

The Baptism of Our Lord
Little Prairie United Methodist Church
January 12, 2025, 9:30 a.m.



“Because you are precious in my sight...I will be with you” (Isa. 43)

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www.littleprairieumc.org

Our vision: Creating a welcoming community that worships well, disciples well, and serves well; transforming the world for Jesus Christ.

WELCOME AND GATHERING

Gathering Music *“Spirit Song” by John Wimber arr. Mark Hayes*
Luann Alderks

Welcome *Pastor Penny Bonsel*

Centering Time

Call to Worship

In the beginning, at creation, the spirit hovered over the waters of the deep. *Gen. 1:1-2*

In the waters of the flood, God cleansed the earth and humankind. *Gen. 7:7*

God caused the waters to part so that Israel could cross from slavery to liberation.

Exod. 14:21

God formed Jesus in the waters of Mary’s womb. *Luke 1:42*

Jesus taught us how to live by washing his disciples' feet in water. *John 13:5*
Drinking water from a well, Jesus met a Samaritan woman, the first person to recognize that he was the Christ. *John 4:29*

Jesus said, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink.

"As the Scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" *John 7:37-38*

Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, the Christ.

God meant for Jesus to be the firstborn in a large family. Praise be! *Rom. 8:29*

Amen

Hymn of Praise *Baptized in Water (TFWS # 2248, v1-3)* *All*

Opening Prayer

When we pass through the cleansing waters of baptism and the troubled waters of our lives, God declares:

I will be with you.

When we go through the fires that refine us and the fires that threaten our livelihoods, God declares:

I will be with you.

Even when we travel to the far corners of the earth or down into the depths of our souls, God declares:

I will be with you.

So come, let us worship God whose love never fails, whose presence never leaves, whose mercies never end.

Praise be to God who, in the form of Jesus, waded into the waters of baptism to prove God's solidarity with us! Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2024.

Sharing the Peace
Children's Moment

THE WORD

Isaiah 43:1-7

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Acts 8:14-17

Message *"Because you are precious in my sight...I will be with you" (Isa. 43)*

Pastor Penny Bonsell

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn

Spirit Song (UMH #347)

All

Remembering Our Baptism

During this time, we remember that we are a Beloved child of God, and we celebrate our baptism in Christ.

"You Are Mine" by David Haas arr. Mark Hayes

Luann Adlerks

Word for meditation FWS #2218

Hymn:

Spirit of the Living God UMH #393

All

Joys and Concerns and Prayers of the People

Creator of the universe, we gather amazed at your power and glory.

We are eager to worship you and offer our praise, but we are often reluctant to answer when we hear you calling our name.

We sing our songs of tribute in the sanctuary, but shy away from the river, lest we be baptized with the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Forgive us when we forget your promise to be with us always, O God.

Silence followed by Words of Assurance (Isaiah 43:1)

Hear the words of our creator, spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

"I have called you by name.

You are mine. Do not fear,

for I have redeemed you."

Renew us with the power of your ever-present love, and strengthen us to proclaim your justice throughout the world.

Adapted from Laura Jaquith Bartlett

Offering

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God" Tune: Trentham arr. Mark Hayes

Luann Alderks

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (UMH # 95)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Loving God, who guides us with your everlasting presence, we offer these gifts with grateful hearts. As Jesus stood with us in the waters of baptism, may these offerings stand as a testament to your love and grace. Use them to bring hope, healing, and transformation to our world.

May these gifts join with others to become a mighty river, bringing your peace and healing to the world. In the name of Jesus, the Christ, we pray. Amen.

And the Prayer Christ gives us . . .

The 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. Amen.

Hymn *Spirit of God (TFWS #2117, v 1-5)*

All

SENDING

May the Triune God, whose presence surrounds you always and everywhere, bless you with the deep assurance that you are never alone. In the waters, in the fires, in the far corners of the world, God is with us. May you feel so loved in Christ, that even a stranger will see in you a friend and neighbor. God sends you, the Spirit fills you, Christ goes with you and you with Christ, always and everywhere. **Amen.**

God Bless! Go in joy, peace and love. Shalom. Amen.

INFORMATION

Upcoming Events: ...so far

Sat. Jan 11, 9am: Soul Sisters (see Theresa for details)

Tues. Jan 14, 8:30 am Breakfast Club, L&M

Tues. Jan 14, Finance Committee

Wed. Jan 15, 9-10:30 am Pastor Penny at James Gang Coffee

Tues. Jan 21, Admin. Council

Fri. Jan 24, 5:50pm: Youth group and confirmation

Wed. Feb 5, 5:30 pm New Member Meeting with soup

Sat. Feb 8, 4:30 pm Valentine's gathering with family and friends, with Jazz music

Sat. Apr 11, 3-8:00 pm Fish Dinner

Website



Online giving



ny Bonsell, Administrator: S Music Director and pianist: Luann Alderks,
Certified Lay Minister and Youth Director: Theresa Siemers, assistants Maddy Heinz-Kline and

Kory Larson, Technology Administrator: Jesse Steed, Admin Council Chair: Kevin Larson,
Admin Secretary: Sue Rollins, SPRC Chair: Deb Little, Treasurer: Lori Noreen, Finance
Committee Co-Chairs: Kevin Larson and Mel Henrichs, Trustees Chair: Tom Stowe, Missions
and Lay Servant: Karen Nelson, Soundboard Technician: Tom Hollenhorst