

# St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill

## Epiphany 5

February 5, 2023



### Worship Assistants

**Pastor:** Rev. Norman Sulaica, Jr.

**Accompanist:** Linda Pieper

**Acolyte:** Alex Grote

**Sanctuary Prep:** Sandy Janner, Carol Haarmeyer

**Tellers:** Donna Skrla, Gary Schulze

**Communion Bread:** Donna Bentke

**Screen Crew:** Janice Fairlie, Kallie Krause

**Memorial Committee:** Deanna Giese, Susi Bentke

**Ushers:** Johnny Randermann Family

**Council Members:** Herbert Klatte, Jr., Ken Seeker

**Lay Reader:** Jennifer Anderson

**Altar Preparations:** Connie Rohde, Janet Wehring

**Church Ministers:** St John Members

Please tune to 87.9 FM for access to the service in the church parking lot on Sundays.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand as you are able.*

### THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Peace be with you.

R. Peace be with you.

***ELW Pg. 152***

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

### GATHERING HYMN

**Oh, For a Thousand Tongues To Sing (v. 1, 2, 3, 6)**

***ELW #886***

### INTROIT with Psalm 119:12

Blessed are you, O LORD;  
**teach me your statutes!**

### APOSTOLIC GREETING

***ELW #147***

## KYRIE

*ELW Pg. 147-148*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
**Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### CANTICLE OF PRAISE

**This is the Feast of Victory for Our God**

*ELW Pg. 148-150*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stand watch over your family, O Lord, that we who depend entirely on your heavenly grace may always be protected in the mighty fortress of your love; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### FIRST READING:

**Isaiah 58:3-9a**

<sup>3</sup>“Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?’ Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers.<sup>4</sup> Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high.<sup>5</sup> Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the LORD? <sup>6</sup>“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? <sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? <sup>8</sup>Then

shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. <sup>9</sup>Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’”

Word of God, word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 112:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD  
and have great delight in his commandments!

<sup>2</sup>**Their descendants will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

<sup>3</sup>Wealth and riches will be in their house,  
and their righteousness will last forever.

<sup>4</sup>**Light shines in the darkness for the upright;  
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup>It is good for them to be generous in lending  
and to manage their affairs with justice.

<sup>6</sup>**For they will never be shaken;  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

<sup>7</sup>They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;  
their heart is right; they put their trust in the LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**Their heart is established and will not shrink,  
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

<sup>9</sup>They have given freely to the poor,  
and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. <sup>2</sup>For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

<sup>3</sup>And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, <sup>4</sup>and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. <sup>6</sup>Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away.

<sup>7</sup>But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.

<sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him” — <sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

Word of God, word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.*

**\*GOSPEL:****Matthew 5:13-20**

<sup>13</sup>{Jesus said,} “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be re-stored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. <sup>14</sup>You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. <sup>17</sup>Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup>For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup>Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON**

Pastor Norman Sulaica, Jr.

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**O Christ, Our Home (v. 1, 3, 5)**

**ELW #604**

**CREED**

**ELW Pg. 105**

**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 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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Each petition of the prayers ends with the following response:*

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**OFFERING HYMN**

**Create in Me a Clean Heart**

***ELW #186***

**OFFERTORY**

**Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

***ELW #884***

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**DIALOGUE**

***ELW Pg. 152***

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**SANCTUS**

***ELW Pg. 153***

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n 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.**

**EUCCHARIST PRAYER**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever  
**Amen.**

**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.

#### **AGNUS DEI**

**Lamb of God**

*ELW Pg. 154*

**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, grant us peace.**

#### **DISTRIBUTION**

#### **COMMUNION HYMNS**

**Let Us Break Bread Together  
Take My Life, That I May Be  
Shine, Jesus, Shine**

*ELW #471  
ELW #685  
ELW #671*

#### **DECLARATION OF GRACE**

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

#### **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

#### **SENDING HYMN**

**Onward Christian Soldier (v. 1, 3, 4)**

**1 Onward, Christian soldiers,**



marching as to war,  
with the cross of Jesus  
going on before.  
Christ, the royal master,  
leads against the foe;  
forward into battle,  
see, his banners go!

*Refrain*

Onward, Christian soldiers,  
marching as to war,  
with the cross of Jesus  
going on before.

3 Crowns and thrones may perish,  
kingdoms rise and wane,  
but the church of Jesus  
constant will remain;  
gates of hell can never  
'gainst the church prevail.  
We have Christ's own promise,  
and that cannot fail. *Refrain*

4 Onward, then, you faithful,  
join our happy throng;  
blend with ours your voices  
in the triumph song.  
Glory, laud, and honor  
unto Christ the king.  
We through countless ages  
with the angels sing: *Refrain*

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace , and let your light shine so that they may see the wisdom of the cross.  
Thanks be to God!



Altar flowers are given to the  
glory of God by Connie & Barnay Glaesmann  
in memory of Eugene Seeker.



Flowers are needed for several Sundays in February and other additional Sundays. Please check the Flower Chart in the Annex for available dates.

**Contact Information for Pastor Norm**

Pastor Norm can be reached in either of the following ways:  
 Cell Phone Number (361) 362-9108 Or  
 Email: [pastornorm2003@yahoo.com](mailto:pastornorm2003@yahoo.com)

**2023 ST JOHN COUNCIL MEMBERS**

President.....Herbert Klatte, Jr.  
 Vice-President..... Kenneth Seeker  
 Treasurer ..... Sharon Neutzler  
 Secretary.....Rita Gaskamp  
 Community Concerns..... India Randermann  
 Evangelism.....Josh Clay  
 Financial Secretary..... Jeannie Kroll  
 Parish Ed ..... Stephanie Koehler  
 Property..... Colton Maass  
 Worship & Music..... Virginia Altman

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## Monday, February 6th

10:00AM Bible Study

6:00PM Executive Meeting

## Wednesday, February 8th

2:00PM Game Day

5:00PM Confirmation Class

7:00PM Choir Practice

## Thursday, February 9th

2:00PM Ladies Aid

## Saturday, February 11th

9:30AM First Communion Class

### First Communion Class

February 11, 2023 from 9:30AM - 12:00PM

There will be an instructional class with bread being baked and the making of a Chalice with the children. If you have an eligible child, please make plans for them to attend.



Please remember to have any changes that will affect the weekly bulletin to the church secretary by noon on Mondays so that the bulletin can be updated with the correct information.

## Bible Study Series

A weekly Bible study is being held each Monday at 10:00AM.



Please join in this learning opportunity and for the fellowship.

# *Valentine's Day*

The Sunday School classes will have a Valentine Day celebration on Sunday, February 12th during Sunday School. All youth are invited to attend this Valentine "treat".

# Young Women's Circle



Will be meeting on the first Sunday of each month and will meet, Sunday, February 5, 2023 @ 4 pm St. John's Activity Center

***Today at 11:00AM, Pizza at Mr. Gatti's followed by Bowling at the Bowling Alley. All Junior High and High School age students are invited to attend.***



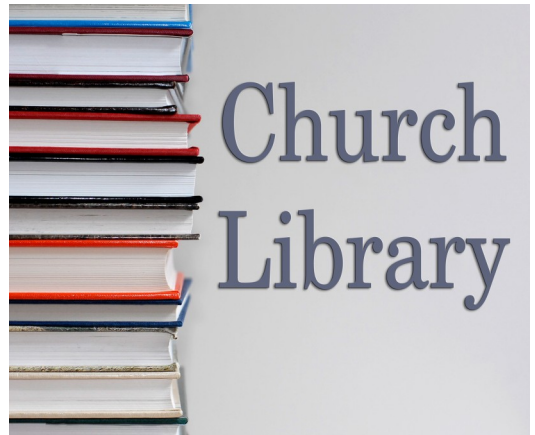
## Game Day

Each 2nd Wednesday of the month, there will be a Game Day at the church from 2:00pm - 5:00pm.

Join us for fun, games and fellowship. All ages are welcome.



Work is being done to reopen our church library. The library will be located in the meeting room across from the Pastor's office. Please feel free to help us fill out shelves by donating any Christian fiction or non-fiction books. They can be new or used, and can be for adults or children. A box is located for the collection in the narthex of the church. Thank you for any help with this. We will keep you posted on the progress towards when the opening occurs.



**Remember in Prayers Our Church Family:**

Mavis Smith Janice Cordova Sydney Wagner Florence Bentke  
Ella Ruemke Gilbert Spinn Helen Gaskamp Cynthia Wilson  
Linda King Jerry Randermann Mary Ann Luce Connie Seward Justin  
Reuter Dorothy Wiesepepe Mark Marburger Tom Bentke Earline Moody  
Allene Holtkamp Verna Mae Sefcik Ruth Finke Peggy & Milton Bosse Donald Lange Emery & Helen Schulze  
Carol Crosby Mike Altman Dennis Moehlmann Sandy Kite Diana Williams



**Those celebrating baptismal anniversaries:** Gerald Wehring, Leigh Cavner, Deanna Giese, Marjorie Hohlt, Canaan Wilkerson, Dorothy Haevischer, Trey Boeker, Kayden Patterson, Al Steinbach, Wesley Neuendorff and Steve Skrla

**Those celebrating wedding anniversaries:** Ben & Carolyn Kessel. Kim & Bruce Weilbacher

**Our Family and Friends:**

Aaron Batot Kennedy Altman  
Amanda Gurka Mark Hundemer  
Ann Fogt Marvin Surrect  
Carol Lieber Missy Goldmith  
Christy Dallmeyer Nicole Clark  
Corrie Newland Patty Addicks  
Dorothy Bowles Roger Ellermann  
Fred Smith Shannon Wellmann

Sue Maass  
Wayne Hueske

**Please notify the church office of prayer requests by writing a note on the back of your attendance card. Thank you!**

**Remember to pickup your 2023 member offering envelopes in the Narthex.**



**The 2023 flower chart is posted in the Annex so that you may sign up to place flowers in the church. Flowers are needed for some Sundays in January.**

**REACHING YOUR CHURCH OFFICE**

Linda Crabtree prairiehillsecretary@gmail.com Church Office Phone: 979-836-8666  
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday 8:00am-4:00pm Website: www.stjohnprairiehill.org



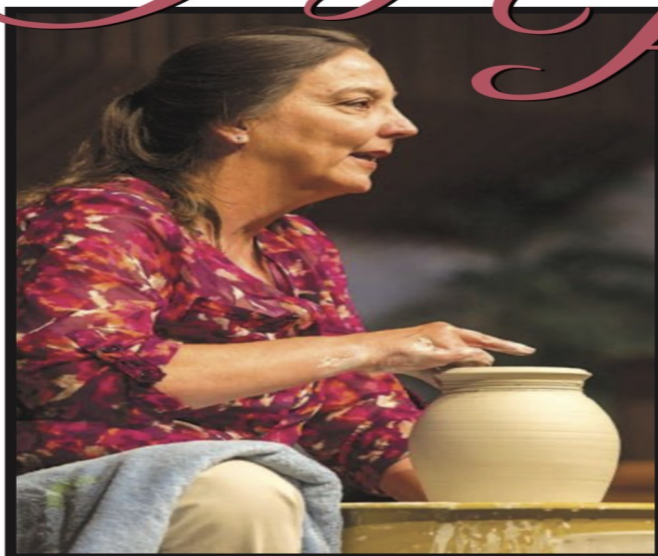
There will be no Sunday School classes on February 19th or March 19th.



## **CHOIR PRACTICE**

Choir practice is held each Wednesday at 7:00PM. The choir is looking for men of the congregation to join and share their voices. Practice this month will be on February 8th and 15th with the Ash Wednesday week practice to be determined. The choir will sing at the worship service on February 26th.

# Joy THE Potter



**RACHEL NORRIS**

**Feb. 11, 2023**

10:30 am - noon  
Brenham Presbyterian Church  
900 S. Jackson St.

The public is invited to Rachel's inspiring testimony and pottery demonstration.

Sandwiches and beverages to follow, while they last.

Hosted by: CNS

