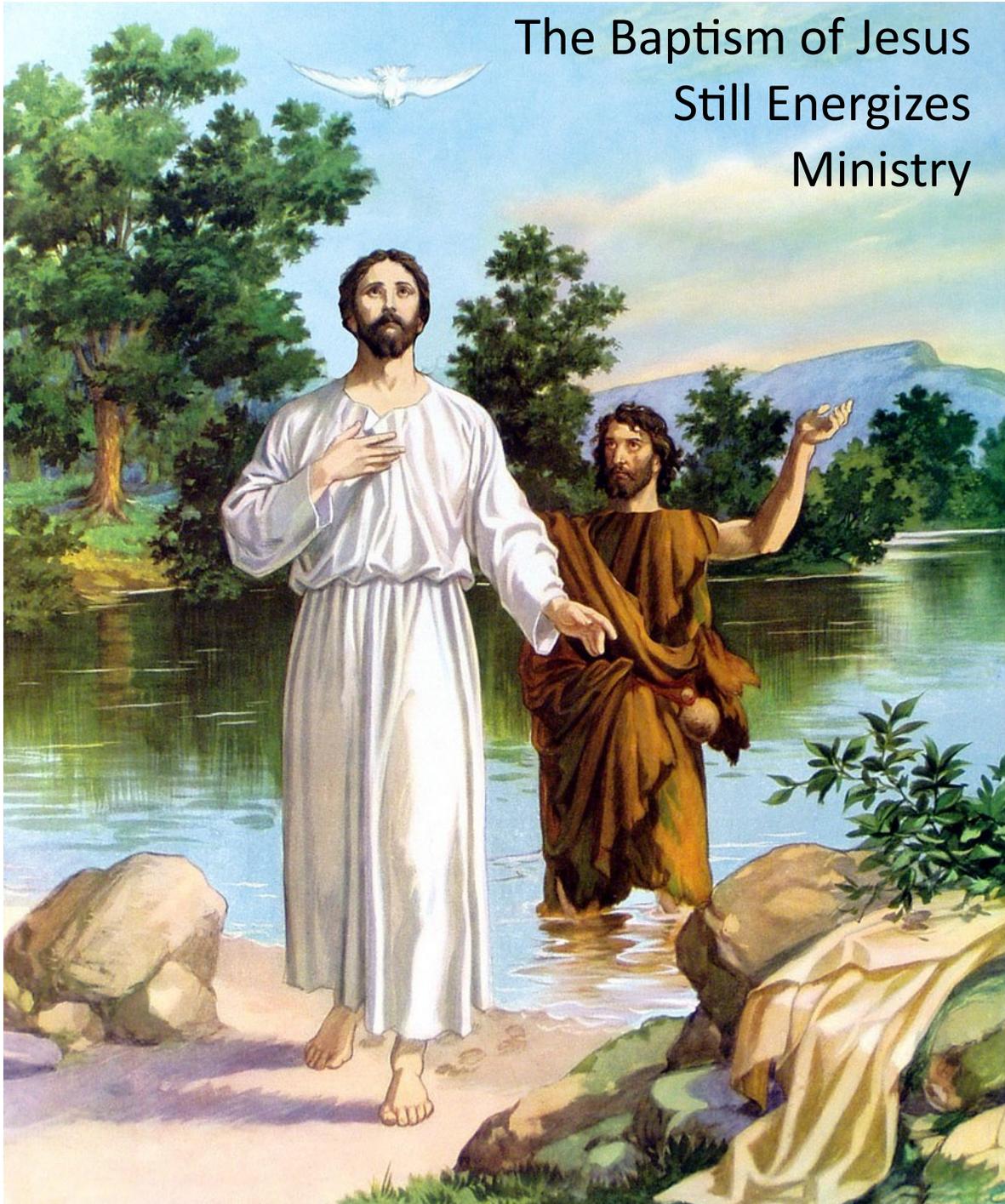


The Baptism of Jesus  
Still Energizes  
Ministry



**Welcome, guests!** At St. John's you will find our worship services are designed to praise God and enrich your faith. God's blessings on your worship!

**What's next?**

If you're just getting back to church or looking for a new church, let this be your road map on the journey.

- **Come back next week.** Continue to strengthen your connection to God's Word and his people.
- **Sign up for The Four Key Concepts.** This short course gives you the very basics for a good relationship with God and an introduction to his precious Word, the Bible.
- **Sign up for Bible Inquirer's Class.** This comparative religions course digs into the Bible's basic teachings while letting you see how other religions and denominations, including ours, handle those teachings. You get to see the Bible's own word on these topics and let God's Spirit show you what the Bible says. This is a pre-requisite for membership here because we base membership not on feelings and style but on unity in God's precious truths.

- **Personal Hearing Devices** are available in the pass-through window near the elevator.
- **Please silence** or turn off your cell, for an undisturbed worship hour!
- **Restrooms** are downstairs, through doors on the west wall.
- **For Parents:** If your child is restless during the service, please use the lobby or lower level to quiet him/her down before rejoining worship. Children's worship bags, next to the elevator door, are available for use during the service.
- **Offerings:** Our offerings allow us to participate in God's kingdom work. If you are a guest, you are not expected to participate in the offering. We're just glad you can be here and listen to God's Word with us!
- There are **resources for you and your family** to discover on the display tables in the narthex (lobby). Take home some helpful tools and news – free!
- **Sunday School** is a HUGE blessing for all ages at St. John's! Just after the announcements, children are encouraged to head for the lobby to meet up with their Sunday School teachers. They'll lead them to snacks and the start of Sunday School! Adults and teens can head downstairs where the fun begins in a topic focused on growing your lifestyle and character.

**Our Mission Statement**  
*Learn, love, live for Christ!*

## **The Baptism of Jesus Still Energizes Ministry**

*Today we celebrate the time Jesus was baptized. He did not need to have any sins washed away, but, as a pure human, he did need the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit, who comes along with baptism. The whole message and ministry of Jesus launches at his baptism, which inspires our focus today on the preaching and teaching ministry into which he calls young men and women.*

### **PASTOR'S WELCOME**

**OPENING HYMN** – *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun*

CW 84

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you!

**Congregation: And also with you!**

### **CONFESSION OF SINS**

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I was altogether sinful at birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

### OH, TASTE AND SEE

M: Let us pray.

*The minister says the Prayer of the Day.*

**C: Amen.**

## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 – *Found the right candidate!*

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? Saul will hear about it and 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 man looks at. Man looks 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, “but he is tending the sheep.”

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

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

Then the LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; he 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 upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah.

**PSALM 2** – *They oppose God so strongly!*

page 65 in the front of the hymnal

**SECOND LESSON:** Titus 3:4-7 – *It’s always grace!*

<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.

**HYMN** – *To Jordan’s River Came Our Lord*

CW 89

**MESSAGE**

### ***Jesus Was Baptized, Too...***

Luke 3:15-18, 21-22

<sup>15</sup>The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. <sup>16</sup>John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with 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>18</sup>And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.

<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.”

- I. It showed his willingness to serve as your Savior.
- II. It pointed to the baptism he has given to save you.

#### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**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.**

**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.**

### **THANKSGIVING**

#### **OFFERING**

*This is a good time to sign the Friendship Registers. Please share as much as you would like, ask a question, indicate change in contact information, etc.*

*As the offering is brought forward, please rise to sing hymn 83, verse 3, As with Gladness Men of Old.*

#### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**M:** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death.

**C:** You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.

**M:** Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

**C:** You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.

M: Prince of peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

**C: Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.**

M: Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn:

**C: Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

M: Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

**C: Amen.**

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

#### HYMN – *Christ, Your Footprints Through the Desert*

- 1. Christ, your footprints through the desert led to Jordan's flowing stream. There you heard the herald crying Israel's old prophetic dream:  
"He is coming! He is coming! He will cleanse the earth with flame!  
Sinners, plunge beneath the waters! Wash away your guilt and shame!"**

2. **Christ, you heard the stirring summons as by Jordan's bank you stood;  
Bathed, though sinless, with your people in the river's cleansing flood.  
High above, the heavens opened; came the Spirit as a dove;  
Spoke a voice beyond all hearing: "See my Son, the one I love!"**
  
3. **Son of God, the road from Jordan led at last to Calvary's hill.  
There upon the cross forsaken, you fulfilled the Father's will.  
Lamb of God, we see you dying, sinless, yet for sinners slain.  
But where death rose up to triumph, you began your glorious reign!**
  
4. **God, in Baptism you have made us one with Christ, our risen Lord;  
Freed us, claimed us, cleansed, forgiven through the water and the Word.  
Help us hear your urgent summons, calling us to serve you now.  
Send us forth, your sons and daughters, with the cross upon our brow.**

#### **CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING**

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people.  
Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and  
bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and  
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the  
Lord with gladness.

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.

**C: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN – *We All Are One in Mission***

CW 566

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*After the announcements, children are invited to head into the lobby and meet up with the Sunday School teachers. They will lead the children to the snack area and the beginning of Sunday School!*

*Serving in God's House Today*

**Officiant** ..... Pastor Michael Otterstatter  
**Organist** ..... Noah Melso  
**Lector** ..... Todd Hammerschmidt  
**Elder on Duty** ..... David Silfies  
**Counters** ..... J. & J. Dittbenner/R. Lochner



**Special Prayers List:** Chary Heideman; Al Maasz; Konner Mathiowetz; Peyton Moldan; George Piotter; Lorelei Tauer; William Trebesch



**Acknowledgements:** All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version, NIV. Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. [www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com) The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc. Hymns and worship sourced from *Christian Worship: Hymnal, —New Service Settings, and —Supplement*, 1993, 2002, 2008 respectively, by Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission and OneLicense.net License #A-7 15805 and/or CCLI License #11281329. Used by permission under Creative Commons license for non-commercial, no derivatives, attribution license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0>)



**Bulletin Board**

**Our thanks to Rev. Michael Otterstatter** for bringing us the word of our God for worship and Bible study today! Rev. Otterstatter is the Vice-President of Mission Advancement at our ministry training college in New Ulm, Martin Luther College. May his work there continue to be richly blessed!

We also thank Noah Melso, our organist for today, who is a student at MLC, and we pray for God’s rich blessings on his continuing studies.

**Bible Class:** This morning Rev. Otterstatter takes us into the challenge about the mission and ministry of Christian churches. He will also share our denomination’s answer in Christian education and our worker-training system. Be informed! Stay alert!

**Martin Luther College:** Part of our congregation mission offerings is used to support the four ministerial education schools we operate as a denomination. That includes Martin Luther College (MLC), where teachers and staff ministers are trained for churches and schools in our Synod, and where future pastors get their pre-seminary training before enrolling at our Seminary in Mequon, Wisconsin. Humanly speaking, MLC's work is mission-critical for the future of our church body. We are facing a significant shortage of pastors and teachers in the coming years.

**Please keep the work of MLC in your prayers** and ask the Lord of the harvest to raise up more young men and women willing to consider the public ministry for their life's work!

**To give a special gift** in support of our worker-training system, please donate in the baskets by one of the doors or put a special check in the offering today! Make checks out to Martin Luther College. God multiply our gifts for this important work!

**Important Congregation/Voters' Meeting next Sunday, January 20:** The meeting will be limited to one item, the recommendation of the Board of Education and the Council to call a new principal to replace Mr. Rick, who has accepted a call to Wisconsin. All members are encouraged to attend for the sake of clear and open discussion. A warm fellowship potluck will follow!

**Next Week's Worship Theme:** *The Power of His Epiphany Presence.*

**2019 Christian Leadership Experience:** Expect to be enlightened, inspired and informed at this dynamic conference to be held March 15-16 in La Crosse, WI. There will be very interesting speakers, breakout sessions, and more. Register today on their website, [www.christlead.com](http://www.christlead.com), for a Christian experience that brings together every facet of your life! The cost for the conference is \$149, but **after this Tuesday** (January 15) the cost goes up to \$179. You can find information about schedule, sessions, accommodations, and more at the website. Hosted by the Antioch Foundation.

**Evangelism Day at MLC this Wednesday!** MLC Evangelism Day, January 16, is dedicated to equipping MLC students to share the gospel of Jesus Christ, both in their personal lives and when they serve in the public ministry. Again this year, Evangelism presentations are being offered that are open to the public! Please join them on Wednesday, January 16 starting at 4:30 pm and be inspired to do outreach one-on-one and within your congregation.

For more information, and to register, visit the website - <https://mlc-wels.edu/event/evangelism-day-2019/>

**2019 Tax Reform Workshop:** St. John in Redwood Falls is hosting a workshop giving a brief overview of 2019 tax reform and practical planning information for families and businesses. The date is Sunday, January 27, with a light meal and refreshments at 5:00pm, followed by the presentation at 6:00pm, held in their fellowship hall. Pre-registration is requested. Please use the form on the next page.

**Summit Avenue Music Series** presents the world-renowned string quartet, Pro Arte, on Sunday, January 27, 3:00pm, in MLC's Chapel of the Christ. For more information, visit [summitavenuemusic.com](http://summitavenuemusic.com).

**Scrip Coordinator Needed at MVL:** Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School is looking for a volunteer who would be willing to help order Scrip and fill orders for families. The time commitment for this position averages out to about two hours on Monday morning and two hours on Friday morning. If you are interested in serving MVL and our Lord in this way, please contact the MVL office at 507-354-6851.

**MVL Anniversary Shirts:** MVL still has some anniversary t-shirts available for purchase, \$10 for adults (S-3XL) and \$7 for youth (S-XL). Limited quantities in certain colors and sizes, so order yours soon! Contact Kristin Matzke at [kmatzke@mvlhs.org](mailto:kmatzke@mvlhs.org) or 507-233-8662.

### **For more spiritual growth during the week...**

- Sundays, 6:30am *Time of Grace* - Channel 9 (KMSP)
- Sundays, 7:45am Lutheran Chapel Service - KNUJ radio, AM860
- Mondays, 7:05pm St. John's on TV - Channel 8, Springfield
- Tuesdays, 6:00pm St. John's on TV - Channel 8, Sleepy Eye
- Wednesdays, 1:30pm St. John's on TV - Channel 8, Sleepy Eye
- Thursdays, 10:00am St. John's on TV - Channel 8, Springfield

## COMING EVENTS

### Sun Jan 13

- 10:15am Spiritual growth for kids, teens, and adults!

### Mon Jan 14

- 7:00pm Worship
- 7:45pm Spiritual growth for adults and teens

### Tue Jan 15

- 8:10am Catechism class

### Wed Jan 16

- 7:00pm Choir rehearsal

### Thu Jan 17

- 8:10am Catechism class
- 4:00pm Worship service at Sleepy Eye Care Center
- 4:00pm Basketball game at St. Peter

### Fri Jan 18

- 7:00pm School Fun Night at MSU Verizon Center - Hockey

### Sat Jan 19

- 6:00pm Youth Group

### Sun Jan 20

- 9:00am Worship w/Communion – Theme: *The Power of His Epiphany Presence*
- 10:15am Spiritual growth for kids, teens, and adults!

### Mon Jan 21

- *Newsletter Deadline*
- No school
- 7:00pm Worship w/Communion
- 7:45pm No Bible study this evening

## St. John's Lutheran Church and School

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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