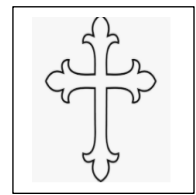


Perley Lutheran Parish
January 17th, 2021
Second Sunday of Epiphany



Gathering Hymn: Here I Am Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

Welcome and Announcements

Continued Prayers for our country

Nora council at 9:45 this morning

Annual Congregational meetings moved to February

Help our Digital Light Shine – if you can't do go fund me you can drop check (go fund me in the subject line) – ends today!!!

Continue to reach out if you need something

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation. **Amen**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy God,

You search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin-our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of +Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace. **Amen**

Prayer of the Day

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Psalms 139: 1-6, 13-18 (Read Responsively)

O LORD, you have searched me and known me. **You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.** You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. **Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.** You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. For**

it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. **I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.** My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. **Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.** How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! **I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.**

First Reading 1 Samuel 3:1-20

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever." Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him." As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

Holy Gospel according John 1:43-51, **Glory to you O Lord**

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

Children's Message

When something good happens to you, it is the most natural thing in the world to want to tell others about it. It may be something like making a good grade on this week's spelling test at school. Or perhaps you made the

winning goal in this week's soccer game. When something good happens to us, we can't wait to tell someone about it. Did something good happen to you this week that you would like to share with us? (Let the children share as time permits.) Isn't it great to tell others about good things that have happened to you? When you get a chance to tell someone about something good that happened to you, it's almost like experiencing the good thing again.

In our Bible lesson today, Jesus went to Galilee where he met a man named Philip. When Jesus met Phillip, he said to him, "Follow me." What a thrill! Not only did Phillip meet Jesus, but Jesus asked him to follow him and become one of his disciples.

The very first thing that came to Philip's mind was to tell someone what had happened to him. He immediately went and found his friend Nathanael. He said to Nathanael, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

Nathanael replied to Philip, "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.

"Come and see for yourself," Philip answered.

As they approached, Jesus said, "Now here is a genuine son of Israel—a man of integrity."

"How do you know about me?" Nathanael asked.

Jesus replied, "I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you."

Nathanael exclaimed, "You are the Son of God—the King of Israel!"

Something good happened to Philip—he met Jesus. He shared it with his friend Nathanael and he met Jesus too.

Has Jesus brought happiness into your life? Share it with your friends!

Let us pray.

Father, we are thankful for the happiness that Jesus has brought into our life. May we share it with our friends so that they might also know the happiness that Jesus brings. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Message

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

I have to admit that some of the most wonderful parts of my call as a Pastor is to not only hear people talk about when and how they have felt or saw God in their lives but just witnessing how you love and serve your neighbors. I don't know if you have ever heard the phrase "a Godwink". God wink (plural God winks) is described as an event or personal experience, often identified as coincidence, so astonishing that it is seen as a sign of divine intervention, especially when perceived as the answer to a prayer. In other words, we can't always see or feel God at a certain time in our lives but when we look back we see God was nudging us or guiding us.

It's have so enjoyed getting to know everyone at Kirkebo and Nora over the last couple of years and some of the history of the two churches. How some of your families have been a part of these congregations

for years and years and how others have moved to the area and have joined their local congregation. Some of you have been involved in your church and your faith your entire lives. Others have come to find church and the importance of faith at other times in your life.

I am a product of growing up in the church at a very young age. I attended church EVERY Sunday morning at Our Savior's Lutheran in Moorhead – and when I didn't I attended I would go with my grandma to Grace Lutheran in Ada or whatever church was nearby the location we were at. Remember those postcards we used to get years ago to prove that you went to Sunday School somewhere else? I got them and had perfect attendance pretty much every year as a child. I was involved with vacation bible school too and very active in the youth program while I went through school and high school. Participated in Youth gatherings in the state and the country and therefore continued my involvement in the church for about 18 years working at Christ the King Lutheran in Moorhead before starting seminary. So when people ask me when I realized my "call" to ministry it's pretty hard to pinpoint just one moment in all of these church years as you can imagine.

Whether thinking about my own journey or looking at the stories that others in the church have shared with me, all of them have one thing in common. God uses relationships – relationships that not only help us to use and nurture our faith but also to share the good news and serve others. It's through relationship that we find and bring others to be in our lives and in our church lives. Think about it – it's not very often that someone just walks off the street and enters a church to find God without someone reaching out or telling them about the amazing love of God in their own lives. God uses you and I to share all that we have found in our lives with Him – to share our faith with others. And that is indeed the point of our gospel today.

Our passage begins with Jesus in Galilee. Jesus walks right up to Philip and says "Follow me" Seems a little odd that would be the first thing spoken and even more of an odd request truthfully. What we know from these verses in John is that Philip comes from Bethsaida – a pretty small town at the town. Andrew and Peter are also from that same town and you know how it is in small towns – everyone knows everyone. So it wouldn't be a stretch to think that Andrew and Peter may have shared what they had already seen and heard about this man named Jesus. With all he may have heard it wouldn't also then be a surprise to think that Philip may be ready and willing to go just as Jesus asked.

What does Philip do after being asked? He starts talking. He finds his buddy Nathaneal and can't wait to tell him that he has found Jesus – the one who has been promised. He shares with his friend what he has been told, what he believes and now who he is going to follow. And think about it that's just what Andrew and Peter did too – all three of them are spreading the good news already – they are already being good disciples. Their excitement was overflowing by what and who they had discovered and they couldn't contain themselves. They overflowed with love and faith to those around them - with those who they knew and were in relationship with.

Now we can't gloss over the truth that our relationship with God comes to us because we are sinful – because the Son paid for our sins by his death on the cross. We never really like to focus on that part of our lives with God – the part that we must admit that we are sinful followers who don't always do and say as we should as disciples of our Lord. While we all have so many things that we could and should confess, it's not that which motivates us to be disciples of Jesus Christ is it? It's more about the overwhelming love and steadfast love that God has promised to us as his children.

Our gospel tells us that Nathaneal was a bit skeptical – he wasn't so sure that the one that was promised all those years ago in the Old Testament was this man who had come from Nazareth of all places. There isn't anything written about why Nathaneal had a problem with Nazareth – although Nazareth may have been a rival town to his own home town – but regardless Jesus doesn't fall into the trap of Nazareth in fact, he responds with a compliment to Nathaneal, an acknowledgement that Nathaneal is a man of honor.

Jesus calls to Philip in our Gospel to “follow” just like he calls to each of us to “follow”. We are called – called as people of God into his family. Called to follow and become his disciples. He calls each of us – each of us to share our gifts and our talents with others. Each of us to do and serve others as our neighbors. Each of us to specific ministry in which we are all uniquely gifted and have abilities in. Each of us are called – each of us are called differently. Now I’d love it if you all were called to Pastoral Ministry – there is so much need for pastors in our world – but of course that’s not a realistic expectation. We are all called in a capacity - in a role - that God has planned for each one of us.

Accepting our call can lead us to a life of great witness in seeing God’s power and presence in the lives of people around us. Remember, those Godwinks I talked about earlier. Living a called life is not merely about existing but it is about surviving and living a life with purpose and meaning. It is a life of abundance – full of relationship – lived in relationship and expressed through relationships.

Sure, God doesn’t limit his love and faith only to those who live in relationship but it IS through relationship that we see God’s usual method of spreading the good news to all in His kingdom. The good news is spread – the kingdom is spread – and people to come to faith to be in relationship with God and the people of God. They share the good news of Jesus Christ through their own experiences and contexts of their relationships with Him. So Follow – follow and live in relationship with God and with others. It’s through our love and faith with Him that there really is great news. Amen

Hymn of the Day Will you come and follow me

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?
Will you let me love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of the people: (Let us pray, **Have mercy, O God.**)

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

For the body of Christ gathered through the world and for all servants of the gospel, that following Jesus, the church lives out it’s calling every day. Let us pray, **Have mercy, O God.**

For the well-being of creation, for plants and animals, and for all that God has marvelously made, that we serve as wise stewards of Earth, our home. Let us pray, **Have mercy, O God.**

For our police officers, fire fighters, peace keepers and military personnel and for the leaders of our government, that they provide fair and constant protection to all people. Let us pray, **Have mercy, O God.**

For those who have been in relationship with Kirkebo and Nora Lutheran churches for as long as they can remember, for those who have come to relationship over the years and to those who are now in relationship with our congregations because of the pandemic and our streaming services, we rejoice in our relationships with them and You, Lord. Help us all to share the good news and love our neighbors as we would love you. Let us pray, **Have mercy, O God.**

For those who walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are mourning as they deal with tremendous loss, we ask that you continue to send healing to those dealing with illness and recovery. We lift up those within our congregation and those that have reached out to us for prayers, like Jeff, Kirk, Brent & Lisa, and all of those that we now name silently in our own hearts. Let us pray, **Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who swells among us and be with us now as we say that prayer that Jesus taught us

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.
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

Blessing
God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter + keep you in peace. **Amen**

Sending Hymn Go, My children, with My Blessing
Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

Dismissal – Go in peace. Be the light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Mark Your Calendars:

Tuesday, January 19th – Joint Council meeting at 6:30pm, Nora.

Sunday, January 24th – Sunday Services 9am live streamed from Kirkebo.

Sunday, January 31st – Sunday Services 9am live streamed from Nora. Nora Council meeting at 9:45am.

I Can Tell My Friends About Jesus



Tell Your Friends about Jesus

"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip. John 1:46

The puzzle is based on John 1:43-51



I U X I S R A E L K H N E N L
R B J Q W D G R J B P I O K J
A Q W O Z J R A X Q N W N J S
L Q N X R Z A G L A N D R E W
O K X U R G I W E I K F L A E
Q H Q E Y B P M M M L S U B S
J A T Z B I O K K E J E S U S
F E W A L C N R G H X F E H T
P D R I Y A W A C J A N K V W
O Y H O S C F A Z T S A D R O
P P X S H Y A O S A J Q N L C
B T R E E U I L L K R A B Z A
R X K I N G L C L L N E M R Y
Q K I Z Y U Q T S E O M T R K
N A T H A N A E L O D W P H T

TREE
GALILEE
PHILIP

PETER
KING
RABBI

COME
KNOW
FOLLOW

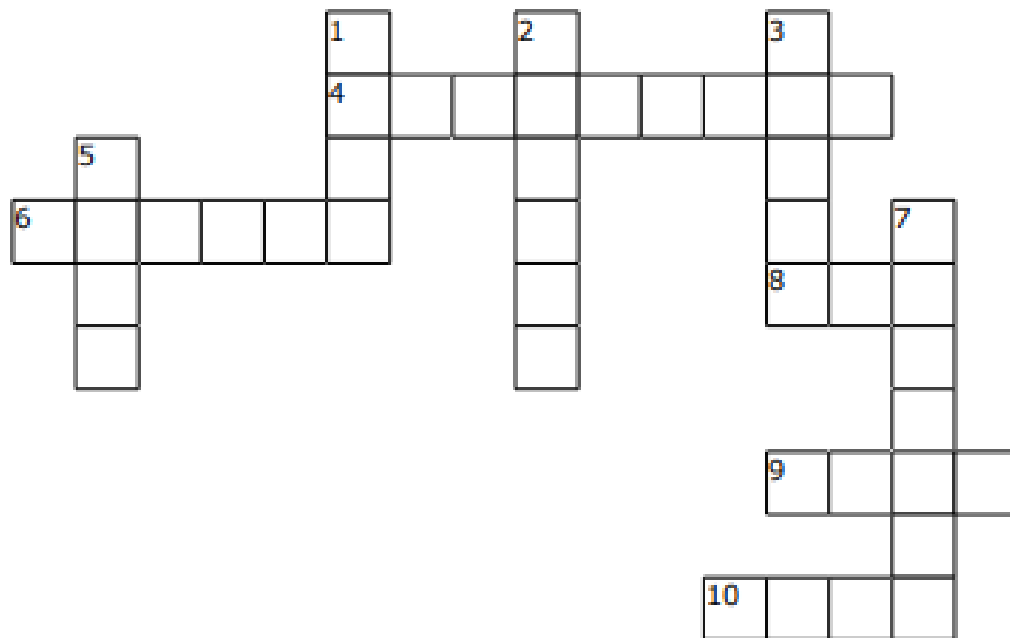
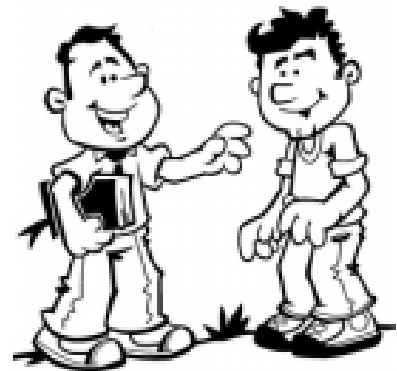
CALLED
NAZARETH
JESUS

NATHANAEL
ANDREW
ISRAEL

Tell Your Friends about Jesus

"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip. John 1:46

Puzzle is based on John 1:43-51



ACROSS

4. A friend of Philip
6. To come after
8. To observe something with your eyes
9. A large woody plant with a trunk, limbs, and leaves
10. To move toward something

DOWN

1. To recognize someone; to be familiar with someone
2. A man that Jesus called to be a disciple
3. The Son of God
5. The opposite of bad
7. To accept something as true

| | | | | |
|--------|-----------|-------|--------|---------|
| TREE | NATHANAEL | COME | PHILIP | BELIEVE |
| FOLLOW | GOOD | JESUS | SEE | KNOW |