

*Fourth Sunday of Epiphany ~ February 1, 2026*

*Abiding Hope Lutheran Church*

Rev. Karen Parsh, Pastor

Sheryl Williams, Coordinator of Music



*Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.*

## **WELCOME**

***We invite you to quietly prepare your hearts and minds for worship.***

*(Please turn off your cell phone)*

**PRELUDE ~ Choir:** *Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices*

## **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit call us together as the people of God

*Please stand*

## **CONFSSION and FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation. **Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.* God of life,

**you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security.**

**We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us.**

**Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.**

**Where we are reluctant, give us courage.**

**Where we are cynical, restore our trust.**

**Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.**

Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In + Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God. **Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG ~ ELW 873 *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart*

### 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.**

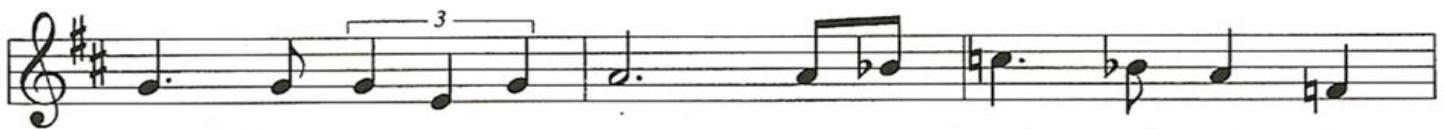
### HYMN of PRAISE

C Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;  
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

I Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we  
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

C Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;  
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

II Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



C Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

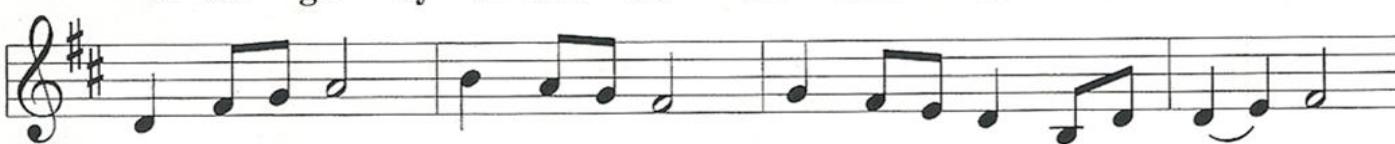
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



I For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,



and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

## PRAYER of the DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let's Pray Together. **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.**

## WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

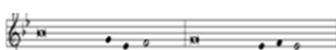
*Please be seated*

### **FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.<sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel.<sup>3</sup>"O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!<sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.<sup>5</sup>O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."<sup>6</sup>"With what shall I come before the LORD and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?<sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"<sup>8</sup>He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: 15 Sung Responsively**



**Tone 7**

<sup>1</sup>LORD, who may dwell in your <sup>1</sup> tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your <sup>1</sup> holy hill?

<sup>2</sup>**Those who lead a blameless life and do <sup>1</sup> what is right,  
who speak the truth <sup>1</sup> from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil <sup>1</sup> to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit up- <sup>1</sup> on a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup>**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those  
who <sup>1</sup> fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do  
not take <sup>1</sup> back their word. <sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope  
of gain, nor do they take bribes a- <sup>1</sup> gainst the innocent. Those  
who do these things shall never be <sup>1</sup> overthrown.**

## SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

<sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." <sup>20</sup>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? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. <sup>26</sup>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. <sup>27</sup>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; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup>in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

### Gospel Acclamation

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in G major, common time, with a treble clef. The first staff begins with a fermata over a note, followed by the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?". The second staff begins with a fermata over a note, followed by "Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.". The third staff begins with a fermata over a note, followed by "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The music features various note values including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests.

## **GOSPEL: MATTHEW 5:1-12**

The holy gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 5. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he began to speak and taught them, saying: <sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

<sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

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

*Please be seated*

**SERMON** ~ Pastor Karen Parsh

*Please Stand*

**HYMN of the DAY ~ ELW 728** *Blest Are They*

### **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS of INTERCESSION**

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home. God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for social justice and humanitarian aid ministries. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of old growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. Preserve the diversity of life on earth. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way. We pray especially for: Christine P., Kathy C., Brendon, Judy Z., Darcée, Ava, Ed, Matt, Carolyn, & Elliott, Paul, Josh, Adrianna, Titus, Lauren, Christina S., Jackie S, Harry & Susan, Dick & Diana, Candy & Arch, Leslie, Michele & Sue, Bob, Kathi, Maury & Linda, Damian & Marcia, Don & Donna, and Little Library requests. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

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. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

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

*Please be seated*

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## OFFERING and PRESENTATION of GIFTS

### OFFERING

*Please stand*

### OFFERTORY HYMN ~ *Give Thanks*

**CHORUS**

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, — give thanks to the  
Ho - ly One; — Give thanks be-cause He's giv - en Je - sus Christ, — His

**VERSE**

Son. — Give Son. — And now let the weak say, "I am  
strong," let the poor say, "I am rich" be-cause of what the Lord has

Last time to Coda

**1.** **2.** **D.S. al Coda**

done for us; — And us. — Give

**Coda**

**ENDING**

us. Give thanks. —

### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. **God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

*Please Stand*

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

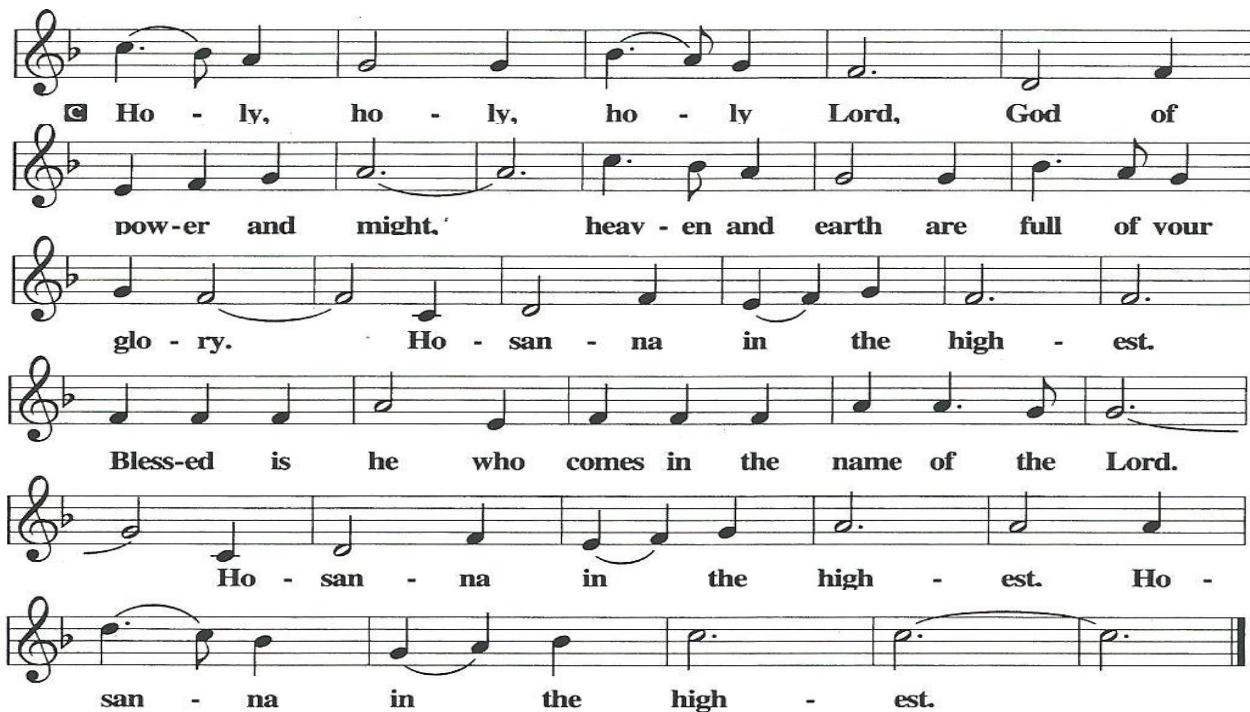
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **PREFACE**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might. heav - en and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est.

## **THANKSGIVING at the TABLE**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name....Amen.**

*Please be seated*

### **INVITATION to COMMUNION**

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

### **COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

### **LAMB of GOD**

Music notation for the hymn "Lamb of God" in four staves of G clef music. The lyrics are as follows:

C Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us.  
Lamb of God. you take a - wav the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**COMMUNION HYMNS ~** *God of the Poor* pg.11  
Instrumental Meditation

## God of the Poor

### VERSE



1. Beau - ty for bro - ken - ness, hope for des - pair, Lord, in Your  
2. Shel - ter for fra - gile lives, cures for their ills, work for the  
3. Re - fuge from cruel - wars, ha - vens from fear, cit - ies for  
4. Rest for the rav - aged earth, o - ceans and streams, plun - dered and  
5. Light - en our dark - ness, breathe on this flame, un - til Your

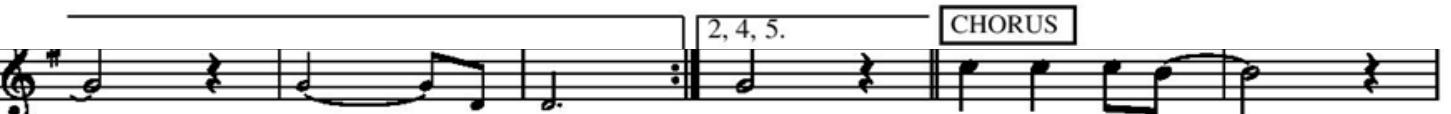


suff - ring world, this is our prayer. Bread for the chil - dren,  
crafts - men, trade for their skills. Land for the dis - pos-sessed,  
sanc - tu - 'ry, free - doms to share. Peace to the kill - ing fields,  
poi-soned, our fu - ture our dreams. Lord, end our mad - ness,  
jus - tice burns bright - ly a - gain; Un - til the na - tions

[1, 3.]



jus - tice, joy, peace, sun - rise to sun - set Your king - dom in - crease. —  
rights for the weak, voic - es to plead the cause of those who can't  
scorched earth to green, Christ for the bit - ter-ness, His cross for the pain. —  
care - less - ness, greed. Make us con - tent - with the things that we  
learn of Your ways, seek Your sal - va - tion and bring You their



— speak. God of the poor, —  
— need. —  
— praise.



friend of the — weak, give us com - pas - sion we pray, melt our cold



hearts, let tears fall like — rain. Come change our love — from a



spark — to a — flame. —

[1, 2.]

D.C.



spark — to a — flame. —

3. [ENDING]



## **PASTORAL BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our  $\ddagger$  Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER after COMMUNION**

Let us pray. **God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Please stand*

## **SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## **SENDING HYMN ~ ELW 710 *Let Streams of Living Justice***

## **BLESSING**

God bless you and keep you,  $\ddagger$  Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

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## **PARISH NOTES ~ February 1, 2026**

Pastor Karen Parsh – 814-881-3266 [Pastorparsh@gmail.com](mailto:Pastorparsh@gmail.com)  
[ahadmin@hotmai.com](mailto:ahadmin@hotmai.com) - [www.abidinghopeerie.org](http://www.abidinghopeerie.org) –  
FB: abidinghopelutheranchurch

**Please keep in your prayers:** Christine Petrone, Kathy Cirillo, Brandon Rock, Judy Ziacik, Darcée Anthony, Ava Whitely, Ed Whitbred, Matt, Carolyn & Elliott Marriotti, Paul Pacileo, Josh, Adrianna, Titus, Lauren Steele, Christina Sonthemier, Jackie Seib, Dick & Diana Stoker, Harry & Susan Speakman, Leslie Gallagher-Kelly & Michele Rion & Sue, Candy & Arch Watkins, Kathy Sinnott, Bob McDaniel, Maury & Linda Allen, Damian & Marcia Santabene, Don & Donna Holder and Little Library request.

**Sunday, February 1: Worship 930a ~ Choir: 9a & 1045a ~ Bible Study 11a**

**Sunday, February 8: Worship 930a ~ Choir: 9a & 1045a ~ Bible Study 11a**  
**"Read Through the Bible Together" on zoom @ 7pm. Still time to join the group. Sign your name/email address on the form in the narthex.**

**Monday, February 2: Prayer Shawls** gathering @ **10am** (weather permitting) in the Conference Room. Come join the group for prayer, conversation, knitting etc.

**Sunday, February 8: "Souper Bowl of Caring". Monetary donations or cans of soup** will help KAFP/Second Harvest Food Bank provide meals to those in need.

**Tuesday, February 10 : Anyone is welcome** to attend a meeting @ **1230p** to discuss this year's **EASTER FLOCK** event. Scheduled for **Saturday, March 28, volunteers are needed.** Raffle baskets and monetary donations will be also be needed for this outreach event for children. Additional Tuesday meeting dates will be determined at this meeting.

**Thursday afternoons: Share & Care @ 1p.** All are welcome to join this gathering for **meaningful discussions about God, Daily Life & Life Eternal** with Pastor Karen & Damian Santabene.

**Friday, February 13: Night to Shine**, prom-style event @ The Shrine Club **needs volunteers. Informational graphic below & flyers on table in narthex.**

### *Looking Ahead to Lent*

February 18<sup>th</sup>, Ash Wednesday

12:00noon @ New Hope, 630p @ AHLC.

Lenten Wednesdays, beginning February 25<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00p  
AHLC Fellowship Hall...

Devotions and easy crafts to benefit local non-profits/agencies.

KAFP Food Drive: February - cereal. Baskets in Heritage Room for donations.

**Little Jesus Project:** Please take at least one "Little Jesus" today from the basket in the Narthex (under the monitor) and commit to placing it in waiting rooms, on an elevator, restaurants, coffee shops, public bathrooms, self-checkouts and the post office! Pray for the person who will find it and spread the joy of finding "a Little Jesus"!

**Little Free Library/Pantry:** Many visitors are arriving during the night for food. We welcome donations of **individual bags of nuts/trail mixes, individual cups or small boxes of cereals, ready-to-eat meals in pouches, granola bars.** **Adult and children's gloves, hat, scarves are a strong need.** Thank you for your support of this neighborhood mission! **Donation bins in Heritage Room.** *Abundant blessings -Connie Kerr-Vogt.*

**Sanctuary Flowers:** Arrangements have increased (1<sup>st</sup> time in over 15yrs) to **\$25.00 each.** Sign-up sheet/request forms with additional information on the table in the narthex.

**Office Hours:** Monday, Tuesday, 9:30a-3:30p. Wednesday, 9:30a-12:30p. For **immediate pastoral assistance, Saturday-Thursday**, call **Pastor Karen**, 814-881-3266. **Friday's** please contact Rick Penn, 814-737-9974

## WORSHIP LEADERS ~ February 1, 2026

Videographer	Analee Cree
Greeter/Coffee	Cindy Filson
Assiting Minister/Acolyte	Jeanne Tropper
Lector/Prayers	Penny Gresh
Communion Cups	Analee Cree
Communion Tray	Lois Kuhns
Presenter	Cindy Filson
Presenter	Michele Rion
Usher	Rick Penn
Usher	Rich Filson
Counters	Andy & Jo



**Night to Shine**  
TIM TEBOW FOUNDATION

**Save the Date**  
**February 13, 2026 ~ 6pm**  
**Zem Zem Shrine Club in Erie**

**Night to Shine** is a prom-style experience for people with special needs from 14 to 82. On this special night guests received flowers, were cheered for, treated to dinner and danced the night away. They posed for photos, received thoughtful gifts, and were crowned king or queen of the prom. A separate party was held for their parents and caregivers. Over 250 dedicated volunteers came together to make ErieNTS25 - donating their time, energy, and talents to create pure joy. Your support brings joy, inclusion, and unforgettable memories to everyone involved in this once-a-year celebration. Every donation helps create an evening filled with meaning, magic and connection.

Please consider volunteering to be a "Buddy". This allows their parent/caregiver time to visit with each other and enjoy the evening. Go to: <https://form.jotform.com/243055861041147>

to sign up to be a "Buddy". Spots are limited. Be a cheerleader as each guest walks down the red carpet. Make a cash donation to help support this beautiful evening.

Information about volunteering and the event can be found at <https://timtebowfoundation.org/night-to-shine/>

THANK YOU for your support of this SHINING Night.

**Abiding Hope Lutheran Church**



**Be a Part of this Unique Event**

**Volunteer as a "Buddy"**

**Volunteer as a "Cheerleader"**

**Make a cash donation!"**

**Do it Today!**