

Baptism of Our Lord

January 10, 2021 (Real Church Virtual)



Opening and Announcements (Safe Harbor, Jim Hutchison)

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Holy God,

C: you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

P: How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of ☩ Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

C: Amen.

Spirit of Gentleness

Chorus

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free; Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

Verse 1

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep, then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep; and over the eons you called to each thing: "Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings." **Chorus**

Verse 2

You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand, and you goaded your people with a law and a land; and when they were blinded with idols and lies, then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes. **Chorus**

Verse 3

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill, then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still' and down in the city you called once again, when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. **Chorus**

Verse 4

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes. From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams; our women see visions, our men clear their eyes. With bold new decisions your people arise. **Chorus**

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all!

C: And also with you!

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together,

C: Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Message

First Reading: Acts 19:1-7

In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John's baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptizes them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them with gifts of the Spirit.

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

P: A reading from... **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. 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 just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – Pastor Paul

Prayers of the Church / Sign of the Peace

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.

Final Blessing / Dismissal

P: Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day ☩ through the Word made flesh.

C: Amen.

A: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

Let the Rain Come

Verse 1

We are thirsty for You to flood our lives, we are thirsty for You today. We are thirsty to see and savor Christ
Lord send Your revival rain.

Pre-Chorus

Let it rain, let it rain. Open up the heavens once again.

Chorus

Our Father in heaven, send the rain, fall again on us. For Your kingdom, Your glory, send the rain, let the rain come, let the rain come on us.

Verse 2

Holy Spirit, the more we see of Christ, we'll have passion to make Him known. Then the whole world might know that You are God: Lord send Your revival rain.

Pre-Chorus

Let it rain, let it rain. Open up the heavens once again.

Chorus

Our Father in heaven, send the rain, fall again on us. For Your kingdom, Your glory, send the rain, let the rain come, let the rain come on us.

Bridge

Let the rain come, let the rain come, let the rain come, let the rain come, let the rain come, let the rain come on us.

Pre-Chorus

Let it rain, let it rain. Open up the heavens once again.

Chorus

Our Father in heaven, send the rain, fall again on us. For Your kingdom, Your glory, send the rain, let the rain come, let the rain come on us.



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January 10, 2021

2021 Giving envelopes are available. Please call the church office to make arrangements to pick up your box. Those boxes not picked up will be mailed.

Covid hits our congregation! Please keep praying for all who are being hit by this illness especially one of our own council members. Even though all in that household were being careful, someone who was ill came to their home without wearing a mask and all are now very sick. Through the wonders of ZOOM this person was able to participate in the most recent council meeting, and the rest of us saw how ill someone could be even without being hospitalized. Another council member had to be in work/home only quarantine for 2 weeks due to recent multiple exposures in that person's essential job. *Know that any of the tough decisions that the council is making are with the well-being of all members in mind.*

The JANUARY issue of the STAR is ready! The STAR is no longer being subsidized by anonymous donors. We thank them for the generosity for three months and their hard work in preparing it for mailing. (There is even a rolling pin involved!!!) The cost of postage for the STAR is now being taken from the general fund. If anyone wants to make an extra donation towards postage due to the monthly cost of keeping all members informed, a notation can be made on any check or envelope. If you read the STAR on line and have not told us, please make certain you contact the office so we are not sending out copies needlessly. Printed STARs will also be available in the "Shooting Star box" outside the church entry later this week. Feel free to check online at www.bethlehemtc.org < About Us > "The Online Bethlehem Star" or type this URL to get these directly: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/the-bethlehem-star-newsletter>

The outdoor **"Shooting STAR Dispenser"** at BLC is now full with several paper publications, including the January STAR and the current week's worship folder/bulletin. If you would like a copy of a DVD, please contact the church and one will be produced for you.

Calling all Knitters!!: There is an overabundance of yarn skeins in the bin under the mailboxes in the narthex. PLEASE feel free to grab some to make hats, mittens, prayer shawls, etc.! The yarn is sorted according to kind, so you can be sure to find something appropriate for whatever project you have in mind. Questions? Call Betty R. (947-1013)

Christ in Our Home Devotionals for January/February/March. They can be picked up at the name tag table on Sunday mornings, from the STAR box below the outside mailbox, or during parking lot communion. The newest *Living Lutheran* magazine is also available in the same locations.

The BLC book club is excited that another author is going to join us for a discussion of their book on ZOOM. On Tuesday Jan 26 at 5:30 we will discuss *The Marsh King's Daughter* by Karen Dionne. The author lives part of the time in northern Michigan and the setting of the book is in Michigan. There are still 2 library copies of the book in the big box on the ground by the front door of the church if you want to borrow one. Just let Cindy Monroe know if you take one or if you want to join in the fun of the discussion at cmonroe@chartermi.net

The daughter of one of our members, Kathi Ivany-Mort, is in need of a vehicle. She is a single parent of three children, two of which have special needs. She has limited funds but would be open to a fair price and/or payment plan if desired. If you have a vehicle that would seat five people and possibly AWD or 4WD, please contact Kathi on her cell at 231-313-1647 or Kathi's husband, Jef Mort, at their home phone 231-929-4911.

From Kathi Ivany: "Praise the Lord! And a special thank you to Margo for your kind and generous gift for my daughter! Erica and her family can certainly use it at this time of the year....I have recently discovered that Erica is trying to save money for an internet connection, so that her children can receive an "inter-face connection" with their schools."

As an aside, an internet company in Rapid City is charging very high fees now to install internet in homes, and though Erica has tried to contest this, it looks like this is the reality these days. Continued prayers for all those trying to stay connected in these challenging times. - Pr. Paul

A big thank you to those who have turned in Oleson's receipts. For 2020, we received a total of \$545.66. Please continue saving your Oleson's receipts for Bethlehem. Please drop them off in the bin under the mailbox counter. Thanks.

Keep "Hope Spreading": Don't forget our blog "Hope Spreads Further" is still going strong! We've had many very inspiring entries and hope to read more. We invite you to help us build this blog or just read current entries at <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/hope-spreads-further>. Reach out to Pastor Paul at paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org or Sharon at admin@bethlehemtc.org if you'd like to contribute to the blog!

"Zoom Bible Study" gathering via Zoom is going strong each Wednesday from noon until about 1:15pm, and each week we are having great conversation and fellowship. We are using the Augsburg Fortress study of two of Paul's letters: 1st and 2nd Corinthians. Please contact Pr. Paul if you are interested in joining.

Administrative Assistant Needed at Father Fred: This is a full-time Administrative Assistant position with benefits. The person filling this role must be flexible, able to function well in a highly stimulating environment, respond to interruptions as they occur and work independently to accomplish assigned tasks. The overall function of this role is to provide organizational, clerical and Executive level support.

Entry Requirements:

Education: Minimum two yr. college degree required

Experience: Three to five years of administrative/executive assistant level experience in a professional environment / Previous accounting experience preferred /Advanced level knowledge of Microsoft Office programs / Familiarity with QuickBooks preferred

More details visit fatherfred.org

Send Resume to Executive Director, Candice Hamel chamel@fatherfred.org

Safe Harbor Volunteer Service

BLC will provide volunteer support at the Safe Harbor Emergency Housing Shelter for the period Saturday, February 6 through Tuesday, February 9. This is our part of a shared full week of service with the Northern Lakes Community Church. The shelter has been operating successfully since November. Goodwill staff are present to directly supervise guests during the 6 pm to 10 am period the shelter is open. Volunteers serve in the following two ways:

Evening meal preparation. Groups in the congregation have already committed to provide these meals. Those involved with meal preparation and dinner service will not have duties outside the kitchen.

Evening Hosts. Four volunteers, men or women, are needed each evening from 5:00 to 10:00 pm. Evening Hosts work with the Goodwill staff to assist the check-in of guests, to dispense medications, to support coffee service and to sanitize the dining area. Guests will eat in shifts at tables divided by plexi-glass shields. Otherwise, guests will lounge in an outside heated tent and sleep in bunks that are separated from one another by plastic sheeting.

It is not expected that BLC will provide all the needed volunteers. Community volunteers are available to assist our efforts. Our goal is cover as many evenings as possible with groups of four BLC volunteers who are comfortable working with persons they know. To volunteer please send an email Jim Hutchison, hutchison@alma.edu specifying what evenings you are available to serve. He will organize our volunteers into service groups. You will not be asked to serve for more than one evening. Please respond as soon as possible, but no later than January 25 to allow time to recruit community volunteers to fill vacancies. Please call Jim, 231-668-1916, for more information and consult the volunteer handbook on the web site gtsafeharbor.org/volunteers/.

Shelter operating procedures are designed to provide a safe environment for both guests and volunteers. Guests and volunteers are given temperature checks before they are admitted. To date no guest has been diagnosed with the Covid-19 virus. We are not asking you to volunteer out of a sense of obligation to our congregation. Rather we seek volunteers who are comfortable with working at the shelter and who are motivated by a personal desire to participate in this ministry of service to others in this difficult time.



This is a year when we cannot visit many of our members to bless them with our Christmas carols. Instead please pull out your BLC directory and take a moment to make a phone call to one or two of them or send a card wishing for a better New Year. Not sure who needs a call or card? How about you choose members whose last name is closest in the alphabet to your own?

List of Home Bound Members of BLC 2020
BLC = Directory

Marlene Baesch BLC

Marinan Bradford in Traverse Manor on Draka Rd. Traverse City, MI

Carol Collins – Burcham Assisted Living 2700 Burcham Dr. East Lansing, MI 48823

Brenda Denoyer at home BLC

Richard Fernholz BLC

Jo Hasse she is in French Manor BLC

Corinne Hill BLC

Christian Stretlien and Julie LaPeer 14720 Mc Coll Ave. Thompsonville, MI 49683

Tom and Lee Miller BLC

Marilyn Skay BLC

Nancy Smith BLC

Lois Stretlien (Jan's sister in-law) in Traverse Manor Room #24

Ellie Tacke BLC

Inge Thomas BLC

Priscilla Thomas @ Samaritas Assisted Living 4354 Mt. Hope Rd. Williamsburg MI 49690 BLC

Jan and Butch Waisanen BLC

Dee and Bill Springer Boardman Lake Glens 1400 Brigadoon Ct. TC 49684 BLC

Marjorie Whitney in Traverse Manor on Draka Rd. Traverse City, MI BLC