



**FIRST SUNDAY
AFTER THE EPIPHANY
The Baptism of Our Lord**
January 8, 2012

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

**“You are My Son”
Mark 1:11**

**Greetings & 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 these to our ushers following the Service.

Prayer Before Worship: Merciful Father in heaven, we thank You for the blessing of Baptism by which You offer and grant the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Help us to regard our Baptism as the robe of righteousness we are to wear all the days of our life until we finally come to the blessed joys of heaven, through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

HYMNS: 89 709 (insert) 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: Isaiah 49:1-6 (Page 1078)

In one of Isaiah’s servant songs, the Servant of the Lord describes His calling and His work: “to restore the tribes of Jacob” and to be “a light for the Gentiles.”

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 2 (Page 65)

The ultimate fulfillment of this psalm is clearly found in Jesus the Messiah. “Blessed are all who take refuge in Him.”

Second Lesson: Acts 16:25-34 (Page 1721)

The jailer at Philippi poses a crucial question: “What must I do to be saved?” Paul and Silas point not to deeds but to faith, and they then baptize the jailer and his whole family.

SERMON: Mark 1:4-11 (Page 1551)

Jesus’ Baptism.....And Ours

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

P: Lord Jesus, at Your baptism You revealed Yourself as the obedient Son of Man, fulfilling all righteousness. Your heavenly Father revealed You as His beloved Son, in Whom He is well pleased. The Holy Spirit revealed You as the Christ, anointed and armed to destroy the work of the devil.

C: We thank You, beloved Son of God, that You took on Yourself the nature of a servant, became like us, and were obedient to the will of Your heavenly Father.

P: Lord Jesus, eternal Word of God, You have connected Your mighty Word and gracious promises to the water of Holy Baptism. In Baptism You cleansed us from sin, redeemed us from death, and clothed us in Your perfect righteousness. We praise You for the promise and treasure of Baptism

C: Encourage us to remember our baptisms daily as we die to sin and rise to new life with You.

Special prayers

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring You our private petitions.

Silent Prayer

P: Baptized into Your name most holy, O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

We claim a place, though weak and lowly, among Your saints, Your chosen host,

Buried with Christ and dead to sin. Your Spirit now shall live within.

**C: All that I am and love most dearly—receive it all,
O Lord, from me.**

**Let me confess my faith sincerely, and help me
Your own child to be!**

**Let nothing that I am or own serve any will but
Yours alone. Amen.**

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Meditation Theme for week:

“Believe In The Lord Jesus, and You Will Be Saved!”

Offering Counters: D. Gabrielson, L. Gens

Today **10:00 Worship** – Ushers: R. Stelter, S. Deuth
11:15 Undecorate church

Mon. Wise Penny Work Day

Tues. 7:45 Wallyball at BP Comm. Center

Wed 3:15 Bible Class **“I Want My Freedom From
All Your Rules”**

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

8:45 Sunday School

8:55 Bible Classes Up: Jesus’ 8 **“I AM”** statements from the Gospels. Down: God’s planned roles for men and women as heirs together of God’s gracious gift of life.

10:00 Worship- Ushers: G. Schimenz, S. Melchert

Sermon: *“Mastering Morality Frees the Christian”*

11:15 BBS Meeting

Annual Reports are due!

Next Mon. 1/16- 7:00-Council with Pastor Bentz

Next Tue. 1/17- Noon– Lutheran Homes Annual Meeting

Next Fri. 1/20—Brooklyn Lutheran Night at West Lutheran High School: game times from 4:45 to 7:30pm. Free entry and bag of popcorn!

Jan. 22– February Newsletter deadline
- 11:15 Town Meeting

Feb. 5 -11:15 Annual Meeting

There is a new flower calendar. If you would like to donate flowers for the altar on a Sunday, special to you, please sign your name by the date.

Would you please **check the church directory** on the table by the bulletin board and make any changes in your address, e-mail, etc. Thank you!

WELS SCHOOL STATISTICS

It's that time of year again when we gather statistics for our congregational annual meeting (February 5th) and for synod reporting. WELS school statistics are already in. We thought we might share some of these with you today and in the weeks ahead to gain some perspective on what is happening in our fellowship. Against the backdrop of our Brooklyn Bridge School which is doing fine (enrollment in the forties), we first offer these interesting and impressive statistics synod-wide:

There are 403 early childhood ministries (ECM) among our nearly 1300 congregations. 237 of them are part of a Lutheran Elementary School. The remaining 166 are what is called "free standing," meaning "pre-school" is the only age group served. "Pre-school" was shown in " " because this includes even those "schools" that care for children from early infancy to Kindergarten.

Within these ECMs there are 10,725 children. The largest has 164 children, the smallest 1! The average is 26.6 children, which means BBS is almost twice as large as average – despite not having a full elementary student body and facility.

There are 62 ECMs in the Minnesota District, with 1,373 children (22.1 average). It makes sense that our district's would run smaller on the average, because there are many large elementary schools in the three Wisconsin districts. Still, Minnesota has more ECMs than Northern Wisconsin District (54) and Western Wisconsin District (57). Southeastern Wisconsin District has the most (80) and highest average size ECMs (31.1). Minnesota District (4th largest of the 12) has the second highest number of ECMs and second highest enrollment – making us the most progressive district in regard to ECMs.

Interestingly, tuition covers cost in only 167 of the 403 ECMs. Throughout our years BBS tuition

and special gifts have covered staff and direct operational expenses. This year we are operating at the best efficiency ever, due to being blessed with full, full classes and a small number of families failing to keep current on their tuition. Synodwide tuition rates are impossible to compare with ours because many ECMs provide all day care, raising the average tuition to over \$100 per week, where BBS four classes are \$100, \$120, \$160, and \$180 – based on two or three days, with mornings \$20 more based on supply and demand.

A couple of more synod stats: 27% of children are from member families, 6% from sister congregations, 42% from other Christian families, 3% non-Christian, 22% unchurched. With only one child a member of BLC and no other WELS children – kick the other three categories up about 11% each and you would be pretty close to the picture at BBS!

Finally, ECMs are showing consistent growth over the past nine years – unlike elementaries (-12.6%) and high schools (off 5.7% since peaking in '05-'06) programs. Nine years ago there were 6,351 ECM students. The 10,725 this school year makes for a nine year growth of nearly 69%! BBS is again the largest it has been since we offered Kindergarten 2006-2008. Back then we were in the fifties for the most part, and reached low sixties one month. During those years we had 3-5 in Kindergarten and five preschool classes, with a limit of ten each, except for our M-W-F AM class for which we had an aide.

To God be the glory, as we and all of synod seek to bridge children with their Savior Jesus Christ.

Last Sunday Worship Attendance: 52
Offering: \$3400.00;
New Year's Eve: 25; Offering: 380.00
Needed for Budget Week - **\$2,531**



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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