

Baptism of Jesus

January 11, 2026

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by the Faith Singers – “Take Me to the Water,” African American Spiritual

GATHERING

Call to Worship

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

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

Silence

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song – “The Feast is Ready”

(piano)

**1. The trumpets sound, the angels sing, the feast is ready to begin;
The gates of heav’n are open wide, and Jesus welcomes you inside.**

*Refrain: Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight,
come and revel in heaven’s love and light;
Take your place at the table of the King, the feast is ready to begin,
the feast is ready to begin.*

**2. Tables are laden with good things, O taste the peace and joy he brings;
he’ll fill you up with love divine, he’ll turn your water into wine. *Refrain***

**3. The hungry heart he satisfies, offers the poor his paradise;
now hear all heav’n and earth applaud the amazing goodness of the Lord. *Refrain***

**Greeting*

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

**Prayer of the Day*

P: God of epiphany and light, you made your son known to all the world by a star guiding the Magi, in the joy and celebration of a wedding feast, and in the living waters of holy baptism. Make your son known to us this day in our worship as you meet us with your grace.

C: Amen.

**Sharing Christ’s Peace*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Children’s Sermon

**Our God is an awesome God,
He reigns from heaven above with wisdom, pow’r and love
Our God is an awesome God!
Our God is an awesome God,
He reigns from heaven above with wisdom, pow’r and love
Our God is an awesome God!
Our God is an awesome God! Our God is an awesome God!**

WORD

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

Reader: John Williams

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

¹⁵Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

¹⁶As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, 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, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

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

**Gospel Reading:* John 2:1-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, ²and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They have no more wine.”

⁴“Woman, why do you involve me?” Jesus replied. “My hour has not yet come.”

⁵His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

⁶Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

⁷Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim.

⁸Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.”

They did so, ⁹and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰and said, “Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.”

¹¹What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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

Song – “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” ELW 886 (organ)

- 1 **Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!**
- 2 **My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.**

Sermon: “Opening the Curtain”

Song of the Day – “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” ELW 310 (organ)

- 1 **Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;
manifest by the star to the sages from afar,
branch of royal David's stem in thy birth at Bethlehem:
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.**
- 2 **Manifest at Jordan's stream, prophet, priest, and king supreme;
and at Cana wedding guest in thy Godhead manifest;
manifest in pow'r divine, changing water into wine;
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.**

- 3 **Manifest in making whole weakened body, fainting soul;
manifest in valiant fight, quelling all the devil's might;
manifest in gracious will, ever bringing good from ill:
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.**
- 4 **Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, present in thy holy word;
grace to imitate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;
that we might become like thee at thy great epiphany,
and may praise thee, ever blest, God in flesh made manifest.**

**The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

**Prayers of Intercession*

Stewardship Time

Sandi Watts, organ

**Offertory*

“We Give Thee but Thine Own” ELW 686, vv. 1-2 (organ)

- 1 **We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**
- 2 **May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive,
and gladly, as thou blessest us, to thee our firstfruits give.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

**Great Thanksgiving*

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 our thanks and praise.

**Words of Institution*

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, 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.

**Lord's Prayer*

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.

Communion Songs

“Beautiful Savior” ELW 838 (organ)

- 1 **Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**
- 2 **Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.**

- 3 Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight, bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.
- 4 Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!

“Great Is the Lord”

(piano)

Great is the Lord, he is holy and just. By his power we trust in his love.
Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true. By his mercy he proves he is love.
Great is the Lord and worthy of glory. Great is the Lord and worthy of praise.
Great is the Lord, I lift up my voice, I lift up my voice.
Great is the Lord, great is the Lord. *Repeat*

**Post-Communion Blessing*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: **Amen.**

**Closing Prayer*

SENDING

**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.**

**Sending Song – “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” ELW 836*

(organ)

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.
- 2 All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.

- 3 **Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!**

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Song Credits

“The Feast is Ready,” from **The Source**, Kevin Mayhew Limited, © 1998. CCLI#973583
“Our God Is an Awesome God,” from **Songs for Praise & Worship**, Word Music, © 1992. CCLI#973583
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“Great Is the Lord,” from **Spirit Touching Spirit**, Prince of Peace Publishing, Inc, used by permission.

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Karen Sibert

Greeter: Carol Freesen

Reader: John Williams

Usher: Paul Scheerer

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Organist: Sandi Watts

Pianist: Jean Welch

Guitarist: Marilyn Dichsen

Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen

Financial Assistants: Kelly Hartz & Monica Proefrock

Chancel Committee: Martha Krohe

Coffee Host: Karen Sibert



Singers:

Maddie Crossin

Kelly Hartz

Adam Krohe

Cole Street

Benen Dichsen

Terri Kimler

Kris Roth

Melissa Street

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson

Marilyn Dichsen

Greg Kimler

Monica Proefrock

Ken Devlin

Kelly Hartz

Patty Nelson

Kay Schnitker

Kelly Street

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, January 11, 9:30am: Worship

11:00am: Discussion Group

Tuesday, January 13, 5:15pm: Worship Core Team Meeting

Wednesday, January 14, 10:00am: Read the Bible in a Year Group – Faith Library

Thursday, January 15, 6:00pm: Church Council Meeting

Sunday, January 18, 9:30am: Worship

11:00am: Discussion Group

Wednesday, January 21, 10:00am: Read the Bible in a Year Group – Faith Library

News Updates

Lay Ministry Sign-Up Sheets

Sign-Up Sheets are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

Faith's Little Flock — (Ages 2–7)

gathers each Sunday after the Children's Sermon and returns to the sanctuary in time for Communion.

During January, Faith's Little Flock will explore stories from the season of Epiphany, when we hear how Jesus is revealed to the world. Through storytelling, simple conversations, music, and hands-on activities, our children will learn that Jesus invites us to come and see, cares deeply about people, calls us to honor God, and loves us beyond measure. As we follow these gospel stories together, children will be reminded that they are welcome in God's family and that God's love shines in both joyful moments and quiet questions.

We are always grateful for our wonderful adult and "big kid" helpers. If you feel called to help with Faith's Little Flock, please reach out to Melissa Street, Liddy Stark, or Pam Devlin. Blessings, *Melissa*

Contribution Envelopes for 2026 are available in the gathering area. If you don't see a box with your name on it, please talk to Kris Roth, Barb Davenport, or Pam Devlin.

Annual Reports

Anyone who would like to have an **Annual Report** included in the Annual Report Packets for 2025, please have your report to the church office (by e-mail is preferred) **by January 13**. The Annual Meeting will be held on January 25, and we need time to duplicate the reports into a packet to distribute on Sunday, January 18.

Read the Bible in a Year

Join us in reading the Bible over the course of a year, **Wednesdays at 10:00am in the Faith Library** (this new group will take the place of the Discipleship Group). We will gather weekly to discuss our insights and reflections. We'll be utilizing The Bible Recap by Tara-Leigh Cobble, available on the YouVersion Bible app, to guide our journey. For more information, feel free to reach out to Pam Devlin. A sign-up sheet is available in the Gathering Area. People should read assigned daily readings from The Bible Recap so that we can discuss what we read.

Music is a Great Way to Connect!

We are always looking for people to sing or play special music for a prelude or a stewardship offering. Please contact Jean Welch if you are interested in sharing your musical gifts. jrwelch53@msn.com or 217-652-7009 (phone/text)

Post-Service Discussions after Worship

Grab some refreshments and join us in the Justice Room to further encounter the readings – and the sermon. *Naomi Hahn*

Doorbell Dinners

Our next time to deliver is **January 12-16**. A sign-up sheet is available in the gathering area on the counter by the Coffee Sales.

Bible Boot Camp and Faith Inkubators

Pastor Adam is only available to lead gatherings on January 18 and February 15. If others would like to help provide more, please contact Pam Devlin, Carol Freesen, or Celeste Hill on our Discipleship Core Team. Our typical schedule is for Bible Boot Camp from 4:30-5:30, a meal from 5:30-6:00, and Confirmation from 6:00-7:30.

Christmas Cheer

Stay tuned for a new date for the Christmas Cheer event that needed to be cancelled at the end of December!

Fairly-Traded Coffee/Tea

Check out the coffee display from Equal Exchange. Simply select the product(s) you would like to purchase, and place the money in the container provided by the display (**\$9.00** regular & decaf; **\$3.00** tea). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “*coffee*” designated in the memo area.

Pillars Giving Tree

Bring Christmas Joy to the Children at the Pillars of Africa Children’s Ministry

This Christmas season, we again have the opportunity to share the love of Christ with the children at the Pillars of Africa Children’s Ministry. The Giving Tree in the gathering area is adorned with ornaments, each representing a child and their needs this Christmas. Choose an ornament, make your donation payable to HUGS, and place it in the offering box.

Your generosity will bring joy and hope to these precious children, reminding them that they are loved and valued. Thank you for helping make this Christmas a special one for those in need. For questions or more details, please contact Melissa Street, Kevin Krohe, or Patty Nelson. Thank you for being a blessing this holiday season!

Prayer and Meditation

Prayer and meditation are ways that we invite God into our lives and into those for whom we pray. The health challenges facing Marilyn Dichsen have focused our congregation's attention on the importance of prayers for healing cancer in a gifted young woman. Marilyn's challenges have also brought to our attention all who are struggling with physical and mental health issues. Faith members are encouraged to pray for all who are in need wherever you might find yourself. The church sanctuary is open during regular church office hours (Tuesday-Friday, 9:00-1:00) for members to stop by and spend quiet time praying for Marilyn, her family, and all those who are in need of prayer. A prayer book is available at the back of the sanctuary by the tech station, along with the names of those who have been included in worship prayers and our prayer chain. Please sign your name and record your prayers or words of encouragement, if you so desire. The hope is that the time for prayer and meditation will be incorporated into our lives and the life of our congregation as a continuing ministry.

Focus on Unhoused in Jacksonville

The Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches is hosting a gathering and discussion on the unhoused in the Jacksonville community **on January 14 at 5:30 pm at Spirit of Faith Church at 632 North Main in Jacksonville**. The evening will begin with a shared chili supper provided by Spirit of Faith, followed by presentations by local organizations on the

difficult issues, available resources, and ongoing services. Pastor Jonathan Warren will lead presentations by Alan Bradish, New Directions, Salvation Army, Spirit of Faith, and Jacksonville alderman Joe Lockman. The evening will end with sharing possible solutions, and how we all can help. Together, we can begin to find solutions to challenges within our community.

Conference of Churches Collecting Dry Goods for Area Food Bank

The Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches is encouraging its member churches to collect grain-based dry goods for their 'Gratitude of Grains' event to support the local food bank. Needed items include: dry pasta, breakfast cereals, macaroni and cheese, Hamburger Helper, and snack crackers. 'Gratitude of Grains' is an initiative to assist food banks this winter. Member churches of the Conference can collect thru February 22, 2026. Together, we can help make a difference this winter! For more information, contact Conference of Churches Representative Pat Pennell at (217) 370-9879, or Pat Glyshaw at (217) 243-8093.