



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Baptism of Our Lord

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

January 8, 2023
9:30 am

GUESTS are always welcome to the Table!

MEMBERS (*two types*)

Voting & Non-voting

KEEPING MEMBERSHIP SIMPLE

1. The only way you can ever be removed from the membership roll at St. John's, or any ELCA congregation:
 - You request a transfer
 - You ask to be removed
 - You depart this life

2. Voting members must make a record of having:
 - Filled out a communion card and received the Lord's Supper ONE time per year
 - Contributed ONE time per year, making sure your name is included

WELCOME

You are a blessing to us, and we're glad you're here today!

NEW HERE?

Please do not feel obligated to contribute an offering - you are our guest! Rather, please ask an usher for a Let's Get Acquainted card and drop it in the offering plate.

Restrooms are located on the same level as the sanctuary. Exit the back of the sanctuary, turn left into Parish House, turn left again at ramp and continue midway down hallway. Restrooms are on the right.

Gluten-free communion wafers are available from an usher.

WHERE DO MY KIDS GO?

Children are always welcome to worship. Children's Sunday Church School is offered for children ages 3 through 6th grade. Families are encouraged to begin worship together at 9:30 in the Sanctuary. Children are dismissed from worship and escorted to their classroom, located on the second floor of the Parish House. Children are released to parents at worship conclusion, approximately 10:30 am.

PRAYER REQUESTS

The importance of prayer is affirmed throughout the Bible. As a church we are committed to pray - your needs are important to us. Prayer request cards can be obtained from an usher and may be filled out and dropped in the offering plate.

GATHERING TIMES

Sunday | 9:30 am | Sanctuary

**Worship Celebration with Holy Communion
Livestream on YouTube (St John's ELC Boyertown)**

Thursday | 8:00 pm

Service Broadcast on Comcast Channel 28

GET CONNECTED

Connect with God, each other and our community! Follow us on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram!



SERVING IN WORSHIP

Acolyte		Media	Shannon Omlor
Lector	Bev Blake	Sound	Ashley Gheer
Prayers	Karen Pollock	Video	Scott Scheiry
Musicians	Oliver Mayman (piano), Emily Wambold (vocals)		
Ushers	Barbara Houpp, Ros Moatz, Darin Moyer, Kevin Moyer		

FLOWERS

Given in loving memory of Henry L. Frey, Jr. by his daughter, Paula Kriebel.

Baptism of Our Lord

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The congregation may stand.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

The congregation may kneel.

Holy One, source of our renewal, **we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Thus says our God: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare." God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The congregation may stand.

GATHERING HYMN

Baptized in Water

ELW 456



1 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
2 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
3 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the



blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his
tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's



prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

Text: Michael Seward, b. 1932

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

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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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

Change My Heart, O God

Refrain

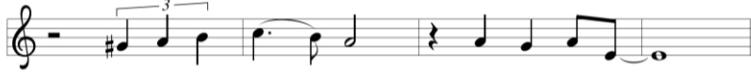


Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.

End



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Refrain

Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953
Music: CHANGE MY HEART, Eddie Espinosa
Text and music © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing, admin. Music Services

Children are dismissed to Sunday School classes.

The congregation may be seated.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 42:1-9

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

¹Here 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. ²He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. ⁵Thus 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: ⁶I 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, ⁷to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

³⁴Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how 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. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not 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. ⁴²He 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. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia,
Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. **Glory to you O Lord.**

Matthew 3:13-17

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting

on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The congregation may be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Bob Machamer

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Spirit of Gentleness

ELW 396



Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness



call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,



stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.



- 1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
- 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,
- 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
- 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes.



then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;
and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;
then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;
From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the e - ons you called to each thing:
and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,
and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,
our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.



“A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings.”
then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.
when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.
With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo-ple a - rise.

Text: James K. Manley, b. 1940
Music: SPIRIT, James K. Manley
Text and music © 1978 James K. Manley, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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THE 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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

The congregation may be seated.

COMMISSIONING FOR MISSION

I have been authorized to commission Bev, Amanda, Camryn, Jen, John, Ashley, Bob, Shannon, Scott, Becky, Jen, and Tracey who have accepted the mission to Wellspring Karitas in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

A reading from First Peter:

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. *(1 Peter 4:10-11)*

In the presence of this assembly will you accept this commission and commit yourselves to this new trust and responsibility, in the confidence that it comes from God?

Participants response:

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you endeavor in all things to conduct yourselves as is fitting for an ambassador and servant of Jesus Christ?

Participant response:

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you be faithful, understanding, and loving as you accompany the people among whom you will live and work?

Participant response:

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

Congregation response:

Amen.

The congregation may stand.

People of God, will you support these messengers of Jesus Christ, sent by God to serve all people with the gospel of hope and salvation? Will you pray for them, help and honor them for their work's sake, and in all things strive to live in peace and unity in Christ?

Congregation response:

We will, and we ask God to help us.

PRAYER

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself. We praise and bless you for those whom you send to witness in word and deed among the nations. Bless Bev, Amanda, Camryn, Jen, John, Ashley, Bob, Shannon, Scott, Becky, Jen, and Tracey in the work you have called them to do, so that they may faithfully accompany those among whom they are sent, show your love to all people, and glorify your name; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

Almighty God guide, bless, and keep you, that you may be faithful in the ministry to which you have been commissioned. **Amen.**

The congregation may kneel.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Calling God, you speak with power to your church. Open our hearts and minds to the new things you are declaring. Strengthen bishops, pastors, deacons, lay leaders, and teachers of the faith. Equip the baptized for your reconciling and redeeming work. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, you provide the waters of the earth and in Jesus' baptism you reveal the waters of life. Cleanse and protect oceans, rivers, and watersheds. Bring relief to parched lands and to communities without access to safe water. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Righteous God, you never weary of establishing justice. Increase cooperation and constructive dialogue between nations. Guide local, national, and international authorities to govern with equity, vision, and integrity. We pray for those in military service, for peacemakers, and for our enemies. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Abiding God, your mercy is steadfast. Give sanctuary to people who flee from oppression, war, poverty, and famine. Sustain health care workers, caregivers, first responders, counselors, and all who help and heal. Comfort those who are grieving or experiencing crisis. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Blessing God, in Christ you gather the beloved community. Kindle the gifts of your Spirit in your people. Accompany the newly baptized, those recently ordained, and any beginning a new ministry. Inspire synodical leaders and congregational councils to serve with imagination and wisdom. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Please verbally add your personal prayer requests.

Promising God, your faithfulness endures throughout all generations. We give thanks for those who have died in Christ, trusting that we will be united with them and all the saints in Christ's resurrection life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

OFFERING MUSIC

OFFERING PRAYER

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

The congregation may stand.

COMMUNION MUSIC

The Table

Chris Tomlin

I will feast at the table of the Lord.

I will feast at the table of the Lord.

I won't hunger anymore at His table.

Come all you weary, come and find

His yoke is easy, His burden light.

He is able; He will restore at the table of the Lord.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night of his betrayal
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.

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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

Come and taste the joy of God!

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized

ELW 304



1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you
2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant
3 Straight-way and stead - fast un - til death you then o - beyed the
4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be



came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as
true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's
call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to
signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may



ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.
ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.
give your life for all, to give your life for all.
per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, alt.

Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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CONNECT

support for parents of special needs children

Wednesday, January 11 & 25
9:15-11:00 am
St. John's Lower Level

Register on our website

GUIDED DISCUSSIONS AND
TAKE-HOME DEVOTIONS

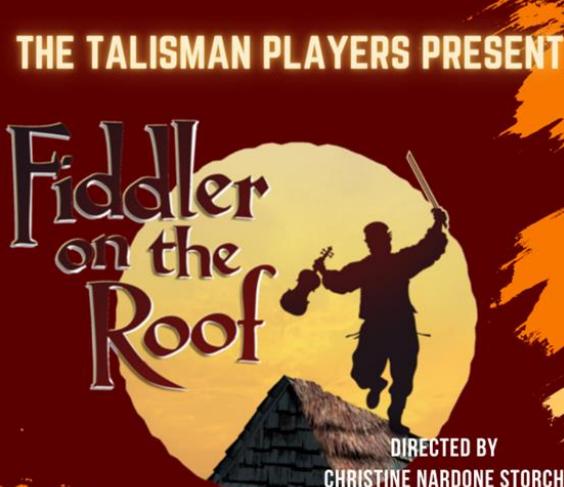
COFFEE
SUPPORT
ENCOURAGEMENT
LOVE



FACILITATED BY ROSALIE ELLIS
WRITER & INTEGRATIVE LIFE COACH

THE TALISMAN PLAYERS PRESENT

Fiddler on the Roof



DIRECTED BY
CHRISTINE NARDONE STORCH

PREVIEW PERFORMANCE
WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 18
7:00 PM
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
45 N. READING AVE.
BOYERTOWN
STJOHNSBOYERTOWN.ORG

FREE ADMISSION

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8 – 4th Baptism of Our Lord

9:30 AM	Worship Celebration	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Sunday Church School	Parish House, 2 nd Floor
10:45 AM	Wellspring Karitas Team Meeting	Conference Room
10:45 AM	Men's Retreat Planning	Lower Level

MONDAY, JANUARY 9

5:00 PM	Newsletter Submission	
6:30 PM	Girl Scouts	Fellowship Hall
7:30 PM	Optimist Club	Lower Level

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

9:00 AM	Admin Staff	Conference Room
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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

9:15 AM	Connect	Lower Level
4:00 PM	Wellspring Karitas Team departs	

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

Wellspring Karitas Trip		
10:00 AM	Chestnut Knoll Service	Chestnut Knoll
8:00 PM	Worship Broadcast	Comcast Ch 28

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

Wellspring Karitas Trip		
Preschool Music Class		
7:00 AM	Men's Small Group Bible Study	Telephone Conference

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

Wellspring Karitas Trip		
4:30 PM	Come to the Table	Fellowship Hall/Parking Lot

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

Wellspring Karitas Trip		
9:30 AM	Worship Celebration	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Sunday Church School	Parish House, 2 nd Floor

PURPOSE STATEMENT

We believe God's purpose for the people of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is to develop joy-filled children of God who love the Lord and share God's Word.

We do this by:

- Maintaining a trusting and welcoming environment.
- Praying daily.
- Reading scripture regularly.
- Sharing our faith through action-based service.
- Encouraging holy conversations.
- Feeding our faith with music.

With a focus on:

- Activities that build relationships.
- Worship that is relevant.
- Meeting the needs of the vulnerable in our community.

Pastor Bob Machamer

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Amy Willson, Preschool Director

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Office Hours | Monday-Thursday 8:30am - 3:30pm | Friday 8:30am - 12:00pm