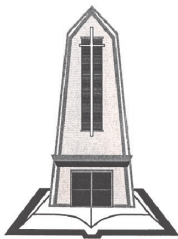




JANUARY 27 & 28, 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
REVEALED AS THE PROPHET WITH AUTHORITY



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

www.stjohnsbc.org

Church:
706 W. Jane Street
Bay City, MI 48706
(989) 684-6791

School:
210 S. Alp St.
Bay City, MI 48706
(989) 684-6442

WELCOME

We welcome all of you as we gather to celebrate the good news of how Jesus Christ made it known that he is the Son of God and Savior of the world. We especially welcome our guests who have joined us for worship. We ask that you join us in signing the Friendship Register (the red folder in the pew). We look forward to having you join us for worship again.

SEASONAL THEME: REVEALED

EPIPHANY 1: Revealed as our Substitute at his baptism.

EPIPHANY 2: Revealed as the Messiah who calls for us to follow him.

EPIPHANY 3: Revealed as the Messiah through the ambassadors he calls.

EPIPHANY 4: Revealed as the Prophet with authority.

EPIPHANY 5: Revealed as the One who breaks the Devil's hold.

TRANSFIGURATION: Revealed as the Son of God in his glory.

Authority is defined as the power and ability to get things done. We think of a general who gives battle plan orders, and the soldiers under him obediently carry it out. That's authority. However, human authority is limited in scope and duration. A governor has authority over the people of his state but not the neighboring state and only while he is in office. Today, though, we see Jesus revealed as the one who has absolute authority. There is no one, not even the Devil himself, who is outside of his authority. The people of Jesus' day saw that openly when he drove our evil spirits. But they also experienced it inwardly when he, the Prophet, taught them God's Word. Jesus still breaks the Devil's power over us by the power of his Word. We, indeed, see Jesus revealed as the Prophet with authority.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister

Pastor Paul Schaeve

Organist

Ms. Gail McFarland

Cantor

Mrs. Amanda Perkins 10:30)

Choir

Grades 1-4; Junior Bells (10:30)

THE SERVICE

Setting Three (Blue Hymnal pp. 188-198, 171)

The Gathering

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Let All Things Now Living

OPENING HYMN (6:00 pm & 8:00 am)

633 *Speak, O Lord*

Grades 1-4 sing st. 1, Congregation sings st. 2-3 (10:30)

CONFESSION

(p. 188)

LORD, HAVE MERCY

(pp. 190-191)

GLORY TO GOD

(pp. 191-193)

The Word

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, look with mercy on our weaknesses, and in all our dangers and needs stretch out the right hand of your majesty to help and defend us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses prophesies that the Lord would raise up another prophet who would speak with all the authority of God himself.

¹⁵The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brother Israelites. Listen to him.

¹⁶That is exactly what you asked from the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly. You said, "Do not let me hear the voice of the Lord my God anymore, and do not let me see this great fire again, or I will die."

¹⁷Then the Lord said to me, "They have done well by saying what they said. ¹⁸I will raise up a prophet for them from among their brothers, like you, and I will put my words in his mouth, and he will speak to them everything that I command him. ¹⁹Anyone who will not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account. ²⁰Any prophet who presumes to speak something in my name that I have not commanded him to speak or who speaks something in the name of other gods—that prophet shall die." ^{EHV}

1 The voice which shakes the earth till moun-tains heave and quake,
 2 When God's ma - jes - tic voice round hill and val - ley rings,
 3 At his e - ter - nal throne a - wait the sol - emn sound,

the voice which caus - es an - cient oaks to bend and break,
 the des - ert blooms, the wood-land skips, the for - est sings:
 for no - where else will great - er strength or peace be found.

the voice which thun-ders loud a - bove the crash-ing waves
 his word pro-claims the truth like light-ning, sharp and bright,
 Ex - alt the God of pow'r, and kneel in rev-'rent fear—

be - longs to God, the Ho - ly One, the LORD who saves.
 with pen - e - trat - ing clar - i - ty and ten - der might.
 give glo - ry to the One whose voice we long to hear.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 3:1-6

As great as Moses was, Jesus is worthy of infinitely greater honor. For only Jesus has absolute authority.

³Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, focus your attention on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess. ²He was faithful to the one who appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in God's whole house. ³In fact, Jesus is worthy of greater glory than Moses, in the same way that the builder of a house has more honor than the house. ⁴For every house is built by someone, and God is the one who built everything.

⁵Moses was faithful as a servant within God's whole house by testifying to the things that would be spoken. ⁶But Christ is faithful as a Son over God's house. We are his house, if we hold on firmly to our confidence and the hope about which we boast until the end. ^{EHV}

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (6:00 pm & 8:00 am)

Mark 1:22

Pastor sings the appointed verse

The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority.

ANTHEM (10:30 am)*Jesus Loves Me***GOSPEL**

Mark 1:21-28

Jesus demonstrates absolute authority. Even his enemies, the demons, have to obey him.

²¹"Then they went into Capernaum.

On the next Sabbath day, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach.

²²They were amazed at his teaching, because he was teaching them as one who has authority and not as the experts in the law. ²³Just then there was a man with an unclean spirit in their synagogue. It cried out, ²⁴"What do we have to do with you, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

²⁵Jesus rebuked the spirit, saying, "Be quiet! Come out of him!"

²⁶The unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions, and after crying out with a loud voice, it came out of him. ²⁷Everyone was so amazed that they began to discuss this with each other. They said, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands the unclean spirits, and they obey him!" ²⁸News about him spread quickly through all the region of Galilee. ^{EHV}

HYMN OF THE DAY744 *Rise, Shine, You People***SERMON TEXT**

Hebrews 3:1-6

THEME: FOCUS YOUR ATTENTION ON JESUS

APOSTLES' CREED	(p. 197)
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH	(p. 198)
OFFERING	<i>All Creatures of Our God and King</i> (10:30 am)
HYMN	517 <i>Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness</i>
LORD'S PRAYER	Modern (p. 171)
BLESSING	(p. 171)

This Week at St. John's		
Tuesday	5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Boys' Basketball Games @ Burton B Team A Team
Wednesday		No Midweek Bible Class
Friday	5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Boys' Basketball Games @ home vs Kawkawlin/Midland/Saginaw B Team A Team
Saturday	6:00 pm	Worship Service/Lord's Supper
Sunday	8:00 am 9:15 am 10:30 am 4:00 pm	Worship Service/Lord's Supper Coffee Hour/Bible Study/BIC/Sr. Choir Worship Service/Lord's Supper Kevin Peil's Presentation/Pizza Dinner

Announcements

Call Meeting: We will be holding a call meeting today (Sunday, Jan. 28th) after the 10:30 am worship service. We will be calling for both the Principal and 7th-8th grade position as well as the 5th-6th grade teacher position. Voters, please plan on attending.

School Fundraiser: Our 5th-8th grade classes are having a Little Caesars Fundraiser; this is the last weekend to order! Check out the brochure and order form on the hallway table.

Pastor Schaewe will be attending the Circuit Pastor's Meeting in Maumee, OH and will be out of the office this Tuesday and Wednesday.

Schedule change: Dr. Kevin Peil's presentation, *Top Science Questions for Today's Christian*, has been rescheduled for next Sunday, February 4th, at 4:00 pm. The (free) pizza supper will follow. If you have not already signed up for the free pizza dinner, please call the office by Friday, February 2nd, at let us know you'll be staying for the dinner.

The February newsletter and calendar have been emailed. For those of you who do not receive it electronically, please check your mail slot in church.

Men Alive! Rally, February 17th: Registration is open for this annual event that gathers into one setting some talented presenters from our WELS synod. We'll gain scriptural insights and gospel motivation for "A Battle for My Heart" (this year's theme). Join us for this 1-day event on Saturday, February 17th, and walk away spiritually enriched. This event has the reputation of offering a hearty man-breakfast and man's-man lunch. Breakfast begins at 7:15 am and the rally ends at 3:00 pm. This year we meet at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Bay City. Space is limited! Register by January 31st at: www.menalive-balm.org/. Cost to attend: Men 23+ years - \$65; men 14-22 years - \$40. Schedules of the day's events are on the table outside the church office.

MLS Foundation Dinner & Auction: Save the date for the annual dinner & auction on Sunday, February 18th at the Great Hall in Midland! If you would like to donate an item to be auctioned off, visit our donation page at <https://bit.ly/44ZPmxK> to fill out a donation form. To purchase tickets, visit our website: <https://mls-foundation.org/>.

Sisters in Christ Retreat: Registration is now open for the second annual retreat, April 19th - 21st, in Pontiac, MI. Visit www.SistersInChristRetreat.org for more information. Packets are also available on the hall table.

We Need Your Help!!! St. John's is hosting the Boys A-Basketball Tournament Friday, February 16th and Saturday, February 17th and we need all hands on deck! We will need help in the following areas:

- Running the Clock/Scoreboard during the games
- Keeping the book for each of the games
- Admissions (taking money for admittance into the tournament)
- Concessions Sales
- Concessions Food Prep
- Making Popcorn
- Cleaning up Concessions after the last game
- Cleaning up the Gym after the last game

There is no experience required and we have instruction sheets for many of the jobs so that you can review to see what is entailed. We will have a poster in the hallway next weekend with a sign-up sheet.

I know we can count on our Wildcat families to help us put on a FANTASTIC tournament!! Please come out, get involved and support your school!!

Contact Amy Krager (989) 980-6991 with any questions!!

Worship Service Attendance	2024	2023
Worship Service Attendance, 1/20 & 1/21	154	174
Communion Attendance, 1/20 & 1/21	131	X