

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
204 S. Chase Street, Houston, MN
507-896-3102

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany with Holy Communion
Baptisms/Noisy Offering/FB
February 1, 2026**



Monday: 2:00 p.m. Ruth Circle
Tuesday:
Wednesday:
Thursday:
Friday: Pastor's Day Off
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. WELCA Valentine's Brunch
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship w/Holy Communion/FB
10:30 a.m. Coffee hr./Sunday School, Club 56 & Confirmation
Stone Church Cemetery mtg.

Cross of Christ Mission Statement: As a fellowship of believers, it is our mission to joyfully proclaim the gospel of Christ in word and deed; inviting people to worship together, nurturing them in the Christian faith, loving one another and serving a world in need.

Prelude

Ringing of the Church Bell

Announcements

Gathering Song: ELW #873 “All Are Welcome” vs 1,3&5

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

(Refrain)

**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

3 Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat: a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet. Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space; as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: **R**

5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: **R**

Prayer of the Day:

Holy God, you confound the world’s wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Choir

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-20, 26-31

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what

is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are,²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God.³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,³¹ in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” R: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 15

¹ LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?
² **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**
³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.
⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**
⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

P: The holy Gospel according to Matthew. C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day ELW #712 “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service” vs 1&4

1 Lord, whose love in humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
worked your mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose
ev'ry gift which you impart.

4 Called by worship to your service,
forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged,
love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort,
counsel, aid and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom
may your mercy know and live.

Apostle's Creed

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.**

The Holy Baptism of Makenna Luise

God gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ.

Parents and sponsors who do you present to be baptized?

We present Makenna Luise.

Parents called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ? **I do.**

You are entrusted with the responsibilities of bringing **Makenna Luise** to worship, teaching her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments. To teach her how to pray, to read the scriptures, to trust God and to care for others through word and deed.

Do you promise to help **Makenna Luise** to grow in the Christian faith and life? **I do.**

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture your God-child, **Makenna Luise** in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit? **I do.**

People of God, do you promise to support **Makenna Luise** and pray for her in her life in Christ? **We do.**

Parents and Sponsors I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the forces that defy God, the devil, the powers of this world that rebel against God and the ways of sin?

I renounce them.

Baptism

Makenna Luise, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Congregation: You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.

Sign of the Cross

Makenna Luise, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen.

Candle

Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Congregational Welcome

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ.

Gift of Quilt

Hymn ELW #595 "Jesus Loves Me"

1 Jesus loves me! this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong.

(Refrain)

**Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.**

2 Jesus loves me! he who died
heaven's gates to open wide;

he will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in. **R**

3 Jesus loves me! he will stay
close beside me all the way;
when at last I come to die,
he will take me home on high. **R**

The Holy Baptism of Layne Allen

God gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ.

Parents and sponsors who do you present to be baptized?

We present Layne Allen.

Parents called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ? **I do.**

You are entrusted with the responsibilities of bringing **Layne Allen** to worship, teaching him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments. To teach him how to pray, to read the scriptures, to trust God and to care for others through word and deed. Do you promise to help **Layne Allen** to grow in the Christian faith and life? **I do.**

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture your God-child, **Layne Allen** in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit? **I do.**

People of God, do you promise to support **Layne Allen** and pray for him in his life in Christ?

We do.

Parents and Sponsors I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the forces that defy God, the devil, the powers of this world that rebel against God and the ways of sin?

I renounce them.

Baptism

Layne Allen, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Congregation: You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.

Sign of the Cross

Layne Allen, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen.

Candle

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Congregational Welcome

Let us welcome the newly baptized.
We welcome you into the body of Christ.

Gift of Quilt

Prayers of Intercession:

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Noisy Offering Collection

Offering Collection

Offertory Hymn #186 “Create in Me a Clean Heart”

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,

and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Words of Institution and The Lord’s Prayer

Invitation to Communion

Congregation Response: All are welcome.

The Distribution and Communion Hymns: 838, 595, 323, 515

Sending Song: ELW #669 “Rise Up, O Saints of God!” vs 1,2,3&5

1 Rise up, O saints of God!
From vain ambitions turn;
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts
with nobler zeal might burn.

2 Speak out, O saints of God!
Despair engulfs earth's frame;
as heirs of God's baptismal grace,
the word of hope proclaim.

3 Rise up, O saints of God!
The kingdom's task embrace;
redress sin's cruel consequence;
give justice larger place.

5 Commit your hearts to seek
the paths which Christ has trod;
and, quickened by the Spirit's pow'r,
rise up, O saints of God!

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Thank You for helping with the service today:

Organist: Shelley Jerviss

Choir Director: Jake Olson

Acolytes: Garret Reay, Taya Evenson

Reader: Larry Jerviss

Communion: Lisa Skifton, Larry Jerviss,
Heather Reay,
Usher: Asher Meyer, Coby Banks,
Duane Hegland

Baptized today is Makenna Luise, daughter of Paige & Adam Markegard.

Makenna's sponsors for baptism are Craig & Danielle Peterson, Jen & Marcus Krings, Tessa Peterson.

Baptized today is Layne Allen, son of Carter & Kirsten Chiglo.

Layne Allen's sponsors for baptism are Michael Babicz & Kennedy Chiglo, Austin & Kayla Larson.

Announcements

Saturday February 7th Cross of Christ WELCA Valentine's Brunch 10:00 a.m.

Tickets are \$10 and are sold by WELCA after church on Sundays

Sunday February 15th Caring Collection we will be collecting pasta sauce, pasta, cereal (no cheerios).

Coffee hour host volunteers are needed for February 15th and March 1st.

Please notify the church office if you are available to host.