

Messiah Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod



**The Epiphany of our Lord
(observed)**

January 4, 2026

Divine Service I

Messiah Lutheran Church

Rev. James A. Roemke, Pastor

2026 22nd Ave. Kenosha, WI 53140

Church Office: 262-551-8182 Pastor's Cell: 262-455-0255

Website: www.messiahkenosha.org Calendar: <https://tinyurl.com/calendarmlc>

Church Email: secretary@messiahkenosha.org

Pastor's Email: pastorroemke@yahoo.com

VISITORS WELCOME! A special welcome to any visitors and guests who are with us today. Please sign the guestbook near the front door and introduce yourself to the pastor after the service. We pray that the hearing and receiving of the Word of God in our midst will be filled with joy and thanksgiving!

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated every Sunday and on Feast Days. Visiting communicant members of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod are invited to commune today. All other visitors are asked to speak with the pastor before coming to the altar. If there is time before the service, introduce yourself to the pastor or an elder. Other visitors are invited to use this time for prayer. If you desire information about attending communion, you are encouraged to visit with the pastor after the service today.

PRAYERS OF PREPARATION are found in the cover of the hymnals. Take some time before the service begins in quiet preparation and prayer. **Please turn off and put away all electronic devices during the service.**

+SERVING TODAY+

Elder: Mike Henning

Ushers: Roger Jeschke & Mark Varvil

Greeter: Deleen Nehls

Organist: Henry Buehrens

Altar Guild: Kris Kochman & Tamara Weathersby

Stand

Confession and Absolution

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+SERVICE OF THE WORD+

Introit

Ps. 72:1–2, 10–11; antiphon: Liturgical Text



Behold the Lord, the rul- | er, has come,*
and the kingdom and the power and the glory are | in his hand.

**Give the king your justice, | O God,*
and your righteousness to the | royal son!**

May he judge your people with | righteousness,*
and your poor with | justice!

**May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him |
tribute;***

may the kings of Sheba and Seba | bring gifts!

May all kings fall down be- | fore him,*
all nations | serve him!

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

the Lord, the rul- | er, has come,*
and the kingdom and the power and the glory are | in his hand.

Kyrie

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Gloria in Excelsis

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Salutation and Collect of the Day

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O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1–6

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.
³And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

⁴Lift up your eyes all around, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from afar,
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and exult,
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

Gradual

Is. 60:6b, 1



Those from She- | ba shall come.*

**They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good
news, the praises | of the LORD.**

Arise, shine, for your | light has come,*

and the glory of the LORD has risen up- | on you.

Epistle

Ephesians 3:1–12

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— ²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I

am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

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Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1–12

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Sit

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

LSB 395

Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

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Prayer of the Church

Offertory

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Sit

+SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT+

Stand

Preface

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Sanctus

p161

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer

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The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

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Agnus Dei

Sit

Distribution

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

LSB 378

O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is

LSB 372

The Star Proclaims the King Is Here

LSB 399

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

LSB 398

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

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Post-Communion Collect

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Benediction

As with Gladness Men of Old

LSB 397

+VDM A+

**Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum
The Word of the Lord endures forever**

+PRAYER LIST+

- ✠ Those who serve in our armed forces: Lena Roemke, Rianon Asbury, Exavier Padro, & veterans.
- ✠ For all those suffering from illnesses or other trials, including: Rylie Snodgrass, John Funk (friend of Steve and Sarah Billings), Michelle Knull, Linda Polcin, Anita Brothers, the Nevius Family, Nicole Padro (daughter of the Brayas), Jan Sandberg (mother of Jim Sandberg), Sarah Hagerman, Ken Gundlach (uncle of Sarah Billings), Wayne & Jeannie Pannette (brother-in-law and sister of Marilyn Dissen), Linda Davis (sister of Steve Billings), Larry Mills (friend of Mike & Sandy Martin), Jim Knuth, Mary Jo Jiter, Dave Dissen, and Rick Holtz.

+ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 4th+

- ✠ **2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are in your mailboxes, for those of you not using electronic giving. Your number may have changed, so please discard any unused 2025 envelopes and use only the new.
- ✠ **CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS** will come down after the service today. Please stay to help if you can.
- ✠ **WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDIES** resume this week. The morning study at 9:30 will continue discussion of Zephaniah. The evening study at 6:30 will continue discussion of the Book of Concord and close with Compline.
- ✠ **HYMN DEVOTIONS:** Jane Gundlach's family has used the memorial donations given to Messiah in her memory to purchase the devotional book, *Abide With Us*, a daily devotion that focuses on the beauty of God's Word and our beautiful and rich Lutheran hymnody. There is one available for every household. They will be located in the fellowship hall; please take one if you would like for your household and use it and remember Jane and her love for the Word and the Lutheran theology handed down in our hymnal! Each week one of the hymns from the devotion will be sung in the Divine Service during 2026.

+CONTRIBUTIONS+

Lord's Work contributions budget 2025:	\$270,689
Lord's Work contributions actual 2025:	\$209,044
Difference:	-\$61,645
Restricted contributions 2025:	\$41,054

ATTENDANCE 12/28: 81

BIRTHDAYS

1/4 Amy Wright

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

1/7 Cara Russo-Bichsel

1/10 Louise Braya