

**Saturday, January 3, 2026, 5:30 pm  
Sunday, January 4, 2026, 8:30 am**

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**



*Changing lives with the love of God  
to the glory of God*

## Welcome Guests!

We're glad you're with us today!

We hope you'll introduce yourself to the Pastor at the Church door after worship today.

### Worship Schedule

Our regular worship times are:

**Saturdays** at 5:30 pm

**Sundays** at 8:30 am & 10:00 am

**Sunday School** at 10:00 am September-June

Serving in the Lord's house today:

5:30: Sam Eisen / 8:30: Daisy Karika / 10:00: Owen Schmideler

Altar flowers have been given- to the glory of God

Pastor: Neil Mittelstaedt

Pastor: Conner Forbes

[www.stjlc.com](http://www.stjlc.com)

631- 584-5212

Ministers: All the people of St. James

## Prelude: Of the Father's Love Begotten

setting V. Floeter

## Opening Hymn: Of the Father's Love Begotten



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -  
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,  
3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with  
4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His  
△ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re - Prom -ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex - And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see  
deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face  
pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry

Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

A - men.

## Welcome and Invocation

## Confession and Absolution

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

-a time of silent confession and prayer-

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God and our Father.

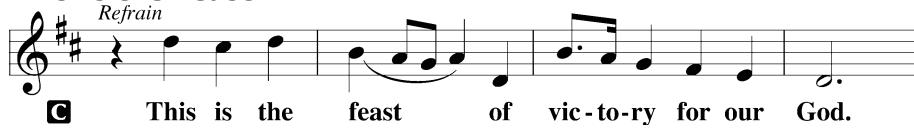
**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean.**  
**We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed,**  
**by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**  
**We have not loved You with our whole heart;**  
**we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**  
**We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.**  
**For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His love and mercy has given His Son for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all our sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\ddagger$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen

## This Is the Feast

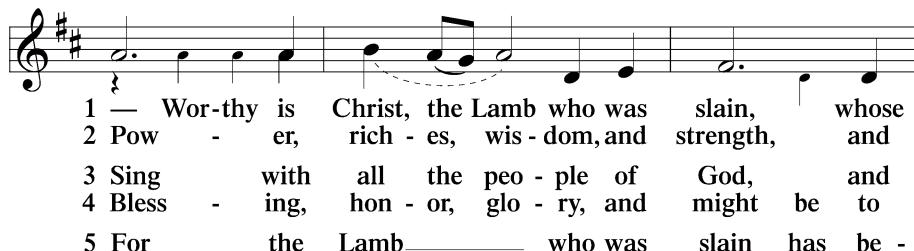
*Refrain*



**C** This is the feast of victory for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and  
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and  
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to  
5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*  
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*

gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Old Testament Reading

*1 Kings 3:4-15*

**A** The Old Testament Reading is from 1 Kings, chapter 3.

<sup>4</sup> The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. <sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

<sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. <sup>13</sup>I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. <sup>14</sup>And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

<sup>15</sup>And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Anthem 8:30am: What Can I Give Him? (Karen Limardo, Sandra McIlveen)**

*arr. M. Schweizer*

### **Epistle Reading**

*Ephesians 1:3–14*

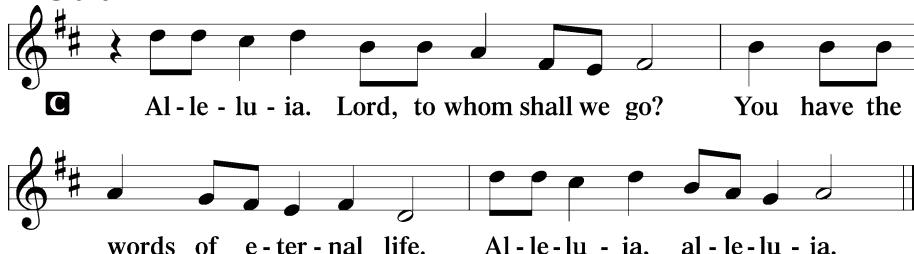
**A** The Epistle is from Ephesians, chapter 1.

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup>which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

<sup>11</sup>In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup>so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup>who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Alleluia**



**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel Reading

*Luke 2:40–52*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.  
**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>40</sup>The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

<sup>41</sup>Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. <sup>43</sup>And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, <sup>44</sup>but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, <sup>45</sup>and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." <sup>49</sup>And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. <sup>51</sup>And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Prayer of the Day

**L** Almighty and Everlasting Father, we thank You for sending Your only Son into this world,  
**C** **for Jesus is the Word made Flesh. He is wisdom personified.**  
**L** Teach us in this new year Your Wisdom so that like Solomon,  
**C** **we may ask and receive Your Wisdom.**  
**L** So that like Jesus ,  
**C** **we may dwell in our Father's house.**  
**L** In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now  
**C** **and forever, Amen.**

## Hymn: Within the Father's House



1 With - in the Fa-ther's house The Son has found His home,  
2 The doc - tors of the Law Gaze on the won - drous child  
3 Yet not to them is giv'n The might - y truth to know,  
4 The se - cret of the Lord Es - capes each hu - man eye,



And to His tem - ple sud - den - ly The Lord of life has come.  
And mar - vel at His gra - cious words Of wis - dom un - de - filed.  
To lift the earth - ly veil that hides In - car - nate God be - low.  
And faith - ful pon - d'ring hearts a - wait The full e - piph - a - ny.

5 Lord, visit Thou our souls  
And teach us by Thy grace  
Each dim revealing of Thyself  
With loving awe to trace

6 Till we behold Thy face  
And know as we are known  
Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
Coequal Three in One.

## Sermon: The Wisdom of God for a New Year

### Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life  $\ddagger$  everlasting. Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Church**

### **Offering**

*Some time ago we stopped passing the offering plate. There is now a box in the Narthex in which you may place your offering. Even more helpful, you may give electronically either by using the QR code below or visiting [stjlc.com/give](http://stjlc.com/give). You may also give to God and the work of His Church by mailing your offering in.*



### **Offering Prayer**

- Your true Light, Lord, has come into the world—
- the Light that enlightens everyone ... the Light that enlivens us.**
- Accept these gifts—signs of our inexpressible gratitude.
- And help us to reflect Your Light ... Your grace.**
- Through Jesus Christ, the Light, our Lord.
- Amen.**

## $\ddagger$ **Holy Communion** $\ddagger$

### **To Our Guests Regarding Holy Communion:**

Holy Communion is a gift Christ gives to His Church.

In it, He offers His true Body and Blood in and with the bread and wine.

***It is the gift of Himself!***

When received in faith, Holy Communion gives forgiveness, new life & salvation.

Those who receive the Lord's Supper at St. James Lutheran Church are baptized Christians, committed in their faith in Christ, who have been instructed in and believe these truths.

*(We run classes both for young people and adults – everyone welcome.)*

God bless you!

## Preface

**L** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**L** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**L** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** God of mercy and might

**C** we praise and worship You this day,

**P** for You came in silence, while all lay sleeping,

**C** to enter our world as a child of humble birth.

**P** We thank You for Your Son Jesus Christ,

**C** born of Your handmaid, Mary.

**P** In His face we behold Your glory,

**C** for in His life, as in His death, is Your gift of salvation.

**P** Therefore with angels from heaven, with the shepherds and the magi and with all the saints gathered around Your throne, we also raise our voices to sing the glory of Your Name:

## Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -

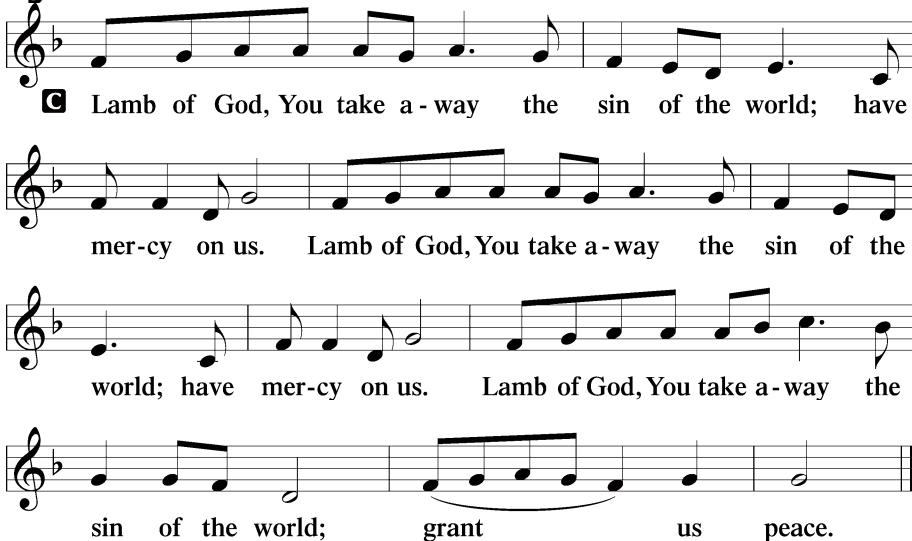
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

## Lord's Prayer

### The Words of Our Lord

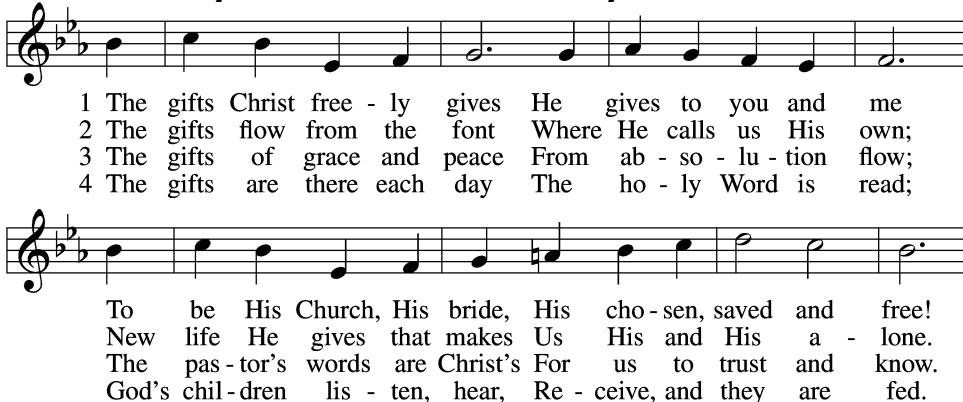
#### Agnus Dei



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-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

### Distribution

#### Distribution Hymn: The Gifts Christ Freely Gives



1 The gifts Christ free - ly gives He gives to you and me  
2 The gifts flow from the font Where He calls us His own;  
3 The gifts of grace and peace From ab - so - lu - tion flow;  
4 The gifts are there each day The ho - ly Word is read;  
  
To be His Church, His bride, His cho - sen, saved and free!  
New life He gives that makes Us His and His a - lone.  
The pas - tor's words are Christ's For us to trust and know.  
God's chil - dren lis - ten, hear, Re - ceive, and they are fed.



Saints blest with these rich gifts  
Here He for - gives our sins  
For - give - ness that we need  
Christ fills them with Him - self,

Are chil - dren who pro - claim  
With wa - ter and His Word;  
Is grant - ed to us there;  
Blest words that give them life,



That they were won by Christ  
The tri - une God Him - self  
The Lord of mer - cy sends  
Re - stor - ing and re - fresh - ing

And cling to His strong name.  
Gives pow'r to call Him Lord.  
Us forth in His blest care.  
Them for this world's strife.

5 The gifts are in the feast,  
Gifts far more than we see;  
Beneath the bread and wine  
Is food from Calvary.  
The body and the blood  
Remove our ev'ry sin;  
We leave His presence in  
His peace, renewed again.

6 All glory to the One  
Who lavishes such love;  
The triune God in love  
Assures our life above.  
His means of grace for us  
Are gifts He loves to give;  
All thanks and praise for His  
Great love by which we live!

### Nunc Dimittis



C 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the the

glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
 Spir - it, For ev - er Three in One;  
 A light to lead the be - gin - tiles Un -  
 to now, Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
 peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## Benediction

## Announcements

## Closing Hymn: Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

1 Let us all with glad - some voice Praise the God of heav - en,  
 2 To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sad - ness,  
 3 We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a won - der?  
 4 Christ, our Lord and Sav - ior dear, Be Thou ev - er near us.

Who, to bid our hearts re - joice, His own Son hath giv - en.  
 That with Him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in glad - ness.  
 There - fore praise God ev - er - more Here on earth and yon - der.  
 Grant us now a glad new year. A - men, Je - sus, hear us.

## Postlude: Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

setting D. Rotermund

## **NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GETTING CLEAR:** Different, important pieces go into our Christian Faith. Nearly everyone has trouble fitting them all together. This is the class that will help you see clearly. Getting Clear meets for three afternoons...Sunday, January 11, Sunday January 15<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup> from 11:30am – 1:30pm in the Youth Room. Babysitting is available. If you can attend, RSVP by emailing Maria at [marwar1@optonline.net](mailto:marwar1@optonline.net)

**THE GIVING CHALLENGE:** The Giving Challenge will begin on January 11, 2026. People can participate by purchasing a book and doing the challenge at home, OR by purchasing a book and joining a Small Group for discussion. Each week, we will send out a video to be watched. The cost of the book is \$15. You can purchase a book by depositing \$15 into the designated box in the Narthex and taking a book, OR by purchasing a book online and then picking up your book in the Narthex. To purchase your book online, please visit the [stjlc.com/give](http://stjlc.com/give) and choose the fund listed as "The Giving Challenge". Sign up Sheets will be located in the Narthex by the books and the table with the Giving Challenge information.

**2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES:** are in the narthex listed alphabetically for those that use envelopes. If you give electronically, there will not be envelopes for there for you. People who give electronically may request envelopes if needed by contacting the church office.

## **REMINDERS**

**GIVING WITH SUBSPLASH:** In order to ensure the most secure and seamless experience, we will be transitioning to a new giving platform. **We will be moving from Vanco to Subsplash.** This change will help us manage resources more effectively, at less cost, and make it even easier for you to support the mission of our church. Visit [stjlc.com](http://stjlc.com) and click on the tab that says "Give" for full directions on how to make the switch! If you need assistance, please email Luann at [luann@stjlc.com](mailto:luann@stjlc.com) or call 631-584-5212. If needed, you may make an appointment for help!

**CHURCH OFFERINGS:** If you do not use our electronic offering service, you may mail your church offering to the Church Office, 230 Second Ave, St. James, NY, 11780. Thank you for your continued support of our church!

**TO ORDER ALTAR FLOWERS:** Call Connie Marohn at 862-7123 after you have signed up for your requested date in the Altar Flower Book in the Narthex. Please use an Altar Guild envelope located in the Narthex to place your check for \$25.00 for *each* Bouquet payable to St. James Lutheran Church Flowers and the wording you wish printed in the bulletin. Place the envelope into the offering plate or mail to 230 Second Ave., NY 11780. Envelopes must be received by Monday for the subsequent weekend.

## **Peek at the Week**

### **SUNDAY January 4**

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)  
10am Family Worship with Sunday School (Sanctuary)  
11:30am – 12:15pm King's Kids Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

### **MONDAY January 5**

1pm Piecemakers (Youth Room)  
6:30pm Outreach Meeting (Parish Hall)

### **TUESDAY January 6**

7:30pm Moms Group (Upper Room)

### **WEDNESDAY January 7**

2pm-4pm Cancer Support Group (Youth Room)  
6:30pm – 7:30pm Chancel Chimes Rehearsal (Sanctuary)  
6:30pm – 7:30pm Confirmation (Parish Hall)  
7:45pm – 9pm Worship Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### **THURSDAY January 8**

7pm Council Meeting (Library)

### **FRIDAY January 9**

8am Morning Prayer (Sanctuary)  
7pm-11pm Ladies Night Out (Parish Hall)

### **SATURDAY January 10**

8am Bacon, Eggs, and Bible (Norway Hall)  
5:30pm Worship (Sanctuary)

### **SUNDAY January 11**

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)  
10am Family Worship with Sunday School (Sanctuary)  
11:30am – 1:30pm Getting Clear Class (Youth Room)  
11:30am – 12:15pm King's Kids Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

# ‘GETTING CLEAR’

Different, important pieces go into  
our Christian faith.

Nearly everyone has trouble  
fitting them all together.

**This is the class that will help you  
see clearly.**

**Who is this for?**

-everyone  
-especially people who have sat in church  
and had questions

**Is it interesting?**

-oh, yeah

**‘Getting Clear’ meets during three afternoons:**

**Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and February 1<sup>st</sup>**

**11:30 am – 1:30 pm**

**in the Youth Room**

*-Please let us know if you plan to come-*

*Email Maria Honnold at [marwar1@optonline.net](mailto:marwar1@optonline.net)*