

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
February 23, 2014



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH – LCMC
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**“Chosen by God, Led by the Spirit in Worship,
Prayer and Praise, in Hope for Today and
Tomorrow for all People.”**

Jon Bielfeldt, Pastor

Linda Richter, Organist Susan Wuthrich , Reader

The Altar flowers this morning are placed to the glory of God and in honor of Dalton Allen Farr's baptism by his grandparents, Steve and Debbie Ging.

AMBASSADORS FOR GOD - March, 2014

Usher: Donald Pick

Communion Helpers: Howard & Janice Meyer

Council Support: Gary Almquist, Jimmy Luton, Howard Meyer
and Linda Richter

Next Sunday, March 2, 2014

Acolyte – Sierra Koehne

Flowers - Open

Greeter – Christy Pick

Reader- Christy Pick

Visitors! It is our prayer that you feel the presence of Jesus Christ. Please come and worship with us again soon.

If you would like to request a prayer for someone, please complete the prayer request form in the pew and hand it to a council person before the service.

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please put your email next to your name on the form in the narthex on the clipboard. It will take a while to get all the information needed, so please have patience. Paper newsletters will be available for those who do not have computers. We will mail the March newsletter to you.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Today - 11:00 am to 1pm – BBQ & Auction for St. Paul Lutheran Church & School/Thorndale at Thorndale Fireman's Hall – Tickets are \$9.00

ACTIVITIES NEXT WEEK

Sunday, March 2 – 9 am Sunday School

10:15 am – Worship Service/Holy Communion

5-7pm – Youth Annual Pancake Supper – Free Will Offering

Please remember in your prayers the following:

Health: Friends: Carol Davidson, Prissy Rumel, Matthew Holt, Tasha Garcia, Ruby Sidel, Larry Krueger, Jamie Rozzitto, Richard Hamann, Nicolas Merkord, Mildred Beran, Clifford Mahlow, Aloma Naivar, Louis Huff, Chris & Christy Campbell, Anna Beck, Rosa Mae Carriveau, Elizabeth Ireland, Dorothy Schroeder, Mike Hollowell, Dante Reed, Ella Huser, Jack Winterrowd, Amanda Balthun, Junior Schroeder, Bea Kruse, Sue Bradshaw, Betty Jackson, Ruthie Brinkmeyer, Mary Parry, Gail Kuhl, and Gene Reinhardt.

Members: Abby Alderete, Nelson Granzin, Brian Gross, Ruby Krieg, Elroy Lieberum, Jordan Naivar, Doris Rohlack, Nora Johnson, Doris Wernecke, Edna Mueller, Marjorie Springer, Laurie Jansky, Neal Hoffman Mildred Zamorsky, and Doris Johnson

Armed Forces: Matthew Phillips, Michael Hartgrove, and Taylor Magee.

All of our shut ins

If you know of someone that should be listed, please call the church office.

On Sunday, March 23, we will have a lunch honoring all new members after the worship service. The meat will be provided – please bring sided dishes and dessert. Please plan to attend and make welcome our new members.

Sunday, February 23, 2014
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
Service of Rogation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Creating God, you know us better than we know ourselves; we cannot keep secrets from you. You know the dark places of our hearts where we try to hide that which we do not want you to see. Purify these dark places so that we may love you as we should. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We are sinful creatures; we cannot deny it or hide from it. But we can confess our sins to our God who created us. And God, who longs for us to be whole, will forgive us our sins and purify our hearts.

We confess to you, Creating God, that we are sinners. We have sinned against you in our hearts with that which we keep secret; we have sinned against you in our words of unkindness against our neighbors; we have sinned against you in our actions that do not glorify your name. Because of our sin, we are not able to love you; nor can we love our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son. Forgive us so that we may live in wholeness. Amen.

Jesus Christ was given to die for the sins of all people - once for all time. Because of his suffering, death, and resurrection, God accounts to us Christ's righteousness. We are forgiven and freed to live in wholeness by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

GATHERING HYMN: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* (ELW 858)

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation! Let all who hear now to his temple draw near, joining in glad adoration!

2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining. Have you not seen all that is needful has been sent by his gracious ordaining?

3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you; surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you. Ponder anew what the Almighty can do if with his love he befriend you.

4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him! All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him! Let the amen sound from his people again. Gladly forever adore him!

GREETING

The grace of our redeeming Lord Jesus Christ, the creating love of God, and the communion of the sanctifying Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

OPENING DIALOGUE

O Creator God, with your breath you created light and darkness.
By your word, you created the heavens.

**And it was good.
And it was good.**

You created the dry land of the earth, and the waters of the sea.

And it was good.

By your word, you called forth growing things: plants, fruit, trees.

And it was good.

You created the sun and the moon to order the days and nights.

And it was good.

You created the living creatures in the waters, and the living creatures of the air. **And it was good.**

You created the living creatures of the land: cattle, and wild animals; everything that moves upon the land. **And it was good.**

By your word, you created humankind - both female and male - to care for the earth and all that is over, on and in it. And to these new creatures, you gave everything that you had made.

And it was good. Amen

PSALM OF PRAISE - Psalm 19:1-6

The heavens declare the glory of God.
And the firmament shows God's handiwork.

One day tells its tale to another.
And one night imparts knowledge for another.

Although they have no words or language.
And their voices are not heard,

Their sounds has gone out into all lands,
And their message to the ends of the world,

In the deep, God has set a pavilion for the sun;
It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again.
Nothing is hidden from its burning heat

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Creating God, you have made our world and all that is in it. We give you thanks for the glories that you have presented to us as stewards of this earth. We ask for your guidance as we enter a new season of growing, that we may work the land carefully and with the love of your creation. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

²a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
⁴a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
⁵a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
⁶a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
⁷a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
⁸a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 8

L: O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

C: Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

L: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;

C: what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

L: Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.

C: You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,

L: all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

C: the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

L: O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 3:5-9

⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. ⁹For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:18-23

The holy gospel according to _____.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or

persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDRENS SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

For the Beauty of the Earth

ELW 879

1 For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:

Refrain

Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

2 For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light: Refrain

3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight, for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight: Refrain

4 For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild: Refrain

5 For each perfect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n; for thyself, best gift divine, to our world so freely giv'n: Refrain

Holy Baptism

PRESENTATION (P. 227)

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Sponsors: **I present Dalton Allen Farr for baptism.**

Alan and Kasey, Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have *Dalton* baptized into Christ? **I do.**

As you bring *Dalton* to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:
to live with *him* among God's faithful people,
bring *him* to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach *him* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,

place in *his* hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture *him* in faith and prayer,
so that *Dalton* may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help *your children* grow in the Christian faith and life? **I do.**

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture *Dalton* in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? **I do.**

People of God, do you promise to support *Dalton* and pray for *him* in *his* new life in Christ? **We do.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH (*stand*)

Parents, sponsors and congregation; I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God? **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God? **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God? **I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.* On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Or, He descended to the dead.*

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly may be seated.

BAPTISM

Dalton Allen Farr, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of each of the newly baptized, the minister prays for each:

Sustain Dalton with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Dalton Allen Farr, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

WELCOME

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray to the God who has created us and all that exists in this world saying: Creating God,
We are your stewards.

We pray for those people in the world who go hungry every day, for the children who have not known the taste of bread. Creating God,
We are your stewards.

We pray for those people in our community who do not have enough to eat, for the ones who are not able to eat nutritionally balanced meals. Creating God,
We are your stewards.

We pray for the governments around the world that they make good and wise decisions regarding food for their peoples. Creating God, **We are your stewards,**

We pray for the ones who will soon begin to till, plant and care for the land so that there will be enough for all to eat. Creating God, **We are your stewards.**

God, you call us to exercise good stewardship over the land, You call us to care for the land with love and compassion. Help us to answer your call. Help us to tend the land in ways that will make it last, to grow crops that do not damage the land, to engage in sustainable agriculture. Creating God, **We are your stewards.**

Giver of good gifts, we give you thanks that we are able to come before you with our petitions. We ask for your good favor in response to each of these in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us all to pray. **Amen**

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN -

"Take My Life"

ELW 685 vs 1

1 Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee; take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

OFFERING PRAYER

It is with a spirit of joy that we bring these elements before you for blessing this day. We bring seed that will be sown into the earth, nourished by the richness of the soil, and water that will enable the seed to grow into fullness. We give you thanks for the charge you have given us to be stewards of the earth. We give you thanks for the invitation you have given us to be co-creators with you, the one God, who created all that exists. **Amen.**

BLESSING OF ROGATION ELEMENTS

Prayer for Seeds

Creating God, you have given seed to the sower and bread to the people. Nourish, protect, and bless the seeds which your people have sown in hope. By your loving and bountiful giving, may they bring forth their fruit in due season. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Soil

Giver of life, we give you thanks that in the richness of the soil, nature awakens to your call of spring. We praise you for the smell of freshly tilled earth, the beauty of a cleanly cut furrow, and a well-plowed field. We ask that you help us to be good stewards of this land. In the name of the one who gives us new life, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Water/Rain

Sustaining God, we receive the fruits of the earth from you. We give you thanks for the smell of the earth after rain, for its welcome cooling, and its necessary hydration for the land. We ask that the rain come as often as it is needed so that the crops may flourish and the coming harvest be indeed bountiful Amen.

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

THE BLESSING

May the broken body and the shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you as you work to be good stewards in God's grace. **Amen**

BENEDICTION

May the God who has ordered creation order our days as loving stewards. May God's richest, and most bountiful blessings be upon us as we go out these doors to work in the fields at this rogation tide. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (ELW 631)

1 Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast; let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest. Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

3 Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

4 Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee! Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

DOXOLOGY: *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* (ELW 884)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Lessons for Next Week:

Exodus 24:8-18, Psalm 2:6-12, 2 Peter 1:16-21, Matthew 17:1-9

Service of Rogation

This service may be reprinted with permission and credits given to the Center for Theology and Land.

To begin planning a Service of Rogation, it's important to understand what we're celebrating. So let's take a quick look at what rogation is, and then we can plan a worship service around it.

We frequently think of seedtime, planting, and prayers for an abundant harvest as the main emphasis for rogation, but the word "rogation" actually takes its meaning from the Latin word "rogare" which means "to beseech."

This comes from 5th century France: after horrible natural disasters, the Bishop required the people to make a solemn three-day observance in order to atone for their sin; the observance consisted of three main parts: 1. The people were to petition God for forgiveness of their sins. 2. The people were to petition God for protection from further calamities. 3. The people were to petition God for bountiful crops.

Over the years, rogation lost its penitential air and became festive. Present traditions include "blessing of the fields" with processions through local fields, a singing of the litany, and offering prayers for God's protection and favor. The rogation service is to include a celebration of Holy Communion.

The spiritual lessons of rogation have also developed. God and humanity cooperate in the creative processes of agriculture. Tilling and care of the soil are tasks and privileges given by God. The life-giving power of the sown seed depends on God's goodness. These relationships result in a bountiful harvest.