**Worship Plan for Sunday, January 12, 2025** **\* Baptism of Our Lord**

**Introduction to the day**

Today’s festival rejoices in God’s blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God’s children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we “pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire.” On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God’s Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

**GOSPEL MESSAGE: Filled with Expectation**

At the beginning of the Epiphany season, we encounter John the baptizer, serving people who are filled with expectation. Curiosity is the birthplace of expectation. Many people were curious about whether John might be the expected messiah. They were hopeful that the dreams of their people were about to be fulfilled by this strange and solitary prophet.

Sometimes we are exuberant when our expectations are fulfilled. We know this feeling when a new baby is born, a family member graduates from college or attains a new job, or a summer vacation is around the corner. Other times, we are devastated by unfulfilled expectations—when a loved one dies in hospice, a pink slip is given at work, or a house is foreclosed.

Expectation can lead to great happiness or to depression. John’s followers’ expectations were correct but misplaced. John redirected their hopes to Jesus, who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

In what ways can we joyfully expect God’s good work in our own lives? Have we put our hope in people or things guaranteed to disappoint us? How might life be different if we put all our hope for the future in the good plan of God?

At Jesus’ baptism, the heavens opened and a dove descended. Then God spoke these life-changing and transformative words: “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased” (Luke 3:22).

When we were baptized, God spoke words like these over us as well. As creations made in God’s own image, we are innately beloved and pleasing to God. May this truth change how we navigate through the world and fill us with joyful expectation for God’s good plan to come.

**Processional**

**AM: Welcome**

Good morning! It's wonderful to see all of you this morning! Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church, where grace and love abound and the Holy Spirit uplifts and inspires us. A special welcome to those joining us on line, to those of you who are here for the first time, and to our guest pastor, Shane Freiberg. Exciting things are happening here during our search for a permanent pastor, and everyone is encouraged to participate fully, whether you are a first-time visitor, or have been around for a while.

**AM: ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The altar flowers were provided by Eileen Johnson celebrating her mother's birthday.

If you are planning to run for the Church Council or the Endowment Fund Board, please get a short bio to Lynn no later than this Thursday, January 16th.

Thank you to everyone who came out and helped "undecorate" for Christmas yesterday!

For the month of January, we are collecting canned chili, grocery bags, and empty egg cartons for the Community Cupboard. Please place donations in the wire basket in the foyer.

For more information and a complete monthly calendar, contact the church office.

**WELCA Board Installation**

**P:** At this time, I would like to invite forward the new members of the WELCA Board for their installation.

**P:** The Lord be with you.

I have been authorized to install these members, who have accepted the call as faithful leaders for the Women of the ELCA (WELCA) board of Faith Lutheran Church.

Candy Pellechio: President Kandie Hulme: Treasurer

Diane Molina: Vice President Bea Olsen: Secretary

**P:** A reading from Romans 12: “As in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another”.

**P:** Sisters in Christ, after prayerful deliberations, you have been chosen for leadership responsibilities in the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We rejoice in the gifts God has given you, and in your willingness to offer them in this service.

**P:** Do you faithfully agree to continue in your growth in faith, encourage others to offer their talents, seek to lead this organization’s ministry in action, and accept responsibility for the financial and constitutional order of this congregational unit of Women of the ELCA? If so, please respond, “Yes, and I ask God to help and guide me.”

**Board Members:** Yes, and I ask God to help and guide me.

**P:** Family of Faith, do you agree to faithfully uplift, support, and pray for these Spirit-led bold sisters in Christ? If so, please respond, “Yes, and we ask God to help and guide us.”

**All: Yes, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

**P:** I now declare you installed as Congregational Unit Board Officers and Members of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

**P: Silence**

Let us take a moment of silence to quiet our hearts and minds and prepare for worship.

**P: Gathering**

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

**P: 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.**

This is the day that the Lord has made,

**let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

**AM: Please turn to hymn 304**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Gathering Song:*Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized* (ELW 304, v, 1, 2, 4)**

**P: Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

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

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**P: Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

**Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who 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.**

**Amen.**

**Children's Chat**

**P: Word**

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

**Lector: First Reading:** Isaiah 43:1-7

1 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. 2 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. 3 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. 4 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. 5 Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; 6 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— 7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**AM: Psalmody:** Psalm 29

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.

Amen.

**Lector: Second Reading:** Acts 8:14-17

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

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation (ELW p. 151)**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

***Please stand for the gospel***

**P: Gospel:** Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16 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. 17 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.” 21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, 22 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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**AM: Please turn to hymn 793**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Hymn of the Day: *Be Thou My Vision* (ELW 793)**

**AM: Apostle's Creed**

We continue as we confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

**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.**

**Pastor and Assisting Minister: Prayers of Intercession**

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news, especially Young Adults in Global Mission and international congregations. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your voice sounds over the waters. Speak words of healing over the rivers and lakes, seas and oceans. Heeding your voice, lead us to care for water, and the land and creatures it nourishes. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery, especially Kiki; Lynn Bennett; Rudy Bosinger; Arnette Calkins; Vicki Crow; Eleanor Diaz; Reba Dyer; Doris Hays; Sarge Hunter; Pat Loughboro; Patsy Loughboro; Donna McCain; Jean Miles; Sandra Miller; Thordis Moe; Carol Morris; Michael Myers; Esther Neumen; Marilyn Rieti; Dee Seel; Amy Sinclair; Joyce Stromberg; Diana Ward; the homebound; the emergency responders; and those grieving and anticipating surgery or tests. At this time, we also pray for those we name aloud or silently in our hearts.

Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You draw us into community. Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You grant us peace. Comfort all who grieve. Dwell with us in this life and, at the last, join us with the saints whom you have created, formed, and named. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

**Amen.**

**P: Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**P: Offering**

Today’s Ministry Highlight is Small Groups. These are smaller groups who meet for specific reasons. The “4 + 1” group which meets the third Tuesday of each month at 10am is designed for sharing how God is active in our lives using scripture as a “conversation starter”. The “Plus One” is Jesus. Small Groups are designed to lead us into closer relationship with others. Confidentiality is maintained by mutual agreement. Please keep these groups in your prayers. All are welcome.

**AM: Offering Prayer**

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**AM: Please turn to hymn 453**

***Please feel free to either listen to our musical offering or sing along***

**Musical Offering:*Baptized and Set Free* (ELW 453)**

**P: Great Thanksgiving**

**Dialogue (ELW p. 152)**

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.**

**P: Preface (ELW p. 153)**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy (all sing) (ELW p. 153)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow’r and might: Heav’n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**P: Thanksgiving at the Table**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In 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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**P: INSTRUCTION FOR COMMUNION**

As you are comfortable, you are invited to come forward to receive communion. All of God’s children are welcome to Christ’s table.

Gather at the altar rail to receive the communion elements or if you wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. You may commune yourself once you’ve received the communion elements. Please commune the bread first, turn over the vessel and then carefully open the grape juice. A gluten-free option is available upon request. Please deposit empty cups in the provided baskets on your way back to your seat.

If you would like communion brought to you at your seat, indicate by raising your hand for the Assisting Minister to see and they will bring communion to you.

**P: Invitation to Communion**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**During Distribution: *O Lord, Now Let Your Servant* (ELW 313)**

***Here Is Bread* (ELW 483)**

***Eat This Bread: Jesus Christ, Bread of Life* (ELW 472)**

**P: Communion**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

**AM: Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**P: Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

**P: Please turn to hymn 459**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Sending Song:*Wade in the Water* (ELW 459)**

**AM: Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**AM: Invitation**

The Church Council Members invite guests and visitors to come and meet us in the narthex as you exit so that we can meet and welcome you. All are welcome to join us in the Fellowship Hall for cookies, coffee and conversation.

**THIS WEEK AT FAITH**

Monday, the 13th: The Strategic Planning team meets at 1:00

Tuesday, the 14th: Hymn Planners meet at 10:00; WELCA Board meets at 12:30; Outreach team meets at 2:30

Wednesday, the 15th: Menifee Reads! Book Club meets at 7:00 pm

Thursday, the 16th: WELCA Bible Study begins at 6:00 pm

Friday, the 17th: Stewardship team meets at 10:00; Al-Anon meets at 10:30; Transition team meets at 1:00

Sunday, the 19th: Worship with Pr. Shane and New Member Sunday

*CCLI License #2153992*

*From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.*