

**Sunday January 23, 2022**  
**Nicodemus - Third Sunday after Epiphany**



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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**Pastor James Muske**

**320-583-5796**

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Church Secretary: Mary Braun

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

***MISSION STATEMENT***

*We will LIVE and SERVE through FAITH*

*we will ACT with LOVE and KINDNESS*

*we will GIVE hope and SUPPORT to all.*

**Hearing Assistance is available during the service.**

**Please notify usher if you would like assistance**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN:**                    **“God Loved the World”**                    **#323 ELW**  
*(Please Stand on the Last Verse)*

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, **✝** one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children. We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected. We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves. We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome. Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation.**

**Amen.**

Rejoice in this good news: In **✝** Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

**Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Birth God,

**You gave us new life when we were born of water and Spirit. Help us live into that new life, refreshed and renewed for your work. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**PSALM: Psalm 139: 13-18** *(Read Responsively)*

<sup>13</sup>For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

<sup>14</sup>**I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are**

**your works; that I know very well.**

<sup>15</sup>My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

**<sup>16</sup>Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.**

<sup>17</sup>How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

**<sup>18</sup>I try to count them — they are more than the sand; I come to the end — I am still with you.**

*Please Stand*

**GOSPEL READING: John 3:1-21**

**Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup>Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup>Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because

they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God**

## SERMON

**HYMN OF THE DAY:**

**“Borning Cry”**

**#732 ELW**

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## HOLY BAPTISM

### PRESENTATION

*Candidates for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the ministers at the font. The assembly is seated.*

*The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words:*

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

*Sponsors for each candidate, in turn, present the candidates:*

I present **Josephine Ann Fischer** for baptism.

*The presiding minister addresses parents or others who bring for baptism children who are not able to answer for themselves:*

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have *your children* baptized into Christ?

**Response: I do.**

As you bring *your child* to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with *her* among God's faithful people,

bring *her* to the word of God and the holy supper,

teach *her* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,

place in *his* hands the holy scriptures,  
and nurture *her* in faith and prayer,  
so that *your child* 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 child* grow in the Christian faith and life?

***Response: I do.***

***The presiding minister addresses sponsors:***

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

***Response: I do.***

***The presiding minister addresses the assembly:***

People of God, do you promise to support ***Josephine Ann Fischer*** and pray for *her* in *her* new life in Christ?

**We do.**

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

***The presiding minister addresses candidates for baptism as well as the parents and sponsors of young children. The assembly may join in the responses.***

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?

***Response:***

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

***Response:***

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

***Response:***

**I renounce them.**

***The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.***

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, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.**

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

*Water may be poured into the font before or during the thanksgiving. At the font, the presiding minister begins the thanksgiving:*

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.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **BAPTISM**

*The presiding minister baptizes each candidate. The candidate is immersed into the water, or water is poured on the candidate's head, as the presiding minister says:*

**Josephine Ann Fischer**, I baptize you in the name of the Father,

*The candidate is immersed or water is poured on the candidate's head a second time:*

and of the Son,

*The candidate is immersed, or water is poured on the candidate's head a third time:*

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*Clothed with Christ in baptism, the newly baptized may receive a baptismal garment.*

*The presiding minister continues:*

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 **Josephine Ann Fischer** 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.**

*The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:*

**Josephine Ann Fischer**, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**Amen.**

## **WELCOME**

*A lighted candle may be given to each of the newly baptized (to a sponsor of a young child) as a representative of the congregation says:*

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me

will have the light of life.

*The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly. A representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.*

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.**

*Those who have gathered at the font may return to their places.*

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## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

*A brief silence.*

You reveal yourself to us in the reading of scripture. Fulfill your word through the faithful witness of your church. Send us out to bring your liberating good news to all people. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

All creation proclaims your handiwork. Teach us to love the intricate and beautiful bodies that you have created. Bless tiny insects, enormous whales, and every creature in between. Sustain species at risk of extinction. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You desire that there be no dissension among us. Where we are divided in our society, nation, or world, come quickly to reunite us into one body. Ease conflict, dispel violence, and bring an end to war. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Anoint with your Spirit all who seek your favor. Grant provision and justice for people living in poverty, people living with disability, those living with pain, or those living under oppression (*especially*). God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Build up the body of Christ in this place. Bless the variety of ministries in this congregation (*especially*). Empower us to freely welcome and deeply value each person who enters into worship and ministry among us. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

In thanksgiving we lift before you the saints for whom the promise of salvation has now been fulfilled. Tend to those who mourn (*especially*). Bring us together in your everlasting glory. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**



## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated for the passing of the offering plate.*

## **OFFERING**

*Please stand as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Blessed are you, O God,

**Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to God's table.

There is a place for you and enough for all.

(Communion will be handed to you, pick up your own cup - red wine; white juice)

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We give you thanks, gracious God,

**for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, ✝ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever.

**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN:            "Your Love is Everlasting"            Dakota Road**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Visitors! It has been great having you join us for worship! Please come again.*

**THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK**

Greeters: Shirley Moe & Susan Samuelson

Ushers: Winnie Zahradka & Nancy Hansen

Hospitality: Dick & Sue Stebbins

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, January 16, 2022: In Person: 9:00 am 42

Online: 16

**THIS WEEK AT Bethesda**

**January 24, 2021 – January 30, 2021**

Monday	1/24	11:30 am	Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	1/25	9:00 am	Quilters
		4-6:00 pm	Greif Share
Wednesday	1/26	9:00 am	Women's Bible Study
Sunday	1/30	9:00 am	Worship in Person & Live Stream

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER & CARE LIST:** Jill and London Feland, Elsa Carlson, Marilyn Andrews, Randy Zahradka.

**ATTENDANCE REGISTRY** Please sign and pass the attendance registry which you will find in the pew. This information is gathered for annual reports to the Synod.

**SNOW DAYS** Indoor and Outdoor Fun for all ages. Sunday, January 23rd from 2-4pm. Indoor games and Outdoor snow shoeing (weather permitting). Nachos & Refreshments. Free Will Offering.

**2021 YEAR END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS** are available for pick up in the Fellowship Hall along with your 2022 giving envelopes.