



**SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**February 23, 2025**

**10:00am**

**Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**P. O. Box 27; 101 S. Main Street**

**Woodsboro, MD 21798**

**301-845-4533 [woodsborolutheranchurch.com](http://woodsborolutheranchurch.com)**

**[woodsboroevangelical@comcast.net](mailto:woodsboroevangelical@comcast.net) Serving God  
and Community**

**Reverend Sean DeLawder**

**Gary Schwartz, Organist**

**Carolyn Matukaitis, Vocalist**



## **Welcome to Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**WELCOME!** We are delighted that you have joined us for worship today. If you are visiting with us for the first time, we invite you to sign our guest book at the entrance to the sanctuary. Our ushers are happy to assist you in any way. The Pastor would love to meet you so please introduce yourself. Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We are blessed by your presence today.

*February bulletins are given to the glory of God from Cheryl Lenhart*

*Today's altar flowers are given in memory of Jerry Chesser by Joan Lind Chesser*

**Lay Reader: Cheryl Lenhart**

**Recording Assistant: Donna Droneburg**

**Ushers: Peggy Esworthy**

**Flower Coordinator: Donna Droneburg**

**February 23, 2025**  
**Seventh Sunday after Epiphany**

GATHERING

*\*Please stand as able Congregation responses are in bold.*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**INSTALLATION OF 2025 COUNCIL**

**PASTOR**

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from Jesus Christ, the head of the church in heaven and on earth.

**PEOPLE**

**To God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

**PASTOR**

Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church or in various settings in the life of the world. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

**PEOPLE**

**There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.**

**PASTOR**

There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

**PEOPLE**

**The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.**

**PASTOR**

Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

**PEOPLE**

**It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.**

**PASTOR**

If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

**PEOPLE**

**All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.**

PASTOR

These people have been called by God, in accordance with the faith and order of this church, to serve among us. They have accepted their call and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve.

**COVENANT**

PASTOR

addressing the people being affirmed

Sisters and brothers in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for particular service in the ministry of the church, whether gathered or scattered.

Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

**INDIVIDUALS**

**I am.**

PASTOR

Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

**INDIVIDUALS**

**I do, relying on God's grace.**

PASTOR

*addressing the congregation*

Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

**PEOPLE**

**We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

PASTOR

Let us pray.

Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in this household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties

that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name.

**PEOPLE Amen.**

PASTOR

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church, I rejoice to announce: You are installed in your respective council positions.

In accordance with the faith and order of this church, I extend to you the hand of Christian love.

**PEOPLE**

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,

our creator,

our protector,

our wellspring of life.

**Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,

**you speak blessing and compassion into the world.**

**Forgive us for the ways we act**

**with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**

**We ignore the needs of our neighbors;**

**we resist your call to oppose injustice;**

**we give in to scarcity and fear;**

**we assume the worst about one another.**

**Cleanse us from our faults**

**and release us from their grasp.**

**Show us your lovingkindness.**

**Restore our hearts and repair your world,**

**that we may live in Christ's ways.**

**Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In † Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy,

live anew as beloved children of God.

**Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG**

**#835 All Creatures, Worship God Most High!**

**\*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**

**in unison**

**O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

**Genesis 45:3-11, 15**

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

<sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

<sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and

you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' ” <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks Be to God**

**PSALM**

**PSALM 37:1-11, 39-40**

- <sup>1</sup> Do not be provoked by evildoers;  
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
- <sup>2</sup> **For they shall soon wither like the grass,  
and like the green grass fade away.**
- <sup>3</sup> Put your trust in the LORD and do good;  
dwell in the land and find safe pasture.
- <sup>4</sup> **Take delight in the LORD,  
who shall give you your heart's desire.**
- <sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD,  
and see what God will do.
- <sup>6</sup> **The LORD will make your vindication as clear as the light  
and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**
- <sup>7</sup> Be still before the LORD and wait patiently.  
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
- <sup>8</sup> **Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;  
do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**
- <sup>9</sup> For evildoers shall be cut off,  
but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land.
- <sup>10</sup> **In a little while the wicked shall be no more;  
even if you search out their place, they will not be there.**
- <sup>11</sup> But the lowly shall possess the land;  
they will delight in abundance of peace.
- <sup>39</sup> **But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O LORD;  
you are their stronghold in time of trouble.**
- <sup>40</sup> You, O LORD, will help them and rescue them;  
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you they seek refuge.

**SECOND READING:**

**1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50**

- <sup>35</sup> But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?”
- <sup>36</sup> Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

<sup>42</sup> So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

<sup>50</sup> What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks Be to God**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

S102

**\*GOSPEL:**

**Luke 6:27-38**

**Glory to you, O Lord**

[Jesus said:] <sup>27</sup> “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup> If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup> “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup> “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”



Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

Pastor Sean DeLawder

HYMN OF THE DAY

# 650 In Christ There is No East or West

**\*APOSTLE'S 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 THE PEOPLE**

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us. May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

## **OUR OFFERING FOR GOD'S WORK**

### **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.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**in unison**

**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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

The Spirit of the triune God

✠ bless you with joy,

anoint you with compassion,

and send you in love. **Amen.**

## **\*SENDING SONG**

**#608 Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling**

## **\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live in hope.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

### **WOODSBORO EVANGELICAL PRAYER LIST**

Carolyn Abrecht, Arvella (Artie) Anders, Kelli Angleberger,  
Shirley Baker, Larry Beard, Amanda Blank, Jessica Bowers, Juanita Bowers, Mack  
Burdette, Donna Carbone, Nancy and Donald Creager, Ruby Darner, Buck and Bonnie  
Dixon, Donna Droneburg, Doug Eaves, Shari Eby, Dion and Evgeni Gevezovski,  
Stephanie Hammond, Philip Hockman, Bob Hyde, Jana Inskeep, Chris Johnson, Barbara  
Keyser, Doris Lenhart, Butch Lewellyn, Sandy Measell, Kasey Melville, Sue Millione,  
Millie Miller, Patrick Moseley, Genie Neugebauer, Darren Poindexter, Kizzy Giles-  
Rayford, Charlotte Shaffer, Gary Smith, Greg Smith, Nancy O. Smith, Mike Stottlemyer,  
Lincoln Tiemann, Donald Trimmer, Pastor Harry Wolpert and Tom Yealey

## WELC ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NOTE: In order to keep your membership active, you must take communion, and complete and submit a card once per year.**

**Pastor Sean's Weekly Office Hours** – Every Thursday from 10:00am-2:00pm.

Please feel free to stop by to say hello, give feedback or if you need pastoral care. As always, Pastor Sean can be reached throughout the week at [welcpastorsean@gmail.com](mailto:welcpastorsean@gmail.com) or 301-606-3632.

**Worship Service Social** – Join us for coffee, snacks, and fellowship on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month prior to our worship service.

**Free Community Dinner** – The next dinner is Tuesday, March 4, 2025 and Saturday, March 15 in cooperation with St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Walkersville. All are welcome so invite your family and friends. Volunteers are always needed. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Sean.

**Ash Wednesday Soup and Ashes** – Join us on March 5<sup>th</sup>, Ash Wednesday, for a bowl of soup and receive your ashes and prayer from Pastor Sean. You may drop in any time between 11am and 2pm.

**Easter Flowers** – Orders due by February 24<sup>th</sup>. Tulips \$5.50, Hyacinths \$5.50, Lily \$8.75. To place an order or if you have any questions please contact Robin Delauter at 301-639-1206.

**Soup and Sandwich Sale** – March 22, pick up from 11am-noon. Chicken Corn and Vegetable Beef Soup, \$9 per quart. Chicken Salad and Country Ham sandwiches, \$5 per sandwich. Sloppy Joe, \$20 per quart. Order on our website or contact Roger Myers – text 301-606-5046 or email [rogermyers8815@gmail.com](mailto:rogermyers8815@gmail.com). **Orders due by March 14.** Volunteers are needed on March 21 and 22 from 8am-noon.

**The 2025 Flower Chart** is posted in the narthex. Please consider volunteering to furnish flowers for Sunday worship. Contact Donna Droneburg at 301-514-0895.

**Year-to-Date Offerings** – Thank you very much for your continued support. The updated year to date offering as of January 27, 2025, is \$6,474.00 with an annual budgeted amount of \$149,000.00. Again, we appreciate your financial contributions and ongoing support.

**California Wildfires Relief** – Lutheran World Relief is assisting with the needs of the victims of the terrible wildfires which occurred last month. They are providing hot meals, essential household supplies and support for transportation costs. The number one need is financial gifts so they can reach our neighbors as quickly as possible and get them the help they need now and in weeks to come. You may give online at [lwr.org/fires](http://lwr.org/fires), or by mail to Lutheran World Relief, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061. Please write “fires” in the memo line.

**Council Meeting** – February 24 at 6pm in the conference room. Council meeting minutes are available. To request a copy please contact Suzanne Yusko at [smy196914@gmail.com](mailto:smy196914@gmail.com).

**Bulletin Sponsorship** – If you wish to sponsor bulletins for a specific month, the amount is \$40.00. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex next to the Altar Flower Dedication chart.

**Community Partners** will be collecting items for their Caring Closet program. February’s focus will be on **Meds** – cold medicine, pain medicine (children & adult). Your donations are greatly appreciated.

**WELC Food Collection – The Latest from the GVCS Food Bank** – All donations are greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the foodbank at 301-845-4229 (Leave a message and your call will be returned) or email at [GVFB21w@gamil.com](mailto:GVFB21w@gamil.com). Thank you for all of your continued support!

| <b>Currently, the greatest needs are:</b> |                          |                        |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Kid’s Cereal</b>                       | <b>Spaghetti Noodles</b> | <b>Spaghetti Sauce</b> |
| <b>Canned Beans</b>                       | <b>Boxed Crackers</b>    | <b>Baked Beans</b>     |
|   |                          |                        |
|   |                          |                        |

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Woodsboro Seniors’ Luncheon Meeting** – We are planning to go to The Village Tavern, 122 Walkers Village Way, Walkersville, MD at 11:30am – Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. Invite a friend. If you are interested in going, please call Doris at 301-304-5244. New members are always welcome.

**Chapel’s All You Can Eat Breakfast Buffet** – Saturday, March 1, 7-11am. Take your family and/or friends and enjoy a delicious breakfast (Adults - \$12, Children - \$5). Please contact Chris Beard at 301-418-0148 if you have any questions.

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