



Second Sunday After Epiphany

January 17, 2021

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

PO BOX 228 BLAKESLEE, PA 18610
570-646-0309

Church E-mail: faithoffice@faithlutheranblakeslee.org

Parish Secretary E-mail: moquendo@faithlutheranblakeslee.org

Website: faithlutheranblakeslee.org

Facebook: Faith Lutheran Church Blakeslee PA-

TODAY'S SERVICE

Hymn of the Day:	"Here I Am, Lord"	pg. 8
Sending Hymn:	"The Son of God, Our Christ"	pg. 9
Call to Worship		pg. 3
Prayer of the Day		pg. 3
First Reading:	1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]	pg. 4
Psalm Reading:	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	pg. 5
Second Reading:	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	pg. 6
Gospel:	John 1:43-51	pg. 7

TODAY'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS ARE:

Greeters/Ushers:.....	Bob Crownover
Lector:	Gail Crownover

PARISH CALENDAR –January 15 - 21

Tuesday	12 noon	AA Meeting
Wednesday	4:00 pm	Music Practice
Thursday	10:00 am	AA Meeting
Friday	12 noon	AA Meeting
Sunday	9:30 am	Holy Communion

Attendance for January 10, 2020: Indoor Total: 22, Facebook 18

PRAYER LIST

Eddie, Cheryl, Carol and Craig, Bruce, Denis, Megan, Gertrude, George, Mike, Jennifer, Sue, Tina, Alex, Donna, Andrea, Ginger, Karen, Janet, Jacquie, Rachel, Jenn, Andrea, Ginger, R.C., Richard, Forrest, Roy, Jeanine, Leslie, Cory, Shirley, Deb, Kathy, Tom, Glen, Margery and Members of the armed services, the congregation of Salem – St. Paul of Kresgeville.

In Hospital: Bruce Kulp

WELCOME VISITORS! We are glad to have you join us in the worship of Our Lord. **Please sign the guest book at the back of the sanctuary.**

Holy Communion is open to all baptized believers who trust that the Lord is present for them in His supper. **Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices to fully enter into this time of worship.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthday Cards Requested for Shirley Fowler: Beth Larson sent the following request: On February 5, 2021 Shirley Fowler will be 95. In ordinary times we would be planning a wonderful celebration. 2021 is not ordinary so instead we would like to plan a surprise 95th Birthday Card Party in a Box. We would like you to send a birthday card to Mom. Please feel free to share this invitation with others who may know her. Please send your card to the following address:

Shirley Fowler C/O Beth Larson, 112 Norwood Way Woodbury NJ 08096

Vaccines for Seniors 75+ at Lehigh Valley Hospital: LVH in East Stroudsburg is now accepting appointments for the COVID-19 vaccine for seniors aged 75 and over. You can call 484-884-1767.

Music Practice: Practice with children and adults resume weekly on Wednesdays, beginning January 20th at 4 pm in our Sanctuary, mask and social distancing is required. Join in to learn and make beautiful music together.

Souper Bowl: From now until February 14th our 'Souper Bowl' field is up in the sanctuary, waiting for you to pin up your shoes, pants, shirts, helmets and goal posts! If you're not able to get here, post your donation on-line through Vanco and we'll pin it up for you! **All donations will benefit our local food pantry.**

Bulletin Sponsors: We are now printing our bulletin covers in-house. You may sponsor each week's bulletin for only \$10. This covers the cost of color copies. We currently need sponsors for January 31, February 7, 14, 28. A new sign-up sheet for 2021 is on the back table if you haven't signed up yet.

Flower Sponsors: This year we are looking to provide altar flowers in one of two ways. Sign up to either donate \$20 towards silk flowers to be used in arrangements or indicate that you plan on bringing flowers for the altar, which you may then take home with you after the service. Vases are available at church. A sign-up sheet is on the back table...please indicate which type of donation you are offering. Please note that we are also looking for a volunteer or two to help with purchasing and arranging the silk flower arrangements. If you can help, **please contact the office (570-646-0309 or email faithoffice@faithlutheranblakeslee.org) or speak to Pastor Debby.** Available Dates: January 31 and February 7, 14, 28.

Call to Worship: Here We Are

God whispers to each of us: you are my beloved, created in love for love.

My spirit answers, Here I am, Lord. Speak to me anew.

God breathes on us the Holy Spirit, knitting many members into one body, the body of Christ.

Together we answer, Here we are Lord. Come, Holy Spirit.

God has yet more vision for the people. Who will work for God to extend God's kingdom into our hurting world?

Here we are Lord. Empower us for your work.

Then let us gather, old and young, small and great, to dream God's dreams, receive God's power, and do God's deeds.

Here we are Lord. Shine the light of your love on us. Kindle your Spirit within us. Work your redeeming will in us, that all the world may be one through the power of your love. 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.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. ²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the 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. ⁴Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and 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. ⁶The 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." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The 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. ⁹Therefore 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.

¹⁰Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." [¹¹Then 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. ¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For 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. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." ¹⁷Eli 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." ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him."

¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-Sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.]

Psalm Reading: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

¹Lord, you have searched me out;
O Lord, you have known me.

²**You know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

³You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴**Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O Lord, know it altogether. R**

⁵You encompass me, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

¹³For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴**I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.**

¹⁵My body was not hidden from you,
while I was being made in secret and woven in the
depths of the earth.

¹⁶**Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
all of them were written in your book;
my days were fashioned before they came to be.**

¹⁷How deep I find your thoughts, O God!
How great is the sum of them!

¹⁸If I were to count them, they would be more in number
than the sand; to count them all, my life span would need to
be like yours.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

¹²“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” ¹⁷But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

Gospel - John 1:43-51

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip 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." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And 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."

Hymn of the Day

Here I Am, Lord - WOV 752

- 1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and 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?"
- 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?"
- 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?" **Refrain**

Refrain

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.

Sending - The Son of God, Our Christ - ELW 584

- 1 The Son of God, our Christ, the Word, the Way,
shared human life and toiled throughout the day;
from common folk he called the twelve to be
coworkers in his sacred ministry.
- 2 In ev'ry test, in trials manifold,
these servants witnessed, by their faith made bold;
and with the gifts and talents which they brought
the church was founded and God's message taught.
- 3 Today, as then, Christ summons us to dare
to follow boldly and his work to share,
to help and heal the sick, the blind, the lame,
declaring to the world his holy name.
- 4 In city street, in town, or on the soil,
may each serve Christ in faithful daily toil,
and in each thought and kindly word and deed,
obey Christ's call and go where he shall lead.

Text: Edward M. Blumenfeld, b. 1927, alt.

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CORRESPONDENCE

The Rev. Debra North, Pastor
Mrs. Molly Finkbiner, Director of Music
Judie Tim, Sunday School Coordinator
Barbara Fox, Care Team Coordinator
Maritza Oquendo, Parish Secretary

Home Phone 570-481-4474
mollrose11@gmail.com
judietim@ptd.net
foxygram@ptd.net
moquendo@faithlutheranblakeslee.org

Office Phone 570-646-0309
Church Email: faithoffice@faithlutheranblakeslee.org
Faith Lutheran Church Website
Facebook

www.faithlutheranblakeslee.org
Faith Lutheran Church, Blakeslee PA

Council Members

Mike Gillis, President
Paul Frantz, Vice President/Finance Chair
Ben Mroz III, Treasurer

John Lyman, Church Council Secretary
Phil Newlander, Financial Secretary
Nancy Croughn, Witness and Service
Bob Crownover, Learning Committee
Jacquie Halko, Worship Committee
Thomas Hutton, Learning Committee
Barbara Monroe, Worship Committee
Peggy Rapp, Witness and Service

hc89x48@ptd.net
pfrantz61@yahoo.com
finance@faithlutheranblakeslee.org
benmroz@gmail.com
treasurer@faithlutheranblakeslee.org
jclyman@ptd.net
prnewlander@yahoo.com
nannycroughn@gmail.com
bgcrown@aol.com
jacquie5444@yahoo.com
hutlamp@epix.net
barbboogie17@gmail.com
drpeggy09@aol.com

NATHANIEL'S THERE,
JUST MINDING HIS
OWN BUSINESS...



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AND THEN JESUS
GETS ALL UP IN HIS
BUSINESS!



AND THAT'S WHEN
THINGS GET DOWN
TO BUSINESS.



JOHN 1:43-51

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GOSPEL MESSAGE

January 17, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Where Nothing Is Expected

At one of his life's worst intersections, when legs trembled and steps were mired in bogs of doubt, his companion looked into the man's hollowing eyes and said, "I believe in you. I know you." Have you ever needed such a word?

The list is painfully long that names all of the circumstances and places from which it is assumed nothing good can come. Perhaps you have compiled your own catalog of those who fall short, the irredeemable neighborhoods, or the situations beyond hope in the life of others. Perhaps you find yourself on someone else's list, among those whose life and plight has been dismissed as "nothing good." So it was thought of Jesus, whose life was rooted in the hillside soil of a sidetracked town—Nazareth—where nothing remarkable, not much at all, was expected to grow up. That town and its people were on the "unfavorable" list.

It is a riddle of scripture that the likes of Philip (or Peter, John, James, and Andrew—those gospel familiars) would, seemingly without discernment or a second thought, leave everything when Jesus interrupted his settled life and bid him, "Follow me." For Nathanael, it was different. He took an honest and reasonable step back. He knew all the talk about nothing good coming from Nazareth.

So many of our stories wither and so much of who we are dies when we are confronted with the "I know about you" list of painful failures instead of a loving, hopeful invitation to "come and see" (John 1:46).

There is a mighty mercy, an opening of heaven itself before our very eyes, a retelling of each "Nazareth" in our lives if we dare to "come and see" Jesus. Then that painful, long, imposed or self-inflicted list is no longer our truth because we, in seeing Jesus, begin to see ourselves and others as Jesus does. An epiphany happens: "I believe in you."

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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