

Old Testament *Genesis 1:1–5*

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Epistle *Romans 6:1–11*

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we

have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Holy Gospel *Mark 1:4–11*

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

BAPTIZED *into* CHRIST JESUS



Romans 6:3



About the Cover: Whether received as an infant, child, or adult, the power of Baptism is in the Word of God, which unites us to Christ’s death and resurrection. No matter how long ago it was made, this promise can never be void, and we grasp it through the gift of faith. In Christ, we have a baptismal identity that can never be taken away. We did not choose it. It was given to us by Christ Himself as a gift.

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 3 & 7, 2024

Sharing, Believing, Living, Caring

St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church

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Hymns: 590, 407, 805, 394, 578, 404

THE MEASURE OF OUR LOVE

Attendance 12/31 (Sun): 69 Comm.: 61 Offering: \$2,832.07

Budget Needs: \$3,353.51 Scrip Profit 12/31: \$45.00

KINGDOM WORK THIS WEEK

MON (1/8) 4:30 p.m. – Finance

WED (1/10) 6:00 p.m. – Confirmation

7:00 p.m. – Worship

Installation of officers

THUR (1/11) 12:30 p.m. – Ladies Aid

SAT (1/13) 9:00 a.m. – Take down outdoor nativity

SUN (1/14) 8:00 a.m. – Sunday School

9:00 a.m. – Worship

Installation of officers

10:15 a.m. – Bible Class

6:00 p.m. – Farm & Home 4H

SUN-MON Rural Pastors Conf., Manitowoc

IN OUR PRAYERS we remember Dorothy Maile, Lucas (grandson of Alan Klepps), Pr. John Wille of the South Wisconsin District of the LCMS Synod (cancer treatment); Fran (father of Brigitte Sonnabend); Vincent Sucivic (grandson of Duane & Karen Loose), Wilfred Boldt, Julie Boldt, Kay Koffarnus, Jules Clausing (infection), Carol Clausing, Sandy Haberland, Elaine Zeamer, and Lori Krueger.

OUTDOOR NATIVITY – The outdoor nativity will be taken down on Saturday the 13th at 9:00 a.m. All help is appreciated.

CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATES – Please email or drop off in the office the contact information – name, address, phone number, email address – for all congregation members in your household (and also extended family) even if the information has not changed since last year.

VOTERS MEETING will be held Sunday January 28 at 10:00 a.m.

2024 FLOWER CHART & BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP – If you would like to donate flowers or sponsor bulletins for next year, please sign up on the bulletin board.

GREETER & USHER SCHEDULE – Thank you to all who have signed up in 2024. We have several openings still available and would like to fill up the slots. Please consider helping. Thank you.

ANNUAL REPORT ITEMS should be turned in already. If not, drop them off at the church office or email them to sblcoffice105@gmail.com ASAP. *Thank you!*

OUR STEWARDSHIP LIFE

Matthew 3:14 – “John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’” John is right — what Jesus is doing makes no sense! But this is the upside-down, outlandish grace of God: the innocent Jesus takes our sinner’s place. This is the greatest act of giving the world has ever known or will know: the Father gives His Son to die in the place of sinners.

*Greater is He that is in me,
than he that is in the world.*

1 John 4:4