

THE  
BAPTISM  
*of Jesus*

When all  
the people  
were being  
baptized,

Jesus was baptized too.  
And as he was praying,  
heaven was opened ...

LUKE 3:21

**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

JANUARY 9 / 12, 2025

# Zion Ev. Lutheran Church

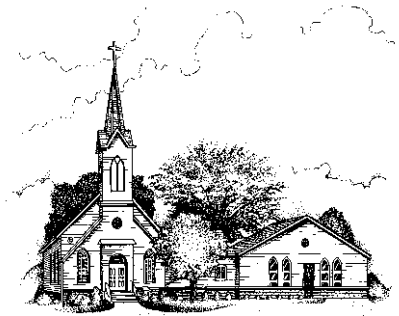
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## Welcome to God's House

“Who is Jesus?” The easiest answers to that question are “Mary and Joseph’s son” or “a carpenter from Nazareth.” That’s true, but they don’t adequately describe Jesus. But when Jesus was baptized, God the Father spoke, declaring Jesus true identity. Jesus was the dearly loved Son of God, chosen to be the Savior of the world.

If someone were to ask you “Who are you?” how would you answer? Your name, where you’re from or what you do for a living. There may be days, in some dark corner of your mind, that you might answer “I’m nobody.”



In reality, none of those things really describes who we are. To answer “Who are you?” we must look to our baptism. Baptism is the cure for an identity crisis. There, just like he did with Jesus, our Father declares us to be his dearly loved child. Moreover, in baptism God anointed us with power for a life of selfless service. May God grant us this epiphany moment!

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## Opening Hymn

## Baptized into Your Name, Most Holy #860

Baptized into your name most holy, O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
I claim a place, though weak and lowly, among your saints, your chosen host.  
Buried with Christ and dead to sin, your Spirit now shall live within.

My loving Father, there you took me to be henceforth your child and heir.

My faithful Savior, there you let me the fruit of all your sorrows share.  
O Holy Spirit, comfort me when threat'ning clouds around I see.

My faithful God, you fail me never; your promise surely will endure.  
O cast me not away forever if words and deeds become impure.  
Have mercy when I come defiled; forgive, lift up, restore your child.

All that I am and love most dearly—receive it all, O Lord, from me.  
Let me confess my faith sincerely; help me your faithful child to be!  
Let nothing that I am or own serve any will but yours alone.

### **Invocation**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

### **Confession of Sins**

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Lord, Have Mercy**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

**Gloria**

**HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG CW 1061**

♪ To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth,  
for God has shown his favor in Jesus' holy birth!

Almighty God and Father, our humble thanks we bring;  
we worship you, we bless you, Lord God, our heav'nly King.

O Lamb of God exalted, you take all sin away;  
extend to us your mercy and hear us as we pray.  
With God the Holy Spirit, at God the Father's throne,  
you reign, O Christ, forever, for you are Lord alone!

## **The Word**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan, you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children, and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **First Reading**

**1 Samuel 16:1-13**

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king."

<sup>2</sup> But Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me."

The Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' <sup>3</sup> Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate."

<sup>4</sup> Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?"

<sup>5</sup> Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup> When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord."

<sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

<sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either." <sup>9</sup> Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>10</sup> Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not chosen these." <sup>11</sup> So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?"

"There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep."

Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."

<sup>12</sup> So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one."

<sup>13</sup> So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm of the Day

## Great Are the Works of the LORD - 2D



Great are the works of the LORD. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ia! Great are the works of the LORD.

*Tone*



Why do the nations / conspire  
and the peoples / plot in vain?

The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together a- / gainst the Lord  
and against his A- / noointed. **Refrain**

The One enthroned in / heaven laughs;  
the Lord / scoffs at them.

He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, / saying,  
“I have installed my King on Zion, my holy / mountain.” **Refrain**

I will proclaim the / Lord’s decree:

He said to me, “You are my Son; today I have become your / Father.”  
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. **Refrain**

## Second Reading

Titus 3:4-7

<sup>4</sup> But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

John 1:29

Alleluia. John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God,  
**who takes away the sin of the world!" Alleluia.**

## Gospel

Luke 3:15-17,21-22

<sup>15</sup> The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

... <sup>21</sup> When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."



The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**Hymn**

**To Jordan's River Came Our Lord #377**

To Jordan's river came our Lord, the Christ, whom heav'nly hosts adored,  
the God from God, the Light from Light, the Lord of glory, pow'r, and  
might.

The Savior came to be baptized—the Son of God in flesh disguised—  
to stand beneath the Father's will and all his promises fulfill.

As Jesus in the Jordan stood and John baptized the Lamb of God,  
the Holy Spirit, heav'nly dove, descended on him from above.

Then from God's throne with thund'rous sound came God's own voice with  
words profound:

“This is my Son,” was his decree, “the one I love, who pleases me.”

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.

Now rise, faint hearts: be resolute! This man is Christ, our substitute!  
He was baptized in Jordan's stream, proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.

**Sermon**

**Titus 3:3-7**

**Remembrance of Baptism**

Holy Baptism is the priceless means of grace by which our Father in heaven  
connects us with Christ in his life, death, and resurrection. The apostle Paul  
wrote: “All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his  
death. We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in  
order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the

Father, we too may live a new life.” Again Paul wrote: “All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”

In Holy Baptism, God takes away our sins and gives us new life. We reject the devil and confess that we believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

I ask you: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

**Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

**Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?

**Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Is it your sincere prayer and desire to remain faithful to your Lord Jesus, to value the Word and sacraments, and to live a life that pleases God?

**Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

May the eternal God, who saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Church**

Mighty Father, you revealed your glory through your beloved Son as the light for the Gentiles and the salvation of all the earth.

When your Son was baptized you opened the heavens and declared him your beloved Son. When we were baptized you declared us your beloved children for his sake. Help us value our adoption as your children that we may enjoy new life in you.

Your Son had the mission to gather your people and to restore them. Bless the preaching of your gospel everywhere. Give to all who preach, teach and share your Word courage and strength as they gather and guide your people.

Bless the work of pastors, teachers and Christian counselors who comfort those who are troubled. Guide them as they point to you and your gift of baptism as the source of rebirth and renewal to live in you daily.

Keep in your care, O Lord, all those who are sick and suffering distress. Comfort those who feel unloved, forgive those bowed down with guilt, and open the eyes of those nearing death to see the gates of heaven. According to your will, prosper our economy that we may continue to bring our best offerings for the ministry of the gospel.

In our personal prayers, hear us as we cast all our cares on you...

*Silent prayers and special intercessions*

Heavenly Father, with your Holy Spirit you revealed yourself at the baptism of your dear Son, and with your voice from heaven you assured us that in him you are well pleased and through him we have forgiveness of sins. Help us to rightly know you as you have revealed yourself to us, that we may

listen to your Son and share in his baptism; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Offering**

*The members of Zion have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. If you are a visitor, please don't feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.*

## **The Sacrament**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

**#167**

♪ **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts:  
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he, blessed is he,  
blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

**Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

### **Words of Institution**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God**

**#169**

♪ **O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. Amen.**

**Distribution Hymn Through Simple Water, Drawn and Poured #685**

Through simple water, drawn and poured, united with his pow’rful Word,  
in baptism Jesus sets us free from sin’s dread pow’r and slavery.

There at the font with promise true God brings his saving grace anew—  
the sin-infected soul he heals and all his pard’ning love reveals!

My sinful self was crucified with Christ, as if I, too, had died;  
and as he rose, I also rise to live with strength that he supplies.

From that day on God helps me drown the sinful self and hold it down.  
I am made new; I’m born again, repenting, trusting, serving him.

When doubts arise, when sin assails, the pow’r of baptism never fails.  
“I am baptized! What should I fear? God’s love for me is always near!”

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

**Amen.**

### **Closing Hymn**

### **Go, My Children, with My Blessing 930:1**

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.

In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.

Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

## This Week at Zion

<b>Today:</b>	7:30 / 9:45 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion
	8:30 / 8:40 a.m.	Sunday School & Bible class
<b>Mon:</b>	7:00 p.m.	Council budget meeting
<b>Tue:</b>	8:00 a.m.	KM Pastoral Conference at St. Paul, Slinger
	1:00 p.m.	OWLS meeting at St. Peter, FdL 8:00 a.m.
<b>Wed:</b>	6:00 p.m.	Catechism Instructions
	7:00 p.m.	KML Echoes / Unworthy concert / singalong at KML PAC
<b>Thu:</b>	7:00 p.m.	Worship
<b>Fri:</b>	7:45 a.m.	Pastors' Day at KML
<b>Sun:</b>	7:30 / 9:45 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion
	8:30 / 8:40 a.m.	Sunday School & Bible class
	6:25 p.m.	Marriage Enrichment Series at Christ Alone, Mequon

**In Our Prayers** All who have been impacted by the devastating wildfires in southern California this past week.

**Holy Communion** We believe that gathering together at God's altar to receive the Lord's Supper is a testimony of the confession, commitment and unity we share as members of the Lutheran Church. We ask guests who are not members of our Lutheran denomination to speak with the pastor before joining us at the altar so all may have a clear understanding of our faith and practice.

**Annual Meeting** January 20<sup>th</sup> is the date for our annual meeting, essentially a "state of the congregation" meeting. We look back at numbers and reports from the previous year and then we look ahead, asking God's



blessing as we try our human-best to plan for the future. Join us on January 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. for our annual voters

**Thank you** to the organists who served in the worship services this weekend: Jared Peterson on Thursday and Bea Pamperin on Sunday.

**Christmas Undecorating** Thanks to all who stayed after church last Sunday to help take down our Christmas trees and decorations, sort, organize, and pack them away for another year.

**Praise Concert & Singalong** Come join the KML Echoes and *Unworthy* for a free praise concert and sing along. Warm your hearts with the joy of the Gospel as we sing praises to our Savior together! This event will take place in the KML Performing Arts Center from 7:00 - 8:15 PM this Wednesday, January 15.

**Messy Time** The winter season brings a lot of moisture in the form of rain and a little snow and with it comes a lot of salt and mud and mess. Please wipe your feet well when you enter the church and fellowship hall to help keep God's house looking nice.

**Church Envelopes** The 2025 church envelope boxes should be in your mailboxes in the entryway. If you haven't yet, please take them home with you today.

**Contribution Statements** The contribution statements from 2024 have been placed in your church mailboxes. Please take yours before you leave today. If you have any questions about them, please text or e-mail our financial secretary Rick Meier at 262.909.1069 or [rrrick4919@yahoo.com](mailto:rrrick4919@yahoo.com).

**WLA Anniversary Service & Dinner** On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, Winnebago Lutheran Academy will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a special service at 2 p.m. at WLA followed by a dinner at The Radisson in Fond du Lac (tickets must be purchased *by January 17<sup>th</sup>* for the dinner; go to [www.wlavikings.org](http://www.wlavikings.org) and click on "events"). The afternoon also includes an opportunity to hear an update on the new campus of WLA.

**20<sup>th</sup> Annual Jim Haag Memorial Bowling Fundraiser** - Join us on Saturday, February 1st at Riviera Lanes for a bowling fundraiser benefiting Lighthouse Youth Center! This fun event includes 3 games of bowling, food, soft drinks, raffles and a silent auction. Plus, compete for prizes for top male and female bowler and top team! For more information and to register, please visit <https://lyc.ejoinme.org/bowling2025>. Questions? Contact Abby Rasmussen at [abby.rasmussen@lighthouseyouthcenter.com](mailto:abby.rasmussen@lighthouseyouthcenter.com).



**1061 Gloria (Scan) - HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG**

*CW 1061*

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**2D Great Are the Works of the LORD** *Psalm 2D*

Tune & Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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**377 To Jordan's River Came Our Lord** *CW 377*

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**685 Through Simple Water, Drawn and Poured** *CW 685*

Text: tr. Mark G. Schroeder, b. 1954; Nicolaus Selnecker, 1532-1592, abr.

Tune: Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert, Wittenberg, 1535, ed. Joseph Klug

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