



WEEKLY CONNECTION

JANUARY 12, 2025

SUNDAY'S WORSHIP: THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 43:1–7, Romans 6:1–11, Luke 3:15–22

The Triune God Opens Heaven to You in Holy Baptism

The Baptism of our Lord is an “Epiphany” of the one true God in the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ. In divine mercy, He takes His place with sinners and takes their sin upon Himself. *“When all the people were baptized,”* Jesus submitted Himself to a Baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Luke 3:21). He had no sins of His own, but He took the sins of the world upon Himself and so was baptized into His own death. Therefore, *“when you pass through the waters,”* He is with you (Is. 43:2). He created you for His glory, and He has redeemed you with His blood, that you may be His own and live with Him in His kingdom (Is. 43:1, 7). As you are baptized with a Baptism like His, so also are you united with Him in His death and resurrection that you *“might walk in newness of life”* (Rom. 6:4). For all who are baptized into Christ Jesus receive His anointing of the Holy Spirit and are named by His Father as beloved and well-pleasing sons and daughters.

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK:

¹But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:
“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.
Isaiah 43:1

SERVING THIS SUNDAY – January 12

Preacher – Pastor Michael Korte
Officiant – Deacon Ken Kerouac
Lay Reader - 10:30 am
Acolytes- 9 AM Val Engelhardt, Mark Stabek
10:30 am Raiden Boggs, Daniel Sowatsky
Elder in Charge – 9 am Mike Denno, Kurt Engelhardt
10:30 am Larry Griffin
Greeters – 9 am Jan Laux
10:30 am Kathy Forsythe, Renee & Mick Leach
Tech Team – 9 AM Adam & Ryan Birchmeier
10:30 am Christian, Jackson, and Owen White
Music Team - 9 am Deb Erickson, Gerry Freiman
Music Leaders – 9 am Alex Holcomb,
10:30 am Annelise Holcomb

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (For more Information see blurbs below.)

January 11 – Funeral for Lousie Kleinschmidt 11 am
January 12 - Worship @ 9:00 am & 10:30 am
January 12 – Sunday School Preschool – 4th 9:15 am
January 12 – Bible Study Lower Level 9:15 am
January 12 – Crossroads Counseling Presentation
January 13 – Braille Workers 5:45 pm
January 14 – Braille Workers 8:30 am
January 14 – Bible Study David Room 9:30 am
January 14 – Bethlehem Knitters 11 am David Room
January 14 – Parish Leadership Council 7 pm
January 15 – School Chapel 8:10 am
January 15 - Worship Arts Team Rehearsal 6:30 pm
January 16 – Braille Workers 8:30 am
January 16 – Senior Choir Rehearsal 7 pm
January 17 - Men’s Bible Study via Zoom @ 6:15 am
January 17 – **NO SCHOOL** – Teacher in Service
January 18 – Bacon Boys Bible Study 7:30 am Lower Level
January 19 - Worship @ 9:00 am & 10:30 am with Lord’s Supper
January 19 – Listening Posts for Voters Meeting @ 9:00 am & 10:30 am Lower level
January 19 – Sunday School Preschool – 4th 9:15 am
January 19 - Bible Study Lower Level 9:15 am
January 20 – **NO SCHOOL**

BACON BOYS BIBLE STUDY - Has been moved to **Saturday, January 18th, at 7:30 – 9 am**. All men are invited to attend for a hearty breakfast, good fellowship and a time studying God’s Word. No rsvp necessary just enter through the Hermansau Office doors and head downstairs.

JANUARY NOISY OFFERING FUNDS: Crossroads Christian Counseling” Using Biblical principles and counseling resources to uplifted and encourage clients. Crossroads licensed professional counselors serve individuals including teens, children, couples and families. On Sunday, January 11, Bethany Bierlein will be here to give a short presentation and answer questions.

PRAYER FOCUS:

SPECIAL PRAYERS: Paul Tomaszewski, Gordon Henry, Milda Persons, Barbara Ruhlig, Dave Vanderlip, James Lutz, Larry Schroeppel, Karen Schram, Wendy Sova, Debbie Pappas

HOSPITALIZED: Jane York, Margie York, Sally Efu, Debbie Ruhlig, Jim Vance, Daisy Thompson

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family of **Michael Vallier**, who entered eternal life on January 2nd. He was the father of Christine Engelhardt. May God comfort all those who mourn with the assurance of eternal life.

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family of **Louise Kleinschmidt**, who entered eternal life on January 3. She was the mother of Nancy Peters, Lori Adkins, and Jeff Kleinschmidt. May God comfort all those who mourn with the assurance of eternal life.

A NEW PASTORAL CALL LIST has been requested from the Lutheran Church, Michigan District. The Board of elders request your prayers for pastors included on this list. Specifically ask that the Lord would guide Bethlehem and our candidates as we begin this process once again. Pray for patience, discernment and clarity in the plans the Lord has established for us.

Almighty God, giver of all good gifts: Look on your Church with grace and guide the minds of those who shall choose a pastor for Bethlehem, that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PASTOR CANDIDATE NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS: If there is a potential candidate you know that fits the Pastor profile as provided by the Call Committee and whom you would like to nominate for consideration, please follow the instructions below. **PLEASE NOTE:**

1. Nominations may be submitted by communicant members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 18 years of age or older.
2. Complete the nomination form, (forms are available in church office) write legibly and provide as much information as possible.
3. Submit the form by depositing it into the church office.
4. You can also mail or drop off your completed form to the church office at the attention of the Call Committee. Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 808 Weiss Street, Saginaw, MI 48602
5. The deadline to submit nominations is 1 pm on **Monday, February 3rd**.

Thank you for your prayers and participation in the Call process

CHURCH ATTENDANCE:

01-05-25 2nd Sunday of Christmas 194 Online viewership: 13
01-08-25 Drive Up Communion 14

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT Luke 3:21 – “Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying ...” We know why the people were baptized, but why was Jesus baptized? He didn’t need repentance or forgiveness. The answer is that He did it for us. The reason God sent His Son into the world is to fulfill all righteousness for us, to do what we could not do. The whole of Jesus’ life, everything He did and said, was one great offering to the Father in our stead to fulfill all righteousness for us. With our righteousness fulfilled in Jesus and given to us in Baptism, our hearts now overflow with thanksgiving and praise.

CARING FOR OTHERS

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS Habitat for Humanity is looking for volunteers to help finish their new builds. If you are interested in helping build new homes in

the Covenant Neighborhood, please contact Lindsay Olgine at 989-753-5200 x225 or lindsayolgin@sshfh.org. Individuals or groups, half day or full day, experiences of all kinds are available. You are also encouraged to sign up at sshfh.galaxydigital.com.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS The food pantry is in need of canned fruit, canned vegetables, peanut butter, and hearty soups and stews. Donations can be dropped off at the church/school office.

BETHLEHEM BRAILLE MINISTRY IS SEEKING NEW MEMBERS! If you are able to attend Braille ministry sessions at Bethlehem on Mondays from 5:45-7:45 PM or Thursdays from 8:30-11 AM, please contact Becky Bullard at 989-280-5130. No experience is necessary! Braille ministry does not meet in the summer.

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN is in need of men's clothing! If you are able to donate, please drop off items at the church office, or in the Orphan Grain Train bin in the narthex.

SCHOOL NEWS

AROUND BETHLEHEM

JANUARY YOUTH GROUP EVENT: 6th-12th graders. SNOW TUBING at SNOWSNAKE: Saturday, January 25th. (This is also open to ANY 6th-12th graders of any church or school) Invite any young adults you know to RSVP. We would love to have them! The cost is \$20 per person. You must RSVP to Mrs. Duclos by January 21st. We will leave school at 10:30 am. We will tube from 12-1 and will return to school after. DRIVERS ARE A MUST! JOIN REMIND @ DG2K2K

SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING January 28 - 6:30 p.m. A special Voters' Assembly meeting has been called to vote on 1.) the Election of a Representative for Bethlehem to MI District Convention and 2.) proposed changes to Bethlehem's constitution and by-laws. The proposed changes address concerns about the effectiveness of the way in which we are currently organized. Information regarding the proposal is available online and in the church narthex. Listening Posts/Information sessions will be held in the lower level on Sunday January 19 (9:15 a.m., 10:15 a.m.) and in the David Room on Tuesday January 21 at 6:30 p.m.

SEEKING WORSHIP ARTS TEAM MEMBERS Do you sing or play an instrument? Or can you see yourself working lights, sound, or visuals in our tech booth? Then you should consider joining our Worship Arts team! We are in need of new Worship Arts team members to lend us their talents at both the 9 AM and 10:30 AM service times. If you are interested, please see Alex Holcomb, email aholcomb@bethlehemsaginaw.org, or call 989-755-1144 to let us know.

WEEKLY ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

- **Tuesdays, 9:30 am (Ladies)** in the David Room. Contact Mary Kay Hall for more information - (989) 497-8474. Starting new series on where Baptism is found throughout Scripture with the book *The Baptismal River* from CPH.
- **Wednesdays, 8:00 am (Men)** Meeting at Immanuel Bible Church on Center Rd. in Saginaw. Men from Bethlehem, Holly Cross, Immanuel, and Peace will be in attendance. Currently in Romans. Bring your own coffee – donuts provided. Contact Bill Denno at

989-781-4851 or 989-295-8618 for more info. Bring your favorite Bible!

- **Fridays, 6:15 am (Men)** on Zoom. “**The Book of Romans.**” For info: mp_denno@yahoo.com
- **Sundays, 9:15 am (Anyone)** in the lower level. We are using the study *The Messiah: Revealing Jesus in the Old Testament*. Jesus made Himself very clear that the Old Testament testifies of him. This study will walk us through that claim. If you have Sunday School age children and would like to join the study, please join us. Children are welcome in our class and can go to Sunday School when it begins at 9:30.

OTHER NEWS

COMMUNITY PRAYER CIRCLES 1-12-25 We hope you are being blessed with LOTS of preparations for our Savior's Birthday Celebration, as Community Prayer Circles was blessed at the Fashion Square Mall Food Court gathering on 12/8 with some extra Christmas Carolers! God-willing, in the New Year, we are delighted to invite you to join us on Sunday, January 12, 2:30-4:00 p.m. for praise and prayer worship at Faith Lutheran Church; 4241 Williamson Road; Bridgeport, MI. Please join us!

MID-MICHIGAN LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS STUDY

Join us at Grace Auburn (303 Ruth Street) on Saturday, January 18, at 10 a.m. for the Mid-Michigan Confessions Study! We'll be unpacking Article 4 in the Formula of Concord on Good Works! *Are good works necessary for salvation? What is a good work? What's the source of our good works?* These are questions that the Reformers had to battle in the 16th century and these questions are still asked today! Come and rejoice in the proper role of good works in the Christian life! If you don't have the Book of Concord, there are copies available to use at the study!

FROM VALLEY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

Come take a peek at Valley Lutheran! Any and all interested families are invited to join us for a one-hour experience that showcases what VL is all about. Arrivals begin at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22. Please let us know you're coming and choose an arrival time that works best for you at www.vlhs.com/takeapeek. Please contact Amy Cooper, at acooper@vlhs.com with any questions.

Friday, January 24 is Grade School Night at Charger Basketball and your family is invited! Women's game starts at 5:30, Men's game at 7:00. Grade school students receive a pom-pom (while supplies last) and a coupon for free popcorn! They are also invited to enter a drawing for free swag and participate in a halftime game. Represent your grade school by wearing your school colors! Game tickets are \$5 or bring a VL event pass if you have one! Join us for a night of fun and basketball. Let's go, Chargers!

FROM PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Peace Lutheran Church of Saginaw is hiring for a custodian during evenings/nights, Monday-Friday, 30 hours per week. This includes some benefits. Candidates must have previous custodial and maintenance experience. Resumes may be sent to: jkeup@peachsaginaw.org