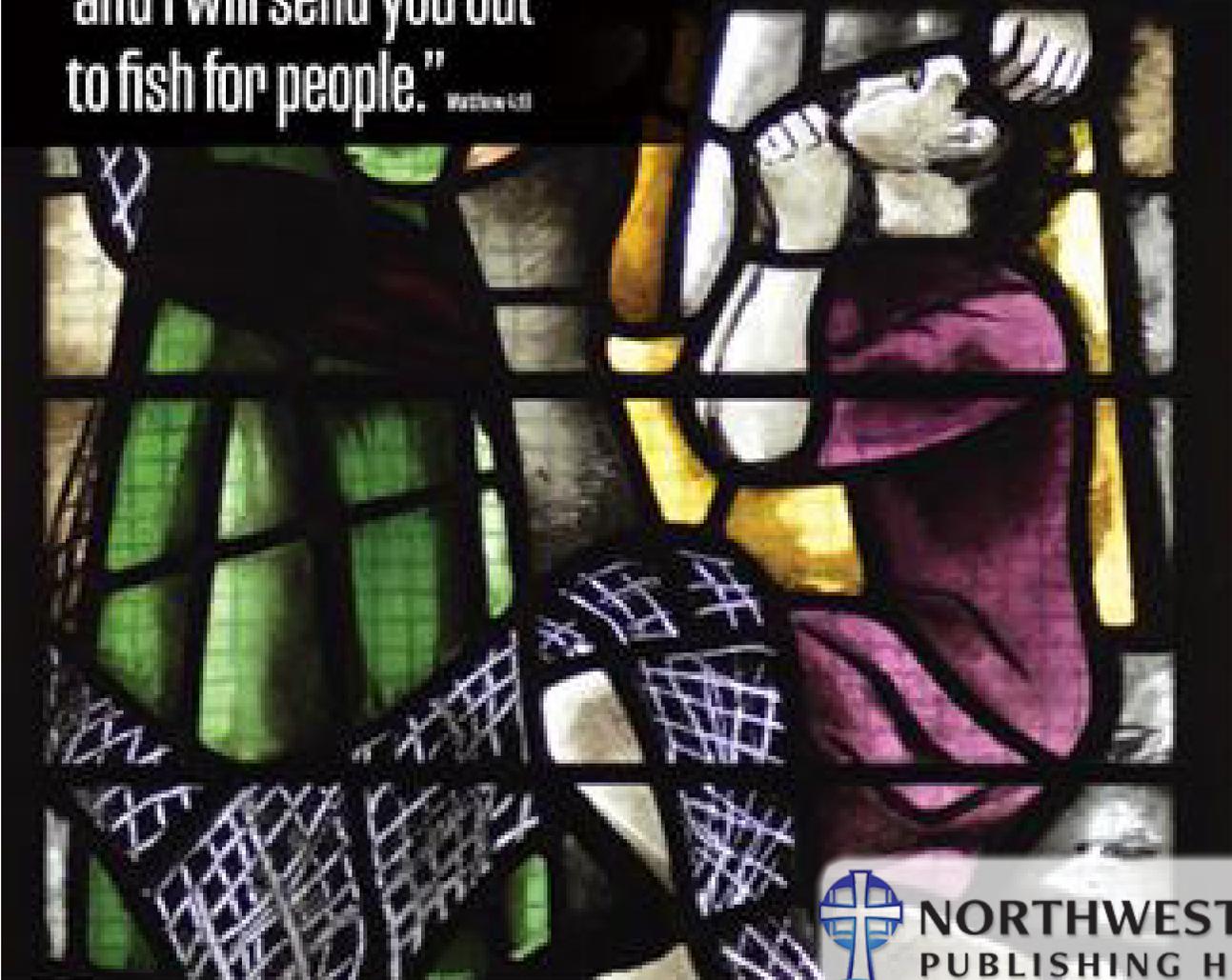




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“Come, follow me,” **Jesus said,**
“and I will send you out
to fish for people.” Matthew 4:1



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Star of
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

4465 South Blosser Road
Santa Maria, CA 93455
Office: 805-937-0339
www.starlutheran.org
Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, January 25, 2026 10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday after the EPIPHANY

Theme of the day: Jesus appears as the light that shines in the darkness. Dark places remain covered in the shadow of sin and unbelief. There are, however, bright places too, and there you can find God's children. Jesus shines his light by preaching repentance and the good news of the coming kingdom, and he invites us to follow to a new life illumined by him.

WELCOME

A warm welcome to our friends and visitors! Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church is eager to share with you the blessings of its Christ-centered ministry. If you are a new or long-time resident of the Central Coast looking for a church home, we invite you to meet with us at the close of this worship service or at your convenience. All are welcome to stay for refreshments in the fellowship hall.

Families are encouraged to worship together. If you need to step out with your children, the service can be seen and heard in the fellowship hall or narthex area. Feel free to enter and return at any time.

OUR MISSION

Our congregation exists for the purpose of "HOLDING OUT THE WORD OF LIFE." This is accomplished by faithfully preserving and proclaiming all of God's inerrant word, and administering the Sacraments as they were instituted by Christ.

OPENING HYMN: # 376 “Rise Up and Shine”

♪ **Rise up and shine! Your light has come;
God’s glory breaks like dawn.
For though the earth be cloaked in night
and gloom shrouds everyone,
yet over you the Lord will rise, with glory gleaming clear,
till nations turn to seek your light
and humbled kings draw near.**

**Fling wide your gates, both day and night;
no more keep watch or guard.
You will be called God’s holy hill, the city of the Lord.
No sound of strife will plague your land,
nor harm besiege your ways;
“Salvation” will you name your walls,
and all your portals “Praise.”**

Please stand for last verse:

**No more will you implore the sun to shed by day its light,
nor will you need the change-ful moon
to glisten through the night.
Your glory then will be your God, whose light will never cease.
Rise up and shine! Your light has come
to give you joy and peace.**

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and
the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.** (*spoken*)

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love
and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and
deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess
our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth.
In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve
to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray:
Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse
me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues forever. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

M: Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and to teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we, too, may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the broken-hearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C:  Amen. *Please be seated.*

FIRST LESSON: 1 John 2:3-11

³This is how we know that we have known him: if we keep his commands. ⁴The one who says, “I know him,” but does not keep his commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵If anyone keeps God’s word, the love of God is truly made complete in him. This is how we know that we are in him: ⁶The one who says he remains in him should walk as Jesus walked.

⁷Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one that you have had since the beginning. The old command is the message you heard. ⁸At the same time, the command I am writing is new—it is true in Jesus and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. ⁹The one who says he is in the light and yet hates his brother is still in the darkness.

¹⁰The one who loves his brother remains in the light, and nothing causes him to stumble. ¹¹The one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 27

Refrain



The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion — of whom shall I



be a - fraid, of whom shall I be a - fraid?

Psalm tone



Hear my voice when I call, O LORD;*
be merciful to me and answer me.

Do not hide your face from me,*
do not turn your servant away in anger;
you have been my helper.

**Do not reject me or forsake me,*
O God my Savior.**

Refrain

**Though my father and mother forsake me,*
the LORD will receive me.**

**I am still confident of this:*
I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.**

**Wait for the LORD;*
be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.**

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

Refrain

VERSE OF THE DAY

**M: Alleluia! The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has
dawned. Alleluia. (Isaiah 9:2)**

**C: ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
These words are written
that we may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 4:12-23

**¹²When Jesus heard that John was put in prison, he withdrew
into Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum,
which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. ¹⁴He did
this to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:**

¹⁵Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
along the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles,

¹⁶the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light,
and on those dwelling in the region and the shadow of death a
light has dawned.

¹⁷From that time, Jesus began to preach: “Repent, because the
kingdom of heaven is near.”

¹⁸As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two broth-
ers, Simon, who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew. They were
casting a net into the sea, since they were fishermen. ¹⁹He said to
them, “Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

²⁰They immediately left their nets and followed him. ²¹Going on
from there, he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee
and his brother John. They were in the boat with their father Zebe-
dee, mending their nets. Jesus called them. ²²Immediately they left
the boat and their father and followed him.

²³Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in their syna-
gogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every dis-
ease and every sickness among the people.

HYMN: # 904 “O Christ, Our True and Only Light”

♪ O Christ, our true and only light,
enlighten those who sit in night;
let those afar now hear your voice
and in your fold with us rejoice.

Fill with the radiance of your grace
the souls now lost in error’s maze;
enlighten those whose inmost minds
some dark delusion haunts and blinds.

O gently call those gone astray
that they may find the saving way;
let ev’ry conscience sore oppressed
in you find peace and heav’nly rest.

**Shine on the darkened and the cold,
recall the wand'ers to your fold;
unite all those who walk apart,
confirm the weak and doubting heart,**

**That they with us may evermore
such grace with wond'ring thanks adore
and endless praise to you be giv'n
by all your Church in earth and heav'n.**

SERMON: Isaiah 8:19-9:4

¹⁹When they tell you, "Consult the mediums and the spiritists, who whisper and mutter," shouldn't a people consult their God? Should they consult the dead on behalf of the living? ²⁰To the law and to the testimony! If people do not speak according to this word, there will be no dawn for them. ²¹They will pass through the land, distressed and starving, but when this takes place and they are starving, they will be frustrated, and they will curse their king and their God. They will turn their faces upward, ²²and then they will look down to the ground, but I tell you, they will see only distress, darkness, and the gloom that brings anguish. They will be banished into thick darkness.

⁹ Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for the land that was in anguish. In former times, he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will cause it to be glorious, along the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles.

²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned.

³You have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy.

**They rejoice before you like the joy at harvest time,
like the celebration when people divide the plunder.**

⁴For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them.

**You have broken the bar on their shoulders and
the rod of their oppressor, as you did in the day of Midian.**

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

**He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty.**

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

HYMN: # 381 “The People Who in Darkness Walked”

**♪ The people who in darkness walked
have seen a glorious light;
the heav’nly dawn broke forth on those
who dwelt in death and night, who dwelt in death and night.**

**To us a child of hope is born,
to us a son is giv’n,
and on his shoulders ever rests
all pow’r in earth and heav’n, all pow’r in earth and heav’n.**

**His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
the Everlasting Lord,
the Wonderful, the Counselor,
the God by all adored, the God by all adored.**

**His righteous government and pow’r
shall over all extend;
on judgment and on justice based,
his reign shall have no end, his reign shall have no end.**

**Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
and make us yours alone,
for you are with the Father and
the Spirit ever one, the Spirit ever one.**

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

C: 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 forever and ever. Amen.

**M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.**

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: ♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.

HYMN: # 517 “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

♪ **Praise the one who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light;
praise the one who frees the pris’ners,
turning blindness into sight.
Praise the one who preached the gospel,
healing ev’ry dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands
with the Father’s word of peace.**

**Praise the one who blessed the children
with a strong, yet gentle, word;
praise the one who drove out demons
with the piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the one who brings cool water
to the desert’s burning sand;
from this well comes living water,
quenching thirst in ev’ry land.**

**Let us praise the Word incarnate,
Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose victorious
that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done;
let us praise the true Redeemer,
praise the one who makes us one.**

WELS CONNECTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS for today's service were given to the glory of God by Jared and Sarah in celebration of their anniversary.

PRAYERS: Remember to pray for: Shawn Lozano, little Elias, Dennis Douglas, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Molly Webb, Doug Ward, Kathy Jones, Art Amarillas, Melinda Brown, Alice Taubman, Monica, Louise Perry, Rylan Downs, Jeff Brown, Aaron Taubman, Marlene Washburn, Helen Cummings, Delores Bass, Rick Stovall, Suzy Garvin, Linda Wilkinson, and Kathie Stillwater.

THIS WEEK

Monday-Tuesday California Pastors' Conference

NO ESL Tuesday

Thursday Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.

ESL, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.

Worship with Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.

“Come,



follow me.”