

WELCOME TO BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

God's Family Serving Christ with Love

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BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

JANUARY 10, 2021



*We gather not as perfect people,
but as forgiven people through Christ.*

Enter to Praise

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.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin— our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-5

Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for us. God created and continues to create new life.

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 29

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.

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

¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

SECOND READING: Acts 19:1-7

In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John's baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptizes them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them with gifts of the Spirit.

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." Alleluia. (Matt. 3:17)*

GOSPEL: Mark 1:4-11

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For the church throughout the world and its leaders, that guided by the Holy Spirit they proclaim the forgiveness of sins, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For wilderness and water, wind and wild beasts, and all living things on earth, that God's goodness is revealed through creation and faithful stewards care for all God has made, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For the nations of the world and their leaders, for laborers busy both day and night, and for peacemakers amid strife, that God inspire all people to use their strength wisely, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For the sick and those who provide medical care, for the imprisoned and those who show them mercy, for the lonely and those who provide companionship, for all who suffer (*especially for those on our prayer list*), that God shower compassion, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For the congregation gathered here, for students returning to school, for those seeking renewal in their daily work, that all the beloved of God experience grace and peace, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their labors, that their witness inspire us in our baptismal vocations, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus. Come and be fed.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 2021 Offering envelopes are in the office for pick up
- Open seat on Council for 2021, please contact office for more information or if you'd like to be on the ballot
- Save the Date: Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Feb. 7th – more details will follow on the format and time
- Vote for your favorite logo. You can see them in the Chimes (which is also on our website) and weekly email. Deadline: Jan. 15th
- Dwelling in the Word: offering two times this week. Mon at 2pm and Thurs at 7:30 pm

BLESSING

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✠ keep you in peace. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

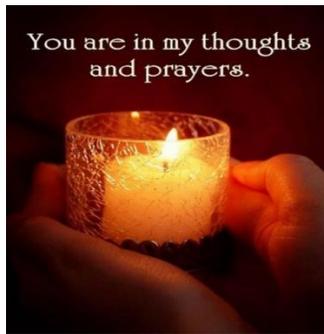
Go in peace. Be the light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Depart to Share

Please Pray For

Church Prayer List:

Bonnie Bender
Conrad & Judy Ellingson
Lynn Grueneberg
Bob O'Halloran
Elayne Hanson
Noretta Moran



Our Extended Family Prayer Concerns:

Julie Grueneberg (Lynn & Diane's daughter)
Brad Kohnke
Deb Moe & family (Sandra Sween's cousin)
Bryan Olsen (Brenda's brother-in-law)
Randy VonRuden
Betty Hayes (Chad Hayes' grandma)
Tom Kudelka
Steve Rohrbacher (Marie & Ed's son)
Lucca
Bill (Ann Ciske's father-in-law)
Diane Quick (Roger Duchow's sister)
Randy
Tom Teslik (Mark Teslik's son)
Rick Voight (Halley Harms' father)
Shannon Henderson
Dick & Rene' Johnson
Patty McGee
Natalie Pierce

Today's Worship Team

Sunday Morning Service 9am, 1/10

Music: Carla Gerhardt
Reader: Jeff Melby
Usher: Kory Anderson

Next Week's Worship Team

Sunday Morning Service 9am, 1/17

Music: Carla Gerhardt
Reader: _____
Usher: Kory Anderson

Worship Volunteers Needed

Please sign up to read and/or usher. Contact the office or sign up [here](#). THANK YOU!!



Please pick up at church during office hours or Sunday morning

**You can still
tune in at
9am Worship
to listen from
your car –
88.3 FM.**

**SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, Feb 7,
2021**



**For Church Logo
Deadline:
Jan. 15th**

Call in your vote, email the church office or fill out this form:

<https://forms.gle/bvEnZ1RdVkh8Bq1E7>

Council Seat Open in 2021

If interested contact church office. We will vote on this at congregational meeting.

Upcoming Commemorations

Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, died 1968

Friday, January 15, 2021

An American prophet of justice among races and nations, King was an eloquent preacher, a leader of the nonviolent resistance to race-segregated society, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Born on this date, he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

This Week:

Sunday, Jan 10

9 am Online Worship

Monday, Jan 11

10:30 am Tai Chi

2 pm Dwelling in the Word via Zoom w/ Pr Jen

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99320101294?pwd=U0NkUXBITnJNeVVxWHpqQINtclhXUT09>

Meeting ID: 993 2010 1294

Passcode: 587048

5:30 pm Call Committee Mtg

6:30 pm SREA Mtg

Dwelling
in the
WORD



Wednesday, Jan 13

10:30 am Tai Chi

5:30 Bible Chat w/ Pr Jen via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95374887575?pwd=SmZQajV1S1ZZMitxM2JOWUIQOTZJUT09>

Meeting ID: 953 7488 7575

Passcode: 327507

6:30 pm Confirmation Zoom Class Gr. 6th-8th

Thursday, Jan 14

7:30 pm Dwelling in the Word via Zoom w/ Chaplin Mark

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95992050322?pwd=QXRTdWRiQ2ljdIEzUmMyRC9aTWpVZz09>

Meeting ID: 959 9205 0322

Passcode: 949055

Dwelling
in the
WORD



Friday, Jan 15

CHIMES articles due to office

Deadline to VOTE for church LOGO – See January Chimes (which is also on our website) or the weekly email

10:30 am Tai Chi

Sunday, Jan 17

9 am Online Worship