

+DIVINE SERVICE IV+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
+THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD + 07 JANUARY 2024+



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
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The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

“A Church where God gives and we receive.”

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 - ❖ Mr. Jose Lopez, Congregational Chairman
 - ❖ Mr. Greg Griffin, Acolyte

Welcome to our Divine Service!

We are pleased that you are with us.

+Worship Notes+

The entire service, including the rubrics of when to sit and when to kneel or stand, and what to say, is printed out in this folder so you may follow along.

Welcome to weekly Divine Service at The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church! We are a congregation that confesses the Holy Bible as inerrant, that justification is by faith according to the Holy Bible and confessed in the 1580 Book of Concord. God bless you.

To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. Please introduce yourself to our pastor. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world. If you are looking for a church home and would like to know about our membership, pastor would love to speak with you!

A Note From The Organist:

Buxtehude was probably the most important composer for the organ before Bach. He spent most of his career at St. Mary's Church in Lubbeck, where he had access to one of the largest organs in Europe, actually much larger than any of the instruments Bach played regularly.

“To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord” is based on one of Luther's Hymns. It is an ornamented chorale. The melody is played on the Dulcian, another stop named after a forerunner of the oboe and clarinet.

Although most of Buxtehude's free organ works are preludes and fugues, he usually only used the term “Praeludium” to describe them. The G major consists of a prelude in the form of a recitative featuring pedal solos, followed by a fugue in a steady quarter note pattern. An unusual feature is the use of a high C in the pedal, a note which was not available on many pedal boards at the time.

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

394 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise



1 Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
 2 Man - i - fest at Jor-dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King su-preme;
 3 Man - i - fest in mak-ing whole Pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;
 4 Sun and moon shall dark-ened be, Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;
 5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres - ent in Thy ho - ly Word—



Man - i - fest-ed by the star To the sa - ges from a - far,
 And at Ca - na wed - ding guest In Thy God-head man - i - fest;
 Man - i - fest in val - iant fight, Quell - ing all the dev - il's might;
 Christ will then like light - ning shine, All will see His glo - rious sign;
 Grace to im - i - tate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;



Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In Thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
 Man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, Chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
 Man - i - fest in gra - cious will, Ev - er bring-ing good from ill;
 All will then the trum - pet hear, All will see the Judge ap - pear;
 That we might be - come like Thee At Thy great e - piph - a - ny



An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
 An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
 An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
 Thou by all wilt be con-fessed, God in man made man - i - fest.
 And may praise Thee, ev - er blest, God in man made man - i - fest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, alt.
 Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93
 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Kneel/Stand

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 2:7–11, 12c; antiphon: Isaiah 42:1a

Behold my servant, whom | I uphold,*
my chosen, in whom my | soul delights.

I will tell of | the decree:*

The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have be- | gotten you.

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your | heritage,*
and the ends of the earth your pos- | session.

You shall break them with a | rod of iron*

and dash them in pieces like a potter’s | vessel.”

Now therefore, O | kings, be wise;*
be warned, O rulers | of the earth.

Serve the | LORD with fear,*

and rejoice with | trembling,
 for his wrath is quickly | kindled.*
 Blessed are all who take ref- | uge in him.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
 as it was in the be- | ginning,*
 is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
 Behold my servant, whom | I uphold,*
 my chosen, in whom my | soul delights.

Kyrie

LSB 204



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 204



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
 2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
 3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro- claimed at Je-sus' birth!
 O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
 For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
 You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
 Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
 In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

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.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 1:1-5

The Beginning of Creation

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

The Six Days of Creation

³And 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 29

Ascribe to the LORD Glory

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.

**⁴The 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.

**⁶He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the LORD
flashes forth flames of fire.

**⁸The 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!"

**¹⁰The 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!

Epistle

Romans 6:1-11

Dead to Sin, Alive to God

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:4-11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he 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. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Baptism of Jesus

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life **✝** of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day

405 To Jordan's River Came Our Lord



1 To Jor - dan's riv - er came our Lord, The Christ, whom
2 The Sav - ior came to be bap - tized— The Son of
3 As Je - sus in the Jor - dan stood And John bap -
4 Then from God's throne with thun - d'rous sound Came God's own



heav'n - ly hosts a - dored, The God from God, the
God in flesh dis - guised— To stand be - neath the
tized the Lamb of God, The Ho - ly Spir - it,
voice with words pro - found: "This is My Son," was



Light from Light, The Lord of glo - ry, pow'r, and might.
Fa - ther's will And all His righ - teous - ness ful - fill.
heav'n - ly dove, De - scend - ed on Him from a - bove.
His de - cree, "The one I love, who pleas - es Me."

- 5 The Father's word, the Spirit's flight
Anointed Christ in glorious sight
As God's own choice, from Adam's fall
To save the world and free us all.
- 6 Now rise, faint hearts, be resolute;
This man is Christ, our substitute!
He was baptized in Jordan's stream,
Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.

Text: James P. Tiefel, 1949, alt.

Tune: Musicalisch Hand-Buch der Geistlichen Melodien, 1690, Hamburg, alt.

Text: © 1993 James P. Tiefel. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000401

Tune: Public domain

Sermon

Pastor Edward Killian

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Proper response is "hear our prayer".

- P** Heavenly Father, You revealed Your Son 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,

C hear our prayer.

P O Lord, bless all places where Your people teach and learn. Guide teachers and students, that together we would marvel at Your creation and appreciate the depth of Your wisdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

P Lord God, grant that all those baptized into Christ would receive the boldness of Your servant John to lead faithful and pure lives in this world, ever mindful of our promised heavenly inheritance. Lord, in Your mercy,

P Almighty Lord, Your Son, Jesus, is the Christ and the true King of this world. Grant great humility to the rulers of the nations, that they would submit to the preaching of His Holy Word for the sake of their own souls and for the good of Your holy people. Lord, in Your mercy,

P Give comfort and relief to those who are sick, depressed, tired, confused or in any need *Alice, Cynthia, Diane, Gene, Johnathan, Lynette, Marion and her family, Owen, Rosita, Susie, and Timothy*. Watch over all expectant mothers and their children, *Adrianna and Sydney*, that they may have a safe delivery and be brought also to the life-giving waters of Holy Baptism. Lord, in Your mercy,

P O Lord, in Holy Baptism You have opened the heavens to Your children. Grant that all those baptized into Your Son would worthily receive the heavenly feast of His body and blood for their salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

P Eternal God, You have made us Your own people by Baptism and granted us Your Holy Spirit to confess Christ in word and deed. We remember with thanksgiving those who went before us, who passed the faith on to us and who now rest in Christ from all their labors. Since we have died with Christ through Baptism, grant that we would be raised with Him also. Lord, in Your mercy,

P Almighty Father, as Your Holy Spirit hovered over the face of the deep, You uttered Your Word and the world was created. In the waters of Holy Baptism, You have spoken our names and declared us righteous. You have drawn us to Jesus, the light of life, and saved us. Let His light now shine through us, that others may see our good works and give glory to You; 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.

Offering *Collected after service in the back of the church.*

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

As the glory of Your presence once filled Your ancient temple, so in the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You manifested the fullness of Your glory in human flesh.

We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper You reveal Your glory to us. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood so that we may one day behold Your glory face to face.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

- C** **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.**

The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said:

“Take, eat; this is My **✠** body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My **✠** blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

Distribution



Distribution Hymn

616 Baptismal Waters Cover Me



1 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me As I ap -
2 I look to Christ up - on the tree, His bod - y
3 Lord, may Your wound - ed hand im - part Your heal - ing
4 From Your own mouth comes forth a word; Your shep - herd
5 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me; Christ's wound - ed



proach on bend - ed knee; My Fa - ther's mer - cy
bro - ken there for me; I lay be - fore Him
to my bro - ken heart; Your love a - lone can
speaks, but You are heard; Through him Your hand now
hand has set me free. Held in my Fa - ther's



here I plead, For griev - ous sins of thought and deed.
all my sin, My dark - est se - crets from with - in.
form in me A heart that serves You joy - ful - ly.
stretch - es out, For - giv - ing sin, de - stroy - ing doubt.
strong em - brace, With joy I praise Him for His grace.

Text: Kurt E. Reinhardt, 1969

Tune: Sammlung alter und neuer . . . Melodien, 1742

Distribution Hymn

605 Father Welcomes

Refrain



Fa - ther wel - comes all His chil - dren To His fam - 'ly



through His Son. Fa - ther giv - ing His sal - va - tion,



Life for - ev - er has been won.



1 Lit - tle chil - dren, come to Me, For My king - dom
 2 In the wa - ter, in the Word, In His prom - ise,
 3 Let us dai - ly die to sin; Let us dai - ly



is of these. Life and love I have to give,
 be as - sured: Those who are bap - tized and be - lieve
 rise with Him, Walk in the love of Christ our Lord,



Mer - cy for your sin.
 Shall be born a - gain.
 Live in the peace of God.

Text and tune: Robin Mann, 1949

Text and tune: © 1986 Kevin Mayhew Ltd. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000401

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the



glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;



A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
 to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
 peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

- P** Let us pray.
 We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

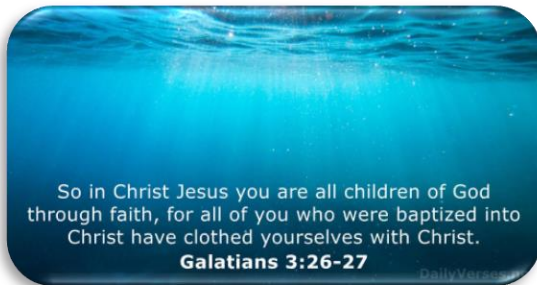
Benedicamus

LSB 212

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.



Hymn to Depart

397 As with Gladness Men of Old



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to Thy low - ly bed,
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare At Thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day Keep us in the nar - row way;
5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright Need they no cre - at - ed light;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
There to bend the knee be - fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
So may we with ho - ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al - loy,
And when earth - ly things are past, Bring our ran - somed souls at last
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;



So, most gra - cious Lord, may we Ev - er - more be led by Thee.
So may we with will - ing feet Ev - er seek Thy mer - cy seat.
All our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n - ly King.
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo - ry hide.
There for - ev - er may we sing Al - le - lu - ias to our King.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt.
Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872
Text and tune: Public domain

Praeludium in G Major

Dietrich Buxtehude

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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✠ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✠

Announcements

+ **Last Sunday's Attendance: 31**

+ **Altar Guild Set Up:** January 7th Maurine
January 14th Susie

Cleanup for January: Gayle

+ **Ushers for January:** Leon Tarr and Johnathan Raelison

+ **Voter's Meeting after service.**

+ **Today is Mite Sunday!** Mite Collection box is located on the coffee table in the Narthex. Make sure to grab your January Mite Prayer Guide!

+ **Thank you to everyone who ordered poinsettias to help decorate the sanctuary to celebrate the birth of our Savior! If you ordered a Poinsettia, please pick one up before you leave!**

+ **Wednesday Evening Bible Study will resume on January 10th at 7pm. We hope you will be able to join us in the continued study of the Book of Revelation! Links will be sent out tomorrow.**

January Birthdays!

Alicia Huhn 16th

Richard Huhn 26th

Kieran Maher 29th

Jill Killian 30th

Lutheran For Life Thoughts

Nothing and nobody comes into existence apart from the will and the Word of the Lord God Almighty (Genesis 1:3). This means God desires the survival of every human life from fertilization to forever. We court great danger if we go against this intent or counsel others to do so (Psalm 29:7-8). Instead let us receive neighbors as blessings and enjoy our Father's favor (Mark 1:11)!

Verse For the Week

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. **John 1:14**

Martin Luther's Notes on the Baptism of Our Lord

The heavens were opened. Heaven, which before was closed, now opens, and becomes a gate and window over the baptism of Christ, that all can look in; and henceforth there shall be no more alienation between God and us. For God the Father himself is present and declares, "This is my beloved Son."

Spirit descending like a dove. The dove descending was the sign, that the Holy Ghost will not be angry with us, but through Christ will help us to be pious and blessed.

My beloved Son. This is a short sermon, but so rich and broad, that no man on earth can comprehend or entirely understand it to all eternity. For therein the divine Majesty embraces and dispenses all its divine wisdom and understanding, and pours out God's will and heart, that all that he himself is and can accomplish may be come manifest. But this is infinite and incomprehensible, and yet all embraced in this one person, who is called Christ. It points us only to him, and knows nothing else to preach about but this Christ, who has just been baptized. Such manner of speech as he employs here, "This is my Son," we find nowhere else in the Holy Scriptures, where he speaks of only one, or calls a single person his Son (see Hebrews 1:5; Psalm 89:28; Psalm 2:7) But where he calls other persons his sons, there he speaks either of many, or of a whole multitude. With the word, "My Son," he means, as in Hosea 11:1, the whole people of Israel.

For himself he is not in need of such praise, but herein he is revealed to us, that we also may know, what is to be thought of him; namely, that in this person, (which is revealed to us in human form) are concerned heaven and earth, angels and men, righteousness, life, sin, death, hell, and everything that can be named, which is not God himself.

In whom I am well pleased. Here with he consecrates him also as a priest. By this every thing is excluded, which we can do and under take.

Here we see that in these words God draws Christ into himself, and himself into Christ, inasmuch as he takes pleasure in everything that Christ does; and again in these same words he pours out both himself and Christ, his beloved Son, upon us, and draws us into himself, so that he be comes entirely humanized (*vermenschet*) and we become entirely deified (*vergottet*) See John 14:23; 12:26; 17:21; 1:16-17; 3:13, 16, 18, 35-36; Titus 3:4-8.

This is a different voice from that on Mount Sinai. The Father says, Here ye have not an angel, prophet, or apostle, but *my son* and myself, my own heart, and the right, eternal spring and fountain of all grace and goodness.

All this has been done to the honor and praise of the sacrament of Holy Baptism. For it is not a human work, but a great and holy thing. There are great persons connected with it; the Father, who gives and speaks here; the Son, who receives and is baptized; the Holy Ghost, who descends upon the Son, and lets himself be seen in the form of a dove; and no doubt the heavenly choir of the holy angels are there also, who rejoice greatly over this work; for where the Father, Son and Holy Ghost permit themselves to be seen, there the whole host of heaven must also be present. The whole heaven also stands wide open.

[Luther's Explanatory Notes on the Gospels](#), pp. [18-20](#).