



Reconciling in Christ Sunday

January 11, 2026

9:30 am



**DIAMOND
LAKE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Facility Guide:

Accessibility

Hearing devices, noise-reduction earmuffs, and large print bulletins are available for worship services—please see the ushers for assistance. Automatic door openers are present on the main doors and restroom doors in the Commons Area. An elevator that accesses all floors can be found in the hallway to the right when entering from the main glass doors. Please feel free to borrow a walker or wheelchair (found in the entryway) for your time in our building.

Restrooms

Men's, women's, and all-gender restrooms are located in the Commons Area. They are to the left of the Lakeview Room entrance (or directly to your left when entering through the main glass doors).

Emergency and First Aid

A first aid kit, automated external defibrillator (AED), and fire extinguisher are located on the left when entering through the main doors. Other fire extinguishers can be found in the Narthex (the back of the sanctuary), the Vestry (front left of the sanctuary), and throughout the building.

Lost and Found

Missing something? Our Lost and Found is in the Commons Area coat room. Stop by anytime to check for items that may belong to you.

Notice of Filming and Photography

During worship services and church events at Diamond Lake Lutheran Church, photography and video recording may occur. These images and recordings may be used in church publications, social media, and other communications to share and celebrate our ministry. If you prefer not to be included in photos and video, please let an usher or staff member know. Thank you for your understanding and for being part of our community life together.

Welcome to Diamond Lake Lutheran Church!

We are so glad you are here! If you'd like more information about this community of faith, please fill out a Welcome card (found in the pew pockets near the hymnals) and place it in the offering plate or hand it to Pastor Andrea or an usher following worship. Take the Grow card with you if you wish! We invite you to enjoy coffee and Bogart's Doughnuts in the Commons before and after worship. Please wear your name tag each Sunday—it helps us welcome guests, get to know one another, and support those with memory concerns. If you don't yet have one, visit the Commons Area name tag station to make yours. We encourage adding pronouns to name tags!

Children in Worship

Children are encouraged to be present for worship—build-your-own activity bags are located in the narthex, along with children's bulletins. Children are invited to use the Pray-Ground at the front of the sanctuary. A nursery is located on the lower level if you need it. Please ask an usher for directions. If you are a nursing parent, you are welcome to nurse anywhere. If you would like privacy, there is a nursing room in the nursery downstairs.

Guest Preacher

Austen Hartke is a member of Diamond Lake Lutheran and currently serves as the Business Administrator. He graduated from Luther Seminary in 2014 with a Master of Arts in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible, focusing his study on how the welcome to people of all genders and nationalities in Isaiah 56 is lived out in Jewish and Christian communities. He lives in the Field neighborhood with his wife and mischievous dog.

Participating in Today's Service

Pastor: Rev. Andrea Roske-Metcalf
Guest Preacher: Austen Hartke
Assisting Minister: Nick Schmidt
Organist/Pianist: Kevin Hobbs
Choir Director: Dr. Bruce Gleason
Acolyte: Lyle Dean
Greeters: Gene and Nancy Zemske
Reader: Kris Pearson
Communion Baker: Sue Nelson
Communion Leader: Norma Williams

Communion Servers: Lisa Bass, Felecia Schmidt,
Indie Schmidt
Ushers: Robb Bass, Sean Laird, Julie Schmidt,
Sam Schleicher
A/V Tech: Frank Anderson, John Nelson
Nursery: Mary Teurman
Coffee Hosts: Bob and Cyndi Kresse
Pray-ground Cleanup: Sam Lunder
Pursers: Jon Brunsberg, Gene Zemske

RECONCILING IN CHRIST SUNDAY

Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Sunday is an annual worship celebration of welcome, inclusion, and advocacy for LGBTQIA2S+ people in the life of the church.

Throughout his ministry, Jesus was always reaching for those on the margins of society and religious institutions, pulling them back into the center of the life of the community. Rooted in the teachings and ministry of Jesus, the work of full inclusion is something that God's beloved children can celebrate. No hiding in the shadows for us! Let us dance in the light of God's love, singing songs of liberation, justice, and inclusion.

We invite you to rise in body or in spirit each time the ‡ symbol appears.

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

TRINITY CHIMES

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Matthew 25:34, Miller

‡ THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Water is life. Our bodies need water. This community needs water to be resilient and flourish. Plants and animals need water. Water is essential for all of life on this planet to thrive and flourish. We need water for drinking, for washing, for cooking, for cleaning, for refreshing. Water sustains our lives, and water enhances our lives.

Let us give thanks for the gift of water and for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for this water that comes to us as a gift from our Creator, the source of all that is good and life-giving. You are a generous and loving God, who blesses us through water, and who

claims all people in the fullness of sexual or romantic orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, gender expression, immigration status, beliefs, and abilities.

O God, may we live as careful stewards, guardians of this precious gift, protectors of the health of this planet, builders of resilient communities, and cultivators of life-giving relationships that promote peace and unity.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

‡ **GATHERING HYMN**

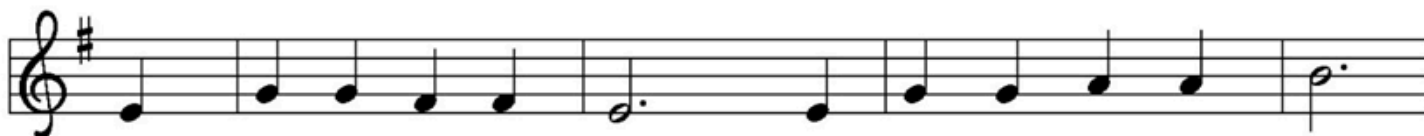
All Are Welcome.....ELW 641

‡ **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.

‡ **KYRIE**



‡ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God of Beauty, you gather your beloved children into your care, each one a unique image of you. You claim us as your own and call us to follow in the ways of mercy, justice, and joy. Strengthen our changing hearts and minds to continue the work of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SERMON ON THE STEPS

‡ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

‡ GOSPEL: MATTHEW 3:1-2, 4-17

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Now John wore clothing of

camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Austen Hartke

HYMN OF THE DAY

Build a Longer Table.....ACS 1062



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

‡ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Let us join together in proclaiming our faith:

We believe in you, O God, who spoke all life into being, author of heaven and earth, architect of time, quilter of the cosmos. You shape our bodies from the dust of the ground, and by your breath we are given life.

We believe in you, O God, who became incarnate in Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh, truly divine and truly human. You lived among us to reveal your justice, died among us to break the bonds of sin and death, and were raised among us to bring abundant life.

We believe in you, O God, who transforms us by the Holy Spirit, draws us into community, moves us to action, and inspires us to hope against hope. You breathe new life into a fallen world and equip us to proclaim the good news of resurrecting love. All thanks and praise to you, O God, our beginning and our end. Amen.

‡ **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Creator in prayer.

A brief silence

God of love,
Hear our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy wisdom.

Amen

‡ **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

You may share the peace with those around you.

OFFERING

The Road Home, Stephen Paulus

General Fund

We give thanks for all the ways members and friends of Diamond Lake Lutheran Church contribute to the mission and vision of this congregation—gifts of time, gifts of participation and expertise, as well as finances. Financial gifts to the general fund help to make possible both in-house and outreach ministries, as well as sharing of our resources with the wider community.

January Mission of the Month: Minneapolis Area Synod

Immigrant Welcome Fund

The Welcome Fund provides direct financial support to immigrant communities across the Minneapolis Area Synod through the work of the Synod's Immigration Task Force. This fund was created as a result of the Resolution on Accompanying Immigrants at the last Synod Assembly and supports efforts to stand alongside and accompany our immigrant neighbors. To read the Resolution on Accompanying Immigrants in full, visit this link: bit.ly/3KZP6ek

Give to the General Fund or Mission of the Month via:

Cash – Use a “Give Back” envelope from the pew pocket to designate a fund for your donation.

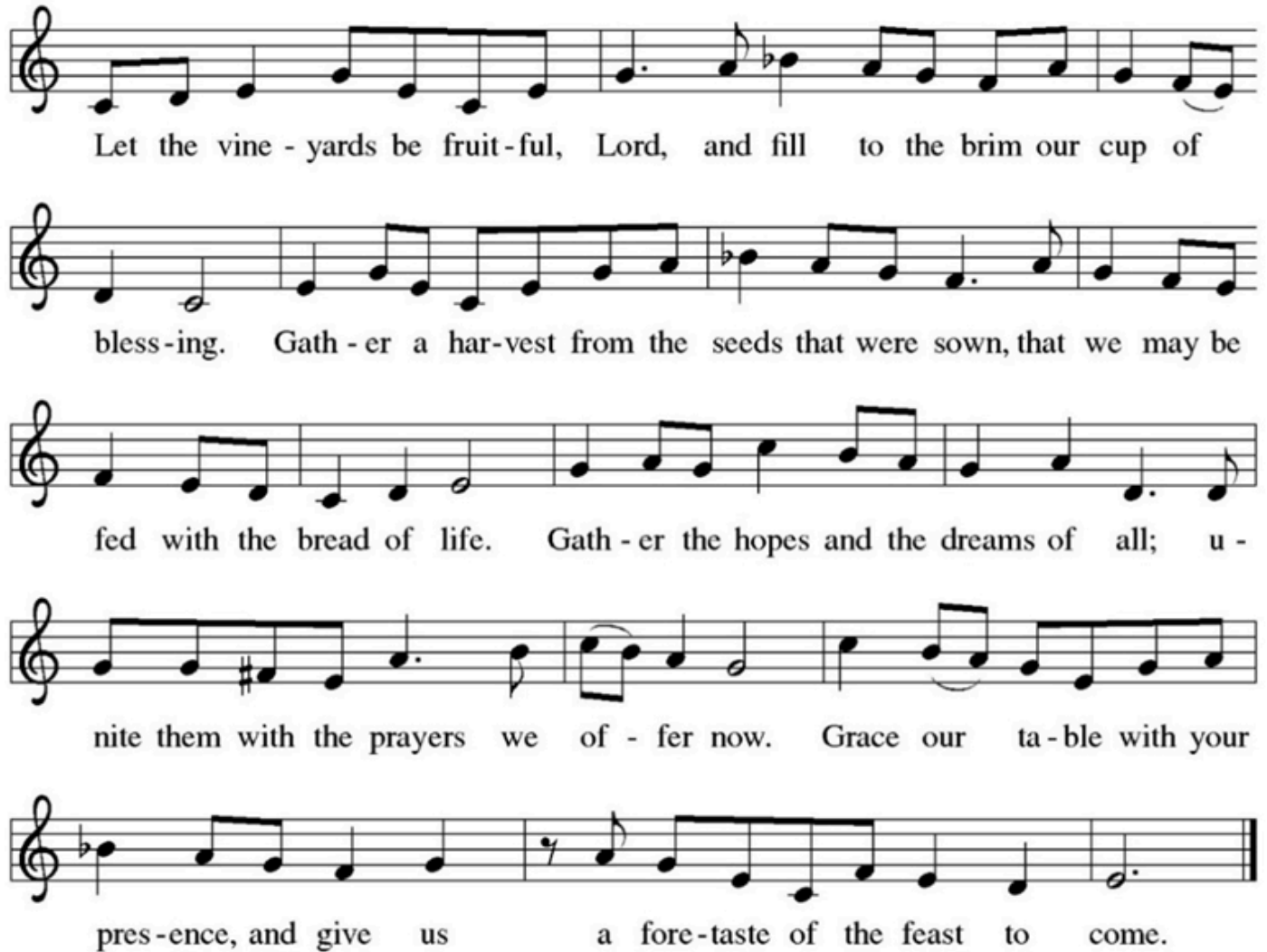
Check – Write the name of the designated fund in the memo line.

Phone – Scan the QR code to visit the Give Back page of www.dllc.org and select a fund from the drop-down menu. Repeat the process if giving to both funds.

Thank you!



‡ OFFERTORY



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

‡ OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

O God, from nothing you created not only us as your beloved children, but everything we would need to have an abundant life. As we bring our varied gifts to you, strengthen us as we celebrate the diversity you have blessed us with. Fill us with what we need, and help us to recognize that there is more than enough for all, as we work to bring your love to the ends of the earth.

Amen.

‡ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

‡ 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 and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God's table is ever-expanding. Come, take your place, be fed.

LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION

As Christ offered himself without restriction to those gathered at the last supper, so too he invites all gathered here to partake in this meal. If you wish to receive the sacrament, come forward with your hands outstretched to receive the bread, and dip it either in the red wine or the white grape juice (both offered in each chalice).

If you wish to receive a blessing, come forward with your hands over your heart.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request, and a chalice of grape juice is provided for gluten-free intinction. If it is difficult for you to come forward, please inform an usher, and the pastor will bring the sacrament to you in your seat.

COMMUNION HYMNS

- Light Dawns on a Weary World.....ELW 726*
- O God of Every Nation.....ELW 713*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.
Jesus our friend and Savior, your life, death, and resurrection changed our world. May this meal of bread and wine bless us and sustain us in the building of a blessed community which welcomes all people, that sees all people, and that works for justice for all people.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

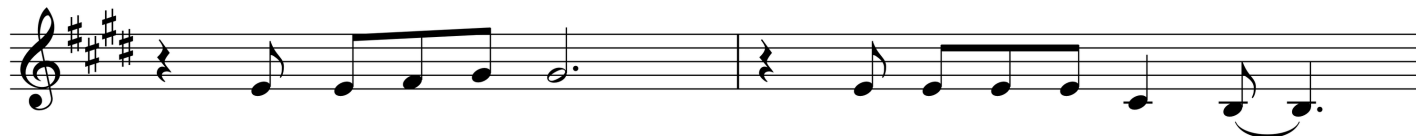
‡ BLESSING

As we leave this space may God’s face shine upon us, God’s love sustain us, and God’s peace inspire us and grant us peace. May God – Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer – fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may live in hope of a blessed community where humanity’s diversity is celebrated.
Amen.

‡ SENDING HYMN

For Everyone Born

Adapted by Young Clergy International and Linnea Clark



1. For eve - ry - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
2. For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
3. For queer and for straight, a place at the ta - ble,
4. For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
5. For eve - ry - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for eve - ry - one born, clean wa - ter and bread;
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
a cov - e - nant shared, a wel - com - ing space,
though wound - ed or wronged, a call to for - give;
to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrink - led,
a rain - bow of race and gen - der and col - or,
in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for eve - ry - one born, a star o - ver - head.
for young and for old, the right to be - long.
for queer and for straight, the chal - ice of grace.
for just and un - just, a new way to live.
for eve - ry - one born, the right to be free.

Refrain



And God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and



joy, com-pas-sion and peace: yes, God will de-light when we are cre -



a - tors of jus - tice, jus - tice and joy.

‡ **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to seek justice for all people.

Thanks be to God.

‡ **CHORAL AMEN**

POSTLUDE

This congregation traditionally sits and remains in the sanctuary to hear the postlude, which is offered by Dr. Hobbs. If you need to leave early, please feel free to do so quietly.

Thanksgiving for Baptism, Prayer of the Day, Affirmation of Faith, Prayers of the People, Offering Prayer, Prayer After Communion, Blessing, and Dismissal from ReconcilingWorks RIC Sunday 2026 liturgy.

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Our Reconciling in Christ Journey

2022: At the recommendation of the Journey Toward Justice team, the Congregational Council, along with Interim Pastor Lee Hallstrom, approves exploring the Reconciling in Christ process.

2023: A Reconciling in Christ team is formed. Members of the team include Lisa Bass, Stacy Klage, Sean Laird, Russ Michaletz, Karen Minge, John Pedersen, and Lizzy Roberts. The team completes ReconcilingWorks training in November.

2024–2025: The team works through the “Building an Inclusive Church” framework. This work includes congregational surveys, one-to-one conversations, and a variety of congregational education opportunities.

Fall 2025: A Welcome Statement is drafted, and the congregation is surveyed.

October 12, 2025: A vote to adopt the Welcome Statement and become a Reconciling in Christ congregation is held. The outcome is 96 “yes” votes out of 97 ballots, meeting and exceeding the team’s goal of 80 percent approval.

January 11, 2026: The congregation celebrates Reconciling in Christ Sunday for the first time, marking its new status.

