

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
229 South Broad Street
Jersey Shore, PA 17740
570-398-1676

Sunday, January 8, 2023

Baptism of Our Lord



Children's Church will meet upstairs in the youth Sunday School room at the end of the hallway at 9:30 a.m. Please take your child there before worship begins.

Introduction to the Day

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRELUDE

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who makes all things new,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal,
**we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,
and cannot free ourselves.
We have not practiced your righteousness.**

**Our hearts have turned away from you.
For the sake of the world you so love,
forgive us,
that we may be reconciled to one another
for the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Thus says our God:

“The former things have come to pass
and new things I now declare.”

God’s mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of † Christ our Savior.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *God, Whose Almighty Word 673*

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.

Kyrie: p.138

Hymn of Praise: *Baptized in Water 456*

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

C: O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

Word

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

L: A reading from Isaiah.

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

God’s servant is endowed with God’s spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant’s task. God’s old promises have been fulfilled; the servant’s new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

¹Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
²He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
³a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
⁷to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸I am the LORD, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.

⁹See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L: Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse.

PSALM: Psalm 29

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

**⁴The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**⁶the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

**⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

**¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

L: A reading from Acts.

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

³⁴Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the

prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION p. 142

Alleluia Lord to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God’s child.

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized 304*

APOSTLES CREED (p. 105 at the beginning of the hymnal)

Prayers of Intercession

A: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Calling God, you speak with power to your church. Open our hearts and minds to the new things you are declaring. Strengthen bishops, pastors, deacons, lay leaders, and teachers of the faith. Equip the baptized for your reconciling and redeeming work. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Renewing God, you provide the waters of the earth and in Jesus' baptism you reveal the waters of life. Cleanse and protect oceans, rivers, and watersheds (*local water sources may be named*). Bring relief to parched lands and to communities without access to safe water. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Righteous God, you never weary of establishing justice. Increase cooperation and constructive dialogue between nations. Guide local, national, and international authorities to govern with equity, vision, and integrity. We pray for those in military service, for peacemakers, and for our enemies. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Abiding God, your mercy is steadfast. Give sanctuary to people who flee from oppression, war, poverty, and famine. Sustain health care workers, caregivers, first responders, counselors, and all who help and heal. Comfort those who are grieving or experiencing crisis (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Blessing God, in Christ you gather the beloved community. Kindle the gifts of your Spirit in your people. Accompany the newly baptized, those recently ordained, and any beginning a new ministry. Inspire synodical leaders and congregational councils to serve with imagination and wisdom. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of blessings, may the work and ministries of the Lutheran Church of Liberia and our missionaries, Rev. Linda Johnson Seyenkulo and Rev. Brian Palmer, who show forth and teach about your grace, mercy and forgiveness. Give them strength and courage to follow wherever you lead. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Promising God, your faithfulness endures throughout all generations. We give thanks for those who have died in Christ, trusting that we will be united with them and all the saints in Christ's resurrection life. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen.**

Responding in Love

Our Offering of Music

CHOIR ANTHEM *We Will Gather at the River*

OFFERTORY

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit with me.
Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.*

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Liberating God,
you break the bonds of injustice
and let the oppressed go free.
Receive these offerings in thanksgiving
for all your works of merciful power,
and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.
You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING P.144 *(in the beginning of the hymnal)*

Dialogue

Preface by the Pastor

Holy Holy Holy

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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."

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, now and forever. **AMEN**

**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**

SIT

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come and taste the joy of God!

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond **Amen.**

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God You Take Away p. 146*

SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Jesus, Name Above All Names*

(repeat twice)

Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,

Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Holy One,
we thank you for the healing
that springs forth abundantly from this table.

Renew our strength to do justice,
love kindness,
and journey humbly with you.

Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice
and breaks the oppressor's rod

✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,
today and always.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise 310*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remember in prayer: Rowan Aldridge, Agnes Cryder, Don & Helen Delaney, Joanne Fisher, Joann Hall, Mick Miller, David Mitchell, the Snyder family, Charles and Candace Welshans, and all of our shut-ins.

We also remember in prayer Family Promise; Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton – ELCA; Bishop Craig A. Miller - USS; for our Companion Synods in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany; and we pray for peace in Ukraine and an end to war.

We pray for the safety of our military troops around the world including Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jade Cordrey, Ben Cramer, Trevor and Nehemiah Eberhart, Patrick Hamlin, Paul Laidacker, Kenny Leitch, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O'Neal, Adam Shaffer, Richie Speicher, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, and Jenna White. We also lift up in prayer their families who strive to keep a normalcy in the family and continue on often with added stress.

Special thanks to this week's helper: Lector –Darlene Bilby; Assisting Ministers— Bill Ely Jr, Ken Dougherty; Head Usher –Bob Wehler; Teller –Brayden Wehler; Bulletin Sponsor – Cynthia Breon; Children's Church –Molly Hollick.

Next week's helpers: Lector –Shane Snyder; Assisting Ministers –Gary Johnson, Karen Aucker; Head Usher –Bob Wehler; Teller –Brayden Wehler; Bulletin Sponsor— Cynthia Breon; Children's Church—Cathy Eisner; Flowers – Wehler's.

The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored in January in honor of choir members and organist.

The Lutheran Church Women's Prayer Chain is a vital ministry of St. John Lutheran. Anyone in need of prayers is asked to contact any of the following persons:

Gloria Ely – 570-873-3597 Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH meeting after church on Sunday, January 15 to discuss luncheon for Pastor's 30th Ordination Anniversary.

Annual Reports - A reminder to the chairs of all ministries of St. John Lutheran – your annual reports must be submitted to the office **by January 12** to be included in the annual report to the congregation at the annual congregation meeting on January 20, 2023.

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING is Sunday, January 22, 2023 with a brunch being planned.

Christian Education is seeking volunteers to lead Children's Church once a month. If interested please see Cathy Eisner. The 4th and 5th Sundays are open.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO RESUME NURSERY. We are in need of adult and teen volunteers to supervise toddlers/babies in the nursery during church. Please contact Molly Hollick, or Ken Dougherty if you would be willing to help out or have any questions. Our hope is to get enough volunteers to have a monthly rotation cycle.

Annual Offering Statements are available in the tower of the Church. Please pick up yours and any relatives to save us postage.

Also in the tower is the **FLOWER** sign up sheet. It's neon green and set up for the whole year. Sign up for the Sunday you want!

Your 2023 Offering Envelopes are available in the Tower of the Church. Please pick up yours and any of your relatives. Only a small number of people use envelopes but it is an important stewardship tool. If there are no envelopes with your name on, please contact Laurel Gottschall for envelopes. It costs us \$3.60 to mail one box of \$1.30 envelopes. Please save us money and pick up your envelopes or give electronically. Forms are available from the office or you can give on-line via the Vanco app.

Dear St Johns, Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift. May the new year bring you happiness, good health, and abundant blessings. Sue

Thank you to St John council, congregation and many members for your thoughtful Christmas cards and gifts. Kaye H. Long

Thank you very much to Pastor, Church Council, and the congregation for your Christmas card and very kind and thoughtful Christmas gift.....Peace and blessings for a happy, safe, and healthy New Year!!

Carl Schaefer

SAVE THE DATE! February 19 we are celebrating Pastor's Ordination Anniversary! 30 years! The Bishop will be here and a luncheon is being planned.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, January 8, 2023 *Baptism of Our Lord*
9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service.

Monday, January 9, 2023
1:00 p.m. Bible Study

Wednesday, January 11, 2023
10:00 a.m. Trinity Episcopal Worship. You are invited to attend.
6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday, January 12, 2023
1:00 p.m. All Annual Reports Due
4:00 p.m. Pack Boxes

Friday, January 13, 2023
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Food Distribution

Sunday, January 15, 2023 *2nd Sunday of Epiphany*
8:30 p.m. Adult Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service *Martin Luther King Weekend*
10:30 a.m. Women of the Church meeting
2:00 p.m. Catechism



GROW in the Snow Looks at Baptism: All youth in 6-12th grade and their youth leaders are invited to attend this synod youth retreat on March 17-18. The theme of this year's will be baptism. Experience your Creator, play winter games and find refreshment in the peace of camp in winter. The retreat is from Friday night to Saturday afternoon, but there is an option for youth and leaders to come just for the day on Saturday. Each registered group should provide one adult (21 or over) for every seven youth and at least one adult for each gender represented. Cabin assignments will be made based on available adults and the number of youth attending. To register contact Pastor Aucker or Mrs. Eisner. A flyer and registration form are coming soon!

Volunteers are needed to sponsor the weekly flowers. A sign-up sheet is on the wall in the 2nd floor elevator tower.