

St Peter's Lutheran Church Elizabeth

521 Main North Road, Elizabeth

'A Christ Centred Community where God's Love is experienced and shared, so that all may know and worship Jesus'

Sunday 12th January 2025

First Sunday after Epiphany

Church Year C

Pastor Greg Bensted



10:00am Worship with Holy Communion

TODAY'S Readings

Isaiah 43:1-7

Acts 8: 14-17

Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

NOTES ON READINGS

Isaiah 43:1-7: The people of Judah, slaves in Babylon, here called by the names of their forebears Israel and Jacob, are about to be redeemed (bought back) from their slavery and returned to the land God had given them. The pictorial language of deliverance from fire and water denotes God's special love for his special people. Other nations will be defeated by the Persians in consequence of King Cyrus returning the Jews to Jerusalem, for they are special objects of God's love. Assurance of this rescue is more easily grasped in a wider prediction (vv 5,6) of a world-wide restoration of God's people one day, namely 'everyone who is called by his name' (v 7).



Acts 8:14-17: The outbreak of persecution in Jerusalem scattered believers throughout Judea, and also into neighbouring Samaria. When we remember the centuries-long antipathy of Jews to the Samaritan mixture of religious elements, it is not surprising that Peter and John were sent there on a mission of inquiry. Despite

administration of baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus, there had been no evidences of the coming of the Holy Spirit. This would have been expected as a normal occurrence. With prayer and the laying on of hands, the Holy Spirit was received, thus incorporating Samaritans into the wider functioning body of the believing church.

Luke 3:15-17, 21,22: When questioned as to whether he was the Messiah, John made it clear that he was simply a prophet. The one coming after him, John attested, would have far greater abilities. He would send the Holy Spirit and would effect final judgment both for punishment and salvation. The second portion of this reading, verses 21 and 22, provides God the Father's own attestation that Jesus is the Messiah and God's Son. Both attestations show (manifest) Jesus' divine nature bound together with his divine mission.

NOW IS THE TIME TO COLLECT ALL THE 10C CONTAINERS FROM CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR FOR THE CHURCH. PLEASE MAKE SURE THEY HAVE THE 10C RECYCLING SYMBOL, ARE CLEAN, AND ARE IN A NON RETURNABLE CONTAINER. THEY CAN BE HANDED TO IAN NITSCHKE. WE CAN DO!

Save the Date:

Pastor's Farewell Service

Sunday 26th January 2025 10am

Preliminary Call Meeting

29th January with Pastor Steve Schultz after 5pm meeting followed by dinner

