

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Helen Township, Minnesota

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

Dennis Reichow, Pastor (320) 864-3093

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Third Sunday After the Epiphany

January 23, 2011

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WELCOME: *“May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the Lord.”* (Psalm 104: 34) *Welcome to all in the name of our gracious God. May his blessings rest on you. If you are visiting with us today, we would enjoy the opportunity to get to know you. Please sign our guest book before you leave and we'd love to have you join us again!*

Theme: As our Savior, Christ rightfully has ultimate authority.

Thoughts for a Prayer Before Worship: Christ wants us to be a close family. However, we don't always commit the time and energy needed to make that happen. Pray that the Lord help you to clearly see how to grow with and within his family.

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Order of Worship: Service of the Word (p. 38)

OPENING HYMN: 338 “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

Choir “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Lesson: Isaiah 9: 1-4 (Pew Bible p. 1041)

Isaiah prophecies that light will dawn in Galilee of the Gentiles for the comfort of those spiritually downtrodden and oppressed.

Psalm of the Day Psalm 27 (p. 75)

Lesson: Matthew 4: 12-23 (Pew Bible p. 1453)

After John the Baptist had been imprisoned, Jesus began his great Galilean ministry, preaching a message of repentance and faith in fulfillment of the prophet's words that in obscure Galilee a light would

dawn. As he begins to preach, Jesus calls his first disciples: Peter, Andrew, James and John.

HYMN OF THE DAY: 85 “O God from God, O Light from Light”

SERMON 1 John 1: 5-7 (P. Bible p. 1837)

“What Has God Designed For Me In His Family?”

1. Zealous to know the Light

2. Knit together as one

APOSTLES' CREED

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: 280 “Thy Strong Word”

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN: 84 v. 1, 2&5 “Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun”

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Organist: David Porth

A MEASURE OF OUR FAITHFULNESS

At worship, Sunday, January 16th : 101

Attendance at weekly Bible Studies: 13

ANNUAL MEETING: *We will have our Annual meeting today after worship. Items that will be on our agenda include: our support for synod and Minnesota District ministries, sharing information on local ministry programs, the results of our congregational survey, and others. All members are encouraged to stay and be involved in the work of our congregation.*

YEARLY GIVING REPORTS *are in the meeting room on the table. Please stop by and pick yours up today.*

THIS WEEK IF GOD WILLS

Today	9:00 am	Worship
	10:00am	Sunday School
	10:15am	Annual Meeting
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Table Talk
Wednesday	3:45 pm	5-6 Grade Catechism
	4:45 pm	7-8 Grade Catechism
	6:30 pm	Chimes
	7:30 pm	Choir
Thursday	6:30 pm	Jesus Cares Ministry
Sunday	9:00 am	Worship
	10:00am	Sunday School
	10:20am	Bible Class

LUTHERAN NIGHT AT THE MN WILD: *Come and celebrate our 1st Annual Lutheran Night at the Wild game on Tuesday, February 15th at 7pm. The gates open at 6pm (Be among the first 3,500 fans in the arena and receive a FREE Year Ten Puck!) Discounted ticket options and prices are on the bulletin board in the narthex. You may also order online at www.wild.com/Lutheran. The deadline to order is Monday, February 14th.*

YOUTH TRIP TO GRAND SLAM *was a great time for all who attended. We played mini golf, arcade games, Krazy Kars and the little ones played in the PlayZone. We ended our fun filled evening with some pizza.*

YOUTH LOCK-IN *was a great success. We played board games, video games and tried our hand at some Minute To Win It challenges. We enjoyed pizza from Pizza Ranch and lots of snacks and conversation through out the night. Thank you to all who supported our Youth Group by using our babysitting services.*

SERMONS FOR THE FUTURE: *For your ears only! Yes, Jesus dedicated an entire sermon only for you to hear along with other believers. This is a message only for those who are his followers. Come next week to hear the beginning of his sermon. In preparation read Matthew 5:1-12.*

The Beatitudes

¹ Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

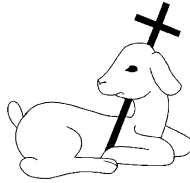
⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called sons of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

What does the Savior of the world look like?



“[Jesus] had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him” (Isaiah 53:2). So the prophet Isaiah described the suffering servant who was to bear the sins of the world.

Jesus Christ, true man and true God, was seen by many people in his human form. But he lived before portraiture became an art form. Besides, his poor social standing would not have made a portrait important or necessary. Since the Renaissance, Western artists of greater and lesser talent have created likenesses of Jesus that are pleasing to contemporary taste.

But a symbol of Jesus is much clearer than any fashionable likeness. The two most common symbols for our Lord Jesus Christ are the Good Shepherd and the Lamb of God. The Good Shepherd is one of the earliest Christian symbols and is based on Jesus’ own words in the gospel of John. The Lamb of God is an image from both Testaments and should be designed with the Lamb lying down to show his sacrifice or standing up with a resurrection banner to show his triumph over death. When God demanded sacrifice to atone for sin, Jesus came as that sacrifice. God used the symbol of the lamb for our benefit. That’s why no Christian church should be without a representation of the Lamb of God.

Abbreviations or sacred monograms are another type of symbol for our Savior. The Chi Rho (X and P) is an abbreviation of Christ. The IHC symbol is an abbreviation of Jesus. The Alpha and Omega (the first and last letters in the Greek alphabet) refer to Revelation 1:8.

F. R. Webber, in his book on church symbolism, counts more than four hundred versions of the cross and claims that about fifty forms are more common. His favorite is the Crux immissa, or Latin cross, which is used in most Christian churches. Other common crosses include the Greek cross (four arms of equal length) and the tau cross (a post with a beam attached to its top, looking like a capital T)—each has a special symbolic meaning. The crucifix is a cross that includes a figure of the crucified Savior and should be used to remind us of the passion and atonement. Webber advises the best placement of the crucifix is on the altar at the highest level.

Finally, there are many other symbols for Jesus Christ, some good and some not so good. A good example is the butterfly—a beautiful symbol for Christ’s resurrection. A poorer example is the Pelican-in-Her-Piety, because the misunderstanding of pelican behavior obscures its intended meaning. A good rule of thumb for any symbol is that it should inspire and educate with clarity.