

SUNDAY- FEBRUARY 8TH, 2026 -9:00 AM

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MT. HOREB

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

WELCOMING WORD

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we lose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.



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
INTERIM PASTOR

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH
KAREN HOFSTAD



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, February 8, 2026 | Fifth Sunday after Epiphany | 9:00 AM

(+ = stand if able; L = Leader / **C** = **Congregation**)

PRELUDE Diane Dangerfield

+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #532 *Gather Us In (vs. 1,2,3)*

+CONFESSIONS AND FORGIVENESS

L: 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.

L: 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.

C: Amen.

L: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

L: 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.

L: 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

+KYRIE pg. 147

+HYMN OF PRAISE pg. 148 *"Glory to God in the Highest..."*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: 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.

C: Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL SONGS *Go Light Your World*
I Love You, Lord

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

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 lose 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." [^{9b} If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹ The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. ¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.]

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.

+ACCLAMATION pg. 151

(sing) Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

+L: The Gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 5.

+C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13-20

[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."

+L: The Gospel of the Lord.

+C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM *This Little Light of Mine*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Pastor Karen Hofstad

MESSAGE Pastor Karen Hofstad

+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #688 *Lord of Light (vs.1,2,4)*

+APOSTLES' CREED pg. 105

+THE PRAYERS pg. 152

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING PRAISE TEAM *Great Light of the World*

+OFFERTORY #182 - *Let the Vineyards...*

+OFFERING PRAYER

L: God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet you continue to 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.

C: Amen.

+THE LORD'S PRAYER pg. 154 (right hand column)

COMMUNITY WORD

+BLESSING

L: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise + bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #866 *We Are Marching in the Light*
(Verse 1. marching, 2. praying, 3. Serving)

+DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God.

"I am God's child, deserving of love and respect, and God will use me to change the world."

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

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 8, 2026

SHARE: What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding:

Monday, Psalm 119:105-112, Being Led by God's Word

Tuesday, 2 Corinthians 4:1-12, Treasure in Clay Jars

Wednesday, John 8:12-30, Jesus, the Light of the World

Thursday, Psalm 119:1-8, The Glories of God's Law

Friday, 1 John 2:7-17, A New Commandment

Saturday, Deuteronomy 30:1-9a, God's Faithfulness

TALK: Consider some of these ideas:

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid." -- Matthew 5:14

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.

- Have you fasted as a spiritual discipline? If not, why might you? If so, how did you grow from it? (Isa 58:6)
- How do you identify the spirit of the world? The Spirit of God? How does each affect you daily? (1 Cor 2:12)
- In what ways are you personally salt and for whom? How could you become saltier? (Matt 5:13)

PRAY: 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.

BLESS: The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. Amen.