

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 7:00 PM &
SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM**
The Baptism of Our Lord
DIVINE SERVICE 1 LSB 151

A MYSTERY NO LONGER"

Text: Ephesians 3:2,3,6: "Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly... The mystery is that through the Gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus."

INTRODUCTION – In simple terms, the Lord God wants us to tell the secret to everyone: Jesus came to save all – not only the people of Israel! It is fascinating to see God's plan of revelation and salvation slowly unfolding before our eyes. First Jesus is born of the people of Israel – a descendant of David. Then He proceeds to heal and save and mingle with the "Gentiles" and "sinners". We praise God that we are among those Gentiles and sinners. The Epiphany of Jesus and his Baptism are relevant to us today and every day.

1 – Cults of mystery were common.

2 – The grace given to Paul is the ministry.

3 – The grace given us is forgiveness.

4 – Economy literally: "law of the house."

5 – Administration is the stewardship.

6 – Jesus' Baptism and his Epiphany are the focus today!

7 – Born in a stable open for all.

CONCLUSION – OUR Lord Jesus did not put up any obstructions for those who wanted to visit Him, who wanted to see Him. The stable did not have a security protocol. People just came, saw, worshiped, and went. Whether you were a humble shepherd or if you

were an important King from the East, it was all the same. Mary and Joseph welcomed all who wanted to see their baby. You and I are God's agents in the world to spread and teach the notion that Jesus is accessible to all, because He was born to save us all! Amen.

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

In Holy Baptism, the Triune God Reveals Himself and Recreates Us in His Image

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). Then, as "the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters" (Gen. 1:2), God spoke His Word: "'Let there be light,' and there was light" (Gen. 1:3). In the same way, "the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ" (Mark 1:1) brings about the new creation through the waters of Baptism by the same Word and Spirit of God. When John the Baptist came, "proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins," Jesus also came "and was baptized by John in the Jordan" (Mark 1:4, 9). Although He had no sins of His own, He took His stand with sinners in His Baptism and took the sins and mortality of the world upon Himself. He was baptized into His own death, by which the heavens are opened and the Spirit is given to us. God the Father is well pleased with His beloved Son and raises Him from the dead. As we share His Baptism and are "united with him in a death like his" (Rom. 6:5), we also share His resurrection unto "newness of life" (Rom. 6:4).

CHARITABLE INFORMATION

SPECIAL MISSIONS: We begin a New Year of Special Missions supporting upcoming publications of Editora Concordia Porto Alegre (Concordia Publishing House), Brazil. For the past 15 years Blessed Savior has sponsored the publications of theological books, children's Bible Story books and daily devotional books in Portuguese. These are distributed not only in Brazil but anywhere in the world where Portuguese is spoken. The Lord bless our joint efforts to His glory and the benefit of the church!

BIBLE STUDY

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY We are starting a new Bible Study on the book of Proverbs that meets via Zoom on Tuesdays at 9am and 7pm. If you are interested in joining, please contact Jaime Greene at jaimelynn581@hotmail.com with more information. Please indicate in your email if you are interested in the morning or evening class.

CHURCH INFORMATION

YOUTH GROUP Break out your best in neon wear, because on Sunday, January 17th we'll have a neon and game night! Dress in your brightest colors and join us via Zoom for games from 6-8pm. Watch your email for more information. And save the date, because on January 31st we'll have Disney trivia!

SCRIP We thank you for your support of our SCRIP program this past year! Even though we weren't able to sell cards in person for the majority of the year, with your support, we were able to sell \$27,000 worth of gift cards, giving us nearly \$1,000 in profit! If you would like to purchase SCRIP cards, you may do so by filling out one of the order forms, which can be found in the hallway by the bulletin boards, or by contacting Jaime Greene.

LWML GRANTS Thanks to your generous giving of mites, the South Wisconsin District LWML was able to award two grants at the end of 2020. The first grant is for Church Worker Scholarships, in the amount of \$15,000. A remaining grant of \$15,000 will be paid in the middle of 2021, bringing the total to \$30,000 given to those who are attending school in pursuit of a full time career in church work. The second grant is for Bethany Lutheran Church Ministry Outreach, in the amount of \$12,000. This inner-city church provides for the spiritual and physical needs of adults and children with their food and clothing pantries, soup lunches and homeless ministry. Please continue to bring in your mites (loose change and paper money), and place them in the purple and white box.

MILITARY DONATIONS Thank you for your continued support of our military families! We are still collecting coupons, cancelled stamps, and items for care packages. If you would like to donate any of these items, they may be placed in the bins in the Fellowship Hall, or in the bin outside the front doors of church.

FLOWERS, BULLETINS, & SPECIAL MISSIONS SIGN-UP If you would like to sign up for flowers, bulletins, or special mission contact the church office by email blessedsavior.nb.lcms@gmail.com, or call 262-786-6465.

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT: Preschool will start open enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year on Monday, January 25th. If you have or know of anyone looking for 2K, 3K, 4K, or childcare and would like more information or to register please contact Jennifer Leinss 262-786-6465 or jleinss82@gmail.com.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSIONS

We pray for those undergoing medical treatment:
Arless Judy Karen Adeline Carol Laverne

Special intercessions: we pray for all health care workers in America and the world, for all first responders, truck drivers and essential workers.

We pray the Lord to watch over those who are serving in the military.

New Years Eve: 37

Last Week's Attendance: 84

Last Week's Offerings: \$7,009.26

YouTube Attendance: 158

Needed Weekly: \$10,365.00