



BAPTISM – WATER AND THE WORD – CHILDREN OF GOD

Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” Matthew 19:13-14



Pastor Walt Wangerin writes, “In the waters of our baptism we walk wet,” I love these words. Everyday we are walking wet as God’s beloved children.

Baptism is a sacrament, a visible means of an invisible grace. It is characterized by an earthly element, like water, wine, bread, something that has a promise attached to it, something Jesus has said, leaving no room for judgement, “Do it.”

In baptism we are grafted into a family—the church, the body of Christ, “the communion of saints.” We have a whole body around and about us, our brothers and sisters, the baptized. They belong to us as we belong to them. They are called to whisper the promise that we are one with each other even when life divides us. Sin divides us and the promise of Christ in the waters of our baptism washes away that sin daily and sets us on our feet to walk as God’s holy ones.

I was baptized at United Lutheran in Grand Forks. After the Grand Forks, North Dakota flood 25 years ago we went to see the damage at the church and help with the cleanup. I learned the one thing they made sure to save out of the chapel was the baptismal font. They were worshiping at the local funeral home, we joined them, and there was the font where I and many others were baptized. A rainbow was above it on the wall. Reminding me to keep walking wet in the promises of God.

When you take a shower or bath or even drink a glass of water today remember your baptism, smile and keep walking wet – forgiven and beloved.

Sunday, January 8 is Baptism of our Lord Sunday. All are invited to bring their baptismal candle and light it again from the Christ Candle.

-- Pastor Julie --



Baptized in 2022

Rhett Carl Larkin, parents Daniel & Kayla Larkin

Madelyn (Maddie) Michelle Lothert, parents Brent & Bryana Lothert

Kiera Anne Thorpe, parents Danielle Williams & James Thorpe

Gianna Gail Korzen & Link Alvin Korzen, parents Sasha & Nick Korzen

Jaydon Jon Eggert, parents Jana & Ethan Eggert



Annual Meeting - Sunday January 29 - following worship

Gratitude to Jim Braaten

Jim created and sustained our online presence since the beginning of Covid. The only Sundays he missed were for fishing and hunting (which were few). We could not have had the quality and complexity of our online presence (via YouTube) and his web page work. If you see Jim around, please let him know of your gratitude as well. Jim will continue to work behind the scenes on graphics for worship, adding the link to YouTube and website needs.

How is God Inviting You to Grow in Faith?

Kristine Hertsgaard-Kincaid, Intern

Christmas lasts twelve days, beginning on Christmas Eve and lasting through January 5. During Christmastide, we celebrate the life and light of the world brought to creation through Jesus' birth. Epiphany is celebrated on January 6 and commemorates the wise men, or Magi, arriving to honor Jesus.

The seasons of Christmas and Epiphany invite us to pay attention to how God is working in and through us. Epiphany lasts from four to nine weeks, from January 6 through the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. This season calls us to notice the work of God in our lives, to discern what gifts we have to offer Jesus, and how we are being invited to grow in faith.

As we enter the Epiphany season, I invite you to pray,

“Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you for the sake of justice and peace. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.”

Special Ministries

During January and February special ministries invite us to gather in fellowship and serve the mission of the church. Remember – it is always a good day to invite a friend to join us.

Wednesday, January 4 – Epiphany Party for grades 7-12, 6:30 -7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall. The magi arrived on Epiphany, which is celebrated January 6. Yay! We will celebrate with a Nativity House decorating contest, games, devotions, and food!

Saturday, January 7 – Feed My Starving Children, 9 - 10:45 am. Open to anyone ages 12 and over. Ages 5-11 may attend with an adult chaperone. Location: 990 Lone Oak Road, Suite 136, Eagan, MN 55121. Follow this link to register: <http://www.fmssc.org/join-group?joincode=DBZ1NG> or contact smhildebrandt7@gmail.com. Let us know if you need a ride. If you wish to make a financial donation, you may donate directly to FELC and indicate it is for FMSC.

Sunday, January 15 – Generation to Generation Potluck - After Worship (See page 4)

Sunday, February 12 - Sip and Paint, 4-6 pm, Fellowship Hall.
\$30 per person, to be paid on or before Sunday, February 5

Gather for Sunday fun! Suzanne Schwichtenberg of the Upper East Side in Faribault will guide us as we paint a snowy outdoor scene. Your fee includes painting supplies, light refreshments, wine, beer, and/or other beverages. An image of the scene is posted in the Narthex with the registration sheet. Friends are welcome! *This is an event for ages 21 years and older.* To register, call the church office, 507-789-5261 or sign-up on a sheet at the back of the church. Checks may be made to FELC, indicate sip and paint in memo.

Present: Carmen Nesseth, Brad Nesseth, Emma Paulson, Jill Paulson, Sarah Hildebrandt. Chris Cordes, Tammy Fletcher & Intern Kris Kincaid.

Welcome and Call to Order: President Carmen

Devotions: Intern Kris

Adopt Agenda: M/S Chris/Tammy

Secretary's Report: M/S Chris/ Sarah

Treasurer's Report: Checking Balance \$5335.54 Memorial Balance \$149,468.90.

M/S Brad/ Sarah

Pastor's Report: Worship – 3 Sunday Morning, 2 Wednesday Evening. 1 Baptism. Phone calls and in person visits, communion visits. Weekly meetings with Annette, weekly meetings with Intern Kris Kincaid. Advent season – Generation to Generation.

Intern's Report: Worship: Preached twice, presided 3 Sundays and led 2 Wednesday evening services. Pastoral care included phone calls and in person visits, communion visits. Each week I met with Pastor Julie & Annette, and with Pastor Julie. Committee meetings included the Internship committee and EdYou committees. Teaching opportunities involved Confirmation, and HS/Confirmation Mentor night, and leading 2 classes: "Getting to Know Your Bible" for grades 3-6 and parents, and "Acolyte Training" for grades 5 & 6 and parents.

Continuing & New Business:

Annual Committee Report Reminders/Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 29, 2023 following 9 am worship.

2023 Proposed Budget was presented. M/S Tammy/ Chris

ELCA Church Together monetary request--Table to January, make it part of Souper Bowl of Caring.

Ronald Mc Donald fundraiser request to use facility: Sierra Belcher and Ben Gannon requested to use to church parking lot as a drop point for a fundraiser, sometime in March. Council consensus approved.

Committee Reports:

FLCW - Cleaned the Kitchen once construction on the north wall was finished. Met to decide on the yearly financial disbursements.

Youth Co-Reps – Already had a few snow days! Semester is ending. A new group called FCA (Fellow Christian Athletes) is starting up. Second meeting had over 25 in attendance. This group is well received in several surrounding schools.

Worship/Evangelism – Met December 08, 2022, 5:30 PM. Discussion Items -- 1) Tech team update: Tech team is determining needs with Jim Braaten and does not require our assistance. 2) Sunday service leadership – how to secure assistants: Possibly having difficulty as sign-up folder is not passed fully around at church service. Annette sent out email with specific request which was filled quickly. Discussed using a sign up online service and on Friday determining needs with sign-up sheet to be left in front or back of church on Sundays to fill the spots needed. Pastor Julie and Intern Kris will set this up. 3) Sip and Paint event- Tammy reports this event was approved by the council. Event will take place 2/12/23 from 4-6 with a charge of \$30.00. Committee will supply

food/ snacks and cost will cover wine, beer and possibly wine glasses. Picture to be painted chosen by committee. Information will be given to Intern Kris with question of optimal number of people needed. 4) Generation to Generation – January Potluck: Committee will “host” potluck 1/15/23 after church via potluck with families sharing favorite dishes. Pastor Julie will talk to the Education committee to include the Sunday school kids. 5). Vanco--trouble shooting is being completed by Bill Lewis as the system has not been working. Next meeting date: 1/12/23 @ 5:30 Devotions: Intern Kris.

Property and Management - met on Sunday, December 11th following the service. All members were present. * Ben Short made a presentation and proposal to construct a fire ring on church property to benefit the congregation and especially our youth. As a part of his Eagle Scout project, he would look into design and construction. He would also like to consider some seating possibilities. Committee welcomed Ben’s proposal and encouraged him to take the next steps and report back. * Committee members and Randy Eggert continue to address snow removal as needed across church property. * Basement wall upgrade project is nearing completion. All that remains is reinstalling the existing mini split (A/C), positioning wall speakers, and putting on a final coat of paint.

Stewardship - No report. Did not meet in December

Youth and Education--Ed You met on 12/5/2022. Operation Christmas Child--donated for boxes. "Get to know your bibles" with Kris on 11/20. Christmas shopping 12/11 was a success. Thank you to all our volunteers and everyone who donated gifts! Christmas Pageant/Live Nativity Scene 12/18 during church, older youth read. Confirmation/Mentor Student Christmas party rescheduled for 1/4/22 due to snow. Feed My Starving Children 1/7/2023--Still plenty of space to sign up!

Long Range Planning/Endowment/Personnel Committee/Intern Committee - No report

Next Meeting: January 18, 2023, at 7:45 PM

Devotions: Tammy

Adjournment: M/S Brad/ Tammy



**Sunday, January 15th
Generation to Generation
Potluck After Worship**

*Bring a family favorite dish to share
Hosted by Worship and Evangelism Committee*



January



2023

1 <i>Sun Afr Chr</i> 9 Worship- Lessons & Carols 7 AA	2	3	4 NO Wed Worship 6:30-7:30 Epiph Party, Gr. 7-12 7 Endowment Committee	5 7 AA	6 <i>Epiphany</i>	7 9 am Feed My Starving Children
8 <i>Bapt of Jesus</i> 9 Worship 10 Sun School 7 AA	9	10	11 6 Wed Worship 6:30 Confirmation	12 1 LOVE DAY 5:30 Worsh/Evan 6:30 Stewardship 7 AA	13	14
15 <i>2 Afr Epiph</i> 9 Worship Generation Potluck 10 Sun School 7 AA	16	17	18 6 Wed Worship 6:30 Confirmation 7:45 Council	19 7 AA	20	21
22 <i>3 Afr Epiph</i> 9 Worship 10 Sun School 7 AA	23	24	25 6 Wed Worship 6:30 Confirmation	26 1 LOVE DAY 6:30 Scouts- Fellowship Hall 7 AA	27	28
29 <i>4 Afr Epiph</i> 9 Worship Annual Mtg 10 Sun School 7 AA	30	31				

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January Newsletter



Walk "Wet" as God's beloved child

