

*You are my Son, the Beloved;  
with you I am well pleased*

LUKE 3:22





# Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Reverend Bonnie M. Oplinger, *Pastor*  
Mr. Roger L. Kurtz, *Director of Music*

“As followers of Jesus, we serve our neighbors locally and globally.”

**Baptism of Our Lord**  
**January 9, 2022**  
**9:00 a.m.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE:** *Prelude on the Introit for Epiphany* - Maurice Duruflé

## **OPENING ACCLAMATION & VERSICLES**

*The congregation stands at the direction of the pastor. Throughout this worship folder, the text in **bold type** is said by the congregation. All may make the sign of the cross as the presiding minister begins:*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
who stretches out the heavens,  
who sends light to the nations,  
who gives breath to us all.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Loving God,

**we confess that we have turned from your way  
to follow our own ways.**

**Forgive us for the times  
we have spoken or acted too quickly;  
we have not spoken or acted at all;  
we have hurt those we have yet to know;  
we have thought more about ourselves than others;  
we have thought less of ourselves than we ought.  
Turn us around, and give us a fresh start,  
so that we can live again as your children.  
Amen.**

*The minister addresses the congregation.*

Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right.  
Even when we have mess up, God puts us together.  
God's love never runs out.  
God never tires of calling us beloved children.  
Hear God say to you now:  
Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Amen**

## **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. keep all you are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7 (printed on the back cover)**

*Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.*

*At the conclusion of the reading, the following is said:*

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 29**

- <sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glo-ry and strength.
- <sup>2</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**
- <sup>3</sup>The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- <sup>4</sup>**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.** <sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks  
the cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- <sup>6</sup>**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
- <sup>7</sup>The voice of the LORD  
bursts forth in lightning flashes.
- <sup>8</sup>**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**
- <sup>9</sup>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!"
- <sup>10</sup>**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**
- <sup>11</sup>O LORD, give strength to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

### **SECOND READING: Acts 8:14-17** *(printed on the back cover)*

*Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.*

*At the conclusion of the reading, the following is said:*

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 (printed on the back cover)**

*The reading opens with questions about the identity of the messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved. Son.*

*The congregation stands; then the following is said:*

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the conclusion of the Gospel, the following is said:*

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

## **Baptized and Baptizer**

Today we will look at Jesus' Baptism through the lens of the gospel writer Luke, *Dietrich Bonhoeffer* and our own baptism. The sermon will include a portion of a letter written in May 1944 by Dietrich Bonhoeffer from prison on the day of the baptism of his nephew Dietrich Wilhelm Rudiger Bethge. Bonhoeffer's best friend and confidante, Eberhard Bethge, married Bonhoeffer's sister Renate. Their child was named in part for Dietrich, whose life in prison would end on April 9, 1945 with his untimely, unnecessary, and unprecedented death.

*"Today you will be baptized a Christian. All those great ancient words of the Christian proclamation will be spoken over you, and the command of Jesus Christ to baptize will be carried out on you, without you knowing anything about it. But we are once again being driven right back to the beginnings of our understanding. Reconciliation and redemption, regeneration and the Holy Spirit, love of our enemies, cross and resurrection, life in Christ and Christian discipleship - all these things are so difficult and so remote that we hardly venture any more to speak of them"*

Jesus' baptism in Mark has three special elements for us to consider. The first is identity - John's identity, Jesus identity, and our identity. John's behavior certainly suggests that he could be the Messiah that Israel was promised for such a long time. But he is very clear about his relationship to the Messiah who is to come, or who has come already. "I am not worthy to be his servant and untie his shoes." John, not only knows Jesus' identity, he also knows who he is. He is clear about his identity.

Did Jesus know his identity? Or was that only made clear when the heavens opened and he hears the voice of God saying, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” God said to you, “You are my beloved daughter.” “You are my beloved son.”

*In traditional words and acts we suspect that there may be something quite new and revolutionary, though we cannot as yet grasp or express it. That is our own fault. Our church, which has been fighting in these years only for its self-preservation, as though that were an end in itself, is incapable of taking the word of reconciliation and redemption to humankind and the world. Our earlier words are therefore bound to lose their force and cease, and our being Christians today will be listed to two things: prayer and righteous action among people. All Christian thinking, speaking, and organizing must be born anew out of this prayer and action.”*

God says to Jesus, “I am well pleased with you.” It has been said that every child needs three things to grow up to be a healthy, caring, responsible adult - attention, affection and approval. I want to suggest that in order for adults to remain healthy, caring and responsible individuals throughout their adulthood, they need attention, affection and approval. God let Jesus know that God was pleased with Him. God delighted in Him. God affirms his person, his ministry. God demonstrates to Jesus that He has value and worth - “with you I am well pleased.” God says the same thing to us. God delights in us. God is pleased with us. Being loved by God has nothing to do with what we do or don’t do. It has everything to do with who we are. We are God’s beloved children, and for that reason we are to act like it.

Jesus’ baptism by the Spirit and by fire has to do with separating the good from the bad within ourselves. Jesus will take all the stuff of our lives and toss it up into the air, allowing the Spirit to blow away the parts that get in the way of who God wants us to be. The wheat will be gathered and the chaff will be burned.

*“By the time you have grown up, the church’s form will have changed greatly. We are not yet out of the melting-pot, and any attempt to help the church prematurely to a new expansion of its organization will merely delay its conversion and purification. It is for us to prophesy (though the day will come) when people will once more be called so to utter the Word of God that the world will be changed and renewed by it. It will be a new language of a new righteousness and truth, proclaiming God’s peace with people and the coming of God’s kingdom.”*

The third element to Jesus’ baptism and to ours is the presence of the Holy Spirit, who transforms us in the presence of water and the Word. “Nothing less than holiness is given in baptism,” said Martin Luther. God created us human beings out of God’s love. Baptism creates us holy and wholly God’s own child. There is no greater relationship,

it lasts throughout eternity. There is no greater way for us to thank God for God's love and adoption than to cherish the magnitude of God's love.

The enigmatic question to ask about Jesus' baptism is this, "Since Jesus was sinless, why was He baptized?" We don't have to look very far for the answer if we read the story that immediately follows Jesus' baptism in Mark. Baptism is important to us because we know that we are never alone, because God is watching over us and God's love will never let us go. Being baptized frees us from the depths of helplessness and hopelessness. It frees us to live our lives in such a way that it allows us to take risks that will help us grow and mature in our relationship with God. As that relationship grows, it enables us to take risks in loving other people, yes, even if we get hurt, or maybe because we will inevitably be hurt. The people we love and who love us have enriched our lives. They have also hurt, disappointed and not met our expectations, as we have also done to them.

But God has never disappointed us, because God's perfect love keeps us grounded in the face of the uncertainties and tragedies that life inevitably brings. Baptism overrides all of that because of God's promises in baptism to never abandon us.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire is something we cannot understand or control. What the spirit does within us and among us is something we cannot contain - not in a small baptismal font, not in an immersion baptistry, not even in the Jordan River, because Jesus baptizes us with life changing water, life affirming Word of God and God's Holy Spirit that dwells in us throughout all eternity. Live wet! **Amen.**

**AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM - Donald and Katelyn DeNight**

## **APOSTLES CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**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 to the dead.**

**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.**

**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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

*A brief silence*

By the Holy Spirit, you gather your church and send it out in mission to share the good news of Jesus. inspire your faithful people to be fervent in prayer and service, that all people know they are precious in God's sight. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

You reveal your love and power through water and the Spirit. Guard rivers, seas, and all bodies of water from destruction and pollution. Secure access to clean water for all, and protect the land from drought and flood. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Establish among the nations the blessings of peace. Raise up leaders who will protect vulnerable people in their care. Strengthen advocates who risk reputation or retaliation for the sake of mercy and justice. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**



You protect us through the fires and troubled waters of this life. Assure us that we will not be cut off from you by illness or despair, anxiety or pain, confusion or weakness. Comfort all who are in need. We also pray for Lynn Beard, Jacob Garman, Weston Hertzler, Amy Kenavan, Hunter Leisey, Lillian Logeman, James Martin, Judy Perry, Connie Right, Norma Rhoads, Lisa Riley, Vickie Salmi, Carol Stark, Gerald Styer, Evelyn Wissler, Doris Witwer, Wyatt Wolfe. Be with Military personnel, First Responders, Healthcare workers and the helpers and the residents at nursing homes; school administrators, staff, teachers and students in communities around this country. Grant them healing and wholeness. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

We are joined in baptism to Christ and to one another. Bless those who are newly baptized and those who are preparing for baptism. Help us to be faithful in fellowship, worship, evangelism, service, and justice-seeking. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

You created each of your saints for your glory. We give thanks for those you have called by name into your eternal embrace. Comfort us in grief and release us from fear. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith, through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**And also with you. and to all who are present in worship, we share God's peace with you.** (please remain in your pew for this greeting).

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

*Assisting Minister:* Merciful God, receive the gifts we bring,  
ourselves, our time, and our possessions.  
Through this meal unite us as your body,  
shining with the light of your justice and mercy;  
for the sake of him who gave himself for us,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

The congregation responds with, **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

## **FRACTION:**

When we eat this Bread, we share the Body of Christ.  
When we drink this Cup, we share the Blood of Christ.  
**Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of bread,  
as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.**

## COMMUNION

*The congregation is seated. Lutherans teach that Christ is truly present with, in, and under the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Those who wish to receive only a blessing should indicate this by crossing their arms over their chest. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are also available. As the ministers distribute the elements, they say these words:*

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Each person may respond: **Amen.**

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in God's grace. **Amen**

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*Assisting Minister:* O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. **Amen**

## BENEDICTION

The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* - Anton Wilhelm Leupold

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **Music Notes:**

Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986), the composer of the prelude, was one of the most distinguished 20<sup>th</sup>-century French organists/composers of organ music. He served as organist at St. Etienne-du-Mont in Paris from 1930 until 1975, as well as Professor of Harmony at the Paris Conservatory from 1943 until 1969. Published in 1961, “Prelude on the Introit for Epiphany” incorporates musical fragments from the Gregorian introit for Epiphany.

Today’s postlude is a setting by Anton Wilhelm Leupold (1868-1940) of “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright,” a chorale found on page 308 of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608), a pastor in Unna, Germany, wrote this hymn during an epidemic of Black Plague that was devastating Europe. His parsonage overlooked a graveyard where hundreds of plague victims were being buried – as many as 30 in a single day. It was out of this context that Nicolai found inspiration to write a hymn celebrating the hope of eternal life found in Christ, the Morning Star whose light shines to brighten our darkness.



**ALTAR FLOWERS** to the Glory of God in honor of Ken and Janet Craley’s 55th wedding anniversary.

### **FELLOWSHIP AFTER CHURCH AND ADULT FORUM**

Please join us for coffee, tea, etc. in the social hall sitting at socially distanced tables.



**JERUSALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH** has an immediate need for two positions in the life of its congregation.

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR** - 15 hours a week to answer the telephone, prepare weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters. Other secretarial functions as necessary. Computer skills essential. Please contact Pastor Bonnie Oplinger @ 484-388-0563 for an inter view or more information about the position. Start date is January 10th.

**CHURCH TREASURER** - Beginning 2022, there is a need for a Treasurer. The church treasurer is responsible for working with a Finance Committee, the development of an annual budget, paying bills, and keeping the debits and credits to the monthly fiscal process. Bookkeeping skills would be important as well as computer literacy and willingness to learn the computer program for the church's fiscal operations. The current treasurer is willing to be available to help train the new treasurer. Please contact Pastor Bonnie Oplinger @484-388-06-0563 if you are interested in this position or want to learn more about the ministry of the Church Treasurer.

**IMPORTANT UPDATES** Church office hours are: Tuesday 8 AM - 1 PM Wednesday 8 AM - 1 PM Thursday 8 AM - 1 PM.

We have also changed our e-mail addresses. They are:

- jelc@ptd.net - Church Office
- jlcpastr@ptd.net - Pastor's office
- boplinger21@aol.com - Pastor's personal email

## LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

WEAR A MASK &

GET VACCINATED



Our congregation is most grateful for the ongoing involvement of the Covid Task Force. The information we share about keeping everyone safe at church is slowly changing, but many features will continue to remain in place. As the positivity rate continues to rise in Lancaster County, and with guidance from the state of PA, our Bishop, our Covid Task Force, Worship and Music Committee and Congregational Council, the following are current guidelines:

1. If you are vaccinated, it is optional for you to wear a mask.
2. If you are NOT vaccinated, please wear a mask indoors.
3. Masks continue to be available if you need one for worship, fellowship or learning.
4. Hand sanitizer continues to be available for your use.
5. The ribbons providing guides for spacing where people sit in worship will remain for now.
6. We will continue to have a spoken service without singing for now.
7. Holy Communion will remain in its current form for distribution of elements.
8. The 6 feet of separation is still in place, especially if one is not vaccinated.

To date, no one has gotten ill with this virus from attending worship at Jerusalem Ev. Lutheran Church. Our goal is to maintain that responsibility and care. We thank everyone for your goal of loving your neighbor.

### **Lititz-Warwick Community Chest Food Bank**

#### **January Food Bank Suggestions:**

- **condensed soup– cream of mushroom, cream of chicken, tomato**
- **rice - plain white or brown**
- **flavored baked beans**

***Items can be placed in the box near the elevator on the first floor - thank you!***



## SERVING IN THE LITURGY

**Pastor.....The Rev. Bonnie Oplinger**  
**Organist.....Roger Kurtz**  
**Assisting Minister.....Jill Clubb**  
**Lector.....Jill Clubb**  
**Altar Guild.....Emma Miller**  
**Ushers.....Andy Anderson & Claude Grube**  
**Zoom Monitor.....Mike Fetter**  
**Acolyte.....Zachary Fetter**

**ZOOM WORSHIP** - Here are the links for worship each Sunday moving forward. We will continue to print them in the bulletin and newsletter and they will also be available on the church's website @ [www.jerusaluth.org](http://www.jerusaluth.org).

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7157358191>

**Call into worship by dialing this number (long-distance fees may apply):**  
**+1 929 205 6099**  
**Enter Meeting ID: 715 735 8191 (then press # twice)**

### **Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church**

36 Church Street, Rothsville (Lititz), PA

717.626.8972 | [www.jerusaluth.org](http://www.jerusaluth.org)

[jelc@ptd.net](mailto:jelc@ptd.net)

Pastor's email: [jlcpastr@ptd.net](mailto:jlcpastr@ptd.net)

**The Reverend Bonnie M. Oplinger, Pastor**

**Mr. Roger L. Kurtz, Director of Music**

*Office Administrator*

**Joan C. Dull, Sexton**

**Congregation, Ministers**

## Baptism of Our Lord

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7**

But now thus says the LORD,  
 he who created you, O Jacob,  
 he who formed you, O Israel:  
 Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
 I have called you by name, you are mine.  
<sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters, I will  
 be with you;  
 and through the rivers, they shall not  
 overwhelm you;  
 when you walk through fire you shall not  
 be burned,  
 and the flame shall not consume you.  
<sup>3</sup>For I am the LORD your God,  
 the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.  
 I give Egypt as your ransom,  
 Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.  
<sup>4</sup>Because you are precious in my sight,  
 and honored, and I love you,  
 I give people in return for you,  
 nations in exchange for your life.  
<sup>5</sup>Do not fear, for I am with you;  
 I will bring your offspring from the east,  
 and from the west I will gather you;  
<sup>6</sup>I will say to the north, "Give them up,"  
 and to the south, "Do not withhold;  
 bring my sons from far away  
 and my daughters from the end of  
 the earth—  
<sup>7</sup>everyone who is called by my name,  
 whom I created for my glory,  
 whom I formed and made."

**Psalm 29****SECOND READING: Acts 8:14-17**

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup>The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup>(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup>Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. 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 granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>21</sup>Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11.

Cover: Baptism of Jesus. Photo copyright © Lucinda Naylor. All rights reserved. Used by permission of the photographer.

Readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States. Revised Common Lectionary copyright © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT), admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Please visit our website at [www.augsburgfortress.org](http://www.augsburgfortress.org).

Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Printed in U.S.A.

Tracks 1 and 2  
 ELCA-R