

SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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The
Baptism
of
Our
LORD



"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD
JANUARY 9, 2022

January 9, 2022
Baptism of Our Lord

Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who creates us,
redeems us,
and calls us by name.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we have sinned against you
and your beloved children.**
**We have turned our faces away from your glory
when it did not appear as we expected.**
**We have rejected your word
when it made us confront ourselves.**
**We have failed to show hospitality
to those you called us to welcome.**
**Accept our repentance for the things we have done
and the things we have left undone.**
For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
**Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe
in the glory of your Son born among us,
and reflect your love for all creation.**
Amen.

Rejoice in this good news:

In ✠ Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven.
You are descendants of the Most High,
adopted into the household of Christ,
and inheritors of eternal life.
Live as freed and forgiven children of God.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* (verses 1&4)

Hail to the Lord's Anointed



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
2 You come with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
3 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
4 Kings shall fall down be - fore you, and gold and in - cense bring;



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!
to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.
all na - tions shall a - dore you, your praise all peo - ple sing.



You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive
to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to
Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald,
To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as -



free, to take a - way trans - gres - sion and
light, whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are
go; and righ - teous - ness in foun - tains from
cend; your king - dom still in - creas - ing, a



rule in eq - ui - ty.
pre - cious in your sight.
hill to val - ley flow.
king - dom with out end.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.
Music: FREUT EÜCH, IHR LIEBEN, Leonhart Schröter, 1540–1602

GREETING

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

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *Shine, Jesus, Shine* (ELW 671)

WITNESS

Shine, Jesus, Shine

671

Refrain

Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;

blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.

Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;

send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the
 2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -

dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,
play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,

set us free by the truth you now bring us.
mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.

Shine on me, shine on me:
 Shine on me, shine on me:

Refrain

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950
 Music: Graham Kendrick
 Text and music © 1987 Make Way Music, admin. Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE
 99 10 10 33 and refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SOLO

My Savior's Love

MARTY WENGER

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7

A reading from Isaiah.

Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

¹But now thus says the LORD,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

³For I am the LORD your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,

Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴Because you are precious in my sight,

and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,

nations in exchange for your life.

⁵Do not fear, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east,

and from the west I will gather you;

⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up,"

and to the south, "Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away

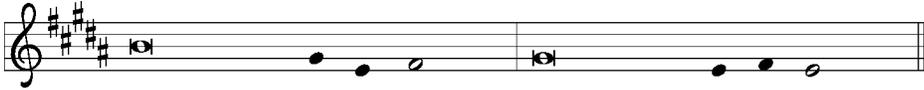
and my daughters from the end of the earth—

⁷everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 29

(Sung Responsively Between Women & Men, Beginning With The Women.)



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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- ¹Ascribe to the ¹LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glo- ¹ry and strength.
- ²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory ¹due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beau- ¹ty of holiness.**
- ³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of ¹glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the ¹mighty waters.
- ⁴**The voice of the LORD is a pow- ¹erful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a ¹voice of splendor.**
- ⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the ¹cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the ce- ¹dars of Lebanon;
- ⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip ¹like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a ¹young wild ox.**
- ⁷The voice ¹of the LORD
bursts forth in ¹lightning flashes.
- ⁸**The voice of the LORD ¹shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilder- ¹ness of Kadesh.**
- ⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the ¹forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are ¹crying, “Glory!”
- ¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned a- ¹bove the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- ¹evermore.**
- ¹¹O LORD, give strength ¹to your people;
give them, O LORD, the bless- ¹ings of peace.

SECOND READING: Acts 8:14-17

A reading from Acts.

Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW 102)



GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Affirmation of Baptism for the Congregation

PRESENTATION

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of Baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of Baptism into Christ.

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and brothers, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in Baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God? **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God? **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God? **I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ? **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Asperges: Pastor sprinkles water on the congregation.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Please stand if you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Crashing Waters at Creation (verses 1&4)*



- 1 Crash - ing wa - ters at cre - a - tion, or - dered by the Spir - it's breath,
- 2 Part - ing wa - ter stood and trem - bled as the cap - tives passed on through,
- 3 Cleans - ing wa - ter once at Jor - dan closed a - round the one fore - told,
- 4 Liv - ing wa - ter, nev - er end - ing, quench the thirst and flood the soul.



first to wit - ness day's be - gin - ning from the bright - ness of night's death.
wash - ing off the chains of bond - age— chan - nel to a life made new.
o - pened to re - veal the glo - ry ev - er new and ev - er old.
Well - spring, source of life e - ter - nal, drench our dry - ness, make us whole.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: STUTTGART, atr. Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

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PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH *(Please respond.)*

P: God of grace. C: hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERATORY *Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring* (all verses)

Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring



- 1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
- 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
- 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957
Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune
Text © 1990 Augsburg Fortress

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OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God,
Sovereign of the universe.
You offer us new beginnings
and guide us on our journey.
Lead us to your table,
nourish us with this heavenly food,
and prepare us to carry your love
to a hungry world,
in the name of Christ our light.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

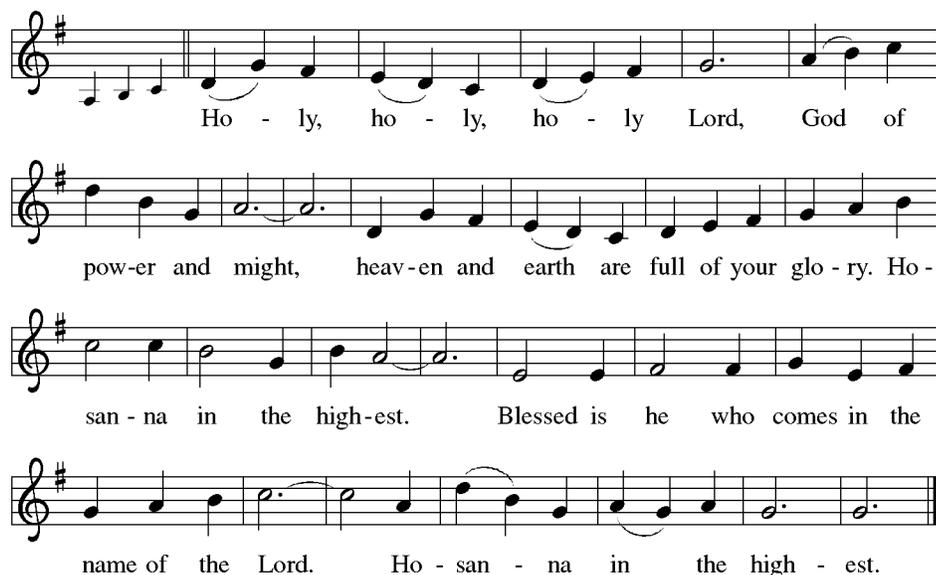
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 108)



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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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

Come to God's table.
There is a place for you and enough for all.

COMMUNION

Continuous - Please continue down center aisle at the direction of the usher, maintaining your distance. Please place your empty communion cup in the basket. Return to your seat.

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

F C/E F Dm Dm/F Gm Gm² Gm C



Let there be praise, let there be joy in our hearts.

Am Am⁷ Dm Dm/F E^bM⁹ E^b Csus² C



Sing to the Lord, give God the glo - ry. glo - ry.

F C/E F Dm Dm/F Gm Gm² Gm C



Let there be praise, let there be joy in our hearts.

Am Am⁷ Dm Dm/F Gm F/A B^b F/C C⁷ F



For - év - er - more let his love fill the air, and let there be praise.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, gracious God,
 for we have feasted on the abundance of your house.
 Send us to bring good news
 and to proclaim your favor to all,
 strengthened with the richness of your grace
 in your Son, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG (verses 1&4)

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized



1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you
2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant
3 Straight-way and stead - fast un - til death you then o - beyed the
4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be



came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as
true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's
call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to
signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may



ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.
ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.
give your life for all, to give your life for all.
per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, alt.
Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561
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DISMISSAL

Go with Christ into a weary world.
Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

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SERVING TODAY

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Organist Doug Mummert
Head Usher Ron Coldsmith
Acolyte Wayne Dale
Lector Patricia Yetter
Securing Offering Janice McEntire & Zoe Mummert
Communion Set-Up Ilona Laney
Communion Clean-Up Judy Johnson & Patricia Yetter
Bread Cubes Zoe Mummert
Communion Assist Janice McEntire
Attendance last Sunday 44

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the Glory of God in honor of Sarah's 12th birthday and Rebekah's 17th birthday given by Mom & Dad.

Welcome Visitors! We welcome you to our worship service. We hope your visit with us will be a time of blessing. If you have any concerns, please talk to the Head Usher. We invite you to worship with us again!

Prayer requests for the following *Friends & Family of Paul Skelly, Friends & Family of Alan Johnson, Jane Winters, Linda Wepking, Ann Grapes, Bonnie Hudson, Frances Kramer, Connie Bikle, Nancy Bumbaugh Cook, Charles and Mary Jo Bedsworth, Rich Plummer, Minnie Tom, Bonnie Creager Youcum, Sandy Chilcote, Sandy Bream, Linda Keller, Raelynn Tarman, Susie Alleman, David Riggelman, Thelma Briggs, Darrell Veilleux, Bud Armstrong, Gertie Reichard, Manny Negron, Millie Kulkusky.* If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire. **Note:** At the beginning of each month, the Prayer Request List will start anew. If you would like to remain listed on the next month's list, or if you would like to have your name removed from the list before the end of the month, please call the office.

Office Hours for Pastor Barb are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon or call for an appointment.

ACS – Relay for Life – SAVE THE DATE! Over the years our Team has been part of the Chambersburg Relay for Life event, but this year there will be changes. The Chambersburg leadership team has decided to join efforts with the Greencastle Relay for Life leadership team hoping to create an even more successful event! The last few years the Chambersburg leadership team experienced a decline in participation and money raised. 2021 was especially challenging for us with so few people helping to support the event and a few key people resigning from the leadership team. I have our team registered on the website with Greencastle Relay for Life and I am hoping to see you on May 21, 2022 at Greencastle Antrim High School, located at 300 S. Ridge Avenue, Greencastle, PA. Please visit the ACS website to join our team at www.relayforlife.org. Thank you for your support and please feel free to contact Becky Mull with any questions.

SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary are selling Discount Cards for \$5.00 each. All proceeds will benefit Franklin and Fulton County. Any question or to purchase, see Becky Pecha following service or call 717 263-7668.

Lutheran Disaster Response: On the night of Dec. 10 and early morning of Dec. 11, an outbreak of at least 30 tornadoes swept through six states. So far, 94 people are reported dead across five states, more than 80 of those in Kentucky. For those unaccounted for, search-and-rescue operations are underway. Homes and businesses were destroyed, and over 300,000 people were without electricity. Lutheran Disaster Response is collaborating with the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and other partners in the area to assess the damage and develop an immediate and a long-term response plan. Your gifts to support these response efforts will empower our partners to meet survivors' immediate and long-term needs. Given the extent of the damage, recovery will take years as thousands of homes will need to be rebuilt or repaired. With your support, Lutheran Disaster Response can accompany survivors on the long road to recovery. **Your gifts to “U.S. Tornadoes” will be used in full (100%) to help people impacted by the tornadoes until the response is complete.** You may make your donation to Solomon's Lutheran Church marked “US Tornadoes” Thank you.

Youth Game Night with Trinity Lutheran: Saturday January 15, 2022, 6 – 8 in the Solomon's Fellowship Center. We will be hosting a youth game night between our church youth and the youth from Trinity Lutheran. We will have board games, card games, twister, and room to run and play ball. We will be making Soft Pretzels and Ice-Cream Sundaes. We will have a sign-up sheet on the Sunday School Bulletin Board.

2022 Altar Flower Chart is posted in the cloakroom off the church entryway. The cost of the two vases will be \$50.00 per week. You will continue to provide Kimberly with the information for the bulletin prior to the week before the Sunday you choose. Include the cost of \$50.00 with the bulletin information. Knowing the cost increased, if you would like to share the cost, by asking someone else to share the cost, you are welcome to do so. When you sign-up for a Sunday, you will be responsible to obtain the bulletin information for you and your friend and forward it to Kimberly. Should there be a Sunday that flowers are not donated, the flower vases will be removed.

Power Pack Meals for New Franklin School: We received this message from Cindy Holmquist, the Power Pack coordinator: “We have been packing for seven children weekly since September. We can always use individual size vegetables, preferably in cups but cans will do & meal items such as Ramen noodles, Cup of noodles, or Chef Boyardee. Juice pouches, 8oz water bottles & Yoo-hoo or Nestle's drinks are always needed. Snack items would be next on the list and fruit & applesauce are still in abundance on our shelves.” You may drop off donations to Power Packs at the collection box in the Sunday School Room.

Christian Education Committee will have a meeting every 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Youth Sunday School Classes starting at 9:00 a.m. have resumed.

Bulletin Announcement Forms are located in both pamphlet racks. Please submit all bulletin announcements to the office by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday for inclusion in the bulletin.

Council Minutes, Monthly Financial Statement and Committee Minutes are available in the library for anyone to read.

JANUARY 9, 2022
BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Jesus' baptism points to a way of life.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	The baptism of Jesus
Monday	Isaiah 43:1-7	Restoration and protection
Tuesday	Acts 8:14-17	Receiving the Holy Spirit
Wednesday	Matthew 3:13-17	Jesus' baptism
Thursday	Colossians 3:12-17	New life in Christ
Friday	Ephesians 4:1-6	Unity in the body of Christ
Saturday	Psalms 29	The voice of the Lord
Sunday	John 2:1-11	The wedding at Cana

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. **Luke 3:21-22a (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Come Lord Jesus, come, Holy Spirit, strengthen us in our baptismal life and feed us with your power to believe that we are loved by God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

May the gift of this food strengthen us to live in peace and faith in Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you to know you are loved and precious

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When have you received criticism that helped you?
- How can the judgment of another—or of God—be a blessing to you?

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Change My Heart, O God



DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22.

In this passage we receive important themes that will continue later in the Gospel. In Luke (and Acts written by Luke), the Holy Spirit plays a large role in connecting Jesus with the church and the church with God. At Jesus' baptism, he is doing something that often happens during significant moments in his ministry in Luke: he is praying. Prayer and the work of the Spirit belong together for Jesus and for us as we are brought into the work of his eternal reign. John the Baptist speaks of a winnowing fork that separates wheat from chaff. As Luke continues to tell the story of Jesus, that separation is not about divine vengeance, but a judgment that cleanses us from our chaff, our sin, and leads us to be the church, the wheat in the world that feeds the world with God's grace. John's vision of Jesus, like ours, will change and grow. In Luke 7:19 John is perplexed by Jesus' words and actions and wonders if Jesus is the one, or should he (and we) look for another Messiah. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus' baptism points to our baptism and a life of prayer, repentance, forgiveness, and growth in Christ.

Discuss: How does baptism free you to pray, seek forgiveness and grow in faith and love?

Pray: **Lord Jesus, may we grow in grace as we live out our baptismal life with prayer, humility, and the desire to serve you and the world in love. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme this week, how does your way of life show God's love to others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus' baptism sets the stage for the beginning of his ministry, just as our baptism establishes our life as a follower of Jesus. When Jesus was baptized, he was also praying. Use prayer as a way to recall and live your baptism. Dip your fingers into a bowl of water, make the sign of the cross on your or another's forehead or hand, and say: **[I am/You are] baptized and God's beloved child.** Then close by praying the Lord's Prayer and any other prayers you may wish to add.