

St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)
8948 N 1900 Ave Geneseo, IL 61254
309-949-2516

January 10, 2021

The Baptism of Our Lord

Based upon Service of Prayer and Preaching (Lutheran Service Book, p. 260)

Opening Versicles

- P** This is the day which the Lord has made;
C **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**
- P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
- P** Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;
C **I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**
- P** Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.
C **Teach me Your paths.**
- P** Sanctify us in Your truth.
C **Your Word is truth.**
- P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Psalm 29

- ¹Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- ²**Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.**
- ³The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, over many waters.
- ⁴**The 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.
- ⁶**He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**
- ⁷The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

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

⁹The voice of the Lord makes the deer give birth
and strips the forests bare,
and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"

¹⁰**The 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!

The Readings

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 1:1-5, on back of bulletin

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Romans 6:1-11, on back of bulletin

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:4-11, on back of bulletin

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory

- P** Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.
C **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**
- P** Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.
C **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**
- P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
C **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

Catechism

Ten Commandments

- C** **You shall have no other gods.
You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
Honor your father and your mother.**

You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The Tenth Commandment

☐ You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What does this mean?

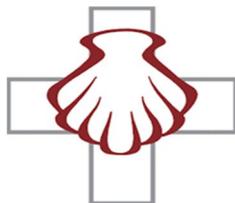
We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

Apostles' Creed

☐ I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.



Office Hymn: 406 To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord

1 To Jor - dan came the Christ, our Lord, To do His
 2 O hear and mark the mes - sage well, For God Him -
 3 These truths on Jor - dan's banks were shown By might - y
 4 There stood the Son of God in love, His grace to

Fa - ther's plea - sure; Bap - tized by John, the Fa - ther's Word
 self has spo - ken. Let faith, not doubt, a - mong us dwell
 word and won - der. The Fa - ther's voice from heav'n came down,
 us ex - tend - ing; The Ho - ly Spir - it like a dove

Was giv - en us to trea - sure. This heav'n - ly wash - ing
 And so re - ceive this to - ken. Our Lord here with His
 Which we do well to pon - der: "This man is My be -
 Up - on the scene de - scend - ing; The tri - une God as -

now shall be A cleans - ing from trans - gres - sion
 Word en - dows Pure wa - ter, free - ly flow - ing.
 lov - ed Son, In whom My heart has plea - sure.
 sur - ring us, With prom - is - es com - pel - ling,

And by His blood and ag - o - ny Re - lease from death's
 God's Ho - ly Spir - it here a - vows Our kin - ship while
 Him you must hear, and Him a - lone, And trust in full -
 That in our Bap - tism He will thus A - mong us find

op - pres - sion. A new life now a - waits us.
 be - stow - ing The Bap - tism of His bless - ing.
 est mea - sure The word that He has spo - ken."
 a dwell - ing To com - fort and sus - tain us.

Hymn continues on next page.

- 5 To His disciples spoke the Lord,
 “Go out to ev’ry nation,
 And bring to them the living Word
 And this My invitation:
 Let ev’ryone abandon sin
 And come in true contrition
 To be baptized and thereby win
 Full pardon and remission
 And heav’nly bliss inherit.”
- 6 But woe to those who cast aside
 This grace so freely given;
 They shall in sin and shame abide
 And to despair be driven.
 For born in sin, their works must fail,
 Their striving saves them never;
 Their pious acts do not avail,
 And they are lost forever,
 Eternal death their portion.
- 7 All that the mortal eye beholds
 Is water as we pour it.
 Before the eye of faith unfolds
 The pow’r of Jesus’ merit.
 For here it sees the crimson flood
 To all our ills bring healing;
 The wonders of His precious blood
 The love of God revealing,
 Assuring His own pardon.

Sermon

Lord’s Prayer

- G** **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.**

Rite of Installation of Congregational Officers

Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- P** Heavenly Father, You have revealed Your Son to us in the wondrous Epiphany in the Jordan. So also You have revealed Your name and blessing to us in Holy Baptism, declaring us Your beloved heirs. Grant that we may daily die to sin and rise to newness of life, living with joy as Your baptized children. Lord, in Your mercy,
- G** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Preserve Your Holy Church here and scattered throughout the world. Give steadfast faith to all Christians by the preaching of Your Word and through the Holy Sacraments, and send laborers into Your harvest. Enliven the love of Your saints to bear one another’s burdens and to show mercy toward those outside of the Church. Quicken us in the hope of eternal life in Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,
- G** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Watch over all expectant mothers and their children, that they may have a safe delivery and be brought also to the life-giving waters of Holy Baptism and have Your name put on them. Preserve the family, especially all Christian homes. Turn husband and wife toward one another in love, equip fathers and mothers for their holy duty as teachers of the faith, and preserve all children in the saving faith and certain promises of their Baptism unto life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,
- G** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Preserve our nation, its leaders and those who serve for the good of our people and for their protection. Grant peace in our time, O Lord, for You alone fight for us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- G** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Give comfort and relief to those who are sick, depressed, tired, confused or in any need, especially Lonnie, Linda, Joseph, Pam, Paula, Jim, Don, John, Bob, Lois, Betty, Justin, Donald, Delores, Arlyn, Derek, Harley, Lillian, Lynne, Clinton’s Family, Crystal, Fred, Jodi, Glenn, Mike, Virginia, Jim, John, Marilyn, Casey, Jim, Drew, Kathleen, Glenda, Kelly, Carolyn, Carolyn, and Karen. Lord, in Your mercy,
- G** **hear our prayer.**

P Be with those who are near death, that they may hear Your Son's Words of grace in their last hour and be confident in their Baptism, where You named them Your child. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, heavenly Father, You manifested Yourself, with the Holy Spirit, in the fullness of grace at the baptism of Your dear Son and, with Your voice, directed us to Him who has borne our sins, that we might receive grace and the remission of sins. Keep us, we beseech You, in the true faith. Since we have been baptized in accordance with Your command and the example of Your dear Son, we pray You to strengthen our faith by Your Holy Spirit and lead us to everlasting life and salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Collect of the Day

P Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Collect for the Word

P Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Morning Prayer

C **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy**

angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Blessing

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C **Amen.**

Opening Hymn: 399 The Star Proclaims the King Is Here



1 The star pro - claims the King is here; But, Her - od,
2 The east - ern sa - ges saw from far And fol - lowed
3 With - in the Jor - dan's sa - cred flood The heav'n - ly
4 And oh, what mir - a - cle di - vine, When wa - ter
△ 5 For this Thy glad e - piph - a - ny All glo - ry,



why this sense - less fear? For He who of - fers heav'n - ly
on His guid - ing star; And, led by light, to light they
Lamb in meek - ness stood That He, of whom no sin was
red - dened in - to wine! He spoke the word, and forth it
Je - sus, be to Thee, Whom with the Fa - ther we a -



birth Seeks not the king - doms of this earth.
trod And by their gifts con - fessed their God.
known, Might cleanse His peo - ple from their own.
flowed In streams that na - ture ne'er be - stowed.
dore, And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Silent Prayer

Acknowledgements

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The Baptism of Our Lord

January 10, 2021

Sermon Text: Mark 1:4-11 (Gospel)

Other Texts: Genesis 1:1-5 (Old Testament Reading); Romans 6:1-11 (Epistle)

“The Immense Blessings of Holy Baptism”

The light of God the Father’s grace, mercy, and peace be yours through faith in your Lord Jesus Christ.

Epiphany was the second annual festival which the early Church adopted (the first being Easter). As Epiphany celebrated how the Lord manifested His divine glory (it means *manifestation*), it originally covered His birth, the shining star which led the wise men to the Christ Child, His baptism, and the first miracle of His earthly ministry, turning water into wine at the wedding of Cana. In our western Christian tradition today, the day of Epiphany (January 6) now has its focus on the visit of the Magi as our Jesus’ birth was made the separate festival of Christmas, the wedding at Cana is its own topic on a different Sunday,ⁱ and our Lord’s Baptism is commemorated on the First Sunday after the Epiphany, which of course is today.

While anything recorded in Scripture is worthy of our study, how much more when something is recorded more than once. All four Gospels mention Jesus’ baptism, Matthew, Mark, and Luke record the event while John records the Baptizer’s own statements concerning it after the fact. Thus there can be no doubt that our Lord’s Baptism is a big event, not only with major significance in the life of Christ, but through Him, to each of us as well. For just as Jesus was baptized, so have each of us been baptized *into Christ Jesus*, His death and resurrection as St. Paul teaches us.ⁱⁱ Yet, so much of modern Christendom seems to miss this completely, shown by their despising this most Holy Sacrament of Baptism, turning it into nothing but an ordinance, a command to be obeyed, regarding it as an empty sign that merely symbolizes the inner cleansing that the Holy Spirit works totally separate from the action of water baptism?

Dear Christians, how do we respond to such? More, how do we defend ourselves from such so that we are not misled by what can, at times, seem to be pious, religious, even Biblical statements. It is the same way we defend ourselves from all such assaults, the way that Jesus used when He resisted the devil’s temptations: we use the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, to cut through all deceptions. So let us consider at least a few things so that we are lifted from the sinking sand of human religion and put on the solid rock of Christ and His Holy Scripture.

We are told that water is water, and that while it might be able to clean the body it certainly cannot cleanse the soul; that it cannot give the forgiveness of sins or any other blessing, but only the Holy Spirit can do such. Does this not sound spiritual by holding up the Spirit? But, and here’s the thing to consider, what if the Holy Spirit has determined *that He would work through such water*? Would that not change this? Yes, it would, and does. For we fully recognize that water is just water, *except* when God unites it with His command and promise of grace.

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”ⁱⁱⁱ

Something we can and do all agree upon is that there is a *command* to baptize *with water*, as the Greek word *baptizo*, simply means “to apply water.” Thus the mode is immaterial, whether by sprinkling, pouring, or immersion. As long as water is used, all these are equally valid since it is the meaning of the word *in Scripture* that guides us, not the practice that some *assume* was used by John the Baptist or anyone else. In fact, none of the references to baptism in Scripture demand immersion as they do not actually refer to the mode by which the water was applied despite the claims to the contrary. More, while this does not *make* doctrine, an extremely early Christian document from either the late first or early second century notes that while immersion was usually used in the area where it was written, it readily acknowledges that pouring was valid.^{iv} So the witness of these first Christians indicates that they rightly understood Baptism to mean “applying water” and not “immersion” as is wrongly believed by some today.

However Jesus, the King to whom all authority has been given, doesn’t just command baptism, He also states what baptism does. For He says that baptizing, along with the lifelong teaching in God’s Word which follows it, *makes* disciples. For the God who revealed Himself at Jesus’ baptism, the Father opening the brightness of heaven and speaking, the Son letting the water touch His holy flesh, the Holy Spirit coming down to show His blessed connection to Christ’s baptism, still connects Himself to all who are baptized into Christ by placing nothing less than His holy name upon Christian Baptism, “the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” Thus baptism is rightly referred to as a “[baptism] in the name of Jesus”^v as it connects us to the full gospel revelation both found and founded in Jesus Christ.

“But a person must be born again!” Yes, absolutely correct. Jesus was clear on that, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”^{vi} But He then said how that new birth occurs, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born *of water* and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”^{vii} Here the Lord Christ Himself declares that the new birth is not one of just the Holy Spirit, but of *water* and the Spirit. That is, in His infinite divine wisdom, the Holy Spirit has decided to connect Himself to the water of Baptism and there give the new birth that is necessary.

“But a person must have faith to be baptized, receiving such only after making their decision for Jesus!” No doubt this idea comes from the Biblical teaching that a person needs to repent and believe in the Gospel,^{viii} which is of course true. But does this really mean what some claim it does? My point is this, for many people, the idea of repenting and faith is that there must be a conscious act of the will *made* by a person. But what does the Bible say?

Scripture declares that both repentance and faith are gifts from God, *worked in us by Him*. It teaches that God exalted Christ that He might *give* repentance and forgiveness of sins.^{ix} Note, not *give the opportunity*, but *give repentance*. So also faith itself is a gift from God, not a work of ours, including of our will, but worked by the Holy Spirit so that no one may boast.^x

This is really best understood when we consider Jesus' own words, that a person must be *born* again. A person is certainly born, but does so passively. That is, they do not *choose* to be born, but simply are born by their mother. Let us give the Lord Christ credit for choosing His words wisely by recognizing that the new spiritual birth, like the first natural birth, is one which a person passively receives, as another births them. In fact, should we believe it is just a coincidence that the Lord chose water for birthing His children since in the natural birth the womb of a mother is filled with water? Truly, just as our natural mother's womb was water filled with necessary nutrients, so also the Church, our spiritual mother, had the water of her womb filled with the spiritual "necessary nutrient" of God the Holy Spirit Himself, who is the Lord and giver of life.

More, just as a person cannot birth themselves, neither can a dead person give themselves life. Since, by nature, we are spiritually dead in our trespasses and sins, clearly we cannot raise ourselves any more than Lazarus could. But the Holy Spirit, through the Gospel Word, brings the dead to life, giving the first resurrection. And so St. Paul refers to Baptism as "the washing of water with the Word," the Gospel Word. So while water, of itself, cannot do anything spiritual, when God connects His command and promise to it as we have heard, it is now *God's water*. And so it can and does work forgiveness of sins and give the Holy Spirit just as St. Peter said,

"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."^{xii} (Note the "for your children" part!)

God says that He works forgiveness of sins and gives His Holy Spirit through Baptism. But Baptism doesn't just start things, it goes the whole nine yards, as Peter again says, "Baptism...now *saves* you."^{xii} Saving means giving eternal life in glory, *and Baptism does it*. No, we may not understand it, but *we don't need to* any more than we need to understand any other miracle of God. So I ask you, "How is it a sin to doubt God and His Word at any other time, but it is a sign of true spirituality to say that Baptism is just an empty ceremony, a mere symbol that actually does nothing" when such is completely contrary to the Word?!

Before concluding, just as the earthly life you were born into is the life you still live daily, so also the spiritual life you were born into at your baptism is the new life in Christ you still live every day. In other words, your Baptism *has ongoing significance for you*. Our faith varies, today strong, tomorrow not so much. There are times we feel God's grace, but others when there is no feeling at all. What a comfort it is to know that the promises of Baptism are not dependent upon our faith, but solely upon God's Word. That is, you can always trust God's promises He made to you in your Baptism, holding onto them in the midst of the darkest times, when your faith is nothing more than a mere flicker, confident that He will never leave you nor forsake you. In fact, these certain promises of your baptism are the very things for your faith to hold onto especially in those times, the very things that will help restore and strengthen it.

So be sure to live the life given you by the Spirit in your baptism. Turn from sin, daily drowning your sinful nature in the baptismal waters that gave you life, and so come forth and bear the fruit of the Spirit. For while before baptism your will was shackled, yes, dead to God, *not anymore!* In

your new life your will has been freed so that sin will not dominate you, but you can choose what is right, so let the love of Christ fill you, a love for Him, a love for others, a love for His holy Law that shows what true love is.

The Spirit can be resisted and so the blessings of baptism spurned and rejected, with the result that the life it has given you is lost unto eternal death. So don't do such by resisting the new life. Instead, rejoice in your salvation, won by Christ, given by the Spirit through Baptism, and so then adorn your Baptism with a holy life of love and good works, and by such give glory to God your Savior. God grant this to us all. Amen!

ⁱ It is the appointed Gospel for The Second Sunday after the Epiphany in Series C of our reading cycle (we are currently on series B so this account will be read next year).

ⁱⁱ Romans 6:3-5.

ⁱⁱⁱ Matthew 28:18-20a. All quotes are from *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (ESV) unless otherwise noted.

^{iv} *Didache: The Teachings of the Apostles* 7:3.

^v Acts 10:48.

^{vi} John 3:3.

^{vii} John 3:5, *emphasis added*.

^{viii} Mark 1:15.

^{ix} Acts 5:31.

^x 1 Corinthians 12:3; Ephesians 2:8-9.

^{xi} Acts 2:38-39.

^{xii} 1 Peter 3:21.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS

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Pastor

+In God's Grace—In God's Service+

Elder: Aaron Raschke

Videographer: Joel Werling

Ushers: Don Hock, Andrew Hock, Josh Hock

Organist: John Neumann

Today's Readings: Old Testament Reading: Genesis 1:1-5
Epistle: Romans 6:1-11
Holy Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

WE PRAY: Holy and blessed Trinity—Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier—since our baptism washed away our sin, guaranteed us lambs of the Good Shepherd, and ordained us priests, keep us in mind of our baptism lest we lose the blessings given to us in it; who are one God with dominion over us forever. Amen

WELCOME TO ALL!

We are anxious to share with you the Christ-centered ministry at St. John's. Our Liturgy follows closely the pattern of Word and Lord's Supper handed down from the ancient Church. It is our hope that you will make the Church's life of prayer your own. If you have difficulty following our order of service, please ask someone sitting near you for assistance. We pray that you will receive rich spiritual blessings from your presence here. May the peace and power of our risen Christ be yours always.

IF YOU DESIRE a visit or call from Pastor Nerud, please contact the church office (309-949-2516).

OFFICE HOURS

Terri's hours (Monday—Friday) 8 am—12 pm
Pastor's hours (Monday, Pastor's day off)
(Tuesday) 9 am—12 pm
(Thursday) 9 am—12 pm & 1 pm—4 pm
(Wednesday & Friday) please call ahead.

LIVE STREAMED SERVICES are available on St. John's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo/> and posted on Monday on the church website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org found under the 'Sermon' tab and

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

Sunday school—6 Adult Bible Class—13 Worship—32

OFFERING

Offering last week \$1,626.00
Weekly Budget needed \$3,967.56

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Today 8:45 am SS/Adult w/Youth Bible Study
10:00 am Divine Worship
Installation of Officers, Pledge Sunday
11:30 am Town Hall Meeting
Wednesday 5:00 pm Confirmation
Next Sunday 8:45 am SS/Adult w/Youth Bible Study
10:00 am Divine Worship/Communion

One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and seek him in his temple. Psalm 27:4

MARK 1:7 – “And (John) preached, saying, ‘After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.’ ” John is right. Jesus is immensely greater than any of us yet behold how He came to serve! That is the upside down, outlandish grace of God. The innocent Jesus takes our sinner's place. This is the greatest act of giving the world has ever known or will know. The Father gives His Son to die in the place of sinners.

PLEASE CHECK the attendance sheet for you and your family members for those attending worship each service and those taking communion when being served. Thank you for your help.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS is today during the worship service .

PLEDGE SUNDAY will be observed today. Pledge cards are on the front entrance table or in Jan. newsletter. If you do not have your pledge card filled out today you may send it to the church and it will be placed in the Pledge Box.

TOWN HALL MEETING—The Church council will meet directly after the worship service this morning for the 2nd Annual Town Hall meeting. They are very interested in hearing the concerns and suggestions of all congregational members. If you are not able to attend this morning, you are encouraged to write your thoughts on one of the ‘Suggestion Forms’ found on the front entrance table. These forms can be filled out at anytime and given to the Board members involved or left in the church office. You will also find a form in the January newsletter.

JUST A REMINDER—LWML will NOT be meeting this month. See you in February. If you have MITES, they can be given to Bev Peterson or placed in the large MITE Box at any time.

NEW FLOWER CHART has been put up. Please help with donating flowers for a Sunday. The cost is \$20. You will find yellow envelopes, found on the flower chart, to be used for your donation. Please list the special event and date you wish to give flowers. Also, sign the flower chart next to the appropriate Sunday. The flowers will be ordered and picked up for you.

THANK YOU to those who helped take down the Christmas decorations and put them away. Your willing service was much appreciated.

PRAYER MINISTRY

Give thanks as you pray.

MISSION—*Pray for all children*, that they would be brought to the saving waters of Baptism and raised in the love, nurture and admonition of the Lord.

ST. JOHN'S—**Mr. & Mrs. Drew Schillinger**—We offer before You our common request for the well-being of Your church throughout the world that it may be so guided and governed by Your good Spirit that all who profess themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth and hold the faith in unity of spirit in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Specifically, we pray for Drew and Cathy and ask your blessing on them.

ST. JOHN'S FAMILY—O Lord, You are the great Physician of soul and body. We pray that You would show mercy to Your servants:

Drew Schillinger	Jim Rahn	Carolyn Wildermuth
Arlyn Helke	Bob/Lois Esterlein	Lynne Johnson
Derek Helke	Lillian Hock	Jim Dahl
Carolyn Werner	Betty Firch	John Erdman
Paula Chapa	Fred Magerkurth	Linda Aper
Andrew Hill, Sarah, John, Daniel (2019/2020 Seminary Student)		
Don Eggers (son of a friend of Marilyn Woods)		
Mike Miller (friend of Bob & Sherry Wechsler)		
Jodi Martins (daughter of Gary & Darla Johns)		
Jon & Anita Clausing (missionaries in Kenya)		
Marilyn Potts (wife of Cal Potts, former St John Laborer For Christ)		
Pam Bennett (friend of Dan/Roselyn Maeltzer)		
Karen Wright (wife of Pastor Gary Wright)		
Virginia Miller (mother of Jamie Werling)		
Casey Powers (husband of Lisa (Bear) Powers)		
Kelly Wechsler (cousin of Bob Wechsler)		
Kathleen VanDeRostyne (friend of Bob & Sherry Wechsler)		
Joseph Baamonde (Friend of Paula Mooney)		
Clinton Kane Family (son of Sandy Kane)		
Jim Neumann (father-in-law of Brad Gehn's son)		
Harley Hepner (cousin of Sarah Hock)		
Delores Gonion (mother of Michele Barry)		

Glenn McAdam (friend of Bob & Sherry Wechsler)

Donald Gilbert (uncle of Pastor Nerud)

Justin Fowler (son of Kathy & Kurt Gehn)

Lonnie Anderson (employee of Brad Gehn)

MILITARY—We pray for those serving in our military and their families:

Mandy & Richard Davila (daughter & son-in-law of Dale & Linda Aper)

Luke & Nicole Thompson (son & daughter-in-law of John & Kindra Thompson)

Ken Willeford (husband of Alicia Willeford)

Tyler Hynes (nephew of Mark Ague)

Karl Flynn (son of Mr. & Mrs. Paul Flynn)

Zachary & Tiffany Gardner (nephew & wife of Bob & Lois Esterlein)

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

“The world needs your voice to declare Jesus’ words of eternal life. The world needs your voice to declare God’s value of life in all of its stages. The world needs your voice to declare God’s convictions born of His Word. The world needs your voice to declare that God’s word of forgiveness purchased with the blood of Jesus extends to all of us sinners, including those who have chosen abortion. The world needs your voice!” *Rev. David Eibel, Living Word Lutheran Church, Grapevine, Texas – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



For ye are all the children of God
by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as
have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Galatians 3:26-27

Date _____

Directed to Board of

Concern/Suggestion

Response of Board

Member _____

Board Chairman _____

Date _____

Directed to Board of

Concern/Suggestion

Response of Board

Member _____

Board Chairman _____