



# The Prairie Land Lutheran Parish Messenger

January 2018



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

Friends in Christ:

January is the first month in the new calendar year, but the second month in the church year. So we're continuing to look at some of the objects and traditions we use in worship.

Last month I talked about the use of candles, which are especially prominent during the Christmas seasons. In January, we celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord—so let's take a look at our baptismal fonts!

Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. At his baptism, the Holy Spirit appeared, and God announced that he was God's beloved Son.

Following Jesus' command, early Christians adopted baptism as a way to bring newcomers into their community. Whole families were baptized together. To start with they used natural bodies of water—rivers and lakes. **It was the water that was important—the water, together with God's promise, was what made a baptism.**

The word "font" is related to the word "fountain". A font is a sort of indoor "fountain". When Christians started to be able to build permanent structures dedicated for worship, fonts got to be more formal. Sometimes the font was in a separate space called a "baptistry". Some of them were quite elaborate. (For example, the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa is actually the bell tower of the cathedral. The baptistry stands nearby and is just as impressive.)

Early fonts were usually quite large—people were used to being able to stand in a river! We mostly see smaller fonts in our context. That probably is because we inherited the design from people from northern climates, where you didn't really want to use that much water in the middle of winter!

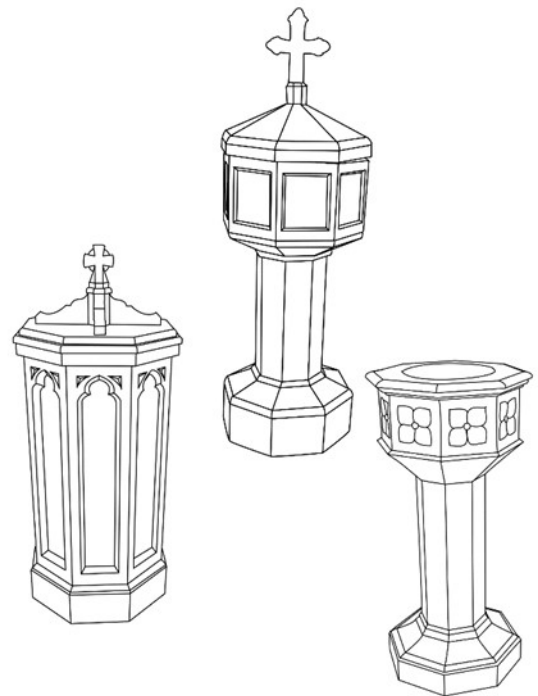
Any container that holds water can be a baptismal font. There are no special requirements, because it's the water and the words (God's promise) that matter. Once, in a hospital setting, I baptized a baby with a tiny cup of water. A pastor's daughter once told me that she remembers her father using whatever bowl was in the house!

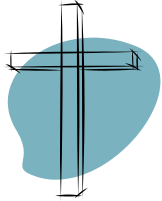
All three of the fonts in use in our parish are eight-sided. That design goes back at least to the 4<sup>th</sup> century—but what does it mean?

Here's one explanation: God created the world in six days, and rested on the seventh—Saturday. Jesus was raised again on a Sunday—the first day over again, or the eighth day, if you just keep counting. So eight is the number of new creation. **The eight sides of our baptismal fonts remind us that if we are baptized into Christ's death, we are also baptized into his resurrection!**

Can you tell which font in the illustration comes from which congregation in our parish?

Pastor Sarah Taylor





## January Worship Schedule

**January 7th:** 9:00 a.m. Worship LaSalle  
9:15a.m.-10:15a.m. S.S. at Zion Church  
10:30a.m. Worship at Zion

**January 14th:** 9:00a.m. Worship at Lake Hanska  
10:30a.m. Worship at Zion

**January 21st: 9:00a.m. Worship at Zion - Note Change**  
**10:15a.m. Sunday School at Zion**  
**10:30a.m. Worship at LaSalle**  
(followed by Meal and LaSalle's annual meeting)

**January 28th: 9:00a.m. Worship at Zion - Note Change**  
**10:30a.m. Worship at Lake Hanska**  
(followed by Meal and Lake Hanska's annual meeting)

## Vital Statistics

### Lake Hanska

Nov 19	at LaSalle	\$555.00
Nov 22	Joint Worship	
Thanksgiving	45	\$290.00
Nov 26	52	\$1,767.00
Dec 3	at LaSalle	\$690.00
Dec 10	21	\$1,294.00

### La Salle

Nov 26	at Lake Hanska	
Dec 3	42	\$957.00
Dec 10	at Lake Hanska	
Dec 17	26	\$533.00

### Zion

Nov 19	59	\$2,286.00
Nov 26	37	\$2,045.00
Dec 3	34	\$755.00
Dec 10	32	\$1,795.00

## **Annual Meetings are coming up soon!!**

Please drop off your information for the Annual reports at the office or e-mail it to Jill (pllsecretary@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

**January 21st LaSalle**  
**January 28th Lake Hanska**  
**February 4th Zion**

## **Funeral**

Sharon Larson Saturday December 16, 2017 at Albion Church



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

## **Baptism**

**Brody Lee Kraus** Baptized Sunday November 26, 2017 at Lake Hanska

**Parents:** Meghan and Justin Kraus

**Sponsors:** Asha and Chad Cooreman



# Prairie Land Lutheran Parish Women of the ELCA

## LaSalle W-ELCA

**Altar Guild:** Bev Olson and  
Debbie Bocock

**LaSalle's Annual Meeting**  
Sunday January 21, 2018

No PLLP Bible Study

## Lake Hanska W-ELCA

**Altar Guild:** Pam Kjelshus and  
Jane Ahlness

**Lake Hanska's Annual Meeting**  
Sunday January 28, 2018

No PLLP Bible Study

## Zion W-ELCA

**Altar Guild:** Sharon Miller

**Communion:** Annette Larson and  
Wanda Larson

**Flowers:** Dorcas Circle

**Zion Annual Meeting**  
Sunday February 4, 2018

No PLLP Bible Study

## For Church Cancellations

Listen to KNUJ ([knuj.net](http://knuj.net)), KJLY ([kjly.com](http://kjly.com)), go on the Parish Website or check the PLLP Facebook page to see if church has been cancelled because of cold or snowy weather.

## Equipping Congregations Day

EVERYDAY REFORMERS

**Saturday February 10, 2018**

**8:30a.m.-3:30p.m.**

**Willmar MN**

**All Are Welcome!**

Congregation Members, Council Officers, Christian Educators, Pastors...Everyone!

**Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton** will be our keynote speaker for the day,  
speaking on the theme of Everyday Reformers.

**Bishop John Anderson**, will share stories of everyday reformers in the SW MN Synod.  
He will reflect light toward some of the bright spots across our synod

Choose 3 Different workshops to attend throughout the day!  
a full workshop list with descriptions is available on the Synod Website

**Let Pastor Sarah or a council member know if you would like to attend!**

Prairie Land Lutheran Parish  
PO Box 65  
Hanska, MN 56041

Non– Profit Organization  
Permit 7  
Hanska, MN 56041

Address Service Requested

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Prairie Land Lutheran Parish  
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