

# **BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

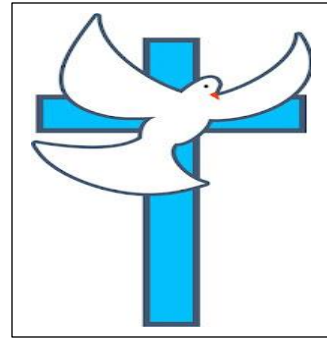
**Sunday, January 11, 2026**

**Affirmation of Baptism**

**Pastor Lori Bonkoski**

**Music: Glenda McGaffee**

**Lay Reader: Dan Ellingson**



## **WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **SILENT PRAYER**

**\*Please stand if you are able**

### **\*GATHERING HYMN #302 "As with Gladness Men of Old"**

1. As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold; as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright; so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led by thee.
2. As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed, there to bend the knee before thee, whom heav'n and earth adore; so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.
3. As they offered gifts most rare at thy cradle, rude and bare, so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.
4. Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way; and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.
5. In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light; thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down; there forever may we sing alleluias to our king.

### **\*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.**

### **\*DIALOGUE**

P: Arise, shine, for your light has come!

**C: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

P: Lift up your eyes and look around:

**C: All gather together to proclaim the praise of the Lord.**

P: Your sun will never set again.

**C: The Lord is our light and our salvation!**

P: Your moon shall wane no more.

**C: The Lord is our light and our salvation!**

P: Your days of sorrow will end.

**C: The Lord is our light and our salvation!**

P: Whom shall we fear?

**C: Whom shall we fear? The Lord is the strength of our life; whom shall we fear?**

**\*SCRIPTURE SONG-#513 "Listen, God Is Calling**

P: Listen,

**C: listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.**

P: Listen,

**C: listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.**

P: Jesus gave his mandate:

**C: share the good news**

P: that he came to save us

**C: and set us free.**

P: Listen,

**C: listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.**

P: Listen,

**C: listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.**

P: Let none be forgotten

**C: throughout the world.**

P: In the triune name of God

**C: go and baptize**

P: Listen,

**C: listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.**

P: Listen,

**C: listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.**

P: Help us to be faithful,

**C: standing steadfast,**

P: walking in your precepts,

**C: led by your Word.**

P: Listen,

**C: listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.**

P: Listen,

**C: listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.**

### **\*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.**

### **CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

#### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1-9**

<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: The Word of the Lord    **C: Thanks be to God**

#### **RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 29**

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup> **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup> **The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup> **the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup> The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup> **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup> The 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!"

<sup>10</sup> **The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

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

### **SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-43**

<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: The Word of the Lord    **C: Thanks be to God**

### **\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

**Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word. Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred. Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.**

### **\*GOSPEL READING: Matthew 3:13-17**

<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: This is, the Gospel of the Lord    **C: Thanks be to God**

### **MESSAGE: Pastor Lori**

### **\*HYMN OF THE DAY #456 "Baptized in Water"**

1. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our king: heirs of salvation, trusting his promise, faithfully now God's praise we sing.

2. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ our king: one with his rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God's praise we sing.

3. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our king: born of the Spirit, we are God's children; joyfully now God's praise we sing.

### **AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

**Amen.**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**C: I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**C: I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**C: I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

You have made profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

**C: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

**C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

P: Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

**\*OFFERING SONG #303 "Brightest and Best of the Stars" vs 4**

4. Vainly we offer each ample oblation, vainly with gifts would his favor secure; richer by far is the heart's adoration, dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

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. **Amen.**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

**\*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.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

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

**Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN #310 "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"**

1. Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise; manifested 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.

**\*DISMISSAL**

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

**Prayer Concerns:** Doug Boeve; Marvin Albers; Addison Swenson, Starla Scholten, Doug McGuire

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Annual Meeting** Sunday, January 25, 2026 immediately following worship service.