

Jesus
was baptized
by John in
the Jordan

MARK 1:9

Called by the Spirit, we serve Christ, sharing God's love with all.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEBSITE: firstlutherantopeka.org

1234 Fairlawn Road, Topeka, KS 66604

Church office: (785) 272-5302 CDO office: (785) 272-5999

Ministers

Senior Pastor

Coordinator of Stewardship and Outreach

Children's Day Out (CDO) Director

Caring for Kids 1st Director

Organist

Director of Music

Director of Handbell Choirs

Secretary

Assistant Secretary

Bookkeeper

Nursery Attendant

Missionaries in Russia

Missionaries for Ripe For Harvest World Outreach

All Members of First

Pastor Jenny Jackson

Pastor Bob Dealey

Julie Lamott

Julie Bradley

Jerry Anderson

Mark Fuller

Linda Anderson

LaDonna J. Little

Jill Loomans

Cindy Crawford

Tahira Schmidt

Rev. Bradn & Natasha Buerkle

Jim & Dawn Anderson



THE CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

A SERVICE OF BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE
HOLY COMMUNION, EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING TEN

10:00 A.M.

JANUARY 10, 2021

Before worship, talk to God. During worship, let God talk to you. After worship, talk to your fellow worshipper.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE *“Herr Christ, der einig Gotts Sohn” (“The Only Son from Heaven”)* (D. Buxtehude)
I. Chorale II. Chorale Prelude

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMES

451 GATHERING SONG *“We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus”*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

BAPTISMAL CALL TO WORSHIP AND CONFESSION

P: In the beginning, at creation, the Spirit hovered over the waters of the deep.

C: In the waters of the flood, God cleansed the earth and humankind.

P: God caused the waters to part so that Israel could cross from slavery to freedom.

C: And through water, brings us from captivity to freedom.

P: Jesus taught us how to live by washing his disciples’ feet in water.

C: Drinking water from a well, Jesus met a Samaritan woman, the first person to recognize that he was the Christ.

P: Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, the Christ.

C: God meant for Jesus to be the firstborn of all creation. Thanks be to God!

P: Let us be bold and confess our sins, for God is gracious and always ready to forgive.

C: God, you show no partiality. Forgive our intolerance, and help us to see as you see, that we may be acceptable in your sight.

P: God forgives all our sins, and promises to bring us to everlasting life.

C: Amen! And thanks be to God.

P: God of new life, you are splendid and strong! Your voice thunders above the sound of loud waters. As Jesus heard you speak to him in his baptism, may we also hear you calling us your beloved, through Jesus Christ, your son, our savior.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung, and preached.

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-5

Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for us. God created and continues to create new life.

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Acts 19:1-7

In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John's baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptizes them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them with gifts of the Spirit.

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

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

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the 1st chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Mark 1:4-11

Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." ⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

P: This is the Gospel of The Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

815 HYMN OF THE DAY "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM FOR FIRST LUTHERAN CONFIRMANDS

P: Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for this sister and brother, 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.

C: **Amen.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.

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?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

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.

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.

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?

Each person responds: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support this sister and brother and pray for them in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

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.

The blessing may be repeated for each person. The minister may lay both hands on the head of the person and say: Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in name/s the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm her/his faith, guide her/his life, empower her/him in her/his serving, give her/him patience in suffering, and bring her/him to everlasting life.

Amen.

Those making public affirmation stand and face the assembly. A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.

Let us rejoice with this sister and brother in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

A: For the church throughout the world and its leaders, that guided by the Holy Spirit they proclaim the forgiveness of sins, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

A: For wilderness and water, wind and wild beasts, and all living things on earth, that God's goodness is revealed through creation and faithful stewards care for all God has made, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

A: For the nations of the world and their leaders, for laborers busy both day and night, and for peacemakers amid strife, that God inspire all people to use their strength wisely, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

A: For the sick and those who provide medical care, for the imprisoned and those who show them mercy, for the lonely and those who provide companionship, for all who suffer, we pray especially for Laura, Margaret, Mark, Verla, Lynnette, Lu, Marian, Blake, Phil, Rob, and Breck, as well as our homebound members, all unable to worship this weekend, and all family, friends and even enemies we name now, either out loud or in the silence of our hearts (pause) that God shower compassion, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

A: For the congregation gathered here, for students returning to school, for those seeking renewal in their daily work, that all the beloved of God experience grace and peace, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

A: In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their labors, that their witness inspire us in our baptismal vocations, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

P: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." (John 14:27)

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Merciful God,

C: receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

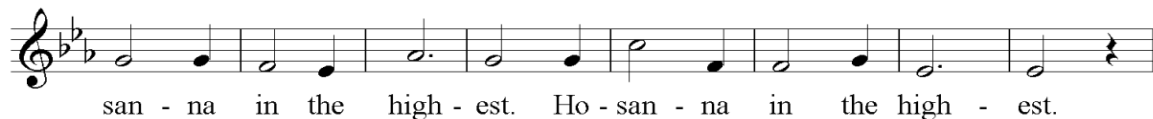
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

hymn 190



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

P: This is God's table and we are God's people, let us be fed.

COMMUNION SONG "Lamb of God"

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1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Congregation: Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: God of the welcome table, in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

P: The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

C: **Amen.**

732 SENDING SONG *“Borning Cry”*

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Let your light shine.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE *“Glory to God in the Highest”*

(G. B. Pergolesi)

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ALTAR FLOWERS *are given by the Youth & Family Ministry Committee in celebration of our newly confirmed members, Katie Krumins and AJ Hamby.*

THE ETERNAL CANDLE FOR JANUARY *is given by Sue Wild in memory of her great aunt, Helen Radtke. She was such a family treasure!*

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH ARE REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

Laura Martin (home), Margaret Stewart (home), Mark Fuller (home), Verla Buch (home), Lynnette Johnson (home), Lu Heisler (home), Marian Orton (home), Blake Hopper (home), Martha Donohoe (home), Phil Engelhardt (home), Rob Peterson (home), Breck Edds (home), Clyde Naber (Laura Haefke’s brother-in-law), Donna Tobyen (friend of Barb Collins), Martin Godlove (Sylvia Levings’ son), Lewis Sanders (Rachelle Witherspoon’s father), Syndee Haake (daughter of friend of Nancy Vaughn), Blanche Stephansen (Ron Bessler’s sister), Nicole Klein (Patti’s God-daughter), Georgi Peterson (Rhonda Dealey’s mother), Linda Boleski (Penny & Marvin Boleski’s sister-in-law), Lawrence & Lenette Kottas (Eileen Caspers’ parents), John Browne (Penny & Marvin Boleski’s brother-in-law), Ann Dorton (extended family member of LaDonna Little), Camille Baehni Engler (former member), Brennan Soukup (Julie Bender’s cousin), Carlotta Ullman (Trudi Myers’ great niece), C.A. & Mary Lou Brunkhorst (Ann Sanders’ parents), Dan Lykins (cousin of Nancy Sherbert), Heather Roesch (Tracy’s sister-in-law), Katelynn Herring (Jeanie Schuler’s great niece), Linda Myers (Trudi’s daughter-in-law), David Metzenthin (Bud & Lois’ son).

Confirmation

2021 CONFIRMATION CLASS

May God bless these young people as they affirm their baptismal covenant this morning and continue to grow in their love for Jesus Christ, his church, and his world.

Adyson James “AJ” Hamby

Baptized: April 29, 2007

Parents: Adam & Amber / Grandmother – Pam Callaway

Sponsors: Jessie & Angela Lowe

Confirmation Scripture Psalm 118:6

“With the LORD on my side I do not fear. What can mortals do to me?”

Katherine “Katie” Ann Krumins

Baptized: September 24, 2006

Parents: Charles & Elizabeth

Sponsors: Petra Warnick, Paul Beadles

Confirmation Scripture Proverbs 3:5

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.”

A Hitch in the Story

Was it wildfire nerve? Unchecked audacity? Holy purpose? The hammering of parents' expectations? Maybe the privilege of being kin to Jesus? Or was it eccentricity as peculiar as his diet and wardrobe? What desire drove John to the wilderness, into the water of the Jordan? What ignited his fiery proclamation of repentance and forgiveness? What current pulled crowds from city and country into the water?

One can say, rightly, that it was ordained by God, compelled by the Holy Spirit, predicted by an angel. Yet there is a hitch in the story. Four easily missed but utterly important words gum up the works of any timid or tidy explanations: "I am not worthy" (Mark 1:7).

Something in John's four words opens the baptismal story to torrents of wonder, floods of hope, drenching relief and recovery.

For some years the two friends had been together through what we often call the thick and the thin. They knew this and that, bits and pieces, the here and there of one another's lives. And not only the trivial. They probed each other's shadowed corridors and crumbling edges. Still, there were secrets, withholdings. One day, for reasons wrapped with nothing but the ragged swaddling of unaccountable grace, one said to the other, "It has been such a long, lonely journey, carrying a suitcase filled with secrets, the shames and deceptions I've folded and packed." Then he began to tell. To confess. A repenting, a turning. His friend's eyes filled with tears that watered his cheeks and dripped into his lap. All he could say through the flood was, "I love you all the more."

Born literally of grace, breaking the dam of John's four words, "I am not worthy," is one stronger word, the word of the more powerful one: *forgiveness*. To John and to us who say, "I am not worthy," Jesus answers, "Yes, yes, yes, you are."

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20210110-BAPT Tracks 1 and 2 ELCA-L

LESSONS JANUARY 17

1 Samuel 3:1-10

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

PARISH NOTICES

BIBLE STUDY ON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK, WITH PASTOR JENNY

Join me on January 17th at 11:30 a.m. on Zoom for a discussion on the shortest Gospel, Mark. We will be spending time this whole year reading through this book and this Bible Study will offer a deeper understanding of the oldest Gospel, written before Matthew, Luke, or John. Why doesn't Mark have the sermon on the mount? Why not a birth narrative? I look forward to zooming with you and opening our Bibles together.

ANNUAL MEETING



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

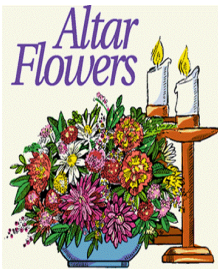
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2021

MORE INFORMATION WILL BE COMING SOON.



ETERNAL CANDLES can be found in both the main Worship Center and our beautiful Chapel. In **2021** you may **DONATE** both candles in remembrance or in honor of someone for the entire month. Please contact LaDonna, in the church office, (785) 272-5302 or email her at lslutherantopeka@sbcglobal.net to sign-up for a month and give information that will be included in the bulletin. **The cost will be \$20 for the month. Available months are: April and December.**



ALTAR FLOWERS FOR 2021

Fresh flowers on our altar are a special way to enrich our worship space and to honor and memorialize special people in our lives. Please join in this beautiful practice by reserving your dates for 2021 now.

There is a chart of reserved dates and forms to complete in the hallway by the offices. You may complete the questionnaire and leave it there. For those who are not coming to the building at this time, please contact either LaDonna at the church office 785-272-5302 or Jeanie Schuler 785-845-7964 and we will gladly take your information over the phone.

For those with annual orders, the chart has been completed and we will call you to confirm your order information. **The altar flowers cost \$25 per vase plus tax.** Reservations may be made for one (\$25) or two vases (\$50). Pulpit flowers are also an option to recognize a special occasion for \$50 plus tax.

OPEN 2021 DATES FOR BOTH VASES (unless indicated otherwise) ARE:

4/11 (one vase), 4/18 (one vase); 5/2 (one vase), 5/23; 7/11, 7/25; 8/1 (one vase), 8/29; 9/26; 10/24, 11/7, 11/28; 12/12 (one vase).



DOORSTEP'S "SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY" FEBRUARY 7th



Bring soup and crackers to help stock Doorstep's pantry!

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 7TH! Doorstep is asking for donations for SouperBowl Sunday! **Please bring SOUP AND CRACKERS to restock Doorstep's pantry.** A can of soup can be a meal, and in the past, with a successful collection, Doorstep has had soup and crackers to last them into the summer months! Please remember Doorstep when you go grocery shopping, and pick up a few items for your neighbors in need.

CAMP TOMAH SHINGA



We have opened registrations for summer camp 2021! After a summer apart due to COVID, we are thrilled to be back. As we adjust camp to keep safe and healthy for your camper, we look forward to Exploring Creation, Building Relationships, and Growing in Faith with you this summer. Register at www.camptomahshinga.com. If you have any questions reach out to Jazz Turley at jturley@tomahshinga.com.

BETHANY COLLEGE

Is your family beginning the college search and you are unsure of where to begin? Look no further than YOUR Lutheran college, Bethany College in Lindsborg, KS. Find your path to your purpose with us. Contact Vicki Cornett at cornettv@bethanylb.edu or visit www.bethanylb.edu for more information.