

First St. John Lutheran Church

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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist

Jacob Kelly - Youth & Family Minister

January 9, 2022

Baptism of Our Lord

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! We offer two services with Sunday School for youth and adults and catechism between the services. Our regular Sunday schedule is:

8:00 am	Early Worship
9:15 am	Sunday School / Catechism
10:30 am	Late Worship

Covid Guidelines: If you are fully vaccinated, you do not need to wear a mask. However, if you have not been vaccinated, please continue wearing a mask. We have some available near the entryway if you don't have one.

Livestream and Recorded Worship: We livestream the service on our church website at www.firststjohn.com. Also, the service will be recorded and published to the website.

Adult Sunday School meets at 9:15 am in the lounge (middle floor of the educational building – turn right out of the door by the choir loft).

Children ages 3 through 5th grade will meet for Sunday School in the basement of the church (the JAM Room!).

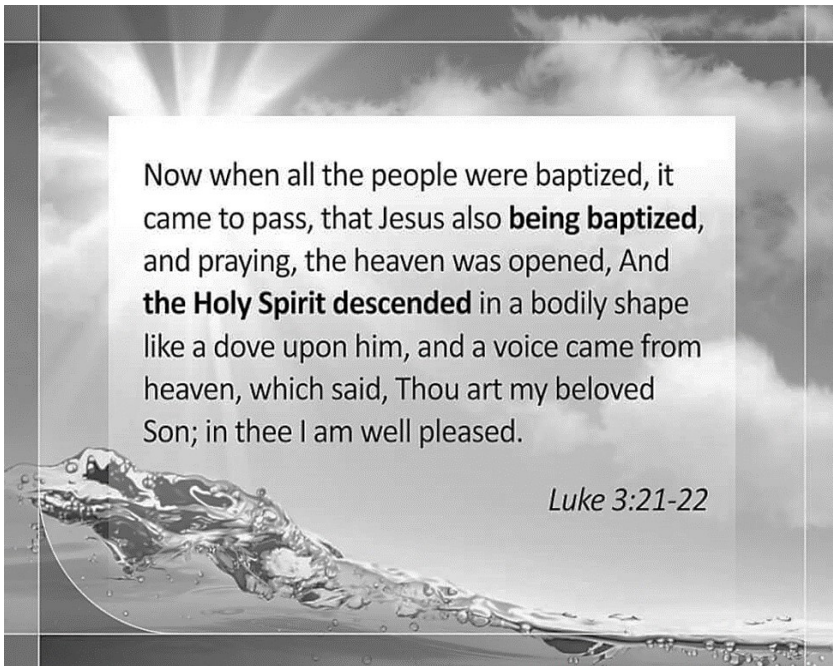
Catechism Class: Class will be held from 9:15 to 10:15 am each Sunday.

Nursery is in the church basement and is currently unstaffed; you are welcome to sit with your child. A diaper changing table is available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

Restrooms are in the church basement. Go to the Narthex (lobby) and take either set of steps to the basement hallway. The ladies room is at one end, and the men's room is at the other.

Flowers: If you would like to sign up for altar flowers, there is a book in the Narthex (lobby) by the telephone. Or, you can call the church office during the week to check on availability.

Memorials: If you wish to give a memorial in honor or memory of a loved one, you may mail it in or pick up a memorial card in the church office or the Narthex (lobby) and place it in the offering plate.



Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also **being baptized**, and praying, the heaven was opened, And **the Holy Spirit descended** in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

Luke 3:21-22

Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

January 9, 2022 - 10:30 am

ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am

Prelude
Ring of the Bell

Dr. Pattin

Opening Song

"Way Maker"

Egbu
Praise Singers

Confession and Forgiveness

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

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

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

(silence is kept for reflection)

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7

Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring them home. They need no longer fear because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now claims and redeems them.

But 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."

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 29

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**²Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
worship the Lord in holy splendor.**

³The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.

**⁴The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

⁵The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

**⁶He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

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

⁹The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

**¹⁰The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.**

¹¹May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!

SECOND READING: Acts 8:14-17

The church sends Peter and John to the Christians in Samaria, a group that had been converted through Philip's preaching. Here, the Samaritans received the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

Now 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.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Alleluia Verse

*Lord, let my heart be good soil,
Open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
Where love can grow
And peace is understood.*

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Gospel according to St. Luke Chapter 3.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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

The last of the prophets of Israel, John the Baptist points to "the one mightier than I [who] is coming." Although John baptizes with water, Jesus will baptize with the Spirit and fire. However, in Luke's version of this story, the focus is not on John. God is the actor, causing the Spirit to descend upon Jesus and inaugurating his mission with the proclamation that he is the "beloved Son."

As 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."

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON
Sermon Hymn

"Baptized in Water"

Pastor Rayl
No. 456

(Please stand)

Apostles' Creed

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

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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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.

Intercessory Prayer

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

The Offering

Chancel Choir

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" arr. Christopher

Offering Prayer

P: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Litany for Blessing Our Families

P: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

C: My soul longs for the courts of the Lord, my heart sings for joy to the living God.

P: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest where she may keep her young.

C: Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

P: No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly.

C: O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

P: Mothers, fathers, grandparents, and friends,

C: aunts, uncles, sons, and daughters,

P: People who reach out to nurture and love,

C: people who live by water and word –

P: God adopts us and names us and claims us.

C: God renews us, uplifts and restores us.

P: Generations from Abraham to David to Joseph,

C: to Jesus, son of Mary, Son of God;

P: Our generations too, and all those to come:

C: We are joined in the family of God.

P: O God for whom we long, we thank you for the gift of family and friends. Strengthen the ties that bind us together, that we may sing the song of Mary:

C: "My soul magnifies you, and holy is your name. You shower mercy from generation to generation."

P: We pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, your gift to all the world.

C: Amen.

(The elders will direct families by pew to come forward to the altar to receive a blessing. After everyone has returned to their seats, the service continues as the congregation stands.)

P: Let us pray. Triune God, whose will it is that humans live in community, bless family life everywhere and fill all homes with respect, joy, laughter, and prayer. Strengthen the commitment of husbands and wives to one another, that they may mirror your covenant faithfulness; pour out your Spirit on parents, that through them children may experience your unconditional love; and empower all family members to live in your grace and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The 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, 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

P: 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:

**C: (spoken) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

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.

P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among
us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his
death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this
meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God
incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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

The Lord's Prayer *(prayed by all)*

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

P: All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

The Communion *(distribution will be continuous)*

*If you wish to receive apple juice instead of wine, place your hand
over your shoulder as you approach the person distributing the
wine.*

*"All baptized Christians, believing that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly
present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, bringing to us
the gift of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, are welcome
to gather at the Lord's table. Infants, children and others who have
not been baptized are welcome to come to receive a blessing;
please make an X with your arms across your chest."*

Communion Hymns

"Now We Join in Celebration" No. 462

"I Received the Living God" No. 477

(After all have received communion, please stand.)

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and
sustain you in God's grace. Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

P: Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart and
nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and
blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world,
and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Jeff Smith, Ted Hagedorn

SOUND BOARD

Dave Wilbarger

ACOLYTES

Jordan and McKenna Cummerow

January 9, 2022

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Blessed Mysteries

This is a day full of mysteries. A mature man receives baptism, a rite we now often associate with babies. This, though, is a baptism of repentance--yet we confess him to be the Sinless One. In the aftermath, while Jesus is praying, the Holy Spirit descends on him and a voice from heaven proclaims "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." But wouldn't Jesus, as God incarnate, know this already?

Such mysteries are useful for at least two reasons. In the church year, today marks the transition from paying attention to the infant Jesus to a season when we will begin to explore his adult ministry. And while mysteries certainly abound in Christ's nativity, somehow we tend to overlook them because, well, he was just a baby. The events of today's gospel, though, remind us how much we do not--cannot--comprehend about Jesus' identity and ministry. Amid the aspects we cannot fully explain, though, we find the blessing of God and the presence of the Spirit.

The same divine blessing is, in effect, offered to each of us at our baptism. Whether adults or infants, we are declared God's beloved, and because of our new, baptismal identity, God is well pleased with us. This brings us to the second use for the day's mysteries. They remind us that we too have been born into a new life whose depths can never be completely plumbed. Some mysteries will remain just that. Other things we do know, however. We are assured that the Spirit is with us and that, as children of God, we have a purpose. At some point in our lives we will seek the Spirit's guidance in discerning our gifts and how we might best use them. The answer may not come in the form of a dove or a heavenly voice, but God will lead us in the path first trod by Christ.