

*St. Luke Lutheran Church*  
*Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*  
*February 8, 2026*  
*8:15 a.m.*

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**SERMON**

Rev. Dr. David H. Benke  
Bishop Emeritus LCMS Atlantic District  
**"Salt of the Earth"**

## Welcome to St. Luke Lutheran Church

20 Candlewood Path  
Dix Hills, NY 11746-5398  
**Church:** 631-499-8656 - **Fax:** 631-462-6496  
**Preschool:** 631-462-5216

**Our Website:** [www.stlukedixhills.org](http://www.stlukedixhills.org)  
Satellite for the Lutheran Counseling Center: 516-741-0994

### Welcome!

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome both members and guests to His church. We are present this day to worship Him. In this service we thank and honor our Lord for His many blessings and seek His guidance and comfort for each day of life.

- ❖ Be **reverent** and **thoughtful** in this Holy place.
- ❖ **Before** the service, speak with God.
- ❖ **During** the service, let God speak to you.
- ❖ **After** the service, speak to one another.

**As We Gather:** We begin our worship today praising the lamb of God who has taken away the sins of the world. For this saving work, Christ is truly worthy of praise, adoration, thanks and honor. He is truly worthy of our worship because of who He is and what He has done for us. Now we shall hear again the great story of salvation that was won for us by the Lamb of God. Rejoice! For the lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia!

### Holy Communion is celebrated at each Worship Service.

The Lord's Supper is a gift from our Savior in which He offers us Himself and His forgiveness. Those who partake witness their love for Him and their faith and fellowship for each other. If you have confessed your sins and if you have been properly instructed regarding the Lord's Supper and believe in the presence of Christ in the form of bread and wine, which are the body and blood of Christ, please join us for the celebration of Holy Communion.

### REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### Traditional Worship with Holy Communion

8:15am & 10:45am w/ Sunday School

#### Contemporary Band plays Sundays two times/month (check online calendar)

Sundays at 10:45 AM

#### BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE – On short pause - Resumes soon

Sunday morning between services at 9:30 AM

Wednesday Mornings online at 10:00 AM

The **C.A.R.E Team** encourages *anyone experiencing illness or a challenging situation in their life to reach out to us for support. Support can consist of emotional/spiritual support, meals, transportation, help with errands or chores, and other areas as they are identified. Contact via **Hotline: (631) 600-0271***

*Or email [careteam@stlukedixhills.org](mailto:careteam@stlukedixhills.org) Coordinators: Trish Klare & Amanda Fenty*

### Mission Statement

**To know Christ and make him known by Serving, Teaching, and Loving.**

## **PRELUDE**

"Rise, Shine You People" - David Cherwin

## **PASTORAL GREETING**

### **INTROIT: HANDBELL CHOIR**

"This Little Light of Mine" arr. Benjamin Tucker

*Stand*

## **CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS - LBW p.77**

### **OPENING HYMN**

**"When Morning Gilds the Skies" LBW 546 vs. 1-4**

**GREETING – LBW p.78**

**KYRIE – LBW pp.78-79**

### **HYMN OF PRAISE**

**Glory to God in the Highest... LBW pp.79-80**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **and also with you.**

**Pastor:** 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.

**People:** **Amen.**

*Sit*

## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-12**

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> “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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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?

<sup>6</sup> Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the straps of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup> 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?

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9a</sup> Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”

<sup>9b</sup> If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> 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.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 112:1-9

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD  
and have great delight in God's commandments!

<sup>2</sup> **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

<sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches will be in their house,  
and their righteousness will last forever.

<sup>4</sup> **Light shines in the darkness for the upright;  
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup> It is good for them to be generous in lending  
and to manage their affairs with justice.

<sup>6</sup> **For they will never be shaken;  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

<sup>7</sup> They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> **Their heart is established and will not shrink,  
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

<sup>9</sup> They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;  
they will hold up their head with honor.

### SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

<sup>1</sup> When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. <sup>2</sup> For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup> And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup> My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

<sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory <sup>8</sup> and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup> 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”—

<sup>10</sup> God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

<sup>14</sup> Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup> Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

<sup>16</sup> “For who has known the mind of the Lord  
so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

### **ALLEUIA AND VERSE LBW p.83 #14**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-20**

[Jesus said:] <sup>13</sup> “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.

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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.

<sup>17</sup> “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> 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.

<sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.  
People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

### **SERMON**

Rev. Dr. David H. Benke  
Bishop Emeritus LCMS Atlantic District  
**“Salt of the Earth”**

*Stand*

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

**“God, Whose Almighty Word” LBW 400**

**APOSTLES’ CREED LBW p.85**

### **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Each petition ends with “Merciful God,”  
The response is **“receive our prayer.”**

Pastor: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God’s loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.  
People: **Amen.**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE – LBW p.86**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
People: **And also with you.**

*Sit*

### **OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY**

“Jesus Bids Us Shine” - Kenneth Leighton

*Stand*

### **OFFERTORY HYMN**

**“Let the Vineyards...” LBW p.86**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER LBW p.88 #240**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING p.88 #28**

**SANCTUS p.89**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION p.89 #32**

**LORD’S PRAYER – LBW p.91 #2**

**Pastor:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**People:** **And also with you.**

*Sit*

**LAMB OF GOD p.92 #37**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION MUSIC**

**“Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life” - LBW 513**  
**“Lord Whose Love in Humble Service” - LBW 423**  
**“O Love that Will Not Let Me Go” - LBW 324**

*Stand*

**POST-COMMUNION HYMN**

**“Thank the Lord...” – LBW p.92 & 93**

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER – LBW p.94**

**BLESSING LSB & LBW p.95**

**Deacon:** Let us bless the Lord.  
**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**Pastor:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.  
**People:** **Amen.**

*Sit*

**MINISTRY NEWS**



*Stand*

**CLOSING HYMN**  
**“Sent Forth by God's Blessing” - LBW 221**

**A SENDING WORD**

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**  
“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” - Wayne Wold

**\*\* Church Attendance and Offerings \*\***

**Attendance week ending 2/1/2026**

**Sunday, February 1, 2026**

8:15 AM:59    10:45 AM:97

**Offerings Received in December 2025**

*(total monthly offerings **includes** online giving)*

**December Offerings Received:**

Regular Offerings Received in December 2025  
(including online giving)

Regular Weekly Offerings: \$19,034.52

Loose Plate: \$1023.00

Celebrations (Christmas/Advent) \$8929.00

TOTAL DECEMBER: \$28,986.52

Budgeted \$22,608.33

Year to Date Received (July through December) 2025-2026: \$113,012.52

Join Parish Life for...

ADULTS

DRINKS & DESSERTS  
PROVIDED

# NIGHT OF CARD GAMES

On Saturday  
February 28th at  
7:00pm

St. Luke  
Memorial Gathering Room

Bring an appetizer

Questions? Contact  
Lori Etienne

lletienne13@gmail.com



# Carnival Sponsorship Opportunities

St. Luke Church will be running a children's carnival on May 30, 2026. The funds from this carnival help support the various missions of St. Luke, including the pre-school and youth program. We hope you will consider taking advantage of our many sponsorship opportunities. Through your generosity, St Luke can continue to make a positive impact within the church and community.

**Carnival Arcade:** Total cost \$5,000  
Minimum sponsorship suggestion \$200



**Petting Zoo and Pony Rides:** total cost 1,550  
Minimum Sponsorship suggestion \$200



**Prizes:** Total cost \$500  
Minimum Sponsorship suggestion \$100



In consideration, if they can be fully funded:

**Magician:** Total cost \$575  
Minimum Sponsorship suggestion \$100

**Balloon Twister:** total Cost \$400  
Minimum sponsorship suggestion \$100



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Please return the completed form below to the St. Luke Church office, St. Luke  
Preschool Office, or mail to 20 Candlewood Path, Dix Hills, NY 11746 c/o Lisa Wenz

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please Accept my donation towards \_\_\_\_\_

Amount included \_\_\_\_\_

Name for sponsorship display: \_\_\_\_\_

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Office use only... ☐ cash ☐ check # \_\_\_\_\_

Date received \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_