

St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill

Epiphany 4

January 28, 2024



Worship Assistants

Pastor: Rev. Norman Sulaica, Jr.

Ladies Aid : Carolyn Kessel

Lay Reader: Laura Sulaica

Sanctuary Prep: Rachel Church, Sherry Randermann

Accompanist: Linda Schulze

Ushers: Chad Westerfeld, Larry Pieper

Acolyte: Arabella Clay

Church Ministers: St John Members

Screen Crew: Steve Skrla, Barnay Glaesmann

Communion Bread: Donna Bentke

Council Members: Ken Seeker, Gerald Herrmann

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.

Holy and gracious God,

I confess that I have sinned against you this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me, that I may rest in peace.

By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiven. We rest now in his peace and rise in the morning to serve him. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

ELW #733

INTROIT

Psalm 32:10

Many are the sorrows of the wicked,

but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord.

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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF THE DAY*Let us pray.*

O God, you know the perilous choices we are prone to make that fall short of your desire for human faithfulness and obedience. Without you, our fragile nature cannot survive. Support us with your Word of truth, that we may grow in faith in the midst of our trials. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.**FIRST READING:****Deuteronomy 15:15-20**

¹⁵“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers — it is to him you shall listen — ¹⁶just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ ¹⁷And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. ²⁰But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**RESPONSIVE PSALM:****Psalm 111**¹Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

²**Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them.**

³Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴**He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;
the Lord is gracious and merciful.**

⁵He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.

⁶**He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

⁷The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy;

- ⁸ **they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**
- ⁹ He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!
- ¹⁰ **The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever!**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

¹Concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. ²If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. ³But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. ⁴Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth — as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords” — ⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. ⁷However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? ¹¹And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. ¹²Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Thy Word

SCREEN

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

*GOSPEL

Mark 1:21-28

²¹{Jesus, Simon, Andrew, James and John} went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath {Jesus} entered the synagogue and was teaching. ²²And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. ²³And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴“What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are — the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and

come out of him!”²⁶ And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him.²⁷ And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.”²⁸ And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.
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 *Take My Life, That I May Be (v. 1, 2, 5, 6)* **ELW #685**

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.

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing.

Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer 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

Holy, Holy

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, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all. **Amen.**

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**Amen.,
hallowed be thy name**

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
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
**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

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;
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMNS	<i>Break Now the Bread of Life</i>	<i>ELW #515</i>
	<i>Give Me Jesus</i>	<i>ELW #770</i>
	<i>There Is Balm in Gilead</i>	<i>ELW #614</i>

Please stand as you are able.

DECLARATION OF GRACE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, 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	<i>Blest Be the Tie That Binds</i>	<i>ELW #656</i>
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace and give thanks to the Lord with your whole heart.

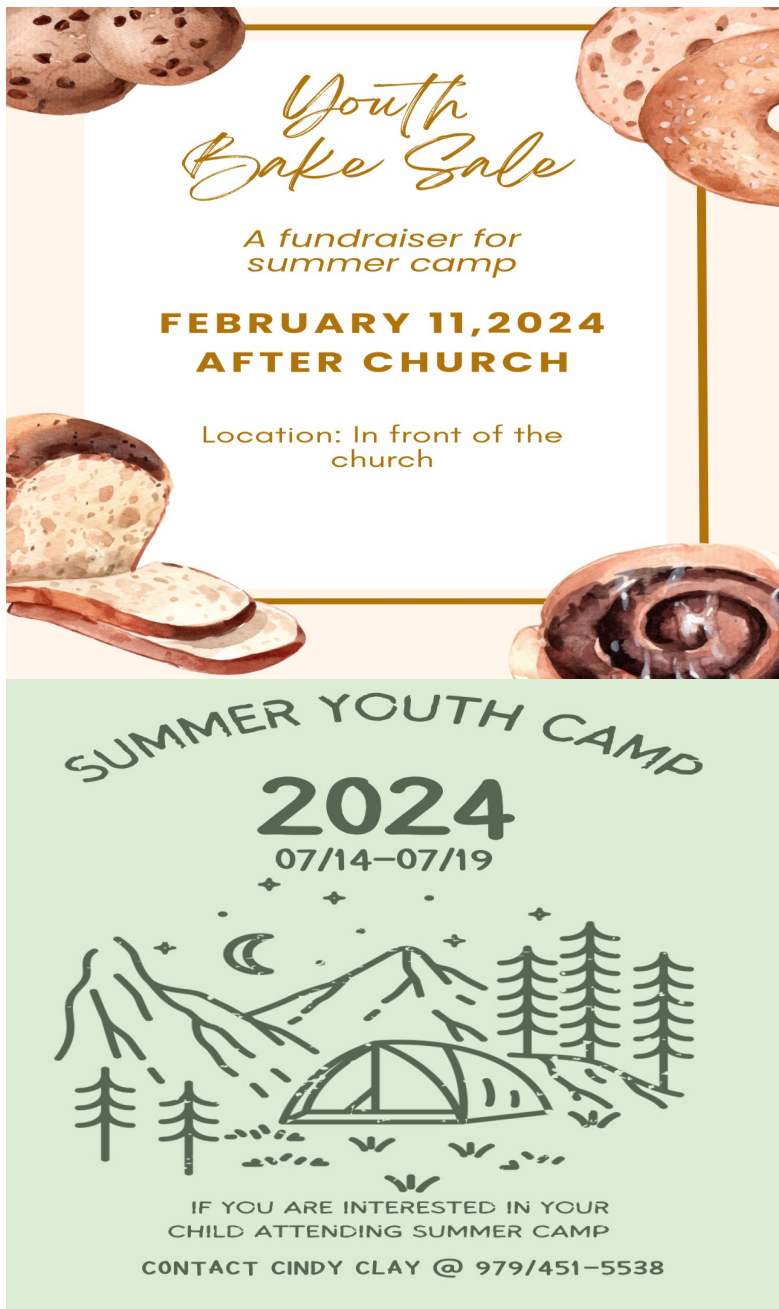
Thanks be to God!



**Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God
by Donna Haarmeyer in memory
of her father, Franklin Haarmeyer.**

Semi Annual Congregational Meeting

The semi-annual meeting of the congregation will be held after the worship service today.



Youth Bake Sale

*A fundraiser for
summer camp*

**FEBRUARY 11, 2024
AFTER CHURCH**

Location: In front of the
church

SUMMER YOUTH CAMP
2024
07/14-07/19



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN YOUR
CHILD ATTENDING SUMMER CAMP
CONTACT CINDY CLAY @ 979/451-5538

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 29th

10:00AM Bible Study

6:00PM Bod4God

Tuesday, January 30th

9:00AM Music Planning

Wednesday January 31st

4:30PM Confirmation

6:30PM Choir Practice

Thursday, February 1st

10:00AM Naomi Circle

6:00PM Faith Lessons

Camp Early Bird Deadline

St. John Women's Event

Ladies, please mark your calendars for Sat., February 17, 2024 at 10:30AM in the Parish Hall for Painting and Devotion with Terry Boeker. Terry is an extremely talented artist, and will guide us to create a special canvas. Supplies will be provided.

Member Offering Envelopes for 2024 are available in the Narthex.

Lawn Care

The Church is looking for lawn care services. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, contact Colton Maass at (979) 251-2818.

Choir

Choir practice is January 31st at 6:30PM Consider joining!

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 meet January 29th at 6:00PM. Weigh -in will be at the Easter Sunrise Service.

Special Envelope for the month of January is
NALC Disaster Response

2024 St John Council Members

President	Kenneth Seeker	Evangelism.....	Cindy Clay
President Elect.....	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

Naomi Circle

Naomi Circle meets February 1st at 10:00AM.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation classes is Wednesday January 31st at 4:30PM.

Bible Study

Bible study will be on Monday, January 29th 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

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 fifth and final week of the journey through the Prophets and Kings of Israel begins at 6:00PM on February 1st.

Beginning, February 13th, the Rachel Circle will meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10:00AM.

Prayer Requests for our Church Family:

Mavis Smith Janice Cordova Sydney Wagner Florence Bentke Gilbert Spinn Helen Gaskamp Mollie Grote
Cynthia Wilson Linda King Jerry Randermann Connie Seward Dorothy Wiesepape 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 Cookie Engeling
Troy Seeker Jase Lackey

Those celebrating baptismal anniversaries: Charles Gaskamp, Wayne Ehlert, Gayle Bednar, Lauren Davis, Garrett Schramme, Karen Spinn and Amber Westerfeld

Those Celebrating wedding anniversaries: John & Sandra Tillman

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	
Ellie & Eilla Rosenbaum	Nicole Clark	
Floyd & Joan Engeling	Otto Kemper	

Please note on your prayer card those individuals to be added or removed from the list.

The 2024 flower chart has been posted in the Annex. You may sign up for flowers by checking the flower chart for available dates.