



St. George Lutheran Church

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February 2, 2025 11:00 a.m.

Presentation of our Lord

Holy Communion

**Welcome! We are glad you're here! A warm welcome is extended to all!
Your presence enriches us at this time of celebration together.**

Welcome, Announcements and Sharing the Peace

Centering Prayer

I remind myself that I am in your presence, O Lord.

I will take refuge in your loving heart.

You are my strength in times of weakness.

You are my comforter in times of sorrow. (silent prayer)

Youth Message

Opening Song: *I'm Going Free (Jailbreak)*

CCLI Song # 6561868

Go on and speak against my borrowed
innocence

The judge is my defense

I'm going free

Right when the gavel fell

I heard the freedom bell

Ring through the heart of hell

I'm going free

I'm going free

Glory glory hallelujah

You threw my shackles in the sea

Glory glory hallelujah

Jesus is my liberty

(I'm going free)

I won't go back again that's just not who I
am Lord I'm a brand new man

I'm going free

I'm on a narrow road

It's paved with grace and hope

It's gonna lead me home

I'm going free

I'm going free yeah

I am free I am free indeed

I am free I am free indeed

We are free free indeed

We are free free indeed

Whoa we are free free indeed

Someday I'll fly away on Your amazing
grace Your love is my jailbreak

I'm going free One two three sing

Refiner's Fire

CCLI #426298

Purify my heart
Let me be as gold
And precious silver
Purify my heart
Let me be as gold
Pure gold

Refiner's fire
My heart's one desire
Is to be holy
Set apart for You Lord

I choose to be holy
Set apart for You my Master
Ready to do Your will

Purify my heart
Cleanse me from within
And make me holy
Purify my heart
Cleanse me from my sin
Deep within

Confession and Forgiveness

Dear friends, forty days ago we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we recall the day on which he was presented in the temple and his mother Mary was purified. We also hear of Simeon and Anna, who in their old age recognized him as their Lord. Today as we celebrate the joy of his coming, may we also acknowledge the ways we fail to recognize his presence.

Gracious God, too often we rush through life without seeing the wonder and significance of everyday moments. We become so caught up in our own lives that we miss the opportunity to recognize the ways in which you bless us. We long for the eyes of Simeon to see you, the light of the world, and to be filled with peace knowing that we have encountered you.

Assurance of Forgiveness

People of God, Jesus came into our world for our salvation. May you find peace in knowing that your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

First Lesson: Malachi 3: 1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like washers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord, as in the days of old and as in former years.

L: The Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**

Second Lesson: Hebrews 2: 14-18

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

L: The Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with

fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord **All: Praise to You, O Christ**

Sermon

Song: *Better is One Day*

How lovely is Your dwelling place
O Lord almighty
For my soul longs and even faints for You
For here my heart is satisfied
Within Your presence
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings

Better is one day in Your courts
Better is one day in Your house
Better is one day in Your courts
Than thousands elsewhere
(Than thousands elsewhere)

One thing I ask and I would seek
To see Your beauty, To find You in the
place Your glory dwells
(REPEAT)

Prayers of the Church

Words of Institution

The 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

CCLI #1097451

My heart and flesh cry out
For You the living God
Your Spirit's water to my soul
I've tasted and I've seen
Come once again to me
I will draw near to You
I will draw near to You to You

Better is one day better is one day
Better is one day than thousands elsewhere
Better is one day better is one day
Better is one day than thousands elsewhere

Holy Communion

Benediction:

May the light of God's salvation, as seen in the infant Jesus, shine in you and through you; may you carry the peace of Simeon and the faith of Anna; and may the Spirit guide you to see and to share the presence of God.

Amen.

Sing: *Jailbreak – See page 1*

P Go in peace, serve the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Announcements

Fellowship Meeting: Sunday, February 2nd, at 10 AM

Needleworks: Friday, February 7th and 21st at 10:00 AM

Souperbowl of Caring Fundraiser for ELCA World Hunger: Sunday, February 9th

Friendship Circle Meeting: Tuesday, February 11th at 9:30 AM.

Pastor Ken's Installation Ceremony: Saturday, February 15th, 3:00 PM at St. George Lutheran Church

Friendship Book Club: Thursday, February 20th at 3:00P PM in Parish House.

Sunday 2/2	9 AM Traditional Worship, 10 AM Fellowship Meeting / Sunday School 11 AM Contemporary Worship
Monday 2/3	
Tuesday 2/4	7:30 PM AA
Wednesday 2/5	Men's Group 8 AM / Office Hours 8 AM – 1 PM
Thursday 2/6	
Friday 2/7	Needleworks 10 AM Office Hours 8 AM – 1 PM
Saturday 2/8	

Prayers of Grace & Support

For Our Church Members, especially:

Jan Pitzer, undergoing surgery.

The family of Emily Olbrich, following her passing.

Kathy Schenk, after a serious fall, pelvis surgery and extended hospitalization.

Cindy, John, and Jon Brach, with health concerns.

Barb Gienapp with health concerns.

Theo Evans being treated for leukemia.

For Friends and Family of our Church Members:

Adam Tonge, Michele Hirschman's friend's son, following biopsy and determination of next steps.

Ross Wilson, grandson of Diane and Bob Steeh.

Carrie Weiland's sister's family in West North Carolina & all affected by the hurricane.

Kayden, Gail's student, recovering from brain surgery.

Brian Barry, friend of Cindy Brach, for cardiac health concerns.

Jamie and her family, Cindy and John's daughter, for health and life issues.

John, Gail's friend, recovering from a heart attack.

Mary, friend of Martha Boyd, while she recovers from a stroke.

Carol Pacheco, in hospice.

Keegan, 18-year-old with recurring cancer.

Juanita Fox, George's mom, for healing.

Hudson Bennett, George Fox's nephew, for healing.

Dian Kolis, friend of Linda Fox, with Parkinson's and scheduled for brain surgery.

Nick Hodgins, Jim Hartman's friend's 12-year-old son, following brain cancer surgery.

Matt B., Linda Walton's son's best friend, diagnosed with stage 4 liver disease.

Lydia, Gail's adult piano student, recovering from brain surgery.

Davian, Gail's student, for ankle surgery.

Alicia Gardner, Linda Walton's niece, awaiting a liver transplant.

Trey Martin, cousin of Bryan Rush, in Europe in the military. Pray for his safety.

John D, friend of Bryan Rush, suffering from Diabetes Type II.

Melissa Aloffalter, Angela Martin's friend, battling an unknown medical issue.

Micah, Alia's nephew, with a chronic infection and declining health.

Ethan and his mom, Marianne, friends of Linda Walton, as they are dealing with major physical and emotional struggles.

Jackie, Gail's piano student, diagnosed with throat cancer.

Theresa Knight, spouse of Michael Knight, for her battle with breast cancer.

Terry Pitt, Collene Hedden's brother-in-law, with auto-immune disease.

Beulah & Mark who are having health and life difficulties.

For Our Community and Beyond:

Help for disaster relief in the Southeast US and Florida

Prayers for peace in Ukraine

Prayers for peace in the Middle East

January 2025 Donation Summary

January Deposits:	\$18,535.37
January Target:	\$23,537.92
Y.T.D. Deposits:	\$18,535.37
Y.T.D. Target:	\$23,537.92
Y.T.D. Ahead/Behind Target:	(-\$5,002.55)



To donate through PayPal, please send money to stgeorgebrighton@gmail.com, scan the QR code, or visit stgeorgelutheran.org/donate and click the “Make a donation” button.

Support our Love INC Ministry and St. George Free Food Pantry!

Love INC: This month, we are collecting donations of **dish soap** for our Love INC Ministry. Donations can be placed in the box under the Youth Table in the Narthex!

Free Food Pantry: In January, we are focusing on collecting boxes of **mac & cheese**, **crackers**, and **pasta** for our Free Food Pantry. Donations can be placed directly in the pantry, located in our rear vestibule. Thank you for helping us support our community!

Calling All Cooks... and All who like to eat!

The St. George cookbooks are here, and they are beautiful. Beside containing 180 recipes from past and present St. George friends, the books include bonus, blank pages for additional recipes.

We will be selling them between services.

They are \$10.00 each.

We hope these books will become keepsakes for many family members, friends and neighbors.

As we continue to prepare for our 180th anniversary, we need your help.

Please email or send a note about your memories of St. George.

If you didn't grow up in St. George, please tell us what the church and its people mean to your life today.

Send your messages as soon as possible or by Friday, February 28th to any of the following:

Nancy Prieskorn
250 School St.
Brighton, MI 48116
npriesko@netzero.net

Sharon Prieskorn
manapbnc@gmail.com



St. George is a warm, friendly, spirit-filled congregation that has been blessed throughout many years. Most Christian denominations develop a distinct emphasis of the Christian faith and practice, and this is also true for Lutherans.

The Lutheran emphasis, in a word, is God's grace.

We emphasize the grace of God which forgives us, makes us God's children, and empowers us to serve others. **We welcome, include, and value all people.**