

*First Lutheran Church*

January 18, 2026

Baptism of Our Lord

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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.

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## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRELUDE**

STUTTGART

Albert L. Travis

*Crashing Waters at Creation*

### **GATHERING**

*(Please stand)*

### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*The assembly stands. You may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

C: **Amen.**

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water is poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

P: We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John  
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG**

*Crashing Waters at Creation*

*ELW # 455*



- 1 Crash - ing wa - ters at cre - a - tion, or - dered by the Spir - it's breath,
- 2 Part - ing wa - ter stood and trem - bled as the cap - tives passed on through,
- 3 Cleans - ing wa - ter once at Jor - dan closed a - round the one fore - told,
- 4 Liv - ing wa - ter, nev - er end - ing, quench the thirst and flood the soul.



first to wit - ness day's be - gin - ning from the bright - ness of night's death.  
wash - ing off the chains of bond - age— chan - nel to a life made new.  
o - pened to re - veal the glo - ry ev - er new and ev - er old.  
Well - spring, source of life e - ter - nal, drench our dry - ness, make us whole.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: STUTTGART, attr. Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

**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.**

## GLORY TO GOD



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

*The cantor will sing the verses.*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: Amen.

*(Please be seated)*

**++ Children may attend Sunday School**

## WORD

### 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.

*R: A reading from Isaiah, the forty-second chapter.*

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

*R: Word of God, Word of Life.*

**C: Thank 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.

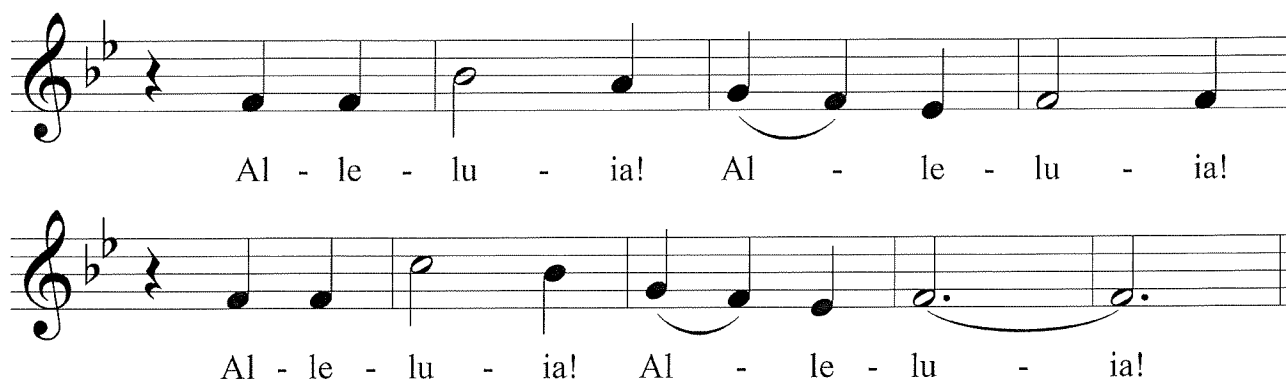
*R: A reading from Acts, the tenth chapter.*

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

*R: Word of God, Word of Life.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*Cantor: Alleluia. A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, | the Beloved,"\*  
with whom I | am well pleased." Alleluia. (Matt. 3:17)*

## GOSPEL

## 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.

*P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.*



<sup>13</sup> Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

<sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

*P: The gospel of the Lord.*



*(Please be seated)*

(Please stand)

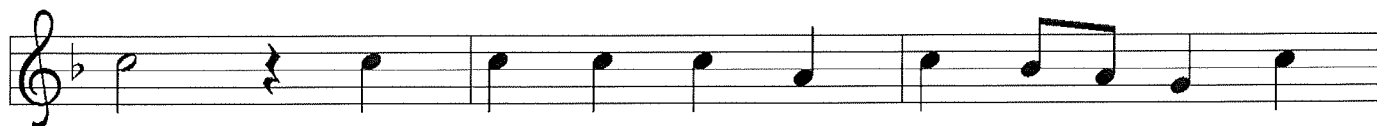
## HYMN OF THE DAY

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

(Please stand)

## NICENE CREED

L: In Christ, we have heard the word of truth, the gospel of our salvation.

C: **We believe in Him****and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**

L: Living together in trust and hope, we profess our faith:

**We believe in one God,  
 the Father, the Almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth,  
 of all that is, seen and unseen.**



We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*(Please kneel)*

### ***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION***

P: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

*A brief silence.*

L: Steadfast God, give courage to your church. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world.

*Each petition concludes:*



P: Merciful God,  
C: receive our prayer.

P: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.  
C: **Amen.**

*(Please stand)*

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

L: Sisters and brothers, rejoice! Mend your ways,  
encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace!  
P: May the peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C: **And also with you.**

*You are welcome to share the Peace of Christ  
with those around you as you feel comfortable.*

*(Please be seated)*

### **MEAL**

**OFFERING AND MEDITATION**  
KING'S LYNN

*When Jesus Came to Jordan*

*Wayne L. Wold*

*(Please stand)*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

L: God of majesty,  
no eye has seen, no ear has heard  
what you have prepared for those who love you,  
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.

Use what we have gathered  
to feed us with the reign of God come near,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.' The second staff also has two measures: 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff has one long measure: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff has one long measure: 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The melody is simple, using quarter and eighth notes with slurs.

## PREFACE

P: It is indeed right,  
our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star, He was shown forth to all nations;  
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son,  
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

And so with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## *HOLY, HOLY, HOLY*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

## *THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE*

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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*

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**  
Come to the table; taste and see.

*(Please be seated)*

**COMMUNION IS DISTRIBUTED IN TWO MANNERS AT FIRST LUTHERAN**

† *You may commune in your pews.*

*Individual communion kits are available at the Narthex doors.*

† You may come to the Table, to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

**LAMB OF GOD**



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**COMMUNION SONG**

*When Jesus Came to Jordan*

ELW # 305

- 1 When Je - sus came to Jor - dan to be bap-tized by John,
- 2 He came to share temp - ta - tion, our ut - most woe and loss,
- 3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, aid us to keep the vows we make;

he did not come for par - don but as the Sin - less One.  
for us and our sal - va - tion to die up - on the cross.  
this ver - y day in - vade us, and ev - 'ry bond-age break.

He came to share re - pen - tance with all who mourn their sins,  
So when the dove de - scend - ed on him, the Son of Man,  
Come, give our lives di - rec - tion, the gift we cov - et most:

to speak the vi - tal sen - tence with which good news be - gins.  
the hid - den years had end - ed, the age of grace be - gan.  
to share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen - te - cost.

*(Please stand)*

**TABLE BLESSING**

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,  
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

L: Radiant God,  
we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.  
In the sacrament of his body and blood  
you have drawn us to your heart.

Send us from this table with delight,  
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,  
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

**SENDING**

**CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER**

C: Oh God,  
your everlasting love for us is always trustworthy and sure.  
We are grateful for the goodness you have shown us  
through the years,  
and we ask now for confidence to go forward into the future.  
Bless our community of faith, bless our healing,  
bless the changes that are before us, bless our pastoral leaders  
who will shepherd us through this time of transition.  
We thank you now for the wisdom you will show us  
as we align with your will, and servant or servants  
you are already preparing to send us in your blessed time.  
Help us to keep looking to you to define our ministry and our future.  
In his name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

**BLESSING**

P: May the triune God,  
who has put a new song in your mouth  
and tuned your heart for praise  
† bless you now and forever.



Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.



Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

# **SENDING SONG**

## *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

ELW # 310



- 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 weak-ened bod - y, faint - ing soul;
- 4 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;  
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:  
that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,



an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,  
an - thems be to thee ad-dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.  
an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,  
and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

## **DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace.  
L: Do justice.  
P: Love mercy.  
C: **Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

SALZBURG

Robert A. Hobby

*Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*



## Events in Review

<u><b>Sunday</b></u>	<b>Jan 18</b>
10:00AM	Church Service
<u><b>Monday</b></u>	<b>Jan 19</b>
10:00AM	Bible Study at Willows
1:30 PM	Booksworms
5:15PM	Bell Choir Practice
<u><b>Tuesday</b></u>	<b>Jan 20</b>
<u><b>Wednesday</b></u>	<b>Jan 21</b>
5:30 PM	Council Meeting
<u><b>Thursday</b></u>	<b>Jan 22</b>
1-3PM	WOFB
<u><b>Friday</b></u>	<b>Jan 23</b>
<u><b>Saturday</b></u>	<b>Jan 24</b>

## Next Week

<u><b>Sunday</b></u>	<b>Jan. 25</b>
10:00AM	Church Service
	Annual Congregational Meeting w/Potato Bar
<u><b>Monday</b></u>	<b>Jan. 26</b>
10:00AM	Bible Study at Willows
5:15PM	Bell Choir Practice
<u><b>Tuesday</b></u>	<b>Jan. 27</b>
<u><b>Wednesday</b></u>	<b>Jan. 28</b>
<u><b>Thursday</b></u>	<b>Jan. 29</b>
<u><b>Friday</b></u>	<b>Jan. 30</b>
<u><b>Saturday</b></u>	<b>Jan. 31</b>



If you have a prayer request for today, please raise your hand during announcements and a host will give you a green card to fill out.

# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

January 25, 2026

After Service



Followed by a Potato Bar

End of Year  
GIVING  
Statements

Are available on the  
lobby table.



Altar flowers were given today in honor of

*Our Wonderful FLC Family*

By

Rick & Diane Greene



January's Monthly Scroll along with Jan-March 2026 Portals of Prayer are now available on the lobby table

Cookie Sign up sheets are located on the Information Board in the hallway. The time is before and after Church Service. Approximately 4 dozen cookies are





## Contact Us



### **First Lutheran Church**

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Tiffin, Ohio 44883

419-447-1323

[www.firstlutherantiffin.com](http://www.firstlutherantiffin.com)  
[firstlutherantiffin@gmail.com](mailto:firstlutherantiffin@gmail.com)

## Interim Pastor

**Pastor Mark Schuring**

(740) 360-2306

[theskipster55@gmail.com](mailto:theskipster55@gmail.com)

## Our Worship Leaders

**Altar Guild:** Donna Brueggermeier,  
Sharon Losey, Deb Hohman

**Cantor:** Elijah Shiley

**Facebook Camera** The Rosses

**Host:** Janet Zirger

**Reader:** Shelley Ross

**Worship Assistant** Shelley Ross

**Director of Music:** Curtis L. King

**Minister:** Pastor Mark Schuring

## Emergency Pastors

**Pastor Mark Schuring**

(740) 360-2306

**Mike Porter**

(585) 813-5009

**Pastor Philip Scherr**

(814) 756-9435

## Our Mission Statement

**“God is among us!”**

**“We are called to go out, care for all, share the gospel,  
forgive, reconcile and trust God for all that we need.”**

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