January 11, 2026 ☩
Baptism of Our Lord

We welcome you to First Lutheran Church!
"God's Work. Our Hands. To serve ALL people."

An asterisk * invites you to stand in body or in spirit, and you are invited to read aloud responses found in **bold.**

P: Indicates the Presider. AM: Indicates the Assisting Minister.

We Gather

Prelude – "Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth" arr. C. Kovarik

Words of Welcome

***Gathering Hymn** - no. 423 "Shall We Gather at the River"

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice, **you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in ☩ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

***Apostolic Greeting** P: 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.**

*__Kyrie -__ page 3, *Now the Feast and Celebration*

*__Hymn of Praise__ – page 4, *Now the Feast and Celebration*

*__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. **Amen.**

Scripture Acclamation - "Come and See"

We Listen to God's Word

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

1 Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights I have put my
spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. 2 He will not cry out or lift up his voice
or make it heard in the street; 3 a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he
will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. 4 He will not grow faint or be crushed until
he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching. 5 Thus says God,
the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what
comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: 6 I am
the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have
given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, 7 to open the eyes that are blind, to
bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. 8 I am the
LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. 9 See, the former
things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of
them. Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 29 - *The psalm will be spoken responsively by whole verse.*

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 10:34 - 43

34 Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no
partiality, 35 but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable
to him. 36 You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus
Christ—he is Lord of all. 37 That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the
baptism that John announced: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and
with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for
God was with him. 39 We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They
put him to death by hanging him on a tree, 40 but God raised him on the third day and allowed
him to appear, 41 not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who
ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 He commanded us to preach to the
people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. 43 All
the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins
through his name."

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation** – page 7, *Now the Feast and Celebration* "Alleluia"

***Gospel:** Matthew 3:13 - 17

The Gospel of Mathew, the 3rd Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

13 Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. 14 John would have
prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 15 But Jesus

answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. [16] And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. [17] And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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

Sermon Pastor Chris Culuris

*__Hymn__ – no. 451 "We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus"

*__Nicene Creed__ – page 104, *ELW*

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__

AM: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home. *After each petition*: Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

AM: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

*__Sign of Peace__ P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.** Please offer one another some sign of Christ's peace.

Offering – For electronic giving please scan the QR on announcement page and ***Thank you!***

Offering music – "Shall We Gather at the River" arr. B. Sowash

*__Offertory hymn__– page 9, *Now the Feast and Celebration* "As the Grains of Wheat"

*__Offering Prayer__ AM: God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

We Share God's Holy Meal

*__Great Thanksgiving and Preface__ - *(sung)* page 10, *Now the Feast and Celebration*

*__Holy, Holy, Holy__ – page 10, *Now the Feast and Celebration*

*__Words of Institution__

*__The 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

*__Invitation to the Table__ – P: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.
Distribution of Communion - *we will be serving communion at the rail.*

Lamb of God – page 13, *Now the Feast and Celebration*
Hymn – no. 459 "Wade in the Water"
Hymn – no. 396 "Spirit of Gentleness"

Prayer After Communion
P: Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

We Go in Peace

Announcements

***Sending Hymn** – no. 551 "The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve"

***Blessing & Dismissal**

P: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**
AM: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **Thanks be to God.**

***Postlude** "In Thee Is Gladness" *(In Dir Ist Freude)* G. Gastoldi, arr. Terry Osman

In Worship Today
Pastor: Chris Culuris
Organist: Deacon Brenda Handel-Johnson
Assisting Minister: Nancy Timm
Director of Choirs: Sarah Chambers
Reader: Colton Janovsky

Ushers: John Nadeau, Dylan Greening
Acolytes: Ambriela Linsmeier
Communion Preparers: Mike & Diane Stewart
Communion Servers: Cindy Nadeau, Bonnie Pettis

Tech: Shanon Nowell, Henry Menning
Bread Baker: Nancy Thorkelson

Prayers: We pray for those on our long-term list: Joan Williams, Betty Gustafson, Paul Aasen, Shirley Storkson, Gretchen Bray, Lenore Schnobrich, Gloria Kane, Harvey Kane, Lisa Handel-Dalvand, Karen Handel, Erika Schuldt, Laurie Dietrich, Bob Lamb, Dorothy and Paul Lutz, Steve Erickson, Barbra Grabowski (Ted Kunze's sister), Garrett Paul, Chaplain Ben Hilding, Mary Ann Scharf, David Ribar, Nate Tuener (family friend of Bob and Rhoda Stenson), Bruce Gray and Sandy Grochow.

FLC Refrigerator Page

Worship, Education and Service:

- The Menning and Greenig families will be serving **fellowship** after worship today.
- **Next Wednesday, January 14 is the 2nd annual Chili cook-off.** Bring your chili to church by 5:15 pm for the Wednesday meal and be ready to vote for your favorite.
- **Can you help** with a Wednesday night meal in January and February? We need meals, servers, and clean-up crew. Sign up in the narthex bit.ly/flcmeals12
- **First Forum TODAY** following worship. Please come and hear about the good work being done at the St. Peter Food Shelf. Cindy and Jodi will join us in the Dining Hall.
- "**PERFORMANCE ARTIST?**"--The prophet Jeremiah had unusual ways to get God's message across to God's people! Pastor Ted Kunze will share some of these this Wednesday, January 14, at 6:45 PM in the Pioneer Parlor. All are welcome. Bring your Bible or use one of ours.
- **Summer Service trip** opportunity - All students in grades 8-12 are invited to join the FLC/Trinity group that will be heading to Milwaukee for a service trip in June. See Deacon Brenda for more info, deadline to register is January 30.

Events at FLC and around the area:

- **Thank you for your generous donations!** If you have yet to make your payment to the Mortgage Retirement Fund, please do so by January 15. Questions: please call Karen in the office.
- As our Building Mortgage is now paid, **please do not** use your building envelopes anymore. If any are received, they will be deposited into the Capital Improvement Fund.

- **Annual Meeting – Sunday, Jan. 25**. We'll discuss and vote on our Annual Budget, review reports from our leaders and committees, revisit our strategic plan, and vote for our leaders.

- During the Epiphany Season, the Green Committee sponsors our annual **LIGHTS FOR EPIPHANY** light bulb drive. We request that you bring new, energy-efficient light bulbs, in their original packaging, to church for the Green Committee to deliver to the St. Peter Area Food Shelf for their clients. On Sundays in January, please find baskets marked for light bulb contributions in the Gathering Space. Thank you in advance for participating!

- **Weekday Bible Study:** Resumes tomorrow, January 12.

Please use the QR code below for electronic giving and thank you!

Offering QR Code

Acknowledgments

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