooking, for cleaning, for refreshing. Water sustains our lives, and water enhances our lives. Every day of our lives includes multiple uses of water.

L: Let us give thanks for the gift of water and for baptism.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for this water that comes to us as a gift from our Creator, the source of all that is good and life-giving. You are a generous and loving God who blesses us through water and who claims all people in the fullness of sexual or romantic orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, gender expression, immigration status, beliefs, and abilities.

L: We, though many, are one in the unity of God's love for us and for all the world. Water is life.

Let us pray. O God, may we live as careful stewards, guardians of this precious gift, protectors of the health of this planet, builders of resilient communities, and cultivators of life-giving relationships that promote peace and unity.

C: Thanks be to God! Amen!

Prayer of the Day

God of Beauty, you gather your beloved children into your care, each one a unique image of you. You claim us as your own and call us to follow in the ways of mercy, justice, and joy. Strengthen our changing hearts and minds to continue the work of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he 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. ² 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. ³ 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. ⁴ 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.

L: Word of God, word of freedom.

C: Praise be to God

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

L: Word of God, word of freedom.

C: Praise be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Luke 4:14-21

L: The holy gospel according Luke, the 4th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

L: The Word made flesh dwells among us.

C: Full of grace and truth.

Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

L: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ

C: Praise to you, Word of life!

Choir *Let Us Be Your Light*

Children's Sermon

Sermon – Rev. Linda and Rev. Loren Schumacher

Hymn *New Patterns of Loving (insert)*

Statement of Faith

L: Let us join together in proclaiming our faith:

C: We believe in you, O God, who spoke all life into being, author of heaven and earth, architect of time, quilter of the cosmos. You shape our bodies from the dust of the ground, and by your breath we are given life.

We believe in you, O God, who became incarnate in Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh, truly divine and truly human. You lived among us to reveal your justice, died among us to break the bonds of sin and death, and were raised among us to bring abundant life.

We believe in you, O God, who transforms us by the Holy Spirit, draws us into community, moves us to action, and inspires us to hope against hope. You breathe new life into a fallen world and equip us to proclaim the good news of resurrecting love. All thanks and praise to you, O God, our beginning and our end. Amen.

Prayers of the People – Carl Sieg

Lord's Prayer

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

Offering Response

Create in Me

Offering Prayer

L: Let us pray. O God, from nothing you created not only us as your beloved children but everything we would need to have an abundant life. As we bring our varied gifts to you, strengthen us as we celebrate the diversity you have blessed us with. Fill us with what we need and help us to recognize that there is more than enough for all as we work to bring your love to the ends of the earth.

C: Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Word

L: Creator, Light of the universe, Teacher of truth, Giver of goodness, Lover of the diversity of life in our universe, we embrace your Word in readings from scripture, resonating in creation, inviting us to follow your call of radical inclusion and justice. For embracing us through this Word, we thank you, O God.

C: We thank you, O God.

L: Glory and praise to you, O God, for your Word of promise. As our ancestors in the faith did in their journeys with You, we work to become a blessed community that celebrates diversity, welcoming people of all sexual or romantic orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. We hear in your Word an embrace of all God's beloved children, giving us strength in the face of challenges, providing comfort, love, and justice for all of God's beloveds. With those ancient ones whose voices bring your Word to us today, we praise you O God.

C: We praise you, O God.

L: Your Word of welcome came among us in Jesus, who invited all to the table of blessing, healed the sick, revived the brokenhearted, and challenged those in power to welcome all and love all for who they are, containing a multitude of identities, simultaneously flawed and beautiful, saints and sinners. For those 11 ReconcilingWorks RIC Sunday 2026 who in the past and who today embody the Word and follow in the footsteps of Jesus even when the road ahead becomes difficult, we worship you, O God.

C: We worship you, O God.

L: By your Spirit, bless all who receive Your Word, O God, writing it on our hearts and making it visible through our hands. As we become lights for the world, revealing your love for all of creation, we bless you, O God.

C: We bless you, O God. Amen.

Community Word – Divino Salvador update

Blessing

L: As we leave this space may God's face shine upon us, God's love sustain us, and God's peace inspire us and grant us peace. May God – Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer - fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may live in hope of a blessed community where humanity's diversity is celebrated.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn *Sing a New World into Being (insert)*

Dismissal

L: Go in peace to seek justice for all people.

C: Thanks be to God.

If you would like more information about ELC of Mount Horeb please fill out the visitor cards in the pew pads which are passed during offering