

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 14, 2024

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Sandi Watts, organist

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 – “Angels from the Realms of Glory” ELW 275, vv. 1, 2, & 4 (*organ*)

- 1 **Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**
- 2 **Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**
- 4 **All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**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 – “You Are the Light of the World”

(piano)

1. **You are the light of the world, you are the light of the world,
So shine, shine, shine where you are, you are the light of the world.**
3. **You are a candle in the dark, you are a candle in the dark,
So shine, shine, shine where you are, you are a candle in the dark.**
4. **You are a star in the night, you are a star in the night,
So shine, shine, shine where you are, you are a star in the night.**

WORD

Reading: Psalm 126

Reader: Carol Kilver

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

² Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
'The LORD has done great things for them.'

³ The LORD has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

⁴ Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.

⁵ May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.

⁶ Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.

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

**Gospel Reading:* Mark 4:1-25

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 4th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Again he began to teach beside the lake. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the lake and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the lake on the land. ²He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: ³'Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. ⁶And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. ⁸Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.' ⁹And he said, 'Let anyone with ears to hear listen!'

¹⁰When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. ¹¹And he said to them, ‘To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; ¹²in order that
“they may indeed look, but not perceive,
and may indeed listen, but not understand;
so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.”’

¹³And he said to them, ‘Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables? ¹⁴The sower sows the word. ¹⁵These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. ¹⁶And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy. ¹⁷But they have no root, and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. ¹⁸And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word, ¹⁹but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²⁰And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.’

²¹He said to them, ‘Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket, or under the bed, and not on the lampstand? ²²For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed; nor is anything secret, except to come to light. ²³Let anyone with ears to hear listen!’ ²⁴And he said to them, ‘Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you. ²⁵For to those who have, more will be given; and from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.’

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

Sermon: "Digging Into Identity"

Song of the Day – “Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil” ELW 512 (piano)

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.**

**When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart be good soil.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

“Words for the Beginning of Your Christian Life”

(adapted from a poem by Rev. Sarah Speed)

Fallon Marie, if we could give you words for the very beginning –
for this journey we make together,
for the celebrations and the sorrows,
we would say, “Oh, dear child, how you are loved.”
But the thing about love is that you can’t stop there,
So, we would go on to say, “You are strong, stronger than you think.
And you are not alone – look at these parents who adore you,
Godparents who pray for you, and this congregation that surrounds you.
Know that you are enough, already enough.”

You haven’t done anything yet.
You’ve just been here, breathing, sleeping, laughing, playing –
and already you are enough.
And then we might say, “This world is a mess, but it is our home,
and you can make it better, so always try to make it better.”

And maybe most important of all:
“There is love that is bigger than our understanding,
that moves through this world, and that love is called God.
That love is here, here in this room, and that love knows your name by heart.”

Those are the words we would say to you
as you laugh and cry, stretch and splash in these waters on this day,
the first day of your Christian life.
Let God be your foundation.
Let love be your beginning.

P: God is our foundation. Love is our beginning. And in God’s great love, we are given a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. By water and the Word, God frees us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy

Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world. In the waters of baptism, God proclaims to us who we are. We are beloved children of God.

Presentation

Parents: We bring Fallon Marie to this Christian community and to the waters of Holy Baptism.

P: Fallon, you are a beloved child of God and today you are given the name Christian. To help you grow into your name, your parents are called to make promises.

Calla and Aaron, as you bring Fallon to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God's faithful people,
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in her hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture her in faith and prayer,
so that she may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help her grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P: Claire and Dalton, as godparents, you have a responsibility to pray for Fallon and help her always remember that she is a beloved child of God. Do you promise to nurture her in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Godparents: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

The congregation stands.

P: People of God, you have a responsibility to support and surround Fallon with Christian love, praying for her, discipling her, and serving with her. Do you promise to support Fallon and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Profession of Faith

P: There is evil in this world that we name devil and brokenness we call sin. We are powerless to overcome them, but the grace of God gives us strength to stand against them and forgiveness when we fall. Together, we profess our desire to live in this grace and in opposition to this brokenness.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,
and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C: I renounce them.

P: As we live together in Christ, we are made one in baptism and profess one faith. It is this faith that centers us on the grace of our Triune God – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by 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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Thanksgiving at the Font

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

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

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

Water is poured into the font.

P: We give you thanks, O God. 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. In the waters of the flood you called Noah and brought forth new life. By Moses, you called the people of Israel to follow you through the waters and led them from slavery into freedom. You nourished them with water from the rock and brought them to the promised land. At the river your Son was baptized by John and you proclaimed to all that he is your “beloved child.” In the waters of baptism, you create, you bring forth new life in us, you set us free from the power of sin, and you proclaim that we too are your beloved Children.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Holy Baptism

The congregation sits

P: Fallon Marie, in this water, God calls you by name. Beloved child of God, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Laying on of Hands

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Fallon with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C: Amen

Anointing with Oil

P: In the Old Testament, oil is used to anoint and set people apart. In baptism, we are set apart as God’s beloved children to live lives of love, justice, and mercy. Fallon, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C: Amen.

Giving of a Candle

Congregational Representative: In John 8:12, Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. The one who follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” In Matthew 5:14, Jesus said, “You are the light of the world... Let your light shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to God in heaven.” Calla and Aaron, we give you this candle to light again and again as Fallon grows up. Remember this day and always know that she is and will always be a beloved child of God.

Welcome

P: Together we say:

C: Fallon Marie Merriman, you are beloved and blessed. By the grace of God that flows in the waters of baptism, we are drenched in our love for you, washed in our delight for you, and born anew by the grace that flows from the heart of our God who bore you to us. We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share. Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and in bearing God’s creative and redeeming love to all the world.

Every day we are to remember our baptism and remember that God’s promises are for us as well. We have just heard the proclamation that Fallon is God’s beloved child. Now it is time for you to hear it for yourself. Turn to your neighbor and exchange the sweet assurance that you are also God’s beloved child as you say, “Jesus loves you!”

**Prayers*

Stewardship Time

“In the Bleak Midwinter, arr. Getty
Kelly Hartz, Vocalist

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.

Communion Songs

“Christ, Be Our Light” ELW 715 (organ)

1. **Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.**

*Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.*

2. **Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has pow’r to save us. Make us your living voice. Refrain**

3. **Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. *Refrain***
4. **Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. *Refrain***
5. **Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come. *Refrain***

“Go Tell It on the Mountain” ELW 290 (piano)

*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***

**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.**

**1. Cold is the wind that blows in the night.
The darkness is deepest where there’s no light.
Who will You send to carry the flame? Who will proclaim your name?
People are lost and don’t even know it.
If we know the way, then why don’t we show it?
Ignite the flame, O Lord fan the spark that we may shine in the dark.**

*Chorus: Set us ablaze, O Lord. Set us ablaze to tell Your story.
Shout aloud the hope of glory so that the lost will find the way.
Set us ablaze, O Lord, and fill your church with holy fire,
To share your love our one desire All our days. Set us ablaze.*

**2. For You, Lord, alone are the one who can save.
Your cross alone, and Your empty grave.
Hearts to renew, and sins to forgive that all of the world might live.
Ignite the flame, O Lord, send your Spirit,
that we proclaim, and that they may hear it
Send us to show them the way that is true. Send us to lead them to You.**

Chorus twice

**I’ve got a calling. I’ve got a mission.
Out of the boat and on with the fishing, Ablaze!
Hearts that are burning, minds that are learning,
filled with a yearning to see lives turning. Ablaze!**

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Song Credits

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“Ablaze,” by Michael A. Schmid c/o True Vine Music, © 2004. CCLI#973583

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Kay Schnitker
Greeter: Lillian Korous
Reader: Carol Kilver
Usher: Pat Glyshaw
Pastor: Adam Dichsen
Music Director: Jean Welch
Organist: Sandi Watts
Pianist: Jean Welch
Drummer: John Demien
Financial Assistants: Greg Kimler & Monica Proefrock
Chancel Committee: Pat Glyshaw
Coffee Host: Kay Schnitker



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 | | | |

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, January 14, 9:30am: Worship

10:45am: Sunday School

11:15am: 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

Sunday, January 21, 9:30am: Worship – Baptism, Emma Kate Secrist

10:45am: Sunday School

Wednesday, January 24, 7:00am: Men's Prayer Group

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.

Annual Reports

Annual Reports are available in the Gathering Area on the counter by the Coffee Sales. The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 21 at 10:45am; please take one (1) report per household and bring it back with you for the Annual Meeting next Sunday.

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 Wednesday, 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.

Women of Faith Fellowship

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!

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.

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*

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.



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.

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!*