

Trinity Lutheran Church

February 8,
2026

Fifth Sunday of
Epiphany

217 Brackenridge
Southwest
Sleepy Eye, MN

Website
[www.trinity
sleepyeye.org](http://www.trinitysleepyeye.org)

Phone:
(507) 794-5051

Email:
[secretary@trinity
sleepyeye.org](mailto:secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org)

Office Hours
Mon-Thurs
9am - 3pm

Ministers
Every member

Pastor
David Nissen
(320) 583-9242
Pastor @
trinitysleepyeye.org

Parish Secretary
Darlene Brummund
507 276-8013
[secretary@
trinitysleepyeye.org](mailto:secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org)

Financial Secretary
Pat Stevermer
507 920-6513
[finance@
trinitysleepyeye.org](mailto:finance@trinitysleepyeye.org)

**Organist /
Choir Director**
Mary Mulry
507 227-9880
[music@
trinitysleepyeye.org](mailto:music@trinitysleepyeye.org)

Christian Education
Alyssa Nissen
612 462-2019
[education@
trinitysleepyeye.org](mailto:education@trinitysleepyeye.org)

Custodian
Pat Lowther



LET
YOUR
LIGHT
SHINE
Matthew 5:16

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY SERVICE OF THE WORD

9:00 AM FEBRUARY 8TH, 2026



THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WELCOMES ALL! *We are gathered in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who beckons us to come to Him in faith and repentance. May the gospel of the Lord inspire and fill you with the Spirit! Fellowship & refreshments are available in the Narthex and Library immediately following our Sunday worship.*

GATHERING

WE PREPARE: *Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.*

PRELUDE/ PARISH NOTICES/ RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice,

you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in ✝ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**





1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
 Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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. **Amen.**

PSALM 112

Light shines in the darkness for the upright.

Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD and have great delight in God's commandments!

Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.

**Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full¹ of compassion.**

It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

**For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

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

**Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

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

**The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:1-12

The first reading is in Isaiah chapter 58, verses 1-12. Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

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. 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 delight to draw near to God.

"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.

Look, 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.

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?

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

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?

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.
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, 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. 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. 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.*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

The second reading is in 1 Corinthians chapter 2, verses 1-16. Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

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 doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 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" — these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being 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. 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. 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.

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. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 5th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 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.

Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. 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. 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. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

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

MESSAGE

Pastor Dave Nissen

SONG OF THE DAY

We Are Called

ELW #720



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the
2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your . . mer - cy to all those in
3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be



Lord! We are called to be light for the king - dom, to
fear! We are called to be hope for the hope - less, so
one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as



live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God.
ha - tred and blind - ness . . . will be . . . no more.
sis - ters and broth - ers . . . u - nit - ed in love.

Refrain

We are called to act with jus-tice, we are called to
 love ten-der-ly; we are called to serve one an-
 oth-er, to walk hum-bly with God.

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, he 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**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: respond after God of Grace,

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;
 Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**



THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of ten systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering, we are an offering." The score includes various musical notations such as chords (F, G, C, Dm7, Em7, A, Bb, Esus, E, Am, C2, F, G7), rests, and triplets. The piano part features a steady accompaniment with some triplet patterns.

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)

OFFERING PRAYER

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **Amen.**

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, forever and ever. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

ELW 815



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

OUR THANKS TO ALL WHO SERVE THE BODY OF CHRIST

SUNDAY 9:00am Worship	
Accompanist	Mary Mulry
Acolyte	Ryder Braun
Readers	Doug Domeier
Sound Techs	Russ Sorensen
Greeter	Brian & Carol Polesky
Ushers	Eric & Juliann Wahlborg
Altar Guild	Joleen Dittbenner

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Altar Guild is seeking additional members. Duties include light cleaning, setting up & cleaning up following communion services, handling floral arrangements, refilling candles, changing colors and other similar weekly tasks. For more information, please contact Joleen Dittbenner or leave your name and number in church office. Thank you.



MEALS THAT MATTER

The delicious meals are available in the freezer located in room 109 just off the dining room and we now need your help. The meals are to be given to people who are experiencing some sort of life changing event, be it a new baby, illness, a death in the family, or anyone you think would benefit from a tasty, readymade dinner. Remember, you are the hands of Jesus in our world.

Thank you for being the hands of Jesus!

CAN YOU HELP? We are asking for drivers to deliver Meals on Wheels. 1-2 people are needed per week from March 3 through March 31. This is a half of an hour to 1hour daily commitment to help feed people in our community. Contact Lee Johnson to sign up or if you have any questions. Call 507-276-3515. Thanks! Trinity has committed to aiding our community with this program for many years.



Volunteers Needed:

Can you help? Join Russ Sorensen and learn a new skill by assisting with the video of our worship services. You can contact Russ at 507 227-7693.



February 8th, 2026

Jesus calls us to live as salt and as light for him.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.

We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	Matthew 5:13-20	Salt and light
Monday	2 Kings 2:19-22	A miracle involving salt
Tuesday	Mark 9:42-50	Have salt in yourselves
Wednesday	Colossians 4:2-6	Conversation seasoned with salt
Thursday	Ephesians 5:3-14	You are light in the Lord
Friday	1 Thessalonians 5:5-11	You are children of the light
Saturday	Psalms 36:5-9	In your light we see light
Sunday	Matthew 5:21-37	Teachings of Jesus



SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Make your light shine, so that others will see the good that you do and will praise your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, be our light when darkness surrounds us. Shine over us, in us, and through us. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Jesus our Savior, thank you for this food, so full of flavor. Jesus our Light, may we shine for you, with love so bright. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God’s love shine through you, so that others see God’s goodness and offer praise to the Lord. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What is your favorite salty food?
- Jesus calls his followers the “salt of the earth” (Matthew 5:13). What do you think he means by this?
- Like salt flavors food, Christians “flavor” the lives of others by the way we live. Share some examples from your own experience.

DEVOTIONS

Share some salty foods during your home devotional times this week (e.g. salted potato chips). As you snack, discuss ways in which other Christians have “flavored” your lives with the love of Jesus, and ways in which you can flavor the lives of others (look up Isaiah 58:6-7,9b-10 for some ideas). Pour some salt into small containers to carry with you during the week as a reminder to be salty for Jesus!

SERVICE

In 1 Corinthians 2:3, the apostle Paul says that when he first visited the Christians in Corinth he came in “weakness and fear, and with much trembling.” Pastors and other church workers may seem composed on the outside, but often they feel inadequate in their work. Write a note of encouragement to your pastor or a staff member of your church. Let them know that you appreciate them, and tell them how God is using them as a light in your lives.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Find a candle for each member of your household. Finish your mealtimes this week with a brief candle lighting ritual. Light one another’s candles in turn either by using matches or passing a flame from candle to candle. As each person’s candle is lit, have other household members say to them this week’s Blessing to Give: “May God’s love shine through you, so that others see God’s goodness and offer praise to the Lord. Amen.” As an additional reminder to do good for Jesus this week, set up piles of salt to mark the path from the front door of your home out into the wider world.

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Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.

Please take your bulletin home for weekly devotion



Trinity's Mission Statement

We are a community where Jesus is Lord: our mission is to invite, welcome, nurture, and equip all people to be disciples in His name.

TRINITY'S PRAYER CHAIN Send an email to secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org or call the office at 507 794-5051. Leave a message.

TRINITY'S WEBPAGE Send an email to the church office at secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org and let Darlene know you want your newsletter via email!

TRINITY IS NOW ON FACEBOOK CHECK IT OUT!!

"Trinity Lutheran (ELCA) Sleepy Eye MN"

The Trinity Tidings newsletter is now also posted on www.sleepyeyeonline.com watch this site for community news and events.



If you haven't already, please consider *Simply Giving*, an automated giving program for your offering. You determine the frequency of your offering which is deposited into Trinity's account the same day it is withdrawn from your account. It's a "hassle-free" way to give.

Talk to Pat or Darlene if you are interested. Thank You. *Please pick up your statements and envelopes in your mailbox. Thank You!*

Last week at Trinity

Weekly Worship Attendance:	111
Website	65
Bible Studies Attendance:	3+4+4=11
TREK/Confirmation	49
Weekly Giving: (6057.70.00 Needed)	\$3480.63
February Giving: (\$23,640.00 .Needed)	\$3480.63
Yearly Contributions to Date	\$19,783.21



Thrivent members are reminded to direct their Choice Dollars each year any time after April 1st of the year. Please consider naming Trinity for your Choice Funds. Call 800-847-4836

This Week's Prayer Concerns

Pray for Trinity...that the Holy Spirit would keep our Trinity family united as we continue in worship and in helping others as we are able ...

Pray for the Church...that the Holy Spirit would empower us to live in the image of God so that we would speak and act in every way bringing glory to God before all the nations and peoples with what we have been given...

Pray for our World...that pain which has penetrated so many lives that your light Lord would help us to see your presence and that the Spirit would lead us to seek the truth and practice grace for all who are hurting...

Pray for all who are ill, afflicted, or recovering...that the Holy Spirit would give comfort and daily strength to **Nicole, Dave, Susie, Gary, Jane, Mark, Sherry, Kali, Isak, Vivian, Kim, Pam, Pat, Trish, Beth, Harold, Rita, Paul, Ray, Lorinda, Chris, Kathy, Emmett, Joan, Lois, Joyce, Emma, Duane, Milo, Ed, Carlo, Dorothy, Tina, Ethan, Robyn, Carmen, Linette, Tammy, John, Tony, Ted, Connor, Kimora, and Mary Jo.**

Pray for the beloved... who now rest from their labors in God's mercy and for all who mourn the personal loss of loved ones....especially the families and friends of **Joan Miller** and **Yvonne Boelter**.... that God would fill each one with the hope of our Lord's promise to bring us to a new heaven and earth where suffering, crying, pain and death will be no more....

Pray for all families...that the Holy Spirit would bring compassion and mercy to all who are separated from one another and each would give way to mercy, love and reconciliation...

Pray for the men and women serving in the Armed Forces and those far from home...for **Brady Augustin** and his family...and for all of our military Veterans that the Holy Spirit would guard them in safety and keep their hearts stayed in Christ...

Pray for the missionaries of our church (ELCA)...that they proclaim their witness of the Gospel throughout the world.

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