

January 11, 2026
The Baptism of Our Lord
Annual Meeting Take 2
10:15 AM

+ GATHERING +
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME AND GREETING

PRELUDE Prelude on "Down Ampney" (Come Down, O Love Divine) - Henry G. Ley

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come! Let us follow Jesus to the edge of the Jordan River to be baptized.

We come to be cleansed and made whole.

Come! Let us witness John's confusion and Jesus' insistence that John baptize God Incarnate.

We come to join Jesus in choosing life in the kingdom of God.

Come! Let us hear God declare the truth of Jesus' identity and the truth of our identity as baptized people.

We come to remember and embody who we are as beloved children of God.

Come! Let us worship God who leads us into the baptismal waters and salvation life.

We come to worship God who empowers us through divine presence to live together as the family of God.

GATHERING SONG ELW 304 Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized

GREETING

God who sent the Light into our world,
God whose praise appears in the form of a dove
God who claims Jesus and each of us as beloved, be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord.
We have entered the season
in which your light has been given to the world,
your blessings have been poured out on the world,
and yet all we can think about is our own problems,
our own needs, our own desires.
Help us to desire you, Lord.
Help us to yearn for your presence.
Pour your baptismal waters over us again,
cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance.
Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you.
**Wash away our jealousy, greed,
and all negative thoughts and behaviors**

**that stand in the way of our truly being
the people you have called us to be.
Again, let us receive the blessings offered in creation,
in the birth and baptism of Jesus,
and in the ministry of the saints of light.
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

The love of God is always offered to us,
freely, joyfully, for all eternity.
Rejoice, dear friends,
this is the good news of our Lord. **Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER

Eternal God, at the baptism of Jesus, you revealed him to be your Son, and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful to their calling as your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Please be seated.

OUR MINISTRY TOGETHER – 2025

A review of 2025

Recognition of Outgoing Council Members

+ WORD +

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1-9

At the conclusion of the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows a musical score for a Gospel Acclamation. It consists of four staves. The first two staves are for a vocal part, with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics 'Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the first staff. The next two staves are for a piano accompaniment, with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics 'Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the third staff. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady rhythm.

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17

At the beginning of the reading:

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion of the reading:

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

The same Spirit of God that rested upon Jesus at his baptism rested on you at your baptism. You are God's beloveds. And, if you haven't experienced baptism, let today be an invitation to you to consider making this part of your faith story.

In baptism, God's Spirit moves over the water,

water that flows freely to nourish the earth,

water that rolls in streams of divine justice,

water that satisfies those who thirst for righteousness,

water that refreshes life, nurtures growth and brings new birth.

Today we come to the water to affirm the promises made in our baptism. We give thanks to the Creator who makes all things, we rejoice in Christ whose love for the world never fails, and we delight in the Spirit whose mercies are new each morning.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you renounce evil and turn from the power of sin?

I do.

Do you trust in Jesus Christ and will you let your life be conformed to the life of Christ?

I do and I will.

Will you pour out your own life to nourish the lives of others, both in this community and for the whole people of God?

I will.

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 into hell. 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.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

We give thanks to you, God, for life-giving water. At the beginning of time, your Spirit moved over the watery deep, calling forth life. In the time of Noah, you destroyed evil by the waters of the flood. You parted the waters of the sea and led your people to freedom in the Promised Land. In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus was baptized by John and anointed by the Spirit. In the water of our baptism, you give us life that never ends.

Your mercy is everlasting.

Your justice never fails.

Your healing river always flows.

No matter how we may try to block the Spirit's path, or redirect the Spirit's winds, no matter how far away we wander from the life-giving Stream – so far that we do not hear its sound and we forget its power, God, you find us and draw us back to the water's edge to restore us and refresh us. May this water be a fountain of deliverance and rebirth for all of us today.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Move over these waters.

Let them be dewdrops of mercy.

Let them carry us toward justice.

Let these waters make us thirst for the age to come.

Most Holy God, Divine Parent of us all,
 Jesus Christ, our Savior,
 Spirit of holiness that hovers over the water,
 Eternal God, Three in One.
All glory is yours, now and forever. Amen

HYMN OF THE DAY ACS 959 God of Promise, Let these Signs of Grace

During the singing of the hymn of the day, you are invited to come forward and have the sign of the cross made on your forehead in the water – sing as you come forward and remember that you are God’s beloved.



1 Life - giv - ing wa - ter	soak - ing our dry - ness,
2 Word of pro - claim - ing,	breath on the wa - ter,
3 Oil of a - noint - ing,	fra - grant with pow - er,
4 Bright light of Eas - ter	cleav - ing the dark - ness,
5 Robe of a - dop - tion	grow - ing God's fam - 'ly,



drown - ing our sin each day, mak - ing us new—
 plant - ing your prom - ise— the voice from a - bove:
 nam - ing us ho - ly while hold - ing our pain—
 shin - ing up - on and with - in us to - day—
 wrap - ping our bro - ken - ness in the di - vine—



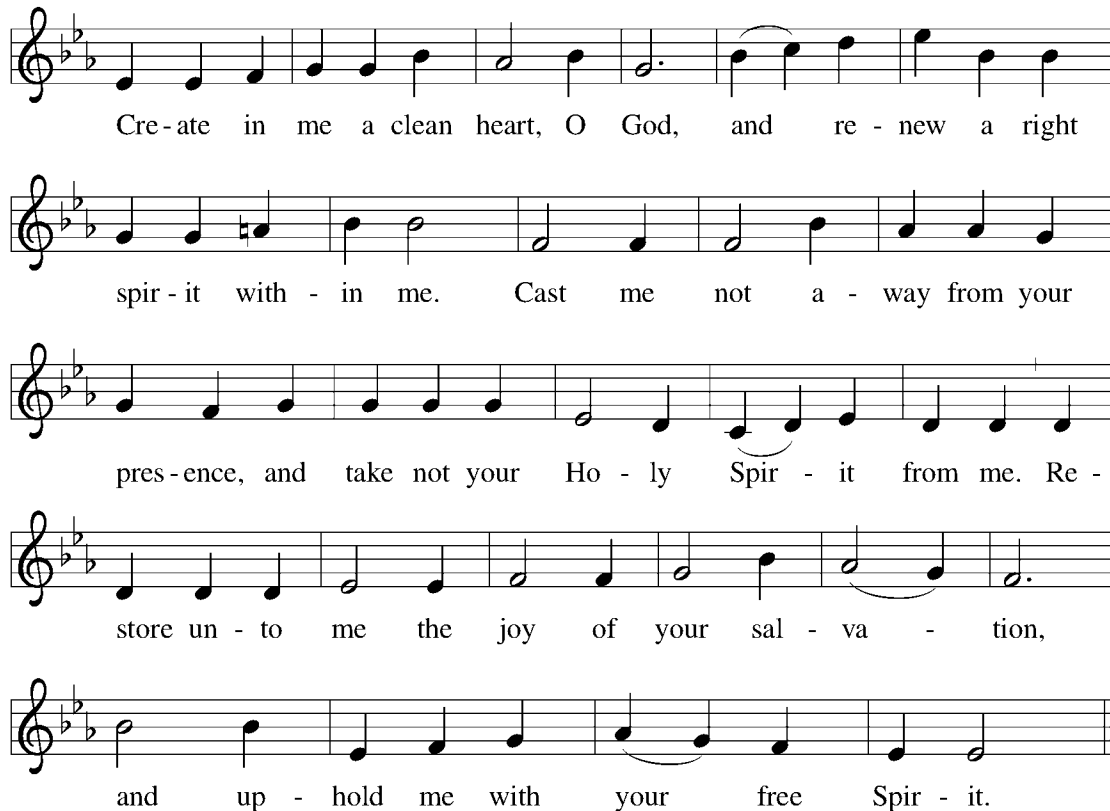
mer - cy come stream - ing from you.
 “This is my child, my be - loved.”
 mark of the life that we gain.
 bea - con of hope on the way.
 love be - come sym - bol and sign.

OUR MINISTRY TOGETHER – The Business
Approve minutes from Annual Meeting 2024
Election of New Council Persons
2026 Budget Presentation and Vote

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING Shall We Gather at the River? - tune by Robert Lowry

OFFERTORY



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition will end with the phrase:

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

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.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

OUR MINISTRY TOGETHER – Looking Ahead

+ SENDING +

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Go in peace; love and care for one another in the name of Christ;
and may the Spirit of God, which filled John and Jesus,
fill your hearts, souls, and minds;
may the power of God, which upheld them,
strengthen you for each day;
and may the love of God, which directed their every action,
be your guiding light and your shining star,
both now and forevermore. **Amen**

SENDING SONG ELW 800 Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE From whence doth this union arise - Robert J. Powell

The liturgy for today's worship service was reprinted by permission from Sundays and Seasons.com, copyright 2026 Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #45176. The hymns and songs unless otherwise noted, are covered under copyright licenses; CCLI 1490857, OneLicense.net A-709256, or are Public Domain. Call to worship written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2025. Confession posted on the Worship Connection page of the Ministry Matters website, <http://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/article/entry/4549/worship-connection-january-12-2014>. Opening prayer posted on the Church of Scotland's Starters for Sunday website, <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/home>. Benediction written by Rev. Richard J. Fairchild and posted on his Kirshalom website.

PRAYER LIST

Please continue to keep the following people connected to our congregation in your prayers: Bob Moran, Leonard Gibeon, David Mounts, Ed & Billie Schanely, Steve Keyser, Andrew Breuninger, Renee Fels, Rebecca Jellen, Richard Ditzler, Joy Miller, Alyson Harvey, Audrey Sell, Marie Wolfe, Erik Ockenlaender, Mary Eberle, Brandon Blanchard, Gladys Kazalonis, Elizabeth Brossett and family, Fred Orrik, John Moore, Paige Seasock, Tanner Antalosky, Bob Schanely, Will Morgan and Richard Mitchell.

	Mark Your Calendar
Monday, January 12	7:30pm Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 13	7pm Worship and Music Meeting
Saturday, January 17	9:30am Book Club at Friedens UCC
Sunday, January 18	9am Sunday School
	10:15 Worship
	5-7pm Fun and Faith

Breakfast and a Book, Sunday, January 17th 9:30 AM at Friedens UCC Fellowship Hall
 Breakfast will be served as we gather to discuss the book *Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal* by Christopher Moore. All are Welcome!

Rise Against Hunger Meal Packaging Event coming January 25, 2026

The Reformation Sister Congregations in the Upper Perkiomen Valley are hosting another meal packaging event with Rise Against Hunger. The event is scheduled for Sunday, January 25 following morning worship. The event will take place at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Red Hill.

The total number of spots for each shift have been divided equally among the seven churches, so St. John's open spots are listed below:

- one person for set up shift (12 noon -1:30 PM) - *requires heavy lifting*
- five people for first meal packaging shift (1:30-2:45 PM)
- five people for second meal packaging shift (3:15-4:30 PM)

A sign up sheet for those 11 spots is outside Pastor Becky's office and will remain there until January 1 or until all spots have been filled. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Becky.

College student addresses are being collected as we anticipate sending care packages this winter. If you have a college student in your household, please share his/her mailing address with us! Send in your student's address to the church office, email stj.stown@verizon.net!

St. James Lutheran Church in Pottstown is looking for a sexton.

15 hours a week (over 4 days)

Be present on Sundays (7am to 11am)

Provide criminal background check and child abuse clearances.

Must be able to lift 50 pounds.

Tasks are sorted: weekly/bi-weekly, monthly/bi-monthly, semi-annually and annually. Self starter with cleaning experience.

No benefits available.

Interested? Call 610-326-2810



FUN & FAITH NIGHT

Sunday, January 18
5:00-7:00 PM

St. John's Church in the All-Purpose Room

Bundle up for a cozy winter evening of **fun, faith, and fellowship!**

Wear your **snowy pajamas**, bring a **blanket**, and enjoy a relaxed night filled with:

- ❄️ *Frosty the Snowman* movie night
- 🍿 Popcorn, hot chocolate, and winter treats
- ❄️ Snowflake scavenger hunt in the sanctuary
- 🕯️ A glowing snowflake craft to take home
- 💙 Simple faith moments about kindness, hope, and God at work—even in winter

Big Idea:

Even when everything feels cold or still, God is at work beneath the surface.

- 📖 "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"
— Isaiah 43:19

Pajamas encouraged
Blankets welcome
Friends invited

Please RSVP by January 13
to Mrs. Hovanec & Jamie
jhovanec2007@comcast.net

This is a come-as-you-are, cozy kind of night for kids of all ages—and for the young at heart.

We can't wait to share this special winter evening together!

THE GREAT SOUP SHOWDOWN

Sunday, Feb 1
following one service
at 10:15 am

Bring your favorite soup to share.
Taste as many soups as you like
and vote for your favorites
Prizes for top two soups
Not a soup maker?
That's ok - be a soup taster!

All are welcome!

RSVP
outside
PB's office!
by Jan 25

PLEASE JOIN THE HEAVENLY HELPERS
FOR A
**SPAGHETTI DINNER
ROOF FUNDRAISER**

FREE ENTRY - DONATIONS
WELCOME

SATURDAY | **5:00 - 7:00**
JAN. 24TH | **PM**



St. Mark's and St. John's
Lutheran Churches
Pennsylvania

SAUCE PREPARED BY DOLCE VITA

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH,
3104 MAIN ST. GREEN LANE**

