

## Old Testament

*Jeremiah 29:4–14*

<sup>4</sup>“Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: <sup>5</sup>Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. <sup>6</sup>Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. <sup>7</sup>But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. <sup>8</sup>For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, <sup>9</sup>for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the LORD.

<sup>10</sup>“For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. <sup>11</sup>For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. <sup>12</sup>Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. <sup>13</sup>You will seek me and find me. When you seek me with all your heart, <sup>14</sup>I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

## Epistle

*1 Peter 3:15–22*

<sup>15</sup>In your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.

<sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>because they

formerly did not obey, when God’s patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. <sup>21</sup>Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

## Holy Gospel

*Mark 4:1–9, 26–32*

<sup>1</sup>Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. <sup>2</sup>And he was teaching them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: <sup>3</sup>“Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. <sup>5</sup>Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>And when the sun rose it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. <sup>8</sup>And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.” <sup>9</sup>And he said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

<sup>26</sup>And he said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup>He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

<sup>30</sup>And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

*They left their nets  
and followed Him*



Epiphany

**About the Cover:** Jesus wants people to follow Him and tell others of the love and forgiveness He brings to mankind. Jesus promises to make those who follow Him “fishers of men” (Mark 1:17). We are to speak and live with the intentional purpose of inviting others to believe in Jesus and to follow Him. By the Holy Spirit, many will come to faith, leave their earthly entanglements behind, and follow Him.

# THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 17 & 21, 2018  
Sharing, Believing, Living, Caring

St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church  
105 Horn St., Brillion, WI  
(920) 756-3031  
www.stbartbrillion.org

Rev. Mark L. Krueger, Pastor  
Wednesday, Devin Zahringer, Organist  
Sunday, Jessica Krueger, Organist  
Pastor Email: sblcpastor@gmail.com  
Secretary Email: sblcbrillion@gmail.com

Liturgy: Divine Service Setting  
Hymns: 490, 553, 350 vs. 1 & 4, 750, 690 (Tune: 400), 805, 611, 720, 763  
Sermon: "Hope for Life"  
1 Peter 3:15-22

*Holy Communion: Members of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod are invited to receive the Lord's Supper. Non-members are requested to speak with Pastor before worship.*

## THE MEASURE OF OUR LOVE

Attendance 1/10 (Wed.): 28	Offering: \$400.00
Attendance 1/14 (Sun.): 82	Offering: \$2,135.00
S.S. – 11	Staff – 7
	B.C. – 9
Budget Needs: \$3,397.00	Scrip Profit 1/14: \$36.63

## KINGDOM WORK THIS WEEK

SUN (1/21) 10:00 a.m. – C.H.A.O.S. Meeting  
WED (1/24) 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class  
7:00 p.m. – **Worship**  
8:00 p.m. – Church Council  
THUR (1/25) 6:30 p.m. – Adult Information Class  
SAT (1/27) Passionate Believers Conference in Hartland  
SUN (1/28) 8:00 a.m. – Sunday School  
8:00 a.m. – Voters Meeting  
9:00 a.m. – **Worship**

**IN OUR PRAYERS** we remember the family of Bob Reamer upon his death.

**2018 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES** – If you have not yet picked up your envelopes, please do so as soon as possible as some box numbers have changed since last year.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** to help with monologs for the midweek Lenten and Holy Week services. There are one or two opportunities for women but mostly men are needed. Please contact Pastor Krueger as soon as possible if you are interested in helping.

**VOTERS MEETING** will be held Sunday, January 28 at 8 a.m.

**ADDRESS, PHONE & EMAIL CHANGES!** Please check and update the info we have for you on the sheets in the narthex.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:** End-of-the-year giving statements Were emailed to those members whose email addresses we have on file. If you did not receive yours, please let the office know. For those members without an email, your statement is in your church mailbox.

**PENNIES FOR LIFE** runs through the month of January. Be sure to deposit your pennies in the jar in the narthex (one penny for each year you've been alive.) *Please do not put junk pennies or Canadian pennies in the jar.* Donations will go to Lutherans For Life of Wisconsin.

**POSTAGE STAMP UPDATE** – Ladies Aid once again has an outlet for used postage stamps. Please save your cancelled postage stamps for us. Just bring the whole corner of the envelope; we will do the trimming for you. Place in box on top of coat rack.

## **OUR STEWARDSHIP LIFE**

**Matthew 17:7** But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." When Jesus is with us, there is no need to fear. He loves us and cares for us and will never abandon us. That assurance is the basis of all generosity – for only those who are set free from worry can learn the joy of giving.

**DISTRICT MISSIONS** – This week is **National Lutheran Schools Week**. Please pray for all our District's teachers, administrators, students and families as they identify the many blessings that come to them through our support of Christian education.