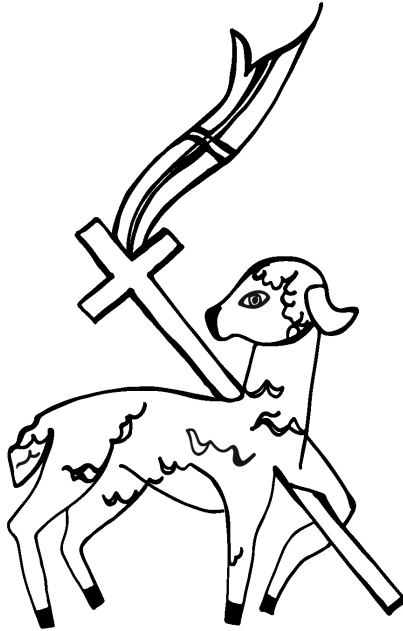




Sunday, January 18, 2026

10:00 a.m.



Pastor Erik Allen

“The Gift of Curiosity”



2201 E. 106th Street, Carmel IN 46032 ✠ kogcarmel.org

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude

“Lamb of God”

Jonathan Kohrs

Gathering Song

Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)

Call to Worship

P: To those who want to follow him, Jesus asks, “What are you seeking?”

C: Teacher, we do not seek worldly power, but a better way to live.

P: “What are you seeking?”

C: Teacher, we do not seek worldly prizes or wealth, but simply to be with you.

P: “What are you seeking?”

**C: Teacher, we do not seek worldly praise or fame, only that you call us by name.
Amen.**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

(pass the peace as you feel comfortable)

Song

Lamb of God

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

C: Amen.

P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

C: you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

P: The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in ✠ Jesus’ name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

please be seated

Lesson

I Corinthians 1:1-9

Gospel

John 1:29-42

Gospel Response

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

Pastor Erik

Sermon

“The Gift of Curiosity”

Pastor Erik

Hymn

Jesus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult

ELW 696

The Apostles' Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

please be seated

The Offering

The Offering Response

We Are an Offering
(vs 4)

ELW 303

Offertory Prayer

P: God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Prayers of the Church *(the congregation joins in speaking the first names of those for whom we pray.)*

Members: Joan, Jeff, Lee, Judy, Marion, Kelly, Marj, Vickie

Family & Friends: Neisha, Charles, Mark, Faizah, Darin, Tom, Chris, Chuck,
Sylvia, Bill, Ken, Dana, Marie, Mary, Carol, Susan, Bob

Communion

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen!

Distribution

All baptized Christians who seek the blessings of Christ's true body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion are welcome. Those who do not wish to receive may come forward for a blessing. Please let your server know if you desire a gluten-free wafer.

P: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

C: Amen.

please be seated

Distribution

All baptized Christians who seek the blessings of Christ's true body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion are welcome. Those who do not wish to receive may come forward for a blessing. Please let your server know if you desire a gluten-free wafer.

Benediction

P: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ✕ bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Song

God Is In the House

Sending

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

“Voluntary in D”

William Croft

PRAYER REQUESTS

Members
Kelly Baugh
Lee Bucher
Marion Loyda
Jeff Minich
Judy Naaman
Vickie Samson
Marj Schott

SYMPATHIES

Our thoughts and prayers are with Joan Delor on the loss of her sister Susan Hayward
and with
Neisha Johnson on the loss of her mother Ellen

CELEBRATIONS

We celebrate with Liz and Pat Ernst on the birth of their grandson Charles, son of Erica and Michael James. Prayers for little Charles who is in the NICU needing to get stronger before going home

Family & Friends

Tom Anderson, Bob Bohn, Marcia Duhm, Mary Hall, Carol Happ, Brenda Ingle, Ken North, Billy Ross, Chuck Sousa, Darin & Faizah, Chris, Wendy, Sylvia

Announcements

Silverbox Deliveries

Thanks to all who helped in many ways with our SilverBox Deliveries this weekend.

Assistant Teacher for Gloryland

We are looking for an assistant teacher to help with the K-5 Gloryland class. We would like someone who can help the lead teacher with the week's activity or lesson by passing out supplies, taking part in group discussions, and assisting the kids as needed. We would appreciate your help once or twice a month, on Sundays at 9-9:45 a.m. (The schedule is flexible based on your availability, and you would know the dates ahead of time.) If you are interested in helping out or have any questions, please contact Liz Lichtenberger at ehv1215@yahoo.com.

Join us for Youth Activities

Youth group and Catechism will meet this Sunday evening from 5:00-7:00 pm! Youth group will meet upstairs in the youth room. Catechism will meet in the Fellowship Hall. If you'd like to provide a meal on Sunday night, please signup by following this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090444A9AF2EA31-58484315-catechism>

Euchre Night

It is time for some more fun and fellowship at Euchre Night hosted by the Fraziers. Join us in Fellowship Hall next Saturday at 7:00. Bring a snack to share, a non-alcoholic drink, and friends or neighbors. Beginners welcome.

Devotions for Lent

We've ordered "Love Outpoured" booklets for Lent. "Love Outpoured" focuses on portions of the apostle Paul's letter to the Romans. In words that continue to speak to us today, Paul lays out foundational beliefs for a life of faith in Christian community. With diverse voices and pastoral wisdom, the daily devotions encompass Ash Wednesday through Easter. Keep an eye out and pick one up on the table in front of the Sanctuary or the Gathering Place Desk.

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- SUNDAY, January 18
5:00 pm Catechism & Youth
5:00 pm Bell Rehearsal

For a full list of all the activities going on at KOG for the month, including community groups, pick up a calendar at the Gathering Place

- MONDAY, January 19
10:00 am Craft Group

- WEDNESDAY, January 21
8:30 am Men's Bible Study
9:30 am WOW
3:00 pm Women's Prayer Group
6:00 pm Friendship Bible Study
7:00 pm Choir Practice

- SATURDAY, January 24
7:00 pm Euchre Party

Please scan
the QR code below to
give online



WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Theme of the Week: God Manifested in Jesus

Jesus has come and brings joy. He turns water into wine. He seeks and saves the lost. He loves us with such a profound love that He not only saves us for ourselves, but also makes us helpful to one another. He teaches us to fear, love, and trust in God above all things, knowing that God works all things together for our good. In His presence there is fullness of joy, and He walks with us on the path of life that has no end. This week we give thanks to Jesus, who shows Himself in every way to be our Savior and our Friend.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE: John 2:1–11 Water to Wine

We might expect that the first miracle of our Lord would be something extravagant, like raising the dead or making those who cannot walk able to do so. But instead, He turns water into wine for a wedding celebration. It may seem like a frivolous miracle to some, until we look back and see that in creation God made us to be in relationship with one another. And so now, for His first miracle after taking on flesh, He again blesses this gift partnership and brings great joy and delight to this couple and to all their guests with the best wine. Lord Jesus, bless all marriages with joy and delight, and where there is strife, bring forgiveness and peace. Amen.

MONDAY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 14 The Fool and the Godless Heart

“The fool says in their heart, “There is no God.” The Scriptures teach us that the beginning of wisdom is the fear of the LORD (see Proverbs 9:10). When we know God and God’s Law, the Ten Commandments, wisdom has begun. If we do not know God, or if we deny God’s existence, the Bible identifies such thinking as foolishness. Yet the fear of God is only the beginning of wisdom; Scripture also calls us to love and trust in God above all things. This is the middle and the end of wisdom: that we look to God for all good and trust God even in difficult times. O Lord, give us the wisdom of knowing Your name, Your Word, and Your promises. Amen.

TUESDAY SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:6–16a Genuine Love

Love is what turns the diversity of the Church into harmony. If we treated God’s gracious gifts as the world often does, the Church would look like a competition for power; where love rules, the Church acts together as one body. Christians are called to outdo one another in humility, not personal achievement. Even in the face of persecution, we are called to endure together and to bless those who harm us. Such confidence flows from Christ’s all-sufficient salvation. Lord, turn me from myself and all evil, and help me to hold fast to what is good. Amen.

WEDNESDAY SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 18:15–19 A Prophet Like Moses

Next to Genesis 3:15, this passage is one of the most important prophecies of Christ in the books of Moses. Moses is more than a prophet; he is a deliverer. He stood before Pharaoh and called for the people to be set free. He stood at the Red Sea so the people could pass through. He stood in the presence of God on the mountain for forty days and brought down to the people the Ten Commandments and the instructions for worship. We rejoice that Jesus is our deliverer: He has brought us from darkness into the kingdom of light, baptized us, and given us His body and blood, and will at last bring us to eternal life. Lord Jesus, thank You for being my deliverer. Amen.

THURSDAY SCRIPTURE: Luke 19:1–10 Zacchaeus the Lost Has Been Found

“The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” Zacchaeus was lost, but the Holy Spirit called him through the Gospel and enlightened him with holy gifts, and Zacchaeus repented. The Pharisees were astonished that Jesus associated with such a sinner, but Jesus came to save sinners. The Pharisees could not see their own sin; they did not recognize their need for a Savior. But Zacchaeus—and the tax collectors—and yes, even us know our sin and know that we are lost. And so, we rejoice that Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. O Lord, thank You for seeking and saving Zacchaeus, and for seeking and saving me. Amen.

FRIDAY SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:21–33 A Picture of Christ and the Church

As we saw on Sunday, the Lord is deeply concerned with relationships; thus, Jesus’ first miracle is the blessing of a marriage with good wine. Here we see another reason why marriage is so precious to the Lord. Marriage is a picture of the relationship between Christ and the Church. Whenever we see spouses joined in marriage, we are reminded not only of their love for one another, but especially of the Lord’s great love for the Church, of which we are a part! Lord, thank You for making me part of the Church, and redeeming me with Your blood. Amen.

SATURDAY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 16 The Path of Life

Consider verse 11 of this psalm: “You show me the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” This is a promise of the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. We live in the hope that the troubles and sorrows of this world will come to an end, that we will reach the end of this valley of tears, and that we will walk forever on the path of life. We will be with Jesus, behold His face, and know Him as our everlasting joy and treasure. With this hope, we press on—trusting, praying, and working—knowing that the death of Jesus has made a way for us to share in eternal life. Dear Jesus, bring us at last into the eternal joy of Your presence. Amen.