

St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill

Baptism of Our Lord

January 7, 2024



Worship Assistants

Pastor: Rev. Norman Sulaica, Jr.

Ladies Aid : Carolyn Kessel

Lay Reader: Connie Rohde

Sanctuary Prep: Rachel Church, Sherry Randermann

Accompanist: Linda Pieper

Ushers: Chad Westerfeld, Larry Pieper

Acolyte: Irelyn Antkowiak

Church Ministers: St John Members

Screen Crew: Steve Skrla, Barnay Glaesmann

Communion Bread: Donna Bentke

Council Members: Stephanie Koehler, Gayle
Bednar

Tellers: Charles Gaskamp, Lauren Maass

Memorial Committee: Deanna Giese, Susi
Bentke

Altar Preparations: Connie Rohde, Janet
Wehring

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

ELW Pg. 152

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Peace be with you.

R. Peace be with you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word and deed by my fault, by my own most mischievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

The almighty and merciful Lord grant your pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.

I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN

Gather Us In (v. 1-3)

ELW #532

INTROIT

Psalm 45:17

I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;
therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

ELW Pg. 147

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.

Please be seated.

PRESENTATION AND INSTALLATION OF PARISH LEADERS

In Holy Baptism, we are set apart for the mission and ministry of Christ's Church, to serve in our own unique ways, using the talents and gifts that God entrusted to us. As Jesus commissioned his disciples after his resurrection, saying: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19) The following brothers and sisters in the faith have been elected/appointed by this congregation to serve Christ's mission in a capacity of leadership, for the good of the entire faith community. We ask them to come forward as their names are read:

The parish leaders come forward, as their names are read.

Concerning our mutual ministry in Christ and our calling to serve, St. Paul writes in his letter to the Ephesians:

"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call: one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4:1-6)

"He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to full maturity, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11-13)

The minister addresses the gathered leaders.

Will you accept this position of leadership and responsibility within St John Lutheran Church Of Prairie Hill, in submission to the Word of God?

R: I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Will you strive to be an example of the Christian faith and life by your daily witness, and by your faithful participation in worship through Word and Sacrament?

R: I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Will you promote harmony in this faith community, and use your God-given gifts in service to the Lord's mission, by striving to be a faithful disciple of Christ in the position to which you have been called to serve?

R: I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the congregation.

Will you, as the people of God, by our Lord's grace and mercy, pray for, uphold and support these brothers and sisters in their positions of leadership in this congregation?

We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.

The minister addresses the gathered leaders.

May the Lord who has given you the will to do these things graciously give you the strength and spirit to carry them out. You are hereby installed as *Council Members, Sunday School Superintendent and Assistant Sunday School Superintendent.*

Let us pray: Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have called these people to serve in leadership roles in the parish, to work together for the mission and ministry of this congregation, and to encourage all the baptized to live faithfully. Bless them and their work by pouring out your Holy Spirit upon them. Give them your holy wisdom, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Here I Am Lord

ELW #574

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, in Jesus' baptism you declared him to be your beloved Son and set him apart as your agent of grace for your creation. May we who are baptized into his life also be sent as agents of grace in your world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

FIRST READING:

Genesis 1:1-5

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³And 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.

RESPONSIVE PSALM:

Psalm 29

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,

ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his 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.

**⁴The 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;

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

⁷The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire; the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;

the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

**⁸The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the forests bare.**

⁹And in the temple of the LORD
all are crying, "Glory!"

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

¹¹The LORD shall give strength to his people;
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

SECOND READING

Romans 6:1-11

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia

SCREEN

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia.**

***GOSPEL**

Mark 1:4-11

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 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 when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O' Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Norman Sulaica, Jr.

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Shall We Gather at the River (v. 1-3)

ELW #423

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

OFFERING HYMN *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful* *ELW #184*

OFFERTORY *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* *ELW #884*

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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

ELW Pg. 153

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.
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

Let us pray.

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.

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.**

Please be seated.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God

SCREEN

**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
Morning Has Broken
What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

*ELW #471
ELW #556
ELW #742*

Please stand as you are able.

DECLARATION OF GRACE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our 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

Go, My Children with My Blessing

ELW #543

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

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



Monday, January 8th

10:00AM Bible Study

1:00PM Memorial Committee Meeting

6:00PM Council Meeting

6:30PM Jump Start

Reports Submission Deadline

Tuesday, January 9th

6:30AM Food Pantry

9:00AM Music Planning

Wednesday January 10th

2:00PM Game Day

4:30PM Confirmation

6:30PM Choir Practice

Thursday, January 11th

2:00PM Ladies Aid

6:00PM Faith Lessons

Saturday, January 13th

Parish Hall Reserved

Sunday School Classes

Sunday School will resume again on January 14th, 2024

The 2024 flower chart has been posted in the Annex so that you may sign up to place flowers in the church. You may sign up for flowers by checking the flower chart for available dates.

**Member Offering Envelopes are
available in the Narthex for 2024.**

Confirmation Class

Confirmation classes will resume January 10th at 4:30PM.

Bod4God

Pastor Norm is continuing his Bod4God journey.

Bod4God is centered around scripture and weight loss. His purpose is to encourage each of you to commit to raising money for our youth to attend camp and also to encourage a healthier you. A sign up sheet to support this Weight-A-Thon will be available in the Narthex and remain throughout the event. You can make a financial commitment for every pound Pastor Norm loses or a single donation. Bod4God will resume in January 15th. He will step back on the scale on January 21st, 2024.

Special Envelope for the month of January is NALC Disaster Response

Faith Lessons Prophet and Kings of Israel

Join us for a 5-week study from the holy Lands Teacher and Professor, Ray Vander Laan. The study will take us to Megiddo, Mount Carmel, Lachish, Negev, and Arad. We will explore ancient ruins and scripture. Each lesson will grow our faith in God. Our second week journey through the Prophets and Kings of Israel begins 6pm on January 11th.

Choir

Choir practice resumes January 10th, 2024. Consider joining!

Young Women's Circle is today at 4:00PM.

Bible Study

Bible study will be on Monday, January 8th at 10:00AM.

Church Gift Shop and Library

Take the opportunity to visit the library and see what is available for you!

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

Church Council President Ken Seeker. (512) 801--8663

Semi Annual Congregational Meeting

The semi-annual meeting of the congregation will be held on January 28, 2024 after the worship service.. Look for your meeting information in the mail.



Prayer Requests for our Church Family:

Mavis Smith Janice Cordova Sydney Wagner Florence Bentke Gilbert Spinn Helen Gaskamp
Cynthia Wilson Linda King Jerry Randermann Connie Seward Dorothy Wiesepeape Mark Marburger
Tom Bentke Earline Moody Verna Mae Sefcik Ruth Finke Milton Bosse Donald Lange
Jim & Sandy Kite Mike Altman Emery & Helen Schulze Dennis Moehlmann Diana Williams
Lloyd Neutzler Mollie Grote Cookie Engeling Troy Seeker

Those celebrating baptismal anniversaries: Alexandra Amann, Robert Fairlie, Jr., Chuck Hess, Allen Parker, David Stegent, Mark Williams, Judy Wagner, Kayla Rosenbaum

Those Celebrating wedding anniversaries: None

Prayer Request for Family and Friends of our Members:

Aaron Batot	Gladys Schwartz	Rita Huckert
Alan Pittman	Gloria Hanath	Roger Ellermann
Albert Lee & Caroline Linke	James Lee	RV Pittman
Aliza Jones	Joe Deatherage	Sara Hardy
Amanda Gurka	Larry Dean Koch	Shannon Mitschke
Ann Fogt	Leah McGee	Shannon Wellmann
Blake Townsend	Kelsey Matthies	Sue Beall
Carol Lieber	Kennedy Altman	Tess Loberg
Christy Dallmeyer	Mark Hundemer	Wayne Hueske
Connie Cadenhead	Mike McIntyre	
Dorothy Bowles	Missy Goldsmith	<i>Please note on your prayer card</i>
Ellie & Eilla Rosenbaum	Nicole Clark	<i>those individuals to be added</i>
Floyd & Joan Engeling	Otto Kemper	<i>or removed from the list.</i>



Installation of New Council Members

New Council members will be installed this morning. Please join in welcoming the new members and giving thanks to those outgoing council members.

2024 St John Council Members

President	Kenneth Seeker	Evangelism.....	Cindy Clay
Vice-President	Gerald Herrmann	Financial Secretary.....	Cassie Lynch
Treasurer.....	Regina Holtkamp	Parish Ed.....	Stephanie Koehler
Secretary.....	Rita Gaskamp	Property.....	Colton Maass
Community Concerns.....	Gayle Bednar	Worship & Music.....	Virginia Altman

Welcome to our new members, Gerald Herrmann, Regina Holtkamp, Cindy Clay, Gayle Bednar and Cassie Lynch.

Many thanks to outgoing council members Herbert Klatte, Jr., Sharon Neutzler, India Randermann, Josh Clay, and Jeannie Kroll for their dedication in serving our church.

Thanks to all of the above for volunteering their time.

Memorial Committee

**The Memorial Committee will have on meeting
on January 8th at 1:00PM.**

Jump Start

Jump Start will meet at 6:30PM on Monday, January 8th.

Annual Report

All reports should be submitted to the church secretary by Monday, January 8th so that the information may be mailed to members.

Food Pantry

Food Pantry distribution is Tuesday, January 9th from 6:30-8:00AM.

Game Day

Join in the activities on Wednesday, January 10th at 2:00PM for Game Day.

Ladies Aid

Ladies Aid will meet on Thursday, January 11th at 2:00PM.





THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

MARK 1:9–11