



FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

The Baptism of Our Lord

January 10, 2010

Alleluia! You are My Son, Whom I love; with You I am well pleased. Alleluia!

Luke 3:22

Greetings and WELCOME to
Brooklyn Lutheran Church.

VISITORS please sign the guest book.

Come and worship with us again soon!

Available from an usher:

- **Bibles** to follow along with the Scripture Readings.
- **Large print hymnal** is available.
- **Quiet bags** for small children.

Please return to ushers.

Prayer Before Worship: Focus my attention on You, Jesus, that I may worship You in thought, word, and deed in glad response for all Your precious gifts, especially the gift of salvation. Amen.

HYMNS: 297 89 294* 299

ORDER OF SERVICE: Morning Praise: Page 45

PRAYER FOR THE DAY—Spoken by all together.

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as Your children and make us heirs with Him of everlasting life; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

First Lesson: I Samuel 16:1-13 (Page 443)

David was anointed as the king of Israel. He was chosen for a special task. Jesus was God's Anointed One, chosen for the special task of redeeming us.

Rags To Riches Of The Heart

Kevin wasn't used to being helpful. He wasn't used to telling the truth. He wasn't used to being honest with himself until he found out he had lung cancer.

The first inkling of Kevin's change of heart came about when he was in a rehab facility, being treated for his addiction to alcohol and cocaine. "My intention was to tap dance my way around, clean up a little, and then go back out and dance with that dragon again," he recalled. "I was there for 45 days, and something happened. It was half spiritual and half me taking a look at myself. I changed enough at that time to see things as they really are."

After staying clean and attending Alcoholics Anonymous, Kevin had a slip-up. "Being a stark-raving drunk, I didn't have to have a reason to drink," he said. Intoxicated and high on cocaine one spring night, he was picked up on the street by the police. The next thing he knew, he was waking up in the hospital. While at the hospital, he found out he had pneumonia and received treatment. Once it had cleared up, his chest X-rays revealed a new truth: He had lung cancer.

With his diagnosis, he came to terms with his past behavior. "I was living a lie. For the first time, I'm not," he said. He admits the change wasn't easy. "My motivation was spiritual."

Kevin chose palliative rather than curative care for his cancer. As part of his care from Hospice of the Twin Cities, Kevin requested a chaplain to help him with spiritual healing. "This all showed me that I'm powerless. The only thing I have power over is my behavior," he said. "I think this all happened to me to show me who wears the pants in this relationship between me and God."

His hospice social worker has been helping Kevin plan funeral arrangements and get his finances in order. She provides him with emotional support, encouraging him to review his life and focus on the positive that came from his terminal illness.

In the care facility where Kevin now lives, he's a well-liked member of the community, known for pushing around the other residents in wheelchairs and making sure the lights are turned off for the birds in the sanctuary so they can sleep at night. "I've never been anything . . . I want to give and help people now," he said. "It does make me feel good."

"Until recently, I didn't believe that wisdom comes with age," the 65-year-old said. "I'm different than I was ten years ago. You wouldn't have wanted to meet me in a dark alley because I didn't care. That was my attitude for a long time."

Perhaps it's not age, but something else, that has given him his newfound wisdom. The Holy Spirit has given him "New life" even in the face of death.

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 2 (Page 65)

The powers and authorities in this world plot and plan, but God has placed Jesus, His Anointed One, over all things.

Second Lesson: Titus 3:4-7 (Page 1859)

Through the saving merits of Jesus we are justified, that is, declared not guilty, before God. Through our baptism we have become heirs of eternal life.

SERMON: Luke 3:15-17,21,22 (Page 1594)

Jesus' Baptism and Ours

- ✘ Baptism and God's Family.
- ✘ Baptism and New Life.
- ✘ Baptism and God's Claim On Us.

*In place of Te Deum, sing CW#294

"Baptized Into Your Name Most Holy."

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Meditation Theme for the week:

"God's Love Takes Action"

Today's Offering Counters:

D. Gabrielson and G. Schimenz

Today **10:00 Worship** - Ushers: R. Stelter & A. Boyd
Decorations down after Service. We can use your help.
2:15 West Regents

Mon. Wise Penny Work Day

Fri. 9:30 Bible Class (Start Revelation!)

Next Sun. - 6:30am Time of Grace, TV ch 9

8:45 Sunday School

8:55 Adult Sunday School

8:55 Adult Bible Class

10:00 Worship - Ushers: G & C Schimenz

11:15 Church Council

Last Sunday Worship Attendance: 72

Sunday School Attendance: 4; Adult Bible Class: 10;

Offering: \$2569.00

New Years Eve Attendance: 31; Offering: \$771.00

I've sure gotten old! I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees, fought prostate cancer and diabetes. I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts.

Have bouts with dementia .. have poor circulation; hardly feel my hands and feet anymore. Can't remember if I'm 89 or 98. Have lost all my friends. But, thank God, I still have my driver's license! Wanna keep your driver's license at reduced rates?!

Are you 55+?! If so, you will save 10% (by law) on your car insurance by taking the driver improvement class that will be offered at Brooklyn Lutheran February 2 & 9 (6-10pm, Tuesdays), through St. Cloud University. There will be no final exam or behind the wheel test. The cost is only \$24. Those BLC members and friends who have already taken the course can attend the three year mandatory refresher at BLC on Thursday, February 25th, for \$20. Register by calling 1-888-234-1294. There will be publicity put out in our community. Pray that this can be a conduit in helping us reach out to neighbors with "insurance" for eternity in Christ. There is a class size limit of about 30.

*You better watch out, you better not cry, you better not pout, I'm telling you why.....No, that's about some other guy! But **Pastor Paul Kelm is coming to town** the end of next week (Th-Sat, 1/21-23) to work with our church leaders again on developing a framework and plan for advancing God's Kingdom among us. It would be great to have more "Responses to the Vision" to show Rev. Kelm that our people are getting on board to move BLC forward. To date, there have been ten responses. So...don't cry, don't pout – Just pick up and fill out a form, available by the wood box in the back of the church. Vision Task Force reports to evaluate your involvement are available there also.*

Growing out of their meeting Tuesday evening, the **Ladies Guild** is taking a lead by showing flexibility to accommodate our efforts of outreach – They are moving their February meeting to Monday, to open their normal Tuesday meeting date for the driver improvement class. They also have resolved as a group to make renewed effort to welcome new members and guests and provide after worship refreshments for valuable fellowship time. Ladies – you should consider the Guild as a valuable way you might get involved more at your church!

Take a Poinsettia today? If you can provide a nice home for a poinsettia, please feel free to take one from the altar area this morning.

Got an idea for church front landscaping? Duke Carstensen and Jerry Steinbach are planning to rework the front of our church this spring. If you have an idea and/or a willing hand to assist, let them know!

Revelation will be the topic for 9:30am Friday Bible Class, beginning January 15. Join us!

Welcome to Denise O'Connell and Jackson George Jr., who were received into communicant membership at our New Year's Eve Service Thursday night. *May the new year and years to come bring mutual spiritual blessing to them and us!*

West now has 32 enrolled for next year's freshmen class! That is within about ten of what we need to replace graduates and others leaving the school for various reasons. We thank God for these numbers and ask God's blessing upon their Christian based education. We will do all we can to assist in this most precious work! Your offerings in 2010 will help us to meet a very modest budget commitment toward this effort. Thanks to those BLC members who volunteer at the school and Wise Penny!



*Brooklyn Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

Our Mission:

*We exist to use the
Gospel of Christ to
win the lost and to
nurture
believers, all to the
glory of God.*



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