

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

The Baptism of Our Lord

January 9 & 12, 2022

*Anointing Uncovered: What the Eye Sees Differs
from what God Decrees*

Opening Hymn (From Supplement).....709, “Christ, Your Footprints Through the Desert”
Order of Service (From Supplement) Gathering Rite on the Word of God, Page 11
Prayer of the Day: Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST LESSON

Psalm of the Day.....Psalm 2 (page 65)

SECOND LESSON

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. *You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.*
Alleluia.

GOSPEL LESSON

Hymn of the Day 89, “To Jordan’s River Came Our Lord”

SERMON..... “A Very Important Announcement” Luke 3:15-17,21,22

Apostles’ Creed Page 20

Prayers/Lord’s Prayer

Hymn82, “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”

Closing Prayer/Benediction

Closing Hymn294 vv. 1 & 4, “Baptized into Your Name Most Holy”

FIRST LESSON: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

To the eyes of the average Israelite, the young boy David was not the best choice to be king. Yet he was God’s choice, a man after God’s heart. The Lord made his choice known through an anointing.

The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I see a king for myself among his sons.” Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.” The LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will let you know what you are to do. You are to anoint for me the person that I point out to you.”

So Samuel did what the LORD had told him to do and went to Bethlehem. Trembling with fear, the elders of the city came to meet him. They said, “Do you come in peace?” He said, “Yes, in peace. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.” He consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they had come, he looked at Eliab and said, “Certainly this is the LORD’s anointed.” But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at how tall he is, because I have rejected him. For the LORD does not look at things the way man does. For man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The LORD has not chosen this one either.” Then Jesse had Shammah pass by. But Samuel said, “The LORD has not chosen this one either.” Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel. Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Is that all of the young men?” Jesse said, “There still is the youngest, but he is tending the sheep.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Send for him, for we cannot sit down to eat until he comes.” He sent for him and brought him in. David had red hair and striking eyes, and was good-looking. The LORD said, “Get up! Anoint him, because this is the one.” So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers. The Spirit of the LORD rushed on David with power from that day forward. After that Samuel set out and returned to Ramah.

SECOND LESSON: Titus 3:4-7

In the eyes of the world, baptism appears to be just a ceremonial washing. St. Paul tells us it is so much more. It is a second birth that bestows salvation and the Spirit.

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior toward mankind appeared, he saved us—not by righteous works that we did ourselves, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and the renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs in keeping with the hope of eternal life.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 3:15-17,21,22

In the eyes of the Israelites, John the Baptist looked like he could be the Messiah. He was a powerful preacher who live a unique life. Jesus looked ordinary by comparison. Yet, he was God’s Anointed One, a choice made clear in Jesus’ baptism.

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John could be the Christ. John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But someone mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. While he was praying, heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with you.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEAD USHERS: Lyle Moldenhauer/Chris Zwycart; next Sunday: Don Koch

CALL MEETING: A call meeting has been scheduled for **Sunday, January 16**, immediately following the worship service. A call will be extended for a Gr. 1-2 teacher to replace Miss Sara Wentzel whose one-year assignment here will terminate at the end of the current school year. The call which we had extended to Ms. Anna Potter back in early December has been returned. All voting members are urged to participate!

WE COULD USE SOME HELPING HANDS! It is time to take down our Christmas decorations in the church. If you are willing to help with this, please meet here at St. Matthew's at **1:00 PM** on **Sunday (TODAY)**. The more help we have the quicker the work will go! Thank you!

ORGANISTS!! The **January** schedule is hanging on the **SCHOOL** bulletin board. Please look at your calendars in the near future and sign up for the date(s) you are willing to play for us. There are many dates still open. Thank you!

ADULT & TEEN BIBLE CLASSES & SUNDAY SCHOOL will begin again on **Sunday (TODAY), January 9**, at **10:15 AM**. Classes conclude around 11:00 AM.

ADULT CHOIR PRACTICES will begin again on **Thursday, January 13**, at **8:00 PM**. Even if you didn't participate last year, the choir is always open to welcoming new voices in the new year! Just show up at this next practice!

ANNUAL REPORT: The Annual Report will be printed very soon. Please turn in your year-end reports to the office by **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12!** Reports submitted after that date will **not** be included. Thank you!

ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING: The Annual Voters' Meeting is scheduled for **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19**, at **8:00 PM**. New church officers will be elected at this meeting, and those nominated will be posted in the school hallway on the church bulletin board in the near future. All voting members are encouraged to attend!

PTL MEETING: School parents are reminded of the PTL meeting which is scheduled for **Monday, January 17**, at **6:30 PM** at the school. All parents are urged to take an active role in what's going on at the school throughout the year. Your input is always valued!

FYSH OUTING: The next outing for the FYSH Group will take place on **Saturday, January 29**, at **2:00 PM** at **Sunburst Ski Hill** in **Kewaskum**. The group will be snow tubing! There will be no cost for this event as an anonymous donor has graciously offered to cover the costs for the group. We do, however, need to have a count of the number of people who will be attending. If you wish to participate, please **RSVP** to **Cheri Youngbeck (920-296-1028)** or **Tanya Wald (414-627-2050)** by **Monday, January 24**.

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Attendance: New Year's Eve: 39; Sunday: 67

Offerings: New Year's Eve: \$5,250.00; Sunday: \$2,964.00

(Budget Amount Needed Each Week: \$6,661.00)

Special Funds: Debt Retirement: \$170.00; Undesignated Memorial (Debt Retirement): \$10.00;

Church/Kitchen Refurbishment: \$6,090.00

Memorials: In Memory of Earl Moldenhauer: \$6,090.00 (*Church/Kitchen Refurbishment*): \$6,090.00;

In Memory of Patrice Resheske: \$10.00 (*Undesignated*)

OUR WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday: Worship Service9:00 AM
Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School 10:15 AM

Tuesday: School Board Meeting6:00 PM

Wednesday: Elders' Meeting.....6:30 PM
Church Council 7:00 PM

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE!!

Thursday: Communion Worship Service 7:00 PM
Adult Choir.....8:00 PM

Sunday: Communion Worship Service9:00 AM
CALL MEETING – Immediately following worship service
NO Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School