



Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

1187 C.R. 128 & U.S. Rt. 20

Fremont, Ohio 43420

Pastor Tim Miller

93.1FM

Church: 419-332-6820

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Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 18, 2026

Setting 3 with Holy Communion

*Congregation please stand as you are able.

Introduction

Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.

Prelude:

Glory Be to the Lord

G. Sadoh

O That I Had a Thousand Voices

Arr. R. Wilson

Welcome & Announcements:

Joys and Concerns

Signing of the Pew Register by all present.

Noisy Offering: The Noisy Offering is given so children from our Companion Parish of Bumila Lutheran Church have the opportunity to attend school in the Mpwapwa Region. Thank you for your support of the children of our sister congregation in Bumila, Tanzania.

Installation of Council Members & FLCW Officers

*Opening Hymn:

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

ELW 311

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, **+** one God,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters.

C: Amen.

P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

**C: you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.**

We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.

**We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.**

Turn us to seek your face.

**Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.**

Amen.

P: The former things have passed away,
and new things God now declares:
Like a spring of water that never fails,
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,
and forgives your sin in **+** Jesus' name.
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace.

C: Amen.

*Canticle of Praise

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.



Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,



we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.



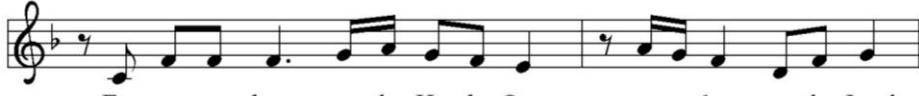
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;



you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.



For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,



you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,



in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

***Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

C: Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading:

Isaiah 49:1-7

Here the servant, identified as Israel, speaks for herself and describes her honored mission. Called before her birth like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, the servant is not only to restore Israel. The servant's ultimate assignment is to bring news of God's victory to the ends of the earth. God in faithfulness has chosen Israel for this task.

R: A reading from Isaiah, the 49th chapter.

¹ Listen to me, O coastlands;
 pay attention, you peoples from far away!

The LORD called me before I was born;
 while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

² He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
 in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow;
 in his quiver he hid me away.

³ And he said to me, "You are my servant,
 Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain;
 I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the LORD
 and my reward with my God."

⁵ And now the LORD says,
 who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
 and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,
 and my God has become my strength—

⁶ he says,

“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

⁷ Thus says the LORD,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,
“Kings shall see and stand up;
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 40:1-11

¹ I waited patiently upon the LORD,
who stooped to me and heard my cry.

² **The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay,
and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.**

³ The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our
God; many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the
LORD.

⁴ **Happy are they who trust in the LORD!**
They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.

⁵ Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God! In your
plans for us, none can be compared with you!
Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are
more than I can count.

⁶ **Sacrifice and offering you do not desire;
you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering
you have not required.**

⁷ And so I said, “Here I am; I come.
In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

⁸ **‘I love to do your will, O my God;
your law is deep within me.’”**

⁹ I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly;
I have not restrained my lips, O LORD, you know.

10 I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the great assembly.

11 You are the LORD; do not withhold your compassion from me; may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Though God's church in Corinth is a fractious congregation beset with many conflicts, Paul opens this letter by spotlighting the multiple ways God has enriched and sustained its life as part of the divine call into the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ.

R: A reading from 1 Corinthians, the first chapter.

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***Gospel**

John 1:29-42

John the Baptist's witness to Jesus initiates a chain of testimony as his disciples begin to share with others what they have found.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ²⁹ [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!³⁰ This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ ³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” ³² And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” ³⁹ He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him

and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

***Sermon Hymn:** *Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word* ELW 663

*Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Prayers of Intercession

R: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

R: Gracious God, gather the church into one great fellowship. Equip your people to work together for justice and peace, following the example of Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, whose birth we remember this week. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Creating God, sustain the web of life on this planet. Protect wild places, endangered species, and vulnerable habitats. Come to the aid of those affected by natural disasters. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Just God, you desire respect and equality for everyone. Raise up prophets who speak truth to the nations. Embolden leaders and those in authority to advocate for people in need. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Healing God, you lift up those who are bowed down by trouble, oppression, or illness, *especially those we name at this time (Pause for 10 seconds for people to be named)*. Bring an end to social injustice and inequities of every kind, so that all people may have abundant life. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Abiding God, you are present with this congregation. Keep us mindful of our mission and guide our ministries in this community. Kindle in us a desire to help one another. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Faithful God, you promise to be with us always. We remember with gratitude the faithful departed who now rest in you. Strengthen us to the end, that we may see you face to face. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

C: Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

***Sharing of the Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

(10:30) Sr. Choir:

He Made Us to Praise Him

T. Fettke, arr. R. Blake

***Offertory:** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Offering Prayer**

P: God of majesty,
no eye has seen, no ear has heard
what you have prepared for those who love you,
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.
Use what we have gathered
to feed us with the reign of God come near,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

***The Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

***Thanksgiving at the Table**

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
 the Word made flesh.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us. Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***Lord's Prayer**

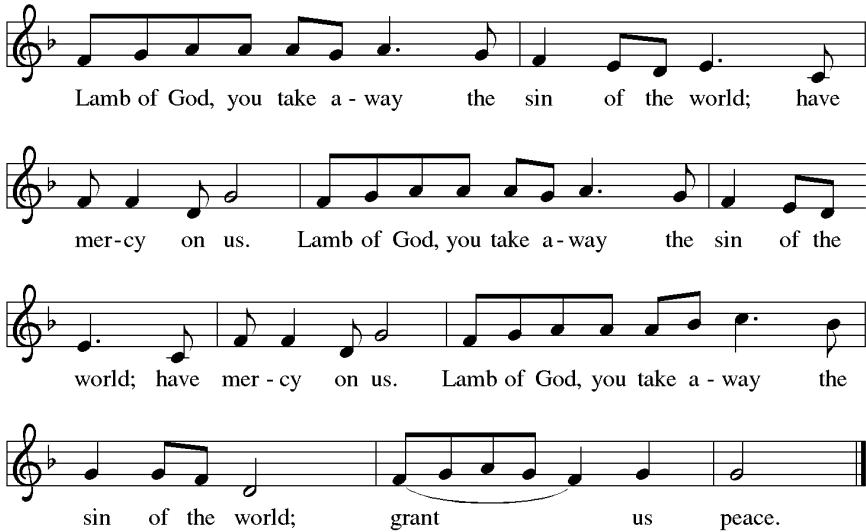
P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

***Invitation to Communion**

P: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution of Communion

Communion will be continuous. The ushers will invite you to come forward by the center aisle. You will be handed the bread with the words, "The Body of Christ given for you." You may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!". Step to the Communion Assistant and take the cup. They will speak the words, "The Blood of Christ shed for you." You may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!" Empty cups may be placed in the basket as you return to your seat by the side aisle.

If you prefer gluten-free bread, please let the Pastor know. If you prefer grape juice, please let the Communion Assistant know. If you prefer not to receive or have children who have not yet received, please let the Pastor know and he will offer a blessing.

Communion Hymns:

ELW 464 Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal

ELW 336 Lamb of God

*Post Communion Blessing

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

***Prayer After Communion**

P: Radiant God,

we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

In the sacrament of his body and blood

you have drawn us to your heart.

Send us from this table with delight,

that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,

and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***Blessing**

P: May the triune God,

who has put a new song in your mouth

and tuned your heart for praise

☩ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

***Closing Hymn:**

We Are Marching in the Light

ELW 866

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Postlude:**

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

H. Balcombe

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP! Creator of all life, each day is a gift from you. Open our eyes to your presence and open our hands to serve others with joy and love.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING is scheduled for Next Sunday, January 25, 2026 in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 9:15 a.m. Please plan to attend. Thank you.



BELL RINGERS NEEDED – The Bell Choir is in need of a few extra members at this time. Please consider adding yourself to create some inspirational music of praise. Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays from 6:30 – 7:20 p.m. (Thursdays during the Lenten season) in the Fellowship Hall. You may contact Darla Brown at 419-680-6717 for more information. Thank you!

DEAR FAITH FAMILY - Thank you all for my Christmas gifts. Also, for prayers during my sister, Inez's illness and death. She was 102 years old. Also, thank you for prayers for Bame family, Baby Adeline. She is in Michigan Children's Hospital and is weighing less than 1 pound. Thanks to all my Faith Family. Love, Ruth Gerber.

GIVING STATEMENTS for 2025 are on the table in the Narthex for you.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the narthex. If you have not picked yours up yet, please do so.

UPDATED CHURCH TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES AND THE F.L.C.W. PROGRAM BOOKLETS for 2026 are also available in the narthex for you.

CHRIST CARE NEWS - Beginning Saturday, February 7 at 9:15 a.m. our Christ Care group will gather to begin a study on the Gospel of Luke. Great news is woven throughout this gospel that perfection is not a prerequisite to a deep and personal relationship with Jesus. Luke shares with us the extent to which Jesus is so very fond of ragamuffins in need of a safe place to lean into and linger. Come join us as Jesus embraces the outcasts, outsiders and overlooked. See Noelle Leutenegger or give her a call at 419-307-1063. We look forward to seeing you and growing in God's amazing love for each one of us.

REMINDER... *When Sandusky County is under a Level 3 Snow Advisory the church will be closed. This includes Sunday services as well as all weekday events, meetings and activities for that day. If we are under a level 1 or 2 snow emergency, the church will be open and if it's on a day of worship, we will have worship.*



PRAYING DAILY

For healing and hope: Joan Bolen, Mary Ann Diekman, Denny Fahle, Millie Fetterman, Pat Forsyth, Della Hamburger, Denny Krumnow, Bill Leutenegger, Dean May, Stan Moyer, Nancy Mylander, Betty Nielsen, Gary Overmyer, Sandie Reed, Ken & Gloria Root, Letty Rusch, Bob Schneider, Janet Tressler, Linda Woessner. Adeline Bame, Jackie Mowry, Eric Paul, Kathy Spanfeller, Teri Titkemeier.

For the Family of: William Seibert

For our Bishops: Bishop Christian Ndossa, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, and NWOS Bishop Daniel Beaudoin and Staff

For our partner congregation in Bumila, Tanzania

And its pastor: Pastor Peter Magasi

PRAY FOR OUR ★ ★ ★ ★ MILITARY

For our Military: Noah Egbert, Troy Halfhill, Jade Kayser, Daniel Linder, Tony Rozzi, Christopher Templeton, & Joshua Tooman.



USHERS NEEDED ON SUNDAY MORNINGS – I would like to appeal to those of you interested in being ushers to please sign up on the clipboards in the coat room area. Thank you very much! Mike Fought, Deacon.

ASSISTING TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller **Organist:** Darla Brown

Sr. Choir Director: Darla Brown

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Greeter: Karly Paeth & Family **8:00 a.m.** Marg Schwartz

Lector: Greyson Tooman **8:00 a.m.** Shelby Thornhill

Acolyte: Greyson Tooman

Communion: K. Paeth/C. Paeth **8:00 a.m.** R. Koch & R. Brown

Counters: Dave Kocsis* & Scott Miarer

Fellowship Time Host:

Altar Guild: Brenda Tooman & Kim Smith

Ushers: (8:00) Toomans

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK

Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller **Pianist:** Becky Fox

Sr. Choir Director: Darla Brown **8:00 a.m.** **Flautist:** Marilyn Ring

10:30 a.m.

Greeter: Ruth Ann Seibert **8:00 a.m.** Evan McBride

Lector: Lillian Harder **8:00 a.m.** Barb Kocsis

Acolyte: Lillian Harder **8:00 a.m.** Eric McBride

Communion: K. Smith/A. Miller **8:00 a.m.** R. Koch & B. Kocsis

Counters: Ann Waggoner* & Randy Koch

Fellowship Time Host: Church Council

Altar Guild: Brenda Tooman & Kim Smith

Ushers: (8:00) Toomans

FAITH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF – Jan. 18 to Jan. 25

Sunday NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE

Jan. 18-----8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship Time

Monday

Jan. 19-----10 a.m. Valley View – Worship with Holy Communion
7:30 p.m. Dartball – Away vs. Oak Harbor

Tuesday

Jan. 20-----2 p.m. Ruth Circle
6:30 p.m. Executive Council
7:00 p.m. Church Council

Wednesday

Jan. 21-----6:30 p.m. Bell Choir
7:30 p.m. Praise Choir
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Thursday

Jan. 22-----3 p.m. Christ Care

Friday

Jan. 23-----

Saturday

Jan. 24-----

Sunday

Jan. 25-----8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
9:15 a.m. Congregational Annual Meeting in Hall

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026: ATTENDANCE: 138 – OFFERING: \$4,344.52

GOSPEL MESSAGE

January 18, 2026
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Then Knowing Begins

There is a whole lot written about *knowing* in this gospel's pithy account of Jesus' debut. There is, for that matter, a lot written about knowing throughout John's gospel; it's part of this book of the Bible's particularity. But take note: Before any claims of knowing are dashed into this memoir, John the Baptizer bothers to reveal that there was, for him, a time before knowing—a time when he did not know Jesus. This little and perhaps overlooked detail, “I myself did not know him” (John 1:31), is like sugar water in a hummingbird feeder: a sweet invitation or coaxing to come, taste and see what is good.

That admission from John lures readers and hearers to pay attention not simply to events: the arrival of Jesus on the scene, his walking toward John, the act of baptizing with water, or even the flamboyant descent of a dove. These are descriptive details, but they are not the essence of what soon will overtake John and others—an invitation to know Jesus.

The difference between knowing *about* Jesus and knowing Jesus is tucked in and all around this gospel text that leads initially to the Baptizer and then moves onto a pathway beyond him. Yes, Jesus is introduced as “Lamb of God.” Yes, like a dove, the Spirit was seen descending. Vivid, symbolic details, for sure, about one coming to take away sin. But it is afterward, in Andrew and Simon's curiosity and willingness to follow, when Jesus asks “What are you looking for?” and urges them to “come and see,” when they begin to stay together—they with Jesus and he with them—that knowing Jesus overtakes them and they fall into the grace of what he comes to take away and what he comes to give.