

A SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER
IN WHICH
FREDERIC BERGER
IS INSTALLED AS PASTOR OF
ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF PLYMOUTH, NEBRASKA

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The Third Sunday after Epiphany † January 25, 2015 † 4:00 p.m.

OPENING HYMN: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" CW 234

Before the final stanza of the hymn, please stand.

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

SCRIPTURE DIALOG (Verses from Psalm 84)

M: How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty!

C: My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

M: Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young—

C: a place near your altar, O LORD Almighty, my King and my God.

M: Blessed are those who dwell in your house;

C: they are ever praising you.

M: Blessed are those whose strength is in you,

C: They go from strength to strength.

M: Hear my prayer, O LORD God Almighty;

C: listen to me, O God of Jacob.

M: Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

C: I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

M: For the LORD God is a sun and shield;

C: the LORD bestows favor and honor.

M: O LORD Almighty,

C: blessed is the man who trusts in you.

M: Let us pray.

O LORD, God of steadfast mercy, we give you humble and joyful thanks that you have called us out of the darkness of sin, guilt and unbelief. In your abounding grace, you have brought us into the wonderful light of your full forgiveness and made us your people. Look with favor on all your family and on those whom you have called to minister to them. Fill these servants with your doctrine and clothe them with holiness of life, that they may joyfully serve to the glory of your name and for the benefit of your Church, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Romans 10:12-15,17

God sends people out to proclaim his name. Through that message God creates faith and saves.

For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

CHOIR ANTHEM: “We Who Are Called” by Carolyn Hamlin

Please stand to show special reverence for our Lord Jesus.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 9:35-10:4

In his compassion, Jesus, the Good Shepherd, calls ordinary men to proclaim God’s gracious reign.

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated.

HYMN: “God of the Prophets, Bless the Prophets’ Sons” **CW 543**

“The prophets’ sons” is an expression from the Old Testament that refers to young men training for the public ministry. In this hymn we ask God to bless them, along with Pastor Berger, who is being installed today.

SERMON: Joshua 1:9

“SOME QUESTIONS, SOME COMMANDS, AND A PROMISE”

Please stand as we confess our faith.

CONFESSION OF FAITH **Portions of the Augsburg Confession**

The Augsburg Confession is a statement of faith written by Lutheran Christians in 1530. It states clearly the good news that through Jesus we are justified (that is, declared “not guilty”) in the sight of God. And more: God brings that message to us through his Word and Sacraments, which he has committed to his Church to administer.

M: Our churches teach that people cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or works. People are freely justified for Christ’s sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor and that their sins are forgiven for Christ’s sake.

C: **By his death, Christ made satisfaction for our sins. God counts this faith for righteousness in His sight.**

M: So that we may obtain this faith, the ministry of teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments was instituted.

C: **Through Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given.**

M: He works faith, when and where it pleases God, in those who hear the good news that God justifies those who believe that they are received into grace for Christ’s sake.

C: **This happens not through our merits, but for Christ’s sake.**

Please be seated.

MEN’S CHOIR: “Speak, O Lord” by K. Getty/S. Townend/arr. by Mary McDonald

RITE OF INSTALLATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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;
and 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.

HYMN: "Lord Jesus Christ, Our Savior King"

In this hymn we thank Jesus for his means of grace—the gospel message in the Scriptures, in Baptism, in Holy Communion—through which he gives and strengthens faith in him. We also pray for God's blessing on those he calls to administer these priceless gifts. Please join in singing as directed. (sung to the tune of "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow")

All: Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior, King:
To you our highest praise we sing
For blessings to the Church, your bride,
With whom you evermore abide.

All: Your Scriptures lead us to rejoice,
For there we hear our Father's voice.
His gospel promises proclaim
Forgiveness from your holy name.

Men: Your Shepherd voice our faith first heard
In water's washing with the Word.
Lord, keep us in baptismal grace
And make our hearts your dwelling place.

All: With elements of bread and wine
You give to us a feast divine.
Your blood and body we partake –
Our sins forgiv'n for your own sake.

Women: As stewards of these means of grace
You send out preachers in your place
The law and gospel to proclaim
And glorify your saving name.

MEET THE BERGER FAMILY

Frederic Elmer Paul Berger was born to Frederic (pastor) and Ilene (registered nurse) on January 28th, 1984 in Council Bluffs, IA. He is the youngest and has three older sisters – Jenny (Pat) McCann, Jeannie (Jason) Schulz, and Kathy (Ryan) Wiechmann. In 1990, the Berger family moved to New London, WI. Pastor Berger attended Lutheran Elementary School at Emanuel Lutheran in New London and then went to Fox Valley Lutheran High School (FVL) in Appleton.

Stephanie Leigh Woldt was born to Timothy (manager of local newspaper) and Mary Sue (teacher) on December 14th, 1985 in Green Bay, WI. She is the youngest and has two older brothers – Derek (Jackie) Woldt and Jason Woldt. In 1987, the Woldt family moved to Appleton. Steph attended Lutheran Elementary School at St. Matthew's Lutheran in Appleton and then went to high school at FVL as well.

At FVL, Pastor Berger was good friends with Jason Woldt and so became acquainted with Steph, his younger sister. After high school, Pastor Berger went to Martin Luther College and Steph went to Marquette University. Their time in the Milwaukee area overlapped when Steph was finishing nursing school at Marquette and Pastor Berger was attending Seminary. They were married on July 11th, 2008, a few weeks before leaving for vicar year in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada.

After a great experience in Canada, they returned for Pastor Berger's last year of Seminary. In 2010, Pastor Berger was assigned to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Livingston, MT. Hunter Shenandoah (a yellow lab) became part of their family shortly after the move to Livingston. She was good practice for when Grace Charlotte would be born on September 23rd, 2013.

Pastor Berger is an avid hunter. He loves to hunt pheasants, quail, grouse, turkey, deer, elk, ducks, geese, squirrels, and rabbits, to name a few. He also enjoys fishing and sports – football, baseball, softball, golf, and pretty much anything else active. Steph also enjoys the great outdoors. You will be sure to see her and Grace going for strolls around town. Steph enjoys relaxing while reading a book over a good cup of coffee. Grace likes to swing, pull Hunter's tail, and read books. Don't be surprised if you see Grace practicing her latest hobby, climbing stairs.

The entire Berger family feels privileged to be here in Plymouth and is looking forward to getting to know the church family and being involved in the community. Many have wondered how they could leave the beautiful mountains of Montana. Although they love and miss their former church family which is dear to them, Steph reminds Pastor that he did once tell her that he prefers corn fields over mountains. And so, we see once again that the Lord is always listening☺.

Thank you for the warm welcome! From phone calls, e-mails, visits, to meals, we truly appreciate your kindness. A special thank-you to the crew and their families who took time out of their schedules to assist with our move.

Most importantly, we thank our Almighty God who has brought us here to you. What a blessing it will be to weekly and daily worship Him with you as we marvel at His amazing love for us. “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38,39).

Thanking God for this privilege to be your pastor and share the “one thing needful,”

Pastor Fred Berger

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