

Welcome to Worship

at

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

reconciling in Christ congregation



Baptism of Our Lord

January 12, 2025

10:30 am

Interim Pastor: The Rev. Mike Button

Guest Leader: Steve Moyer

Director of Music: Jessica Madow

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Statement of Welcome

*There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female;
for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. — Galatians 3:28*

As a community of God striving to be open to all people, we at St. John's Lutheran Congregation believe that the gospel is God's gift to all people, to be shared unconditionally. We welcome all to join us as we struggle to better understand the mysteries of God's teachings. We are challenged by Christ to care for, to love, to understand, and to listen to each other, regardless of race, age, gender, marital status, physical and mental abilities, sexual/affectional orientation, national origin, or economic status. We celebrate together our unity as God's people.

St. John's Lutheran Congregation is a place for each person to shine in their own unique gifts.

Statement of Mission

St. John's Lutheran Church is a downtown, community-oriented, congregation of Christians. We worship God, strive to welcome, and wholly accept everyone, and reach out with and in God's love.

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Communion is a time we invite all baptized Christians who believe that our Lord Jesus is truly present in the bread and wine of the Sacrament. If this is your belief, there are instructions to follow at the time of Communion later in the bulletin.

Service Notes:

- (asterisk) indicates, please stand as you are able.
- Page # indicates the front of the hymnal is used . . .
- Hymn # indicates the back of the Hymnal is used . . .

Hymn Book Abbreviations:

ELW – Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book
WOV – With One Voice
ACS – All Creation Sings

Gathering

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

Welcome

Prelude *“Shall We Gather at the River”* by Robert Lowry

***Thanksgiving for Baptism**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C: Amen.

L: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. *(water is poured into the font . . .)*

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

L: To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Hymn**

ELW # 310 *“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”*

***Greeting**

- page 98

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

C: And also with you.

***Kyrie**

- page 98

***Canticle of Praise**

“Glory to God”

- page 99

***Prayer of the Day**

A: 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

Word

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

First Reading

Isaiah 43:1-7

¹ 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.

² When 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.

³ For 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.

⁴ Because 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.

⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you;

⁶ I 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—⁷ everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 29

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 The 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!"

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

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

Second Reading

Acts 8:14-17

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.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**

“Alleluia”

- page 102

*** Gospel**

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

L: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 3rd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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.”

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and 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.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – Steve Moyer

**Hymn of the Day*

ELW # 454 *“Remember and Rejoice”*

**Nicene Creed*

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

****Prayers of Intercession***

A: Let us pray. You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Your voice sounds over the waters. Speak words of healing over the rivers and lakes, seas and oceans. Heeding your voice, lead us to care for water, and the land and creatures it nourishes. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery including *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . .* Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: You draw us into community. Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: You grant us peace. Comfort all who grieve. Dwell with us in this life and, at the last, join us with the saints whom you have created, formed, and named. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

C: Amen

*** *The Sharing of the Peace***

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

(Ushers now proceed to the Altar to receive the offering plates...)

Offertory ***“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”***
(African American spiritual)

***Presentation of Gifts**
(Ushers now bring the offering plates forward.)

***Offertory Hymn**

ACS# 914 ***“Jesus, the Light of the World”*** (v. 4)

4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je-sus, the Light of the world;

Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the Light of the world.

Refrain

We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.

Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in a single system, all in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first two staves are the main verses, and the last two staves are the refrain, which begins with a fermata over the first note. The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for congregational singing.

***Offertory Prayer**

A: Let us pray. God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

C: Amen

***Great Thanksgiving** *- page 107*

*** Preface** *(Leader continues . . .)*

***Holy, Holy, Holy** *- page 108*

***Thanksgiving at the Table** *(Leader continues . . .)*

***Lord's Prayer** *- page 112*

***Lamb of God** *- page 112*

***Invitation to Communion** *- page 112*

Holy Communion - *If you are baptized and believe that it is the real blood and body of Christ, we welcome you at the Lord's table.*

**At the invitation of the usher, please proceed to the front to receive communion. Communion is also available in your pew, please let an usher know. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.*

Communion Hymns

ELW # 484 ***“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”***

ELW # 471 ***“Let Us Break Bread Together”***

ELW # 466 ***“In the Singing”***

***Table Blessing**

*Post Communion Hymn

ACS #984 *“May the God of Hope Go with Us”*

May the God of hope go with us ev - 'ry day,
to a world in need with news of joy and peace.
May the God of jus - tice speed us on our way,
bring - ing light and hope to ev - 'ry land and race.
Pray - ing, let us work for peace; sing - ing, share our
joy with all; work - ing for a world that's new,
faith - ful when we hear Christ's call.

*Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

C: Amen.

Sending

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

Announcements

*Blessing

L: The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

C: Amen.

*Sending Hymn

ELW # 453 *“Baptized and Set Free”*

*Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant–Chris Orem

Ushers – Nancy Ducey / Connie Garr

Reader – Charles Hanson

Altar Guild – Sue Glenn / Sharon Rabuck

Video Team – David Faulkner

This Week at St. John's January 12th – January 19th

Today (1/12/25) – Baptism of Our Lord, 10:30 am

Today (1/12/25) – Following Worship: Membership Meeting – Office
Spiritual Life - Chapel

Monday (1/13/25) – Choir Rehearsal, 1:00 pm.

Monday (1/13/25) – Council Meeting, 7:00 pm

Wednesday (1/15/25) – Bible Study, 11:00 am – Hospitality Room

Friday (1-17/24) – Newsletter Deadline

Sunday (1/19/25) – Sunday School / Adult Forum, 9:00 am

Sunday (1/19/25) – Second Sunday of Epiphany, 10:30 am

Sunday (1/19/25) – Following Worship: Property – Office
Outreach - Chapel

Week 1, 1/5/25 Attendance - 39

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering	\$2,525.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$1971.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$2,525.00
Difference Compared to Budget	+554.00