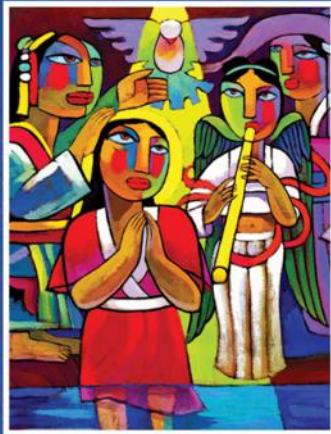


THIS IS MY SON, THE BELOVED

MATTHEW 3:17



BAPTISM OF OUR LORD
January 11, 2026

MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
34 E. Orange Street
Shippensburg, PA 17257-1993
Web Site: memluth.org
E-mail: office@memluth.org
717-532-4614

Welcoming all
Reaching out in love
Growing together in Christ
Worshiping and serving in Jesus' name

Reverend Godfred Effisah
717-532-4614 (church office) or 571-572-0119 (cell)
pastor@memluth.org
Office hours: On vacation through January 29th

Children are an active part of Memorial's community of faith! We welcome you to worship each week! Children's bulletins and Quiet Bags (lots of exciting things to do!) are available at the doors coming from the parking lot. Please take one of each as they may help your children bring smiles into our time of worship!

Welcome to Memorial Lutheran Church. As you prepare for Worship, please silence your cell phone.

INTRODUCTION

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE *"How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord"*

- Behnke

CHORAL INTROIT *"Jesus Stand Among Us"*

Senior Choir

CONFESION AND FORGIVENESS

Please kneel or stand as you are able.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.
Amen.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice, you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in + Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

Amen.

Please remain standing or stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN “Shall We Gather at the River”

ELW 423

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

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.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 42:1-9

God’s servant is endowed with God’s spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant’s task. God’s old promises have been fulfilled; the servant’s new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

¹ 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. ² He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; ³ a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching. ⁵ 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: ⁶ 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, ⁷ to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹ See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 29

READ RESPONSIVELY

¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
 ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

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

³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
 the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴ **The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
 the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
 the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

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

⁷ The voice of the LORD
 bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸ **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
 the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹ 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!"

¹⁰ **The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
 the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

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

SECOND READING

Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality," ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ 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. ³⁹ 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, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ 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.

⁴² 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. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." Alleluia. (Matt. 3:17)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 3rd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:13-17

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized”

ELW 304

Please be seated.

SERVICE OF BAPTISM

HOLY BAPTISM

Baptismal candidates and sponsors, assemble at the Baptismal font with the ministers and the Paschal Candle.

The minister addresses the baptismal group and the congregation.

In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

The sponsors for the candidates, in turn, present the candidates with these words:

I present Eleanor Povilaitis, Oliver Povilaitis, Bella Sailhamer, and Lori Sailhamer to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Eleanor, Oliver, Bella and Lori, do you desire to be baptized?

I do.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your children baptized into Christ?

Parents: I do.

As you bring your children to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with them among God’s faithful people,
bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach them the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments

place in their hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture them in faith and prayer,
so that your children may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help your children grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: I do.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture these persons in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Eleanor, Oliver, Bella and Lori and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

Congregation: We do.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth. Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you. You are the fountain of resurrection. Praise to you for your saving waters: Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well. The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock. Naaman washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again. At this font, Holy God, we pray: Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word that saves us in this water.

The minister divides the water in the form of a cross.

Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation. Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears. Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us. Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Paschal candle is lowered in the baptismal water as a sign of Christ's burial and rising, as the minister says:

May all who are buried with Christ in the death of baptism rise also with him to newness of life. **Amen.**

The minister addresses the baptismal group.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.
Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?
I do.

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, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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. Amen.

Eleanor, Oliver, Bella and Lori, I baptize you in the name of the Father.

The minister pours water on the candidate's head.

and of the Son,

The minister pours water on the candidate's head a second time.

and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The minister pours water on the candidate's head a third time.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The ones who have been baptized then kneel. The minister lays both hands on the head of the baptized and prays for the Holy Spirit:

God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your son from the power of sin and for raising him up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon Eleanor, Oliver, Bella and Lori: 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. **Amen.**

The minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

Eleanor, Oliver, Bella and Lori, children of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

After receiving the sign of the cross, the baptized stand. A lighted candle may be given to the baptized.

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Amen.

Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, through water and Spirit you have made Eleanor, Oliver, Bella and Lori your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: 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; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

All that have gathered at the font, turn and face the congregation.

Through Baptism God has made these new brothers and sisters members of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, and workers with us in the kingdom of God.

After receiving their gifts, the new members return to their places.

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

Eternal Father, you invite each of us to share in the life and ministry of your Son, Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit to transform our faith family into a community of disciples. In this year of discipleship, teach us how to hear Jesus, to love Jesus deeply, and to share Jesus with everyone we meet. Through the Holy Spirit, guide us to deepen our commitment as disciples of Jesus. Lead us, we pray, to grow as an intentional community, committed to our call to discipleship. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Good and gracious God, we thank you for the beauty of the earth and all creation. Help us to always hear the calling to be good stewards of your gifts, caretakers of all you have entrusted to us on earth. O God, help us to use your gifts wisely and share them generously. Whisper in our hearts the reminder that we are but a temporary guardian of your abundance. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Lord, thank you for the precious gift of baptism, that we can publicly declare our love and passion for you. We pray for your goodness and blessings to be poured out on Eleanor, Oliver, Bella, and Lori, faithful servants. Work deeply within their hearts and souls to renew and refresh them each day on their journey with you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill (especially). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Promising God, in baptism we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Please be seated.

BELL CHOIR OFFERTORY "In The Bleak Midwinter"

- arrg. Sandra Eithun

The Ushers will collect the offering.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

ELW 884

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'ly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

MEAL

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

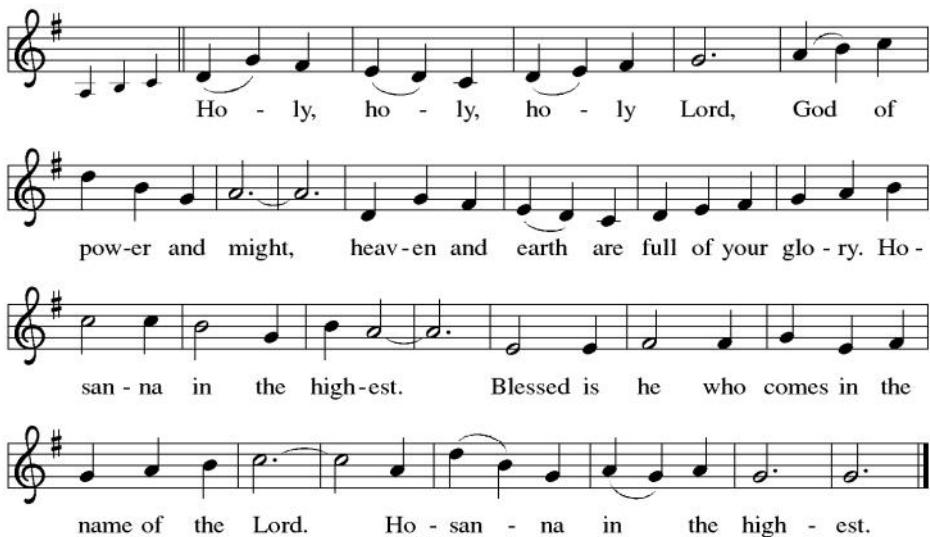
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE - BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. For in the waters of the Jordan you revealed with signs and wonders a new Baptism, so that through the voice that came down from heaven we might come to believe in your Word dwelling among us, and by the Spirit's descending in the likeness of a dove we might know that Christ your Servant has been anointed with the oil of gladness and sent to bring the good news to the poor. And so, with the Powers of heaven, we worship you constantly on earth, and before your majesty without ending we proclaim:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
power and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCARISTIC PRAYER

We sing a new song to you, O God of our salvation, for you have done marvelous things.

Since the beginning of time, you have spoken your word, and your light shines in our darkness glory to you O God.

Glory to you, O God.

The seas are thundering with praise, the rivers are clapping their hands. The hills ring out with gladness and the trees are shouting their joy. Glory to you O God. **Glory to you O God.**

Your son rules in truth and justice, victorious and merciful is he! We praise your majesty lying in a Manger. Jesus Christ born of Mary and lauded by angels. Glory to you O God. **Glory to you or God.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Send your Spirit on us and on this meal of wonder. In this bread, give us the body of Christ. With this cup, reveal the grace of your risen Son and make known to the whole earth your steadfast love. Glory to you, O God. **Glory to you, O God.**

In these dark days, bring the dawn of your righteousness to birth. Hold the living and the dead in your hands. In your good time, awaken the sleeping animals, and revive the dormant plants with your life- given spirits. Glory to you, O God. **Glory to you, O God.**

With trumpets and horns and harps, with the faithful on earth and the host of heaven, we sing to your splendor, Father, Son + Holy Spirit. God most high, Light of the world and judge of the universe today and forever. Amen. **Amen.**

THE 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.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
 way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

All are welcome at the Lord's table. Please come forward by the center aisle at the usher's direction. If you choose to have wine for communion, take an empty cup from the usher. If you prefer grape juice, receive a pre-filled cup at the altar. If you or a child has never received the sacrament, fold hands to receive a blessing instead. After receiving communion or a blessing, you may choose to remain at the altar for extra time in prayer. When you return to your pew do so by the side aisles. Please deposit the empty cup in the basket.

NAMES OF FIRST COMMUNICANTS TODAY

Liam Creek, Oliver Povilaitis, Bella Sailhammer

COMMUNION HYMN "Spirit of Gentleness"

Senior Choir

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

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 “*The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*”

ELW 551

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

POSTLUDE “*Trumpet Tune*”

- Lau

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Karen Larson

Doug & Pat Maun

Jeanne Naugle

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Trina Ruth

All Caregivers

Church Staff

Pastor

Pastor Godfred Effisah

Organist & Pianist

Nancy Fogelsanger

Senior Choir / Bell Choir

Director

Kathy Kerr

Parish Coordinator

Amy Piper



Check out our church website using this QR Code!