

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 SW Fairlawn Road, Topeka, KS 66604

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

Ministers

Pastor

Children's Day Out (CDO) Director

Caring for Kids 1st Director

Organist

Director of Music

Director of Handbell Choir

Secretary

Assistant Secretary

Bookkeeper

Missionaries in Russia

Missionaries for Ripe For Harvest World Outreach

All Members of First

Pastor Jenny Jackson

Julie Lamott

Bryleigh Willis

Jerry Anderson

Mark Fuller

Linda Anderson

LaDonna J. Little

Jill Loomans

Cindy Crawford

Rev. Bradn & Natasha Buerkle

Jim & Dawn Anderson

WE WELCOME all who worship with us today! We extend a special greeting to our visitors and invite you to worship with us again soon. Please make yourselves known to our pastor and people.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION: Lutheran Christians believe that in the sacrament of Holy Communion, by the power of God's Word and Holy Spirit, we receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ, along with the bread and wine, for our forgiveness and salvation. If you share in this belief, you are welcome to participate with us. Non-communing children and adults may come forward to receive a blessing. White grape juice is available, as well as gluten free wafers. If you desire to receive communion at your pew, please alert an usher during the prelude. Communion is done by intinction.

GREETINGS PARENTS: **Sunday School for children Pre-K through 5th grade** takes place during our worship service. Children will be invited up for a children's sermon with the pastor, after which any who would like are invited to attend Sunday school. This will include a Bible reading, story, craft, and more. The teachers will bring the students back to worship in time for communion with your family. Should you prefer your child to remain in the sanctuary during worship, we have Children's Bibles in the pews and worship activity bags just outside the sanctuary. Faith Formation for our middle school and high school students will take place during the week at our youth group times.

BRIEF WORD ABOUT OFFERING: Offering plates are available at the back of the worship space, on the bulletin table. To give online, please go to FirstLutheranTopeka.org and click on 'contribute'.

Please place attendance form in the offering plate.

WHEELCHAIR available in the north entranceway or in the church office.

EARPHONES for the hearing impaired and **LARGE PRINT BULLETINS.**



THE CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

A SERVICE OF EPIPHANY AND BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE
HOLY COMMUNION, EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING FOUR

5:00 P.M. & 10:00 A.M.

JANUARY 6 & 7, 2024

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 “*Sur les jeux d’anches, sans tremblant et en duo*”
“*Nöel Étranger*”

(L. C. D’Aquin, 1694-1772)

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

CHIMES

GATHERING SONG “*We Three Kings of Orient Are*”

See Bulletin Page 12

CALL TO WORSHIP

A: It is you who light my lamp; you, my God, who lights up the darkness.

C: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

A: Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the honest of heart.

C: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

A: For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

C: O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Amidst the darkness of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome the light of God's forgiveness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

C: Forgive our lack of faith and trust in your will.

P: Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

C: Forgive our neglect of the poor.

P: The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

C: Forgive our selfishness and complacency.

P: The Magi followed the star to find the Savior of the nations.

C: Forgive our reluctance to seek you with all our hearts.

P: The angel said, you shall call his name Jesus for he will save his people from their sins. With great joy, I announce to you the entire forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

410 HYMN OF PRAISE “All Glory Be to God on High” Stanza 1

EPIPHANY LITANY

(B. Y. Williams in “Masterpieces of Religious Verses”)

P: Who are the Wise Men in the long ago?

C: Not Herod, fearful lest he lost his throne; not Pharisees too proud to claim their own;

P: Who are the Wise Men in the long ago?

C: Not priests and scribes whose province was to know; not money-changers running to and fro;

P: but three who traveled, weary and alone,

C: with dauntless faith, because before them shone the star that led them to a manger low.

P: Who are the Wise Men now, when all is told?

C: Not men of science; not the great and strong; not those who wear a kingly diadem;

P: not those whose eager hands pile high the gold;

C: but those amid the tumult and the throng who follow still the Star of Bethlehem.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Congregation shall sit.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORD

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

NOISY OFFERING and CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

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.

PSALM 29:3-11 (Spoken Responsively)

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.

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.

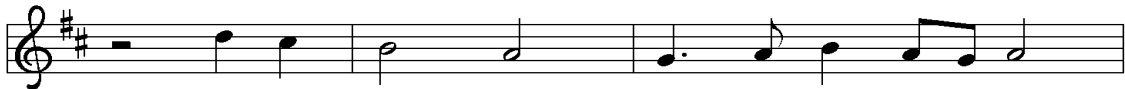
L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

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: The Gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Congregation shall sit.

SERMON

451 HYMN OF THE DAY *"We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus"*

Please stand for Stanza 3

Congregation shall remain standing or sitting, as able.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISM

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

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

P: Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things. By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your children, as one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A: Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all 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.

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response: I renounce them.

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

Response: I renounce them.

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

Response: I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

C: 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.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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.

P: 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?

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

P: People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

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

A: 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.

C: Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A: Inspire wisdom and a spirit of proclamation in your church, God of forgiveness. Uplift leaders to share the truth of your word in community. Encourage us to live into the promises of baptism, working for justice and peace in all the world. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Renew your creation, God of thunder and mighty waters. Restore the rivers in which your children are baptized. May fields flourish and grow. Summon the stewards and caretakers of the land to cherish your good works. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Give strength to your leaders, God who is present in every country and community. Raise up leaders committed to equity and healing. Grant them discernment and compassion as they lead in love. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Protect and cherish the most vulnerable among us, God of strength. Accompany those separated from family or hurting from broken relationships. Shelter our unhoused neighbors and any experiencing poverty. Protect those incarcerated in prisons and detention centers. Care for the sick and suffering especially Stephen, Richard, Cherie, Ruth, Alice, Dean, Donna, Jeanie, and Rob 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). Surround them with your unwavering presence. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We lift up in prayer our siblings in Christ across the Central States Synod, especially the people and ministry of Salem Lutheran Church, St. Francis, KS, Martin Luther Lutheran Church, Lee's Summit, MO and Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Lucas, KS. May God continue to lead people in working together for the sake of the Gospel. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Encourage this congregation, God who calls and sends disciples. Guide us in accompanying, learning from, and serving our neighbors on the margins, following the example of Jesus. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Trusting the assurance of the Holy Spirit, we remember all who have died and rest in God's care. Give hope to those who grieve even as we rest in your eternal promise of resurrection. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Peace be with you.

R: Peace be with you.

Congregation shall sit.

CHOIR ANTHEM "Baby, What You Goin' to Be?"

(N. Sleeth, 1930-1992)

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Blessed are you, Holy One,

C: for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

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.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

C: **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: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table of mercy and joy.

Congregation shall sit.

COMMUNION SONG “Lamb of God”

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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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY

“Now the Silence” (Based on Hymn 460)

(Vajda/Schalk, arr. W. Pelz, b. 1926)

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Congregation: Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Giver of every gift, Christ’s body is our food, and we are Christ’s body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

P: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, † bless you and remain with you always.

C: **Amen.**

302 SENDING SONG “As with Gladness Men of Old”

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Live out your Baptism.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *“Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts”*

(C. Saint-Saens, 1835-1921)

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THE ALTAR FLOWERS *are given by Nancy Vaughn in memory of her husband, Charlie Vaughn.*

THE ETERNAL CANDLE FOR JANUARY *is given by JoAnn Stanley in memory of Dena Rodell.*



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

Stephen Blank (home), Richard Price (home), Cherie McGinnis (home), Ruth Denno (Lexington Park Rehab), Alice Purdy (Kansas Rehab Hospital), Dean Johnson (home), Donna Kruger (Lexington Park Rehab), Jeanie Schuler (home), Rob Peterson (home), Carren Reed (home), Allyn Lockner (Brewster Health Care), Kathy Cheatham (home), Vera Pearce (home), Verla Buch (Presbyterian Manor), Blake Hopper (home), Richard Carlson (Cindy Lear's cousin), Steve Holloman (neighbor friend of Chris & Cindy Lear), Aneka Lilya (LaDonna Little's sister-in-law), Lura Granberry (LaDonna Little's mother), Frank Phillips (Bonnie's son), Barbara Aubert (friend of Nancy Vaughn), Janine Wagner (Donna Kruger's sister), David McGinnis (Board Member of TLHA), Manny Ramos (Shirley Perry's nephew), Leuita Meyer (Verla Buch's sister-in-law), Don Kaphingst (Margaret Stewart's brother), Heidi Mark (Bill & Joyce's daughter), Loren Johannes (friend of Erv & Ann Sanders), Jayne Cool (friend of the Lubers), Anita Freeman (neighbor friend of Nancy & Ken Sherbert), Robert Jones (friend of Sylvia Levings), June Fisher (friend of Marvin Wingert), Gloria & Dennis Lyon (Barb Collins' aunt & uncle), Charline Matheny (friend of Patti Klein), Cheryl Koch (Kathy's sister-in-law), Linda Falchek (friend of Wendy Sanders), Linda Meyer (Verla Buch's sister-in-law), Drew Hartz (Steve & Kathy Couch's son-in-law), Dan Fraleigh (Sherrie Petersen's brother-in-law), Velda Jacobs (Eileen Caspers' aunt), Lenette Kottas (Eileen Caspers' mother), John Browne (Penny & Marvin Boleski's brother-in-law), Katelynn Herring (Jeanie Schuler's great-niece).

We Three Kings of Orient Are



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
 bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,
 owns a de - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
 God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -



moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain



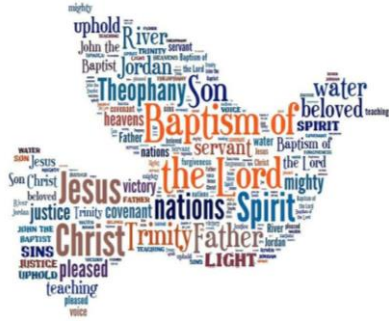
Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891, alt.

Music: THREE KINGS OF ORIENT, John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891



LAY MINISTERS 1/7	BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 10:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister	Joyce Koenig
Lector / Acolyte	Jenn Betz / Cole Schultz
Communion Assistants	Nancy Besta, JoAnn Stanley
Greeters	Randy Debenham, Dana Nelsen
Ushers	Kevin Eaton, Bob Wollin
Council Members	LaVerne Engelhardt, Nancy Johnson
Wise Men	John Hanna, Dan McCready, Brad Merryman
Sunday School Leaders	Barb Collins, Karon Gambrill
Coffee Host	Kathy Couch, Carolyn Olson
Bus Driver & Host/Hostess	Marvin & Penny Boleski
Saturday Lector	Sherrie Petersen
Altar Guild Setup/Clean up	Barb Collins, Kathy Couch, Karen Wollin, Nancy Besta, Karon Gambrill
Tech Team	Jenn Betz, John Hanna
Stephen Minister on Call	Dick Schaeffer

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT WEEK

LAY MINISTERS 1/14	2nd EPIPHANY	10:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister	Jeff Montague	
Lectors / Acolyte	Ben & Thomas Einck / Lucas Jackson	
Communion Assistants	Kathy Couch, Linda Harold	
Greeters	Byron & Sara Welch, Lea Welch	
Ushers	Bill & Phyllis Buch	
Council Member	Lea Welch	
Sunday School Leaders	Lydia Peterson, Bob Wollin	
Coffee Host	Bob Wollin	
Bus Driver & Host/Hostess	Chris & Cindy Lear	
Saturday Lector	Karen Wollin	
Altar Guild Setup/Clean up	Nancy Vaughn, Pat Drake, Karen Wollin, Nancy Besta, Karon Gambrill	
Tech Team	John Hanna, Jenn Betz	
Stephen Minister on Call	JoAnn Stanley	

✠ IN THE FIRST PLACE THIS WEEK ✠

Children's Day Out Preschool (CDO) schedule: M, T, W & T 9am-3pm Friday 9-11:30 am

Sunday, January 7

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service (Sanctuary)

10:10 a.m. – Pre-K thru 5th Grade Sunday School

11:30 a.m. – Children, Youth & Family Ministry

6:00 p.m. – Pastor Jenny at Arbor Court Worship

Monday, January 8

1:00 p.m. – Staff Meeting

5:45 p.m. – Property Committee

6:30 p.m. – Finance Committee (202)

7:00 p.m. – Altar Guild Committee

7:00 p.m. – Boy Scout Troop 175 (PH)

Tuesday, January 9

6:00 p.m. – Cub Scout Den Meetings

7:00 p.m. – Stephen Ministry Supervision (202)

Wednesday, January 10

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

9:00 a.m. – What-Sew-Ever

6:00 p.m. – FLC & CDO Executive Committees (202)

Thursday, January 11

6:00 p.m. – Solar Panel Informational Meeting

6:15 p.m. – Bell Choir Rehearsal

7:00 p.m. – Vocal Choir Rehearsal

7:00 p.m. – Den Meeting

Friday, January 12

Pastor Jenny's Day Off

10:00 a.m. – Coffee & Lectionary (202)

6:30-8:00 p.m. – Pinewood Derby Set-up (PH)

Saturday, January 13

8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. – Pinewood Derby (PH)

5:00 p.m. – Worship Service (Chapel)

Sunday, January 14 SECOND EPIPHANY

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service (Sanctuary)

10:10 a.m. – Pre-K thru 5th Grade Sunday School

2:30 p.m. – Cub Scout Leaders (114)

LESSONS JANUARY 13 & 14

1 Samuel 3:1-10 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51

PARISH NOTICES

POINSETTIAS UP FOR GRABS!

We were blessed with a sanctuary filled with flowers for the Christmas season and we have many that have no home but need one. If you would like a free poinsettia or know someone who would enjoy one, please pick one up after the service and take it home with you.

EARTH FIRST will be holding a meeting for the congregation on **Thursday, January 11 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary regarding First Lutheran moving in the direction of **installing solar panels**. Guest speakers will be Mr. Clyde Schwanke from Southern Hills Mennonite Church and Mr. Bill Wood from Cromwell Environmental. Please come out to learn about the benefits of solar energy. Bring your questions and concerns! We hope you will plan on attending to learn how we at First can continue being good stewards of God's creation! If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Couch at 570-449-5021 or couch1093@gmail.com.



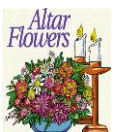
PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING US HAVE FRESH FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR IN 2024.

OPEN 2024 DATES FOR BOTH VASES (unless indicated otherwise) ARE:

3/31, 4/14 (one vase), 4/21 (one vase), 4/28, 6/30 (one vase), 7/14 (one vase), 7/28, 8/18,

8/25 (one vase), 12/8, 12/29.

Please call the church office at (785) 272-5302 or Jeanie Schuler 785-845-7964 if you have questions.



ANNUAL MEETING



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

~VERY IMPORTANT~

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

JANUARY 28, 2024

Immediately following worship in the sanctuary.



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

MARGARET WORRELL and HELEN NUNEMAKER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The Endowment Committee is pleased to announce that \$750 scholarships will be available from the Margaret Worrell and Helen Nunemaker Memorial Funds for the Spring 2024 academic term, and will be awarded to qualified applicants, and previous scholarship recipients may apply.

These scholarships are for members of First Lutheran for the purpose of pursuing undergraduate, graduate, technical, or such other training which enables members of this congregation to grow in education, Christian faith, and service to God's people.

APPLICATION DEADLINE is January 28, 2024, and application information is available from the Church Office or from any member of the Endowment Committee: Char Taggart, Bob Wollin, Erv Sanders, Diane Dukat, or Bill Barker.

WANTED: COFFEE HOSTS

If you're enjoying coffee after the Sunday service, please consider being a host. If we want to keep this hospitality going, we're going to need volunteers. It's very simple, pick up a "jug" of OJ, arrive at the church a tad before the 10:00 a.m. service and get the coffee brewing. Set out the creamer, sugar, and stir sticks. Duck out of service a tad before the end and start to fill a few cups of coffee and juice. All supplies provided, except the OJ (you can be reimbursed for that). Please sign up on the clipboard lying on the coffee service table. **Contact Parish Life Chair Jeff Montague** (in church directory) with any questions or for more detailed instructions. One person can certainly handle the duties, but two is more fun, so recruit a helper.



A Life-Changing New Chapter

Jesus does not *become* the Son of God at the moment of his baptism. Indeed, his relationship to God the Father is eternal—from forever in the past, through the incarnation, and forever into the future. But Jesus' baptism is a watershed moment (pardon the pun) representing the beginning of his public ministry and revelation as both fully human and fully divine.

At the beginning of the Gospel of Mark, Jesus is an unknown person from Nazareth, a remote town about which scripture says little (but for Nathanael's insinuation of its bad reputation at John 1:46). Jesus would have seemed much like the other people who came to the Jordan River to be baptized by John the Baptist. Yet this is the Son of God who has chosen to join all the people on this earth, to live like we live, to experience what we experience. So Jesus gathers with the multitude that comes for this ritual of a new beginning with and through God. And a new life does open in front of Jesus. The unexpected suddenly erupts for this ordinary-seeming man: in this human among humans a new chapter is initiated in God's story for the world—a new chapter that will come to involve a new kind of baptism.

This new baptism forms the church—both initially and yet today. No longer the temporary washing in water that John performed, Christian baptism is a definitive act of God, through water and the Holy Spirit, in which we are “marked with the cross of Christ forever” (*ELW*, p. 231) and raised to “newness of life” (Romans 6:4). As we follow Mark and the other evangelists' accounts of Jesus' ministry, even to death and beyond, we will learn what it means to be marked with Christ's cross. But foundational to this—and the gift that makes it possible for us—is that the Creator's words to Jesus resonate in our own baptism: “You are my child, my beloved; with you I am well pleased.” It's a life-changing new chapter for us too.

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