

Epiphany Sunday
Little Prairie United Methodist Church
January 4, 2026, 9:30 a.m.



2980 130th ST E, Dundas, MN 55019
507.663-6150

www.littleprairieumc.org

Our vision: Creating a welcoming community that worships well,
disciples well, and serves well; transforming the world for Jesus Christ.

WELCOME AND GATHERING

Gathering Music

Luann Alderks

Welcome/Announcements
Centering Time

Rev. Jef Olson

Call to Worship

Theresa Siemers, Certified Lay Minister

We gather wondering, where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?

We will find the Babe in the laughter of children, in the wisdom of grandparents.

We gather asking, where will we find the Child of Christmas?

**We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope,
where the oppressed are set free.**

We gather wanting to know, where will we find the Christ who has come for us?'

**We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace,
where hatred is overwhelmed by love, where all people are overwhelmed by joy.**

Hymn

Gather Us In (FWS # 2236)

All

Opening Prayer

We have heard of your grace, Shaper of stars;
**from those set free from injustice;
from our children who whisper of your joy;
from greeters of dawn's fresh start;
from late risers who listen to the stories of the needy.**

We have heard of your Light, Bright Star of the morning:
**which can illumine the shadows of our lives;
which can show the path to God's heart;
which can point the way to our becoming servants of the gospel.**

We have heard of your promised peace, Wisdom's Radiance:
**that peace which can end war, as well as heal our hearts;
that peace which can conquer our fears, and flood us with faith;
that peace which can enter our lives and fill us with hope.**
Let our lives proclaim your glory to all. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Sharing the Peace

Children's Moment

Theresa Siemers, CLM

THE WORD

Scriptures

John 1: (1-9), 10-18

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Message

The Light that Was, Is and Will Be

Theresa Siemers, CLM

Hymn

I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light (UMH # 206)

All

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Prayers of the People for Epiphany

All

Guided by the light that led the Magi, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all who seek truth and peace.

For the Church

Radiant God, shine through your Church in this season of revelation. Give us courage to speak truth with love, to welcome the stranger, and to stand with the marginalized. May our witness reflect your justice and mercy.

Christ, be our light.

For the World

God of all nations, in a time of division and mistrust, kindle in leaders a spirit of humility, wisdom, and compassion. Guide those in positions of power to seek the common good, protect the vulnerable, and work for peace across borders and communities.

Christ, be our light.

For Our Communities

Loving Creator, in the midst of economic uncertainty, political tension, and social unrest, help us to listen deeply to one another. Strengthen our resolve to build neighborhoods where dignity, safety, and opportunity are shared by all.

Christ, be our light.

For the Earth

Maker of heaven and earth, open our eyes to the beauty of creation and our responsibility to care for it. In this time of climate crisis, inspire bold action to protect the land, waters, and all living things for generations to come.

Christ, be our light.

For the Suffering

Merciful God, draw near to those who are ill, grieving, displaced, or oppressed. In a world where many feel unseen, may your light bring comfort, healing, and hope.

Christ, be our light.

For the Departed

We remember those who have gone before us into your eternal light. May their lives inspire us to walk faithfully in the way of Christ.

Christ, be our light.

God of light and life, hear our prayers and make us bearers of your hope in this world. Through Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

Amen.

Offering

Luann Alderks

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

(UMH # 95) All

Wesley's Covenant Prayer

[underscored by singing bowls]

Rev. Jef Olson
Theresa Siemers, CLM

I am not my own self-made, self-reliant human being.

In truth, O God, I am yours.

Make me into what you will.

Make me a neighbor with those whom you will.

Guide me on the easy path for you.

Guide me on the rocky road for you.

Whether I am to step up for you or step aside for you;

Whether I am to be lifted high for you or brought low for you;

Whether I become full or empty, with all things or with nothing;

I give all that I have and all that I am for you.

So be it.

With all that I have and all that I am, I believe that I am yours – O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Source of Light and Life. And I believe you are mine.
Amen.

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

[underscored by singing bowls]

The 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. Amen.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

[underscored by singing bowls]

Hymn

We Three Kings (#254)

All

SENDING

Now, God sends us out by a different road.

So we may find those who are left by the side of the world.

Now, Jesus walks with us down a different road.

So we may serve those who are lonely and frightened.

Now, the Spirit illumines a different road.

**So we may take our sisters and brothers by the hand
to walk in wonder and grace. Amen.**

Go in love, peace, joy. Shalom. Amen.

Postlude

Luann Alderks

INFORMATION

Pastor: Penny Bonsell, Administrator: Sara French, Music Director and pianist: Luann Alderks,

Certified Lay Minister and Youth Director: Theresa Siemers, assistants Maddy Heinz-Kline and

Kory Larson, Technology Administrator: Jesse Steed, Admin Council Chair: Kevin Larson,

Admin Secretary: Sue Rollins, SPRC Chair: Deb Little, Treasurer: Lori Noreen, Finance Committee Co-Chairs: Kevin Larson and Mel Henrichs, Trustees Chair: Tom Stowe, Missions

and Lay Servant: Karen Nelson, Soundboard Technician: Logan Crosby

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sundays, Worship at 9:30 am

Tuesdays, 8:30 am: Breakfast Club, at L&M

Wednesdays, 9-10:30 am: **Pastor Penny is off** at James Gang coffee shop

Saturdays 9-11 am Soul Sisters (see Theresa for details)

Youth Group?

Website

Online Giving