

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

January 8, 2023, Baptism of Our Lord

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

“We are called by God to grow in faith together, sharing Christ’s love with each other and our community”



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Welcome to Worship this morning. We will be sharing Holy Communion. Communion will be given two ways, you can either come up front and receive from Pastor, or Pastor can commune you, or you can pick up the convenient cup/wafer before the service and receive at your seat.

Reminder: We are videoing “live”.



In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God’s beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God’s healing.

Prelude

Pat Anderson

Welcome and Announcements

Ring of the Bell and Lighting of Candles

Hymn “Shall We Gather at the River”

Red Worship Book 423

1 Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod, with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain: *Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river; gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.*

2 On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray, we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day. **Refrain**

3 Ere we reach the shining river, lay we ev'ry burden down; grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown. **Refrain**

4 Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease; soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. **Refrain**

Thanksgiving for Baptism

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C: Amen.

L; Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

L: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Greeting

Red Worship Book pg.147

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie

Red Worship Book pg. 147-148

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L; Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

Canticle of Praise

Red Worship Book pg. 148-149

L: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

C: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Prayer of Day

C: O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

¹Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ²He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my

praise to idols. ⁹See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Psalm 29

L: Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,

C: ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

L: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;

C: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

L: The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;

C: the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

L: The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;

C: the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor. R

L: The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;

C: the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

L: the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,

C: and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

L: The voice of the LORD

C: bursts forth in lightning flashes.

L: The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;

C: the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. R

L: The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.

C: And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

L: The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;

C: the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.

L: O LORD, give strength to your people;

C: give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace. R

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord (Spoken)

Red Worship Book pg. 151

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The Gospel of Our Lord

Red Worship Book pg. 206

C: Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

Children's Sermon

Pastor Kate Mensing

Sermon

Pastor Kate Mensing

Hymn "Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized"

Red Worship Book 304

- 1 Christ, when for us you were baptized, God's Spirit on you came, as peaceful as a dove, and yet as urgent as a flame, as urgent as a flame.
- 2 God called you, "My beloved Son"; you are God's servant true, sent to proclaim the reign of heav'n, God's holy will to do, God's holy will to do.
- 3 Straightway and steadfast until death you then obeyed the call to serve with free and willing heart, to give your life for all, to give your life for all.
- 4 Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord; your cross on us be signed, that likewise in God's service we may perfect freedom find, may perfect freedom find.

Nicene Creed

Red Worship Book pg. 104

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offering/Hymn

"When Jesus came to Jordan"

Red Worship Book 305

1. When Jesus came to Jordan to be baptized by John, he did not come for pardon but as the Sinless One. He came to share repentance with all who mourn their sins, to speak the vital sentence with which good news begins.
- 2 He came to share temptation, our utmost woe and loss, for us and our salvation to die upon the cross. So when the dove descended on him, the Son of Man, the hidden years had ended, the age of grace began.
- 3 Come, Holy Spirit, aid us to keep the vows we make; this very day invade us, and ev'ry bondage break. Come, give our lives direction, the gift we covet most: to share the resurrection that leads to Pentecost.

Offering Prayer-L: Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, **C: Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

L: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

L: Calling God, you speak with power to your church. Open our hearts and minds to the new things you are declaring. Strengthen bishops, pastors, deacons, lay leaders, and teachers of the faith. Equip the baptized for your reconciling and redeeming work. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Renewing God, you provide the waters of the earth and in Jesus' baptism you reveal the waters of life. Cleanse and protect oceans, rivers, and watersheds (*local water sources may be named*). Bring relief to parched lands and to communities without access to safe water. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Righteous God, you never weary of establishing justice. Increase cooperation and constructive dialogue between nations. Guide local, national, and international authorities to govern with equity, vision, and integrity. We pray for those in military service, for peacemakers, and for our enemies. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Abiding God, your mercy is steadfast. Give sanctuary to people who flee from oppression, war, poverty, and famine. Sustain health care workers, caregivers, first responders, counselors, and all who help and heal. Comfort those who are grieving or experiencing crisis (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Blessing God, in Christ you gather the beloved community. Kindle the gifts of your Spirit in your people. Accompany the newly baptized, those recently ordained, and any beginning a new ministry. Inspire synodical leaders and congregational councils to serve with imagination and wisdom. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Promising God, your faithfulness endures throughout all generations. We give thanks for those who have died in Christ, trusting that we will be united with them and all the saints in Christ's resurrection life. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Red Worship Book pg. 152

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 our thanks and praise.

Holy, holy, holy.....

Red Worship Book pg. 153

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Red Worship Book pg. 154

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.

Communion Hymns "Spirit of Gentleness"

Red Worship Book 396

Refrain: Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free; Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

1 You moved on the waters, you called to the deep, then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep; and over the eons you called to each thing: "Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings."

Refrain

2 You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand, and you goaded your people with a law and a land;

and when they were blinded with idols and lies, then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.

Refrain

3 You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill, then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still; and down in the city you called once again, when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.

Refrain

4 You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes. From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams; our women see visions, our men clear their eyes. With bold new decisions your people arise.

Refrain

Communion Hymn “Love Has Come”

Red Worship Book 292

1 Love has come—a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

2 Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying? Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers; Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

3 Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas; Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Prayer after Communion

Blessing

L: The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor’s rod + bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

C: Amen.

Hymn “Go Tell It On the Mountain”

Red Worship Book 290

Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. **Refrain**

2 The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. **Refrain**

3 Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born; and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

the worship is ended ... let the service begin....

****The Noisy Offering” for January is for**

The Blessing Box, there will be a bowl as you exit the church.



Next Week’s Readings and Psalm

First Reading

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm

Psalm 40:1-11

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Gospel

John 1:29-42



Prayer Concerns and Sympathy ~ Virgil Seegebarth, Jerry Shober, Bradley Fairbanks, Leigha Ness, Kathy Thompson, Lana Jensen, Wally Guptill, Yvonne Guptill, Drew (Mindy's brother), and Marsha Skoog (friend of Patty Sweeny).

Care facility member ~Dorothy Svendsen.

For Health Care Workers, Firefighters, EMT's, those who serve to protect Policemen and women and military.

For world peace. For our companion synods.

For our missionaries: Jacqueline and Patrick Bencke

Announcements/Calendar

Sun. 8:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 9:30 am Worship/HC/Pastor Kate Mensing preaching; Take down Christmas decorations; leave at 3 pm for MN Wild Game.

Mon. 9 am Library; 4 pm Women's Romans Bible Study.

Tues. 9:30 am Women's Bible Study.

Wed. 4:30 pm Youth Choir; 5-7 pm Confirmation; 5-6:30 pm FiA; 6:30 pm Worship/Rick Dunkley preaching; 7-8 pm Youth Group.

Thurs. 8 am Men's Text Study.

Sat. 8 pm AA mtg.

Sun. 8:30 am Coffee Fellowship with BP checks; 9:30 am First Word Worship/HC/Pastor Debra Hanson-Carlson preaching; Church Council after Worship.



Thank you to Pastor Kate Mensing for preaching today!

USHERS



Ushers needed for 2023

This is an important part of worship and requires a small commitment of one month of Sundays a year.

Fact is, presently 7 of our ushers are 80 or older and 9 of our ushers are 70 or older. We need more ushers willing to serve in 2023 (especially for the month of October.) If you are not already an usher and would be willing to help, let Dennis Volden know (612-390-4829)



Out to Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, January 19th at 11 am at the Whistle Stop Café in Hinckley.

Please sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex. Thank You.

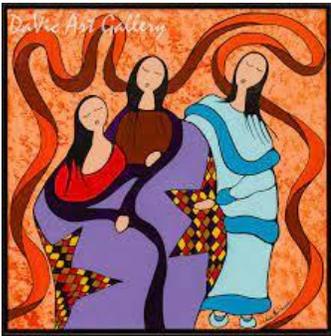
Annual Meeting, is Sunday, January 29th, immediately following Worship.



All confirmed members are encouraged to stay for the meeting. We need to have a quorum to vote or otherwise council will make the decisions.

We need to vote on church council positions that need to be filled; new board members whose terms are expiring; and many other positions; look at reports and approve the budget; vote on congregational project (s); and any other church business.

This is your chance to have your voice/vote heard/counted,
WE NEED YOU!!!



The Blanket Exercise, originally created by Kairos in collaboration with Indigenous communities in Canada, is an interactive learning experience that raises awareness of the nation-to-nation relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in the United States. Based on real-life experiences, the Blanket Exercise is designed to increase knowledge about the laws, policies, and programs used during nation building by having participants literally walk through U.S. history.

Please contact Elaine Garaghty if interested. (763-229-1035)



Mission Trip meeting Wednesday,
January 18th at 7 pm.