



ST. GEORGE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

803 West Main St, Brighton, MI 48116

Website: www.stgeorgelutheran.org

February 2, 2025

9:00 a.m.

Phone 810-229-6670

stgeorgebrighton@gmail.com

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.

Announcements

Prepare your hearts for worship.

Beautiful Savior

#838

Welcome and Sharing the Peace

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.

Entrance Hymn: *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty #533*

Open now thy gates of beauty,
Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty
Waits for God who answers prayer.

Oh, how blessed is this place,
Filled with solace, light, and grace!

Gracious God, I come before thee,
come thou also unto me;
where we find thee and adore thee,
there a heav'n on earth must be.

To my heart, oh, enter thou,
Let it be thy temple now!

Here thy praise is gladly chanted,
Here thy seed is duly sown;
Let my soul, where it is planted,

bring forth precious sheaves alone,
so that all I hear may be
fruitful unto life in me.

Thou my faith increase and quicken,
Let me keep thy gift divine.
How so e're temptations thicken,
May thy word still o'er me shine
As my guiding star through life,
As my comfort in all strife.

Speak, O God, and I will hear thee,
Let thy will be done in deed;
May I undisturbed draw near thee
While thou dost thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows;
Here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Shmolck; Music: Joachim Neander

Apostolic Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C** **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day:

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your Only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Youth Message

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**

Psalm 84

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

My soul longs, indeed it faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Even the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

As they go through the valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.

They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob!

Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed.

For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness.

For the Lord God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor.

No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly.

O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

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 Acclamation

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

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

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

Hymn of the Day: *In His Temple Now Behold Him* #417

In his temple now behold him,
See the long expected Lord;
Ancient prophets had foretold him
God has sent the promised Word.
Now to praise him, his redeemed
Shall break forth with one accord.

In the arms of her who bore him,
virgin pure, behold him lie,
while his aged saints adore him,
ere in perfect faith they die.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Lo, the incarnate God most high!

Jesus, by your presentation,
When they blessed you,
weak and poor,
Make us see your great salvation,
Seal us with your promise sure;
And present us, in your glory,
To your Father, cleansed and pure.

Prince and author of salvation,
Be your boundless love our theme!
Jesus, praise to you be given
By the world you did redeem,
With the Father and the Spirit
God of majesty supreme!

Text: Henry J. Pye

Apostle's Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic*church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. **catholic here meaning "universal"*

Prayers of Intercession: A Lord, in your mercy.... C Hear our Prayer

Great Thanksgiving:

P The Lord be with you

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is good and right for us to praise our God for he has shone the light of grace to us through Christ Jesus, who came that we may be a people ably prepared for him. With his people of ages past, and ages to come, we lift our voices together to praise, and sing... Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

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.

Lamb of God:

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace. Grant us peace.

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn

How Firm a Foundation

#796

How firm a foundation, O saints of the
Lord, is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus,
the word!

What more can He say than to you He
has said who unto the Savior for refuge
have fled?

"Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not
dismayed, for I am Your God and will
still give you aid; I'll strengthen you, help
you, and cause you to stand, upheld by
my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through fi'ry trials your pathway
shall lie, my grace, all-sufficient, shall be
your supply. The flames shall not hurt
you; I only design your dross to consume
and your gold to refine.

"Throughout all their lifetime my people
shall prove my sov'reign, eternal,
unchangeable love; and then, when gray
hairs shall their temples adorn, like lambs
they shall still in my bosom be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, 1787

Blessed Assurance

#638

Blessed assurance,
Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste
of glory divine!
Heir of salvation,
purchase of God,
born of his Spirit,
washed in his blood.

Chorus: This is my story,
this is my song,
praising my Savior,
all the day long:
this is my story,
this is my song,
praising my Savior
all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Chorus

Perfect submission,
all is at rest;
I in my Savior
am happy and blest,
watching and waiting,
looking above,
filled with his goodness,
lost in his love.

Chorus

Post Communion Blessing:

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen

Post Communion Canticle: Thank the Lord and sing his praise, tell everyone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, Alleluia.

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.

Sending Hymn

O Lord, Now Let Your Servant

#313

O Lord, now let your servant depart in
heav'nly peace,

For I have seen the glory of your
redeeming grace;

A light to lead the nations unto your
holy hill,

The glory of your people, your chosen
Isreal.

Then grant that I may follow your
gleam, O glorious Light,

Till earthly shadows scatter, and faith
is changed to sight;

Till raptured saints shall gather upon
that shining shore,

Where Christ, the blessed day-star,
shall light them evermore.

Text: Ernest E. Ryden

Dismissal

A: 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. All are welcome!

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	

	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23
	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM
Asst. Min	Bob S.	Lorna D.	Keith B.	Joan V.
Lay Reader	Bob S.	Jeanie	Keith B.	Joan V.
Greeter	John	Brian	Bob Knight	Jim Tavarozzi
Usher	Cindy		Janice	Jerry
Media	Preiskorn	Preiskorn	Preiskorn	Preiskorn
Fellowship	Carolyn	Friends & Family Breakfast		
Altar Care	Linda G	Sharon	Joann	Judy

Prayers of Grace and 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.



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

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.

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.



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.**