



WEEKLY CONNECTION

JANUARY 19, 2025

SUNDAY'S WORSHIP: THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 62:1–5, 1 Corinthians 12:1–11, John 2:1–11

The Divine Glory Is Manifested in the Signs of Christ

When Jesus turned water into wine at the wedding in Cana, it was “*the first of his signs*” by which He “*manifested his glory*” (John 2:11). It pointed to His coming “*hour*,” when He was lifted up on the cross for the forgiveness of sins and the life of the world (John 2:4; 12:23–32). The glory of the cross is incomprehensible apart from the Word and Spirit of God, but disciples of Jesus recognize that glory in the signs of His Gospel, and so they believe in Him. Jesus does not wait for His disciples to discover Him on their own, but He seeks out the forsaken and the desolate and unites them to Himself. He adorns them with His own beautiful righteousness and delights in them “*as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride*” (Is. 62:4–5). Purified by the washing of water with His Word in Holy Baptism, His disciples confess that “*Jesus is Lord*,” and they return thanks to Him “*in the Holy Spirit*” (1 Cor. 12:3) as they drink the good wine that He pours out for them, which is the new testament in His blood.

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK:

¹¹This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory.
And his disciples believed in him.

John 2:11

SERVING THIS SUNDAY – January 19

Preacher –	Rev. Charles Buckhahn
Officiant –	Pastor Michael Korte
Lay Reader -	10:30 am Howard Ritter
Acolytes-	9 AM Will & Colten Duclos 10:30 am Liam Grossman & Logan Mercer
Elder in Charge –	9 am Gary Grauf 10:30 am Steve Harvey
Greeters –	9 am Laurie Denno & Christine Engelhardt 10:30 am Ruth and Mike Hargash
Tech Team –	9 AM Steve Martin, Bobby Truitt 10:30 am Val Engelhardt, Josh Webb, Mark Stabek
Music Team -	9 am Audrey Engelhardt, Janna & Kiel Fauske, Ken Kerouac
Special Music -	10:30 am Senior Choir
Music Leaders –	9 am Alex Holcomb, 10:30 am George Frank

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (For more Information see blurbs below.)

January 19 - Worship @ 9:00 am & 10:30 am with Lord's Supper
January 19 – Listening Posts for Voters Meeting @ 9:00 am & 10:30 am Lower level
January 19 – Sunday School Preschool – 4th 9:15 am
January 19 - Bible Study Lower Level 9:15 am
January 20 – **NO SCHOOL**
January 20 – Braille Workers 5:45 pm
January 21 – Braille Workers 8:30 am
January 21 – Bible Study David Room 9:30 am
January 21 – Food Pantry @ 10 am
January 21 – Bethlehem Knitters 11 am David Room
January 21 – Listening Post David Room 6:30 pm
January 22 – School Chapel 8:10 am
January 22 - Worship Arts Team Rehearsal 6:30 pm
January 23 – Braille Workers 8:30 am
January 23 – Senior Choir Rehearsal 7 pm
January 24 - Men's Bible Study via Zoom @ 6:15 am
January 25 – Youth Group Ski Event @ 10:30 am
January 26 - Worship @ 9:00 am & 10:30 am
January 26 – Sunday School Preschool – 4th 9:15 am
January 26 – Bible Study Lower Level 9:15 am

JANUARY NOISY OFFERING FUNDS: Crossroads Christian Counseling” Using Biblical principles and counseling resources to uplifted and encourage clients. Crossroads licensed professional counselors serve individuals including teens, children, couples and families.

PRAYER FOCUS:

SPECIAL PRAYERS: Paul Tomaszewski, Gordon Henry, Milda Persons, Barbara Ruhlig, Dave Vanderlip, James Lutz, Larry Schroeppel, Karen Schram, Wendy Sova, Debbie Pappas

HOSPITALIZED:

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family of **Sally Efu** who entered eternal life on Wednesday, January 15. Sally was the wife of Donald and the mother of Angie. We Ask God comfort be with all who mourn the death of Sally.

A NEW PASTORAL CALL LIST has been requested from the Lutheran Church, Michigan District. The Board of elders request your prayers for pastors included on this list. Specifically ask that the Lord would guide Bethlehem and our candidates as we begin this process once again. Pray for patience, discernment and clarity in the plans the Lord has established for us.

Almighty God, giver of all good gifts: Look on your Church with grace and guide the minds of those who shall choose a pastor for Bethlehem, that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PASTOR CANDIDATE NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS: If there is a potential candidate you know that fits the Pastor profile as provided by the Call Committee and whom you would like to nominate for consideration, please follow the instructions below. **PLEASE NOTE:**

1. Nominations may be submitted by communicant members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 18 years of age or older.
2. Complete the nomination form, (forms are available in church office) write legibly and provide as much information as possible.
3. Submit the form by depositing it into the church office.
4. You can also mail or drop off your completed form to the church office at the attention of the Call Committee. Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 808 Weiss Street, Saginaw, MI 48602
5. The deadline to submit nominations is 1 pm on **Monday, February 3rd**.

Thank you for your prayers and participation in the Call process

CHURCH ATTENDANCE:

01-12-25 Baptism of Jesus 183 Online viewership: 16

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT John 2:3 – **“When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, ‘They have no wine.’”** Behold the faith of Mary: she sees a problem and simply lays it before her Son and Lord: “They have no wine.” She does not offer a proposed solution, she does not demand, she simply states her need and waits for the Lord’s response. She trusts that the Lord is a giver, and she knows that He always provides. May such a faith be ours!

CARING FOR OTHERS

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS The food pantry is in need of canned fruit, canned vegetables, peanut butter, and hearty soups and stews. Donations can be dropped off at the church/school office.

BETHLEHEM BRAILLE MINISTRY IS SEEKING NEW MEMBERS! If you are able to attend Braille ministry sessions at Bethlehem on Mondays from 5:45-7:45 PM or Thursdays from 8:30-11 AM, please contact Becky Bullard at 989-280-5130. No experience is necessary! Braille ministry does not meet in the summer.

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN is in need of men’s clothing! If you are able to donate, please drop off items at the church office, or in the Orphan Grain Train bin in the narthex.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES RESPONSE

The LCMS Pacific Southwest District (PSW) has shared that the most effective ways to help right now are to pray and donate. The PSW District is working with first responders from Synod office and Lutheran Church Charities to serve the congregations affected by the wildfires.

For updated information and to make a donation towards emergency relief please visit

<https://www.psd-lcms.org/>

AROUND BETHLEHEM

JANUARY YOUTH GROUP EVENT: 6th-12th graders. SNOW TUBING at SNOWSNAKE: Saturday, January 25th. (This is also open to ANY 6th-12th graders of any church or school) Invite any young adults you know to RSVP. We would love to have them! The cost is \$20 per person. You must RSVP to Mrs. Duclos by January 21st. We will leave school at 10:30 am. We will tube from 12-1 and will return to school after. DRIVERS ARE A MUST! JOIN REMIND @ DG2K2K

SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING January 28 - 6:30 p.m. A special Voters' Assembly meeting has been called to vote on 1.) the Election of a Representative for Bethlehem to MI District Convention and 2.) proposed changes to Bethlehem's constitution and by-laws. The proposed changes address concerns about the effectiveness of the way in which we are currently organized. Information regarding the proposal is available online and in the church narthex. Listening Posts/Information sessions will be held in the lower level on Sunday January 19 (9:15 a.m., 10:15 a.m.) and in the David Room on Tuesday January 21 at 6:30 p.m.

SEEKING WORSHIP ARTS TEAM MEMBERS Do you sing or play an instrument? Or can you see yourself working lights, sound, or visuals in our tech booth? Then you should consider joining our Worship Arts team! We are in need of new Worship Arts team members to lend us their talents at both the 9 AM and 10:30 AM service times. If you are interested, please see Alex Holcomb, email aholcomb@bethlehemsaginaw.org, or call 989-755-1144 to let us know.

WEEKLY ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

- **Tuesdays, 9:30 am (Ladies)** in the David Room. Contact Mary Kay Hall for more information - (989) 497-8474. Starting new series on where Baptism is found throughout Scripture with the book *The Baptismal River* from CPH.
- **Wednesdays, 8:00 am (Men)** Meeting at Immanuel Bible Church on Center Rd. in Saginaw. Men from Bethlehem, Holly Cross, Immanuel, and Peace will be in attendance. Currently in Romans. Bring your own coffee – donuts provided. Contact Bill Denno at 989-781-4851 or 989-295-8618 for more info. Bring your favorite Bible!
- **Fridays, 6:15 am (Men)** on Zoom. **"The Book of Romans."** For info: mp_denno@yahoo.com
- **Sundays, 9:15 am (Anyone)** in the lower level. We are using the study *The Messiah: Revealing Jesus in the Old Testament*. Jesus made Himself very clear that the Old Testament testifies of him. This study will walk us through that claim. If you have Sunday School age children and would like to join the study, please join us. Children are welcome in our class and can go to Sunday School when it begins at 9:30.

OTHER NEWS

FROM VALLEY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

Come take a peek at Valley Lutheran! Any and all interested families are invited to join us for a one-hour experience that showcases what VL is all about. Arrivals begin at 6 pm on Wednesday, January 22. Please let us know you're coming and choose an arrival time that works best for you at www.vlhs.com/takeapeek. Please contact Amy Cooper, at

acooper@vlhs.com with any questions.

Friday, January 24 is Grade School Night at Charger Basketball and your family is invited! Women's game starts at 5:30, Men's game at 7:00. Grade school students receive a pom-pom (while supplies last) and a coupon for free popcorn! They are also invited to enter a drawing for free swag and participate in a halftime game. Represent your grade school by wearing your school colors! Game tickets are \$5 or bring a VL event pass if you have one! Join us for a night of fun and basketball. Let's go, Chargers!

Do you have your tickets for Faith Night at Saginaw Spirit on February 2nd? We are excited for this fun night - come say 'hi' at the Valley table in the Red Room before the game, listen as our Music Department performs the anthems, and enjoy a fun night of Spirit hockey beginning at 5:30 p.m.! We'll see you there! (Still need tickets? You can purchase \$18 upper-level tickets at <https://www.saginawspirit.net/groupsales/> with the username: VLHS0202 and password: SPIRIT. \$5 of each ticket is returned to VL to support the Music Department.)

Save the date for this year's Winter Play - a Dessert Theatre - entitled "Death by Chocolate". Come join us at 7 p.m. on February 13, 14, and 15, 2025 at Peace Lutheran Church's Gym. Tickets will be \$7/adult and \$5/student.

Tickets are now on sale for this year's VL Auction and Benefit Dinner! Join us on Saturday, February 22, 2025 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Bay City - Riverfront. This event brings together a great mix of the VL family - past, present, and future - all in support of the awesome ministry of Valley Lutheran. Tickets available at www.vlhsauction.com. Can't attend in person? No ticket needed to get in on the silent auction fun, which begins on February 20.

FROM PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Peace Lutheran Church of Saginaw is hiring for a custodian during evenings/nights, Monday-Friday, 30 hours per week. This includes some benefits. Candidates must have previous custodial and maintenance experience. Resumes may be sent to: jkeup@peachsaginaw.org

FROM GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Card Night Fundraiser to support Alaska VBS Mission Team

Enjoy playing "That Card Game"? No experience necessary, everyone is welcomed! Snacks and beverages will be provided. Prizes will be awarded for the top players.

WHERE: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 5335 Brockway Road, Saginaw, MI 48638

WHEN: Saturday, February 15, 2025

TIME: Card playing is from 6-9pm. (Please arrive by 5:30pm to sign in and learn the rules of the game)

COST: \$20.00 per person at the door

Please RSVP by February 12th to Jenny at 989-751-4525 or at jenrausch@gmail.com.

You're Invited: "Building Up the Kingdom in Joy" Conference

Join us on **March 8 at St. Luke's Haslett** for the **"Building Up the Kingdom in Joy"** conference, hosted by Christian Outreach for Africa (COFA). This event will highlight what God is doing in South Africa, with many of our friends from South Africa sharing their inspiring stories and vision. It's a great opportunity to learn, connect, and discover how you can be part of this mission! For more information and to register, see the attached flyer and registration link. If you can't attend, please consider supporting the mission in South Africa with a donation to

COFA through this QR code: 