

This Week at VIC

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Today 1/28	11:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
	12:00 noon	Fellowship Lunch
	12:45 p.m.	Voters' Meeting
Tuesday, 1/30	1:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
Sunday, 2/4	10:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	11:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
	12:00 noon	Fellowship Lunch

Weekly Stewardship Focus

Mark 1:22 – “And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.”

Authority is a word we are sometimes afraid of and don't like to hear. But that's just our sinful flesh talking. Jesus' authority is something we need. We need Him to show us what to believe and how to live, for Jesus' authority is always connected to his love.

Life Quote in the Church Year for January 28 “The Holy Spirit teaches us and enables us to be more effective with our body language, to hold the hands of those who are afraid of walking alone, to hug the ones who are falling apart for whatever reason, to lift those who sinned against God and against their brothers. We do all this by sharing the forgiveness that is found in Christ.” *Rev. Dr. Hector Hoppe, guest speaker on “The Lutheran Hour” – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Victory in Christ Lutheran Church



“Be silent, and come out of him!”

Mark 1:25

The Fourth Sunday after the
Epiphany
January 28, 2024
10:00 a.m.

Jesus Drives Out Demon by Julius Schnoor von Carolsfeld. Permission to use this image is limited to personal and congregational use. Courtesy of Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod - the World Mission Collection. *The Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel* by C.F.W. Walther copyright 1969 by Concordia Publishing House. Used with permission. To order this book contact www.cph.org or 1-800-325-3040. Scripture text is based on *Revised Standard Version* © 1946, 1952, 1971 Division of Education and Ministry of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. All Rights Reserved.

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WELCOME! We thank God for you and pray that He will richly bless our worship activity together.

Communion: We welcome all of our guests worshipping with us today and pray your faith is strengthened. God's Word declares to us that the bread and wine we receive in the Lord's Supper is the true body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ given for the forgiveness of sins and nourishing of faith (Matt. 26: 26-28; Mark 14: 22-24; Luke 22: 19-21; 1 Cor. 11: 23-26). When receiving His true body and blood, all communicants are to be united in their understanding and confession of Jesus Christ and all of His teaching (Jon. 17: 22; 1 Cor. 1: 10). An unworthy reception of this gift results in one who "eats and drinks judgment on himself" (1 Cor. 11: 29). Therefore, if you are still learning Lutheran doctrine or are not part of a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation, we invite you forward for a blessing and encourage you to speak with the pastor *before* the service in order to learn more about our teaching on the Lord's Supper.

Hymn of Invocation: #583 – God Has Spoken by His Prophets

Divine Service Setting Three: pg. 184

Introit

Psalm 32:1-2, 5-7; antiphon: Psalm 32:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ Many are the sorrows of the | wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts | in the LORD.

¹ **Blessed is the one whose transgression is for- | given,
whose sin is | covered.**

² Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no in- | iquity,
and in whose spirit there is | no deceit.

⁵ **I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my in-
| iquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity | of my sin.**

⁶ Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when
you | may be found;

surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not | reach him.

⁷ **You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from | trouble;
you surround me with shouts of de- | liverance.**

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

¹⁰ Many are the sorrows of the | wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts | in the LORD.

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 (English Standard Version)

A New Prophet like Moses

¹⁵"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— ¹⁶just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.' ¹⁷And the LORD said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. ²⁰But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.'"

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (English Standard Version)

Food Offered to Idols

¹Concerning food offered to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up. ²If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. ³But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

⁴Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "an idol has no real existence," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"— ⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But

take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? ¹¹And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. ¹²Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:21-28 (English Standard Version)

Jesus Heals a Man with an Unclean Spirit

²¹They went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath [Jesus] entered the synagogue and was teaching. ²²And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. ²³And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴“What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

Sermon Hymn: #842 – Son of God, Eternal Savior

Sermon:

Communion Hymns: #620 – Jesus Comes Today with Healing

Closing Hymn: #394 – Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

Life Thought in the Church Year for January 28 – Epiphany IV –

Gospel-motivated voices have the privilege – and the responsibility – to proclaim the whole counsel of God. Those who speak otherwise dabble in judgment and condemnation (Deuteronomy 18:20). The Scriptures and the Savior have graciously made clear – with “shalls” and “shall-nots” – His jealous devotion to the survival and salvation of every human life. We get to repeat and rejoice in it, especially for the sake of the weaker ones (1 Corinthians 8:12).

Announcements

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION: All donations received for flowers, Easter lilies, and poinsettias are included on your tax receipts. However, if you kept the flowers, you should not claim these proceeds as a tax deduction. If you did not keep the flowers, the tax deduction is legitimate.

Your contribution statements (tax receipts) for 2023 are available in the Fellowship Hall. Please check your report carefully and report discrepancies to Cheryl Foltz. All corrections must be received no later than February 11, to allow Cheryl to complete year-end procedures. Once this process has been completed, no changes may be made to the records. If you have any other questions, please contact Cheryl.

All donations received for designated funds will be used towards the original intent of the donor. Any monies remaining after the fulfillment of the original intent will be re-designated to the General Fund at the end of the fiscal year and used at the discretion of Victory in Christ Lutheran Church.

Voters’ Meeting – There will be a voters’ meeting **TODAY** following the noon meal.

Church Cleaning – Scheduled for church cleaning the week of February 4, is the Brad Rohloff family.

Bible Challenge – It’s not too late. All the members of Victory in Christ are challenged to read through the Bible during 2024. Look in the January newsletter for the readings for each day.

Offering Envelopes - The contribution envelopes for 2024 are available for pickup in the Fellowship Hall. Assigned envelope numbers have changed since last year, so please discard any remaining 2023 envelopes to ensure donations are credited to the proper person(s).

Save the Date – Our VBS 2024 will be June 10-14, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Clear your calendar now and plan to join us!

**The Readings for today –
The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

Deuteronomy 18:15–20
1 Corinthians 8:1–13
Mark 1:21–28

Our Lord Jesus Christ, True God in the Flesh, Cleanses Our Consciences from Sin

As He promised, the Lord our God has raised up *"a prophet" like Moses*, namely Jesus, our brother in the flesh. *"To him you shall listen,"* because the Word of the Lord is *"in his mouth"* (Deut. 18:15–18). Indeed, He is more than a prophet and more than a scribe of the Scriptures; He is the incarnate Word, and He speaks *"a new teaching with authority"* (Mark 1:22, 27). He enters *"the synagogue"* of His Church and provides true Sabbath rest, using His authority to silence and cast out *"even the unclean spirits"* (Mark 1:21–27). By His Word of the cross, He removes the accusations of the Law and of the devil, and He cleanses our consciences before God the Father, *"from whom are all things and for whom we exist."* Hence, we are now set free from bondage and commended to God by the one Lord, Jesus Christ, *"through whom are all things and through whom we exist"* (1 Cor. 8:6). Therefore, use your freedom to care for your brothers and sisters, neither causing them to stumble nor wounding their consciences (1 Cor. 8:9–12), but cleansing and strengthening them with the Gospel.

**A Look Ahead to Next Sunday –
The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**

Isaiah 40:21–31
1 Corinthians 9:16–27
Mark 1:29–39

The Son of God, Christ Jesus, Makes Us a New Creation

The Lord alone *"is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth"* (Is. 40:28). He *"sits above the circle of the earth"* and *"stretches out the heavens like a curtain"* (Is. 40:22). Yet His almighty power is demonstrated chiefly by His mercy and compassion. *"He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength"* (Is. 40:29). The only begotten Son of the Father, the very Word by whom all things were made, becomes flesh and takes all the poverty and weakness of our sin and death upon Himself, bearing it in His body to the cross. As He dies for us there, He also raises us up, a new creation, in His resurrection from the dead. Thus, by the preaching of this Word, He heals *"many who were sick with various diseases,"* and He casts out *"many demons"* (Mark 1:34, 39). And His preaching continues through those whom He has sent, who are *"entrusted with a stewardship"* to *"preach the gospel"* (1 Cor. 9:16–17). Thus, we are set free by the Word of Christ, and we exercise our freedom in loving service to others.