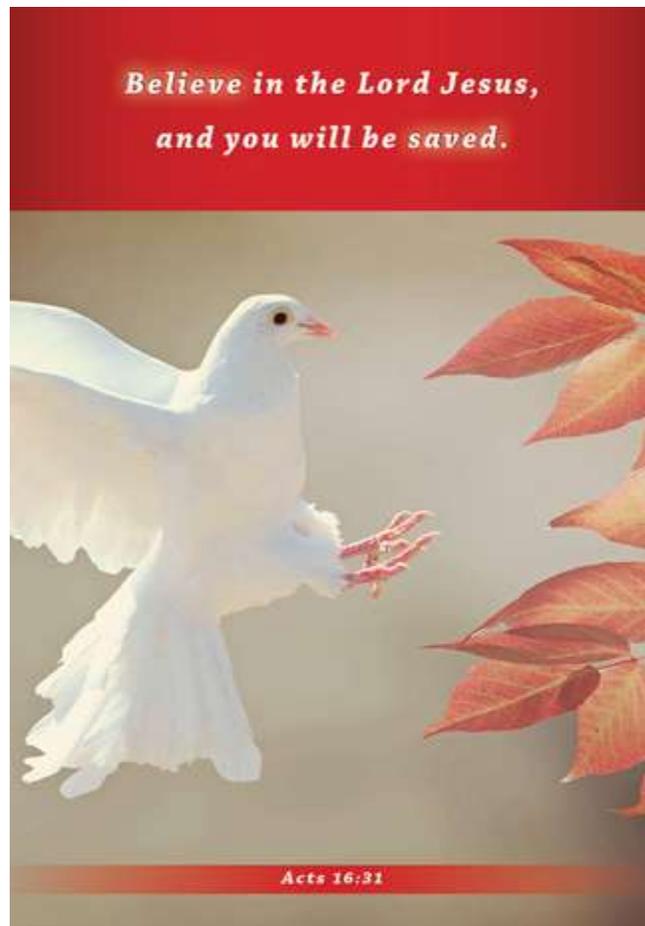




FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY



JANUARY 10, 2021

St. Matthew's Danube, St. John's Renville, and St. Matthew Flora Twp. MN (WELS)

First Sunday after Epiphany

January 10, 2021

St. Matthew Flora Twp. - St. Matthew's Danube - St. John's Renville (WELS)

www.stmatthewsdanube.org | Pastor Mike Kuschel | home: 320-826-2280 | cell: 320-522-2428

Little Lambs Learning Center: 100 Main St. Danube, MN | office: 320-826-2340

Prayer Before Worship: Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children and make us heirs with Christ of everlasting life. Amen.

The Gathering Rite on Holy Baptism

God's people long to gather together for strength from God and for mutual encouragement. This alternate beginning for worship is intended to remind God's people of Baptism's continuing blessings. Although no one will be baptized here today this service reminds us of the blessings that we have in Christ, who was baptized as he carried our sins.

The minister conducts the gathering rite at the font.

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen. (spoken)**

**{Sung by all} 1. Baptized into your name most holy,
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
I 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.**

M: I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

C: **Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. (John 3:5,6)**

M: Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time our mothers conceived us. *(Psalm 51:5)*

C: **But we were washed, we were sanctified, we were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.**

*{Sung by Pastor} 2. My loving Father, there you took me
To be henceforth your child and heir.
My faithful Savior, there you let me
The fruit of all your sorrows share.
O Holy Spirit, comfort me
When threat'ning clouds around I see.*

M: As baptized children of God, we confess our sins.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

*3 {Sung by pastor} My faithful God, you fail me never;
Your promise surely will endure.
Oh, cast me not away forever
If words and deeds become impure.
Have mercy when I come defiled;
Forgive, lift up, restore your child.*

M: Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

**4. {Sung by all} 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**

Prayer of the Day

M: 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. **C: Amen (spoken)**

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 49:1-6

Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the LORD called me; from my birth he has made mention of my name. ² He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver. ³ He said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor.” ⁴ But I said, “I have labored to no purpose; I have spent my strength in vain and for nothing. Yet what is due me is in the LORD’s hand, and my reward is with my God.” ⁵ And now the LORD says— he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD and my God has been my strength— ⁶ he says: “It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.”

Verse of the Day: (spoken together)

**Alleluia. You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased. Alleluia.
(Mark 1:11b)**

SECOND LESSON

Acts 16:25-34

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody’s chains came loose. ²⁷ The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!” ²⁹ The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹ They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” ³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³ At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. ³⁴ The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family.

Alleluia Response:

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe
that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

THE GOSPEL

Mark 1:4-11

⁴And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."⁹At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

The Holy Bible : New International Version. 1996, c1984 . Zondervan: Grand Rapids

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise be to You, O Christ!**

Hymn: "To Jordan's River Came our Lord" - CW # 89

Congregation Sings Stanzas 1, 4

Pastor Sings Stanza 2-3

***[1] To Jordan's river came our Lord,
The Christ, whom heav'nly hosts adored,
The God from God, the Light from Light,
The Lord of glory, pow'r and might***

*[2] The Savior came to be baptized
The Son of God in flesh disguised -
To stand beneath the Father's will
And all his promises fulfill*

*[3] As Jesus in the Jordan stood
And John Baptized the Lamb of God,
The Holy Spirit heav'nly dove,
Descended on him from above.*

***[4] Then from God's throne with thund'rous sound
Came God's own voice with words profound:
"This is my Son," was his decree,
"The one I love, who pleases me."***

Sermon Text: Acts 16:25-34

Sermon: The Word Speaks Peace into the Chaos

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering:

Please mail in your offering as we continue to support the work of spreading the gospel throughout our community and the world. Thank you for your continued support!

The First Sunday after the Epiphany *The Baptism of Our Lord*

O heavenly Father, we thank you for revealing our Lord to us at his baptism by water, Word and the Spirit, making known to us that the one born in Bethlehem and adored by wise men, is indeed your dearly loved Son in whom you are well-pleased. Enable us to find in him our hope and salvation, our righteousness and life.

As you anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit, so pour out that same Spirit upon us that we may serve you in the world as dearly loved children. Remove from our souls all fear and doubt, overcome our laziness and indecision, drive from our lives the ugliness of sin. Open our eyes to the glorious privilege of being your holy priests and of making your salvation known to all people. Grant your strength and blessing to all pastors, teachers and missionaries that they may proclaim your Word with fervor and diligence and bring the light of the gospel to those who sit in the darkness of sin and death.

In your mercy, Lord, show strength and healing to the sick and afflicted. Give them grace to cast their cares upon you in the knowledge and assurance of your care for them.

Special prayers of thanksgiving or intercession may be spoken here

Finally, enable all of us to rejoice in your holy Son, Jesus Christ, whom we worship with you and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen

Hymn: "To Jordan's River Came Our Lord" – CW # 89

*[5] The Father's word, the Spirit's flight
Anointed Christ in glorious sight
As God's own choice, from Adam's fall
To save the world and free us all.*

**[6] Now rise, faint hearts; be resolute!
This man is Christ, our substitute!
He was baptized in Jordan's stream,
Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.**

*Composers & Copyrights: Text: James P. Tiefel, b. 1949/ (c) 1993 James P. Tiefel
Tune: Musicalisch Hand-Buch der Geistlichen Melodien, Hamburg, 1690, alt. | Public Domain*



Announcements - *View our website and like us on Facebook for updated announcements.*

Thank you for your continued support

We thank you for your continued support of our efforts to share the good news of Jesus with our community and the world. Thank you for your mailing your offerings into the church the office.

*St. Matthew's Danube
PO Box 67
Danube, MN 56230*

*St. John's Renville
209 Bryant Ave NE
PO Box 416 - Renville, MN 56284*

*St. Matthew Flora Twp.
PO Box 67
Danube, MN 56230*

Please contact or write to us with any questions, concerns, words of encouragement or prayer requests. God be with you, and God willing we will be able to meet together in God's house soon. If you are in need of pastoral care and would like to have a visit over the phone please contact me. You can reach me either through my home number 826-2280 or cell phone 320-522-2428.

Stay Connected Wherever You Are:

We realize that not everyone will be ready or ought to return to public worship as our congregations reopen. We would like to encourage all those who are unable to come to worship or unsure if they ought to come to continue to make use of local radio, television, and online ministries. Below is a listing of different ministries available on different forms of media.

Television:

- Watch *Time of Grace* at 10:30am on Kare 11 on Sunday mornings - visit timeofgrace.org to learn more about Pastor Mike Novotny and other WELS pastors that contribute to Time of Grace and their varied resources.

Radio:

- Listen to St. John's Lutheran Church of Redwood Falls on 97.7 KLGR FM @ 8:00am Sunday mornings
- Tune in to Lutheran Chapel Services on KNUJ 97.3 FM or 860 AM @ 7:45 am Sunday mornings

Online: Join us for worship online in one of several ways: visit www.stmatthewsdanube.org or Search for St. Matthews Danube on YouTube for recorded services and livestreaming or follow us on Facebook.

Other Online Resources: wels.net, timeofgrace.org, nph.net forwardinchrist.net & Meditations online at nph.net

Share this information with neighbors, friends, relatives, and fellow members of our congregation as we put our hope and trust in the living God and make his name known among the nations and our communities.

Sunday School Planning to Return for in-person instruction

St. John's Renville resumes in-person instruction this week, Sunday January 10. St. Matthew's Danube is planning a return to in-person instruction on January 24. We invite our parents to make use of either in-person instruction or the online resources. Online Sunday School lessons and materials will continue to be shared throughout the winter and spring months.

Catechism:

Our next class will be a Zoom meeting on January 13 from 5:00pm - 5:30pm. Additional video content will be posted after the class. Pastor will be contacting parents about a schedule for the return of in-person instruction and a possible shift to a different time frame during Lent. May God bless our students as they grow in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Bible Information Class - Wednesdays at 6:30pm

If you would like to join us for Bible Information Class we will be meeting in the main part of the church on Wednesday nights at 6:30pm. Bible information class serve as a membership class as well as a good refresher of biblical doctrine for our current members.

Offering Envelopes Available: Offering envelopes are available to pick up at each of our churches. We thank you for your continued support of the gospel ministry as we seek to share the good news of Jesus throughout Renville county and the world. If you would like your envelopes brought to you, please contact an elder or Pastor Kuschel.

Tuesday Bible Class Returns on January 19

A Bible Class is being planned for Tuesday afternoons at 1:00pm. We hope to include both an in-person and online option so that you can come to church for class or tune in live using Zoom. You may also be able to watch archived lessons on our website. Our first course will focus on God's Faithfulness. Email Pastor Kuschel (pastorkuschel@yahoo.com) if you are interested in participating online.

Upcoming Meetings:

St. Matthew's Danube Council Meeting – January 11 @ 9:00am
St. Matthew's Danube Annual Meeting – February 7 at 1:30pm
St. Matthew Flora Twp. Annual Meeting – January 24 after worship
St. John's Renville Council Meeting – January 18 @ 7:30 pm.
St. John's Renville Annual Meeting – January 31 after worship

As we consider and review the challenges and blessings of the year gone by, we pray that God would bless and direct our efforts to share the good news of Jesus with our members, our community, and the world.

Please, contact Pastor Kuschel if you have any questions or corrections concerning our posted schedule of services, classes, events, and meetings. May God continue to bless us for many years to come with the good news of Jesus Christ, who came to be our substitute and Savior.

Personal Thank You from the Kuschel Family

My family and I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for the prayers, the words of encourage, the gifts, the cards, that we received during the Christmas season. It is a great blessing from God to be connected and cared for by the members of our congregations, this family of believers. Thank you! May God bless us in the new year as we encourage one another in the faith that we share.

Tri-Parish Ministry: Sunday Worship Schedule

St. Matthew Flora Twp – 8:00am St. Matthew's Danube - 9:30 am St. John's Renville - 11:00am