

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Baptism of Our Lord

January 9 & 12, 2025

Baptism Is the Cure for an Identity Crisis

Opening Hymn 560, “Your Works, Not Mine, O Christ”

Order of Service (From Supplement) Gathering Rite on the Word of God, Page 11

Prayer of the Day: 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.

FIRST READING

Psalm of the Day (*On Insert*)..... Psalm 2D

SECOND READING

Gospel Acclamation Verse: Alleluia. *You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.* Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Hymn of the Day 377, “To Jordan’s River Came Our Lord”

SERMON..... “Jesus Is Our Christ” Luke 3:21,22

Offering Hymn 729 v. 3, “Son of God, Eternal Savior”

Apostles’ Creed Page 20

Prayers/Lord’s Prayer

Hymn 680, “Baptized into Your Name Most Holy”

Closing Prayer/Benediction

Closing Hymn 922 vv. 1,3 & 4, “This Is the Day the Lord Has Made”

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

David was the youngest of eight brothers and a shepherd. Yet, at his anointing, the Lord declared his true identity—future king of Israel.

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 go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I see a king for myself among his sons.” 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.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will let you know what you are to do. You are to anoint for me the person that I point out to you.”

So Samuel did what the Lord had told him to do and went to Bethlehem. Trembling with fear, the elders of the city came to meet him. They said, “Do you come in peace?” He said, “Yes, in peace. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.” He consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they had come, he looked at Eliab and said, “Certainly this is the Lord’s anointed.” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at how tall he is, because I have rejected him. For the Lord does not look at things the way man does. For man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The Lord has not chosen this one either.” Then Jesse had Shammah pass by. But Samuel said, “The Lord has not chosen this one either.” Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel. Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Is that all of the young men?” Jesse said, “There still is the youngest, but he is tending the sheep.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Send for him, for we cannot sit down to eat until he comes.” He sent for him and brought him in. David had red hair and striking eyes, and was good-looking. The Lord said, “Get up! Anoint him, because this is the one.”

So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers. The Spirit of the Lord rushed on David with power from that day forward. After that Samuel set out and returned to Ramah.

SECOND READING: Titus 3:4-7

In the eyes of the world, baptism appears to be just a religious ceremony. St. Paul explains baptism is so much more—a second birth that gives you the identity of God’s child and heir.

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior toward mankind appeared, he saved us—not by righteous works that we did ourselves, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and the renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs in keeping with the hope of eternal life.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-17,21-22

People wondered if John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was a powerful preacher who lived a unique life. But at his baptism, Jesus was identified by his Father as the Anointed One.

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might be the Christ. John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But someone mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. While he was praying, heaven was opened, 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. I am well pleased with you.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEAD USHERS: Lyle Moldenhauer/Chris Zwygart; next Sunday: Don Koch/Doug Schulz

ORGANISTS: The **January** schedule is hanging on the **SCHOOL** bulletin board. Please look at your calendars in the near future and sign up for the date(s) you are willing to play for us. Thank you!

MR. LORGE RECEIVES CALL: Mr. Lorge has received a divine call to serve as the Gr. 6-8 teacher at Divine Peace Lutheran School in Largo, Maryland. Please keep Mr. Lorge in your prayers as he deliberates this call as well as the call he currently holds here at St. Matthew's. He welcomes any thoughts you may have to help him make his decision.

CALL MEETING: Because the call which we extended to Pastor Andrew Schimpf was returned, we will be having a new call meeting on **Wednesday, January 15, 2025**, immediately PRIOR TO the Annual Voters' Meeting. The call meeting will begin at **7:00 PM**. All voters are urged to attend!

ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING: The Annual Voters' Meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 15, 2025**, immediately following the Call Meeting which is scheduled to begin at **7:00 PM**. New church officers will be elected at this meeting. All voting members are encouraged to participate!

PTL MEETING: School parents are reminded of the PTL meeting which is scheduled for **Monday, January 13**, at **6:30 PM** at the school. All parents are urged to take an active role in what's happening at the school throughout the year. Your input is always valued!

SERVICE GROUP MEETING: The next Service Group meeting will be held immediately following the fellowship hour on **Sunday, January 26**. Annual elections of officers will be held and activities for 2025 will be discussed. All members are invited to participate!

CHURCH CLEANING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We are in need of someone or a group of families who would be willing to clean the church for 2-3 hours per week. In the event there is not just one person/family who wants to do this, we would also look at getting a few people/families involved where each person/family would clean a week or two at a time on a rotating basis. If either of these volunteer opportunities is something you would consider, please speak with Pastor Mose or Wayne Schultz today! Wayne can also provide you with additional details of what exactly would be involved in the cleaning.

WLA TRAVELING CHOIR HERE! On **Sunday, January 26**, at **9:00 AM** we will be privileged to have the WLA Traveling Choir in attendance to help lead us through worship. Please join us for this very special worship opportunity! Please also be aware that we will be taking a **free-will offering** that day to help defray some of the costs for this traveling choir.

EVERYONE OUTREACH: The time is fast approaching for the *Everyone Outreach* program which our congregation is hosting. *Everyone Outreach* is designed to help our congregation build a culture of outreach so that every ministry and every member is thinking about and participating in outreach. Please see the insert for additional information about this program. There is no cost to attend! It is scheduled for **March 1, 2025**, from **9:00 AM – 2:30 PM**. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the sheet located on the church bulletin board. We would like to have as much participation from our members as possible! Any questions about this program may be directed to **Scott Mittelstadt**.

WE THANK the adult choir and our Sunday School children for their wonderful song on Sunday!

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Attendance: Thursday: No Service; Sunday: 119

Offerings: \$7,077.70

(Budget Amount Needed Each Week: \$7,355.00)

Special Funds: Debt Retirement: \$260.00




We invite you to support this ministry through financial offerings out of thanksgiving for the Gospel you have received here. Offerings may be placed in the plate located on the table at the back of church, or you may scan the QR code to give electronically.

OUR WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday:	Worship Service.....	9:00 AM
	Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School.....	10:15 AM
Monday:	PTL Meeting	6:30 PM
Wednesday:	CALL MEETING	7:00 PM
	ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING – Immediately following Call Meeting	
Thursday:	Communion Worship Service	7:00 PM
	Adult Choir.....	8:00 PM
Sunday:	Communion Worship Service	9:00 AM
	Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School.....	10:15 AM

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

Refrain



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- / nointed. *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*