



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI
Baptism of Our Lord
January 7, 2024
**Inviting People to
Journey with Christ's Family
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

**(Indicates that the people should stand as they are able.)*

Announcements

Gathering

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

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.
Amen.

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

God, our rock and refuge,

**we pour out our hearts before you.
We have known you but have not always loved you.
We have wounded one another
and sinned against you.**

SCHOLARSHIP FOR GRADUATING SENIORS

It won't be long and our high school seniors will be walking down the aisle at school to "Pomp and Circumstances". St. Paul's offers a \$750.00 scholarship. Please contact the church office (Nalani) and an application will be forwarded to you.

QUILTING

The ladies had a great turnout for quilting yesterday. Saturday just might be added to their schedule in the future. Thank you to those new "quilters" for attending.

CHURCH DECORATING OR RATHER UN-DECORATING

Thank you to Justin, Kirstin, Miranda, Linus, and Daphne Arndt for helping to take the Christmas decorations down before heading to Madison to cheer on the Badgers. Pastor Karen, Steve Brandau, and Nalani also helped.

NEW YEAR'S SERVICE

I tried to give you folks a head start on celebrating the New Year by giving you a Sunday off of church last week. I was convinced in my head that we always took the Sunday after Christmas off. Well, we have on a rare occasion if there's only a couple days in-between, but not an entire week. The Doctors told me I would experience "brain fog" after my minor stroke in October. I didn't think they knew what they were talking about, but between the church fiasco and sending some of my computer files to who knows where, they do indeed know what they are talking about. Please accept my apology.

Word

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

First Reading

Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for us. God created and continues to create new life.

Genesis 1:1-5

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

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

Psalm 29

¹Ascribe 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.**
³The 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.**
⁵The 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.**

⁷The 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.**

⁹The 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.**

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

Second Reading

In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John's baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptizes them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them with gifts of the Spirit.

Acts 19:1-7

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

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

***Gospel Acclamation**

"Alleluia"

ELW p. 188

GOSPEL READING

Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

Jan. 28	Sunday School	9:00 am
	Worship	10:15 am
Jan. 28	Annual Meeting	Following worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2023, immediately following the worship service. A good portion of the meeting will be centered around a new entrance to the church (as opposed to replacing the steps "as is", as well as a lift from the sanctuary to the basement level. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

ANNUAL REPORT

Please have any reports which you wish to be included in the Annual Report to the office by Friday, January 19. This will give adequate time for the reports to be included in, and the Annual Report available after service on January 21.

COUNCIL MEMBERS RETREAT

The La Crosse Area Synod is sponsoring an opportunity for council members, old and new, to gather with others in our Synod on Saturday, February 17, 9:00 AM—12:00, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in West Salem. Join other congregational council leaders in the La Crosse Area Synod for a morning of learning, networking, idea sharing, and worship. Please let Pastor Karen know if you plan to attend. The cost to St. Paul's is \$25.00, regardless of the number of council members in attendance.

Sending

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

*Benediction

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

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. You are God’s Beloved.

C: **Thanks be to God..**

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God’s People; Pastor: Karen Sparling; Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Barb Ornes

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Danelle Dougherty, Robert Cale, Matthew Dutton, Allen Roscovious

IN OUR PRAYERS

Gloria Meltesen, Darlene, Babbitt, Judy Bever, Aidden Tilly, Laurie Switz Johnson, Jayden Shea, Erin Laperle, Kim Ballwahn

CALENDAR

Jan. 19	W-ELCA General Meeting	10:00 am
Jan. 14	Sunday School	9:00 am
	Worship	10:15 am
Jan. 21	Sunday School	9:00 am
	Worship	10:15 am

The holy gospel according to Mark 1:4-11

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

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

Sermon

Reverend Karen Sparling

Hymn “Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters” ELW#445

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.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

***Offertory Hymn "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil" ELW #512**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Please join together in the Offertory Prayer

**Blessed are you, Holy One,
for all good things come from you.
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table,
that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus,
in whose name we pray.
Amen.**

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

***Great Thanksgiving**

ELW p. 190

***Holy, Holy, Holy**

ELW p. 190

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Words of Institution

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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: At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.
Come and see.

Distribution

Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ's table.

"Lamb of God"

ELW p.191

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Giver of every gift,
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.
Raise us to life by your power
for the benefit of all and to your glory,
now and forever.**

Amen.