

Baptism of Our Lord

January 7, 2024

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Jean Welch, piano solo – “The First Noel,” arr. Pinkzebra

GATHERING

**Call to Worship and Confession*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Silence for Reflection and Confession

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song – “Light of the Stable

(piano)

**Hail, hail to the newborn King let our voices sing Him our praises,
Hail, hail to the Guiding Light that brought us tonight to our Savior.
Halle, Hallelujah, Halle, Hallelujah, Halle, Hallelujah, Halle, Hallelujah.**

**Come now, let it shine so bright to the knowing Light of the Stable.
Kneel close to the Child so dear cast aside your fear and Be Thankful.
Hail, hail to the newborn King let our voices sing Him our Praises,
Hail, hail to the Guiding Light that brought us tonight to our Savior.
Halle, Hallelujah, Halle, Hallelujah, Halle, Hallelujah, Halle, Hallelujah.**

**Hail, hail to the newborn King let our voices sing Him our praises,
Hail, hail to the Guiding Light that brought us tonight to our Savior.
Halle, Hallelujah, Halle, Hallelujah, Halle, Hallelujah, Halle, Hallelujah.**

**Greeting and Prayer of the Day*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray ...

C: Amen.

**Sharing Christ’s Peace*

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

C: And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Children’s Sermon

Hymn of Praise – “Joy to the World” ELW 267, vv. 1 & 4

(organ)

**1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

4 **He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

WORD

Reading: Psalm 103:6-14

Reader: Kelly Hartz

⁶The LORD works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.
⁷He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.
⁸The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
⁹He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
¹⁰He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love towards those who fear him;
¹²as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.
¹³As a father has compassion for his children,
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.
¹⁴For he knows how we were made;
he remembers that we are dust.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading:* Mark 2:1-22

Readers: Pastor Adam & Kelly Hartz

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ²So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. ³Then some people came, bringing to him a

paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’ ⁶Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ⁷‘Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?’ ⁸At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, ‘Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? ⁹Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, “Your sins are forgiven”, or to say, “Stand up and take your mat and walk”?’ ¹⁰But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins’—he said to the paralytic— ¹¹‘I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.’ ¹²And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, ‘We have never seen anything like this!’

¹³Jesus went out again beside the lake; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. ¹⁴As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, ‘Follow me.’ And he got up and followed him.

¹⁵And as he sat at dinner in Levi’s house, many tax-collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples—for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax-collectors, they said to his disciples, ‘Why does he eat with tax-collectors and sinners?’ ¹⁷When Jesus heard this, he said to them, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.’

¹⁸Now John’s disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and people came and said to him, ‘Why do John’s disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?’ ¹⁹Jesus said to them, ‘The wedding-guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. ²⁰The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day.

²¹‘No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. ²²And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins.’

P: The gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: "New Beginnings"

Song of the Day – “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” ELW 242 (organ)

- 1 **Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heav'nly door and lives now inside us forever.**
- 2 **To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing,
his humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul and hymns of lovingkindness,
the thunder of his anthems roll to shatter all hatred and blindness.**
- 3 **In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.**
- 4 **Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story;
may God fill ev'ry day we share and bring us at last into glory.**

**The Apostles' Creed*

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.

**Prayers*

Stewardship Time

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling,” arr. Krentz
Jean Welch, piano solo

Stewardship is about our grateful response to God's grace for us. How do you respond? If you would like to financially support our ministry together, you can place a donation in an offering box or through our website. If you would like to support our ministry together through service, you can find a list of ministry teams online or on our ministry team menu. Consider joining a ministry team, or starting a new one, today!

–Please take a moment to sign into the Welcome Folder in your pew–

**Great Thanksgiving*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**Words of Institution*

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**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.

“We Three Kings” (WOV 646) (organ)

1. **We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**
*Refrain: Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*
2. **Born a king on Bethlehem’s plain, gold I bring to crown him again;
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. Refrain**
3. **Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, gladly raising, worshipping God Most High. Refrain**
4. **Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in a stone-cold tomb. Refrain**
5. **Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
Heav’n sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies. Refrain**

“You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore” ELW 817 (piano)

- 1 **You have come down to the lakeshore
seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,
but only asking for me to follow.**
*Refrain: Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes;
kindly smiling, you've called out my name.
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;
now with you, I will seek other seas.*
- 2 **You know full well what I have, Lord:
neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,
just these my fish nets and will for working. Refrain**
- 3 **You need my hands, my exhaustion,
working love for the rest of the weary--
a love that's willing to go on loving. Refrain**
- 4 **You who have fished other waters;
you, the longing of souls that are yearning:
O loving Friend, you have come to call me. Refrain**

**Post-Communion Blessing*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

**Closing Prayer*

SENDING

**Benediction*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you, the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

**Sending Song – “Teach Me to Dance”*

(piano)

*Refrain: Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart,
teach me to move in the pow’r of your Spirit,
teach me to walk in the light of your presence,
teach to me to dance to the beat of your heart.
Teach me to love with your heart of compassion,
teach me to trust in the word of your promise,
teach me to hope in the day of your coming,
teach to me to dance to the beat of your heart.*

1. **You wrote the rhythm of life, created heaven and earth,
in you is joy without measure.
So, like a child in your sight, I dance to see your delight,
for I was made for your pleasure, pleasure. Refrain**
2. **Let all my movements express a heart that loves to say ‘yes’,
a will that leaps to obey you.
Let all my energy blaze to see the joy in your face;
let my whole being praise you, praise you. Refrain**

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Hallie Mayner
Greeter: Hallie Mayner
Reader: Kelly Hartz
Ushers: Larry Sweatman & Gilbert Wellenreiter
Pastor: Adam Dichsen
Music Director: Jean Welch
Organist: Susan Roegge
Pianist: Jean Welch
Drummer: John Demien
Financial Assistants: Barb Davenport & Karen Sibert
Chancel Committee: Kris Roth
Coffee Hosts: Judy Dillard & Vicki Robson



Singers:

Benen Dichsen	Rigby Dichsen	Adam Krohe	Carol VanderKloot
Louis Dichsen	Kelly Hartz	Kris Roth	
Marilyn Dichsen	Terri Kimler	Melissa Street	

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson	Kelly Hartz	Patty Nelson	Monica Proefrock
Ken Devlin	Greg Kimler	Mike Oldenettel	Kelly Street
Marilyn Dichsen			

Song Credits

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With One Voice, © 1995 Augsburg-Fortress. Used by permission.

“Teach Me to Dance,” from **The Source**, Kevin Mayhew Limited, © 1998. CCLI#973583

What’s Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, January 7, 9:30am: Worship

10:45am: Sunday School

Wednesday, January 10, 7:00am: Men’s Prayer Group

6:00pm: Women of Faith at El Patron

Sunday, January 14, 9:30am: Worship
10:45am: Sunday School
10:45am: Worship Core Team

Monday, January 15, 11:30am: Potluck
12:00pm: Movie

Wednesday, January 17, 7:00am: Men's Prayer Group
10:00am: Discipleship Group in the Library

Thursday, January 18, 6:00pm: Church Council Meeting

News Updates

Sunday School

Calling all kids! After worship, fellowship, and snacks, we will gather for music and then head to our classes. We have two classes this year, one for pre-K through Kindergarten and the other for early elementary. If you have questions or are interested in helping, contact Patty Nelson at 217-653-3105.

Women of Faith Fellowship Night

Join the women of Faith for dinner at El Patron on **Wednesday, January 10th at 6:00pm**. Please RSVP to Monica at 217-737-0475 **by TODAY**.

Also, save the date for our 2nd annual **Galentine's Day** party on Wednesday, February 7th at 6:00pm. This year we'll have a waffle and bloom bar. Look for more information soon!

Doorbell Dinners

Our next week to deliver is January 8-12. A sign-up sheet is available in the gathering area on the counter by the Coffee Sales.

Annual Reports

Anyone who would like to have an **Annual Report** included in the Annual Report Packets for 2023, please have your report to the church office (by e-mail is preferred) **by January 14**. The Annual Meeting will be held on January 28, and we need time to duplicate the reports into a packet to distribute on Sunday, January 21.

Contribution Envelopes for 2024 are available in the gathering area.

Potluck & Movie for the Whole Family

Do you have January 15 off of work or Martin Luther King, Jr. Day? Are your kids home from school? Join us for "Journey to Bethlehem," a live-action Christmas musical celebration for the entire family that weaves classic Christmas melodies in to new pop songs in a music-infused retelling of the timeless story of Mary and Joseph and the birth of Jesus. Potluck at 11:30 and movie at 12:00. *Sharon Zuiderveld*

Discipleship Group

Join the Discipleship Group at **10:00am on January 17** in the Faith Library for our monthly get-together. If you have any questions about our group or are curious about how we spend our time together, please call Kelly Hartz at 217-502-1979 or email khartz@sompo-intl.com.

Music Rehearsals

Exaltation Ringers rehearse on some Sundays after the service at 10:45am in the Choir Room. We ring one Sunday each month. If you are interested in ringing, please let me know. Jean Welch, *Music Director*

Thank you from Pastor Adam and Family

Thank you all for the very generous Christmas gift you gave to our family! It will be a huge help with our personal expenses during sabbatical. We are so grateful to God for this opportunity to take time together and for the many blessings we share with our Faith Family. *The Dichsens*

Sabbatical Update

Pastor Adam's sabbatical is quickly approaching. On Sunday, January 28, we will send him off in prayer and commitment as we all see this time as an opportunity for renewal and growth. On Saturday, January 27, all are invited to a special lunch and workshop with guest presenter Pastor Jeff Linman who will ground us in Ephesians 3:20 and lead conversations of how God will empower more and new ministry together. Please plan to join us as we prepare for this important time. Beginning January 29, Pastor Paul Schwartzkopf will be our interim pastor and will take on all pastoral care responsibilities until Pastor Adam returns on May 5. For more information, see the January newsletter and "Sabbatical FAQ" on the coffee bar.

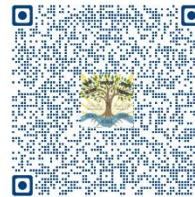
Fairly-Traded Coffee/Tea

Check out the coffee display from Equal Exchange. Simply select the product(s) you would like to purchase, and place the money in the container provided by the display (**\$6.50**)

regular; **\$7.50** decaf; **\$3.00** tea; **\$2.50** chocolate bars; **\$5.50** hot chocolate; **\$6.50** cashews). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “*coffee*” designated in the memo area.

Faith Directory

Thank you for your updated photos and information for our new digital directory! You can access it online by using this QR code. It is password protected, and the password is "faith". If you notice any changes or would like to add your photo, please contact the church office.



Sign-Up Sheets

are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*