



Union Lutheran Church

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Baptism of Our Lord

January 7, 2024

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

*(Please stand when indicated by *)*

Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) green hymnal

With One Voice (WOV) blue hymnal

P=Pastor, C=Congregation, L=Lay Reader

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Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

Ashley Deaton

GATHERING

*Order for Confession and Forgiveness

The worship leader begins with the invocation. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19)

C **Amen**

P Make us to know your ways, O Lord, and teach us your paths. Lead us in your truth and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation; for whom we wait. (Psalm 25:4-5)

C **Amen**

P If we say we have fellowship with God while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; but if we walk in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:6-7)

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.

C **According to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Cast us not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit. Amen** (Psalm 51:1-2, 10-12)

The worship leader addresses the congregation.

P Let it be known to you, that through Jesus Christ, the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. (1 John 1:6-7) He commanded us to preach and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. (Acts 10:42-43)

C Amen

* Hymn: *Baptized in Water*

WOV# 693

693

Baptized in Water

Chord progression: C, Am, Dm, G, Dm⁷, G, Am

1 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
 2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
 3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the

Chord progression: Em, Am, C, Dm⁷, G, Em, G⁷/D, C, F, C

blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust-ing his
 tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
 sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's

Chord progression: Am, G, C, Em, Am, G, C

prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

* Apostolic Greeting

P The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

C **May the Lord your God be with you, also.** (Joshua 1:17)

* Verse of Praise *The worship leader and congregation join in a dialog of Scripture verses, based on the themes of the Gloria.*

A Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased! (Luke 2:14)

C **Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever.** (Revelation 7:12)

A Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29)

C **For the joy that was set before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.** (Hebrews 12:2)

A Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. (Revelation 15:4)

C **For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.** (Psalm 47:2)

A God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. (Acts 10:38)

C **And every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.** (Philippians 2:11)

* Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you. (2 Thessalonians 3:16)

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray ... *The worship leader offers the Prayer of the Day.*

C **Amen.**

Children's Message

WORD

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 1:1-5

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

L Here ends the reading.

Psalm 1 *read in unison*

C ¹ **Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; ² but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. ³ He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. ⁴ The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. ⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; ⁶ for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

Epistle Lesson: Philippians 1:6-11

⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

L Here ends the reading.

* Gospel Introduction

Prior to the reading the Gospel, the congregation is asked to stand.

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

C And we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.
(John 6:68-69)

* The Holy Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

⁴ John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." ⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open

and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Sermon: *An Overflowing Life*

Pastor Heidi Punt

The sermon may end with the following blessing.

P The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)

* Hymn of the Day: *When Jesus Came to Jordan*

WOV# 647

Alternate Melody: O Living Bread from Heaven

647

When Jesus Came to Jordan

1 When Je - sus came to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John,
2 He came to share temp - ta - tion, our ut - most woe and loss,
3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, aid us to keep the vows we make;

he did not come for par - don but as the Sin - less One.
for us and our sal - va - tion to die up - on the cross.
this ver - y day in - vade us, and ev - 'ry bond - age break.

He came to share re - pen - tance with all who mourn their sins,
So when the dove de - scend - ed on him, the Son of Man,
Come, give our lives di - rec - tion, the gift we cov - et most:

to speak the vi - tal sen - tence with which good news be - gins.
the hid - den years had end - ed, the age of grace be - gan.
to share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen - te - cost.

* Apostles' Creed

Prior to the creedal confession of faith, the congregation is asked to stand.

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

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.

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**

* *Or, He descended to the dead.*

** *Or, the holy Christian Church,*

* Prayers of the Church

The worship leader and congregation call upon God in prayer.

P Lord God of our salvation; we cry out day and night before you.

C Let our prayer come before you; incline your ear to our cry. (Psalm 88:1-2)

A Let us pray ... Here special supplications, intercessions, and prayers may be made.

A Lord, in Your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

* Peace

P Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Philemon 1:3)

C And also with you.

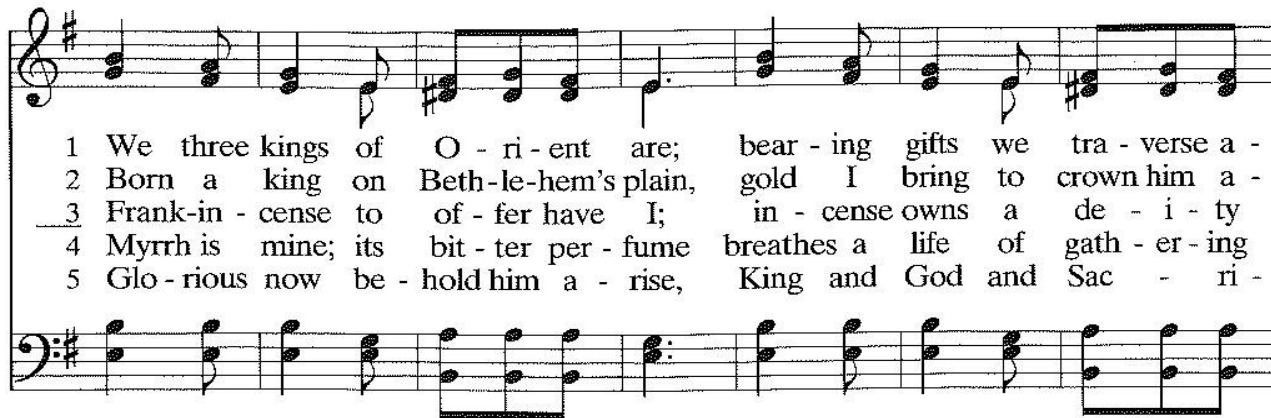
Offering

All loose offering will go towards the Social Ministry Fund. During the month of January, the Benevolence Teaching Moment is on SMI Haiti. Please prayerfully consider giving to the Benevolence Fund.

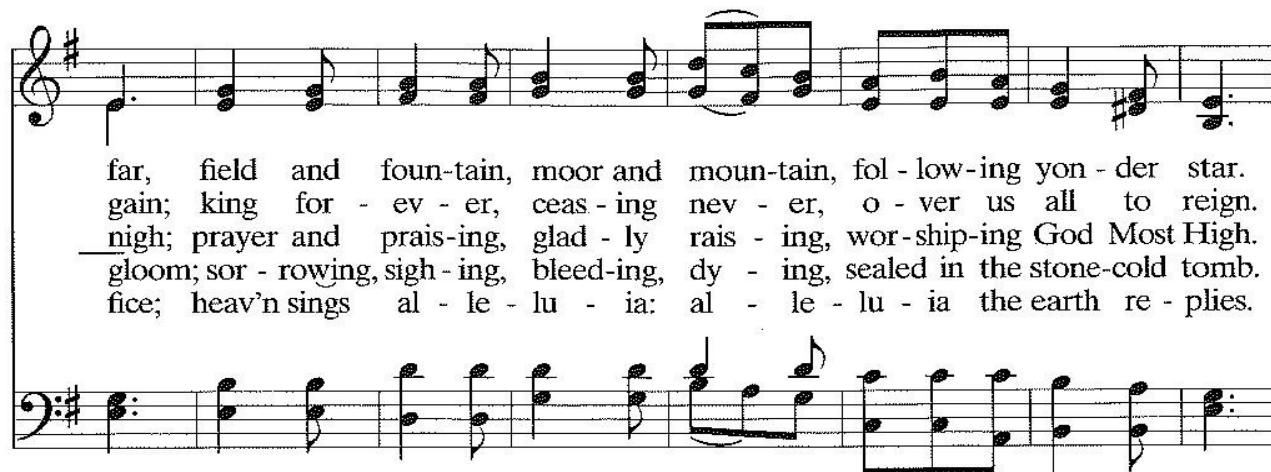
The offering will be presented during the last verse of the hymn.

We Three Kings of Orient Are

646

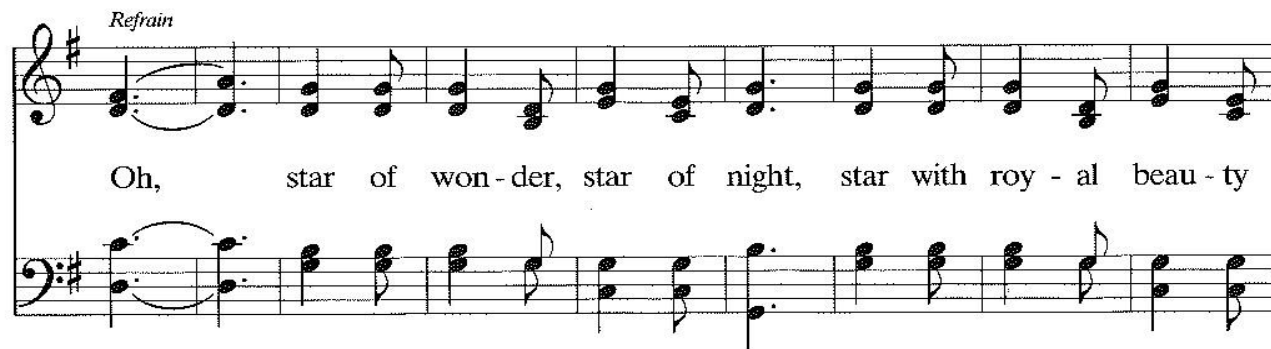


1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a -
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a -
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri -

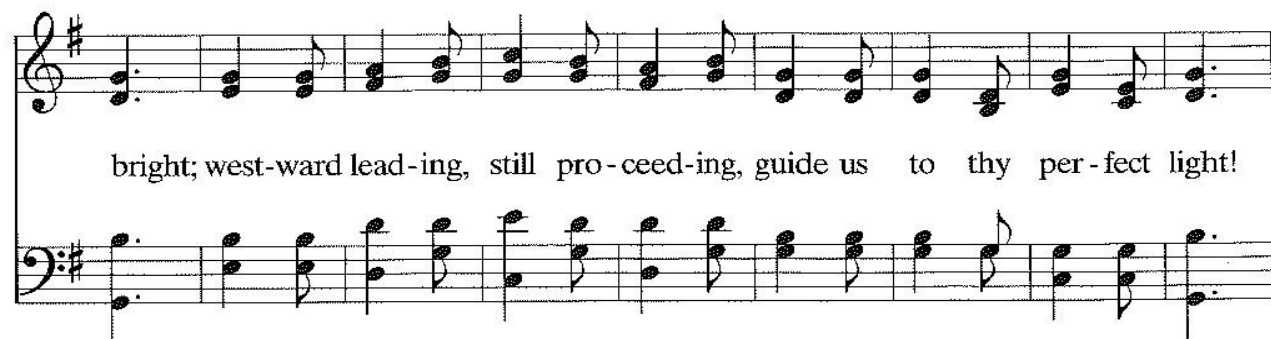


far, field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 gain; king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 nigh; prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 fice; heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty



bright; west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

MEAL

* Offertory Prayer

P Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever.

C **Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours.** (1 Chronicles 29:10-11)

P Who am I, and what is this people, that we should be able to bring you an offering?

C **For all things come from you, and from what is your own we have given you.** (1 Chronicles 29:14)

* Preface to Holy Communion

P The Lord be with you. (2 Thessalonians 3:16)

C **All the saints greet you.** (2 Corinthians 13:13)

P Lift up your hearts. (Lamentations 3:41)

C **To you, O Lord, we lift up our soul.** (Psalm 25:1)

P Let us thank the Lord. (Psalm 107:8)

C **We must always give thanks to God, as is right.** (2 Thess. 1:3)

* Sanctus

P Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory! (Isaiah 6:3)

C **Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord ... Hosanna in the highest!**
(Mark 11:9-10)

* Words of Institution

The worship leader declares the promise of Christ to the congregation, based on words found in Matthew 26:26-28, Mark 14:22-24, Luke 22:19-20, and 1 Corinthians 11:23-25.

P 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.

* The 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, for ever and ever. Amen**

* The Lamb of God

P Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)

C **Have mercy on us.** (Psalm 123:3)

P Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)

C **Have mercy on us.** (Psalm 123:3)

P Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)

C **Guide our feet into the way of peace.** (Luke 1:79)

The Distribution of the Sacrament *As you come forward please take a moment to remember your baptism at the font.*

All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the form of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. All who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Gluten Free wafers and grape juice are also available upon request. Please fill out the communion card in the pew and hand to the Usher while following their directions to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.

During the distribution, one or more hymns may be sung. The worship leader and assistants administer the Sacrament with these words:

A The Body of Christ, given for you.

A The Blood of Christ, shed for you.

* Blessing and Response

P May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

C **Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for the glory of your people Israel.** (Luke 2:29-32)

SENDING

Bright and Glorious Is the Sky

75

1 Bright and glo - rious is the sky, Ra - diant are the
 2 On that ho - ly Christ - mas night Through the dark - ness
 3 Sa - ges from the East a - far, When they saw this
 4 Him they found in Beth - le - hem, Yet he wore no

heav - ens high Where the gold - en stars are shin - ing.
 beamed a light; All the stars a - bove were pal - ing,
 won - drous star, Went to find the king of na - tions
 di - a - dem; They but saw a maid - en low - ly

All their rays to earth in - clin - ing Beck - on us to
 All their lus - ter slow - ly fail - ing As the Christ - mas
 And to of - fer their ob - la - tions Un - to him as
 With an in - fant pure and ho - ly Rest - ing in her

heav'n a - bove, Beck - on us to heav'n a - bove.
 star drew nigh, As the Christ - mas star drew nigh.
 Lord and King, Un - to him as Lord and King.
 lov - ing arms, Rest - ing in her lov - ing arms.

5 Guided by the star, they found
 Him whose praise the ages sound.
 We too have a star to guide us
 Which forever will provide us
 With the light to find our Lord.

6 As a star, God's holy Word
 Leads us to our King and Lord;
 Brightly from its sacred pages
 Shall this light throughout the ages
 Shine upon our path of life.

* Benediction and Dismissal

P The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you ! and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)

C **Amen.**

P May the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all. (2 Thessalonians 3:16)

C **Thanks be to God.** (1 Corinthians 15:57)

Postlude: *Wonderful Words of Life*

Genevieve Baker

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Union News

Baptism of Our Lord, Sunday, January 7

9:15 a.m. Kids Choir (5th grade and younger)

9:35 a.m. Sunday School

A Welcome Truth ~ Luke 10:38-42

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. John 6:68

Drew Wise Adult Sunday School Class

Faith and Righteousness ~ Romans 5:12-21; Hebrews 11

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 1:1-6; Philippians 1:6-11; Mark 1:4-11

Sermon: *An Overflowing Life*

12:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Klutz Kids Family Christmas in large fellowship hall

2:30 p.m. Social Ministry

2:45 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Beginner Bells

3:30 p.m. Union Youth

4:00 p.m. Union & Salem Youth

This Weeks' Activities:

Tuesday, Jan. 9

9:00 a.m. Piedmont East Clergy Meeting at Organ

2:00 p.m. Mary & Martha Circle at ULC

5:30 p.m. 250th Anniversary Committee

Wednesday, Jan. 10 6:30 p.m. Faith Formation/Discipleship
10:30 a.m. Faith Formation/Discipleship
4:30 p.m. Haiti Pastors Bible Study online
6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class
No Wednesday Choirs rehearsals this week.

Thursday, Jan. 11 10:00 a.m. Good Timers (brief meeting)
11:00 a.m. Program and Luncheon invitation
6:00 p.m. Worship & Music Committee

Saturday, Jan. 13 7:00 a.m. leaving Salem's parking lot to Hawksnest Snow Tubing (\$49 per Adult/\$20 per children and youth) Money and waiver forms on a first come first serve basis must be turned in to Pastor Heidi. (25 slots were reserved.)

Sunday, January 14

9:15 a.m. Kids Choir (5th grade and younger)

9:35 a.m. Sunday School

Lost and Found Wonders ~ Luke 15

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. Luke 19:10

Drew Wise Adult Sunday School Class

Faith and Trust ~ Psalm 56; Proverbs 3:1-12

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

1 Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139:1-10; 1 Peter 1:13-23; Mark 12:28-34

Rev. Tonya Brittain, Guest Pastor

2:00 p.m. Finance

2:45 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Beginner Bells

4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Little Lutherans

6:30 p.m. *Fireproof* Movie

In an attempt to save his marriage,
a firefighter uses a 40-day experiment known as "The Love Dare."

Epiphany Blessing of Doors

Linda Kesler has reserved the Altar Flowers.

The Altar Flowers are given by Pat Wiles to the glory of God in loving memory of my brother, Wayne Goodman, on his heavenly birthday and in honor of Genevieve Baker's birthday on January 17.

Those Serving in January

Pianists: Ashley Deaton, Sonya Mulkey, and Genevieve Baker

Acolytes: Tyler Goodman or Adam Thompson

Altar Guild & Communion Assistants: Deena Lanning and Karen Morgan

Communion Assistant: Robin Huffman

Lay Readers: Deena Lanning, Karen Morgan and Doris Shepherd

Ushers: Phil Cauble, Don and Tara Davis, and Frank Merrell

Offering Counters: Tara Davis, Cathy Painter, and Ron Vellines

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

Nursing Home Residents – Brenda Mahaley, Ruth Monroe, Jean Ray, Jay Rusher (Autumn Care)

Homebound/Shut-ins Members – Sarah Bame, Arnold Cauble, Rachel Earnhardt, Tommy & Joan Kerns, Teresa Kesler, James & Jean Kluttz, Glenn Lowder, Frances Norris, William Page, Rev. TC & Mary Plexico, Macky Swicegood, Effie Vellines, Billy Waller & Michael Walton

Sick/Surgery/Recovery – Genevieve Baker, Brenda Cauble, Glenn Eagle, Glenn Honeycutt, Jr., John Knight, Sharon Moore, Kay Morgan, Marvin Nunn, Doris Page, Wayne Vellines & Pat Wiles

Continual Prayer –Bill Broadway, Sharon Peeler Bullock (Sylvia Peeler’s daughter), Terry Holt (Frank & Dawn Merrell’s friend), Pat Kluttz, Fay Miller (friend of Pat Kluttz); Glen Wall (Frank & Dawn Merrell’s friend), Union Fire Department #76, Global Missions (Congo, Slovakia, and Haiti), & those affected by natural or political disasters

Confirmands: Caylea Cline, Mallory Eagle, Landon Kesler, and Noah Trexler

Stewardship Update

Sunday School (12/31)	27
Worship & Holy Communion (12/31)	82
Current Fund (12/31)	\$3,385.00

OUR MISSION:

*Christ Centered ~ Mission Driven~ Traditionally-Grounded~
Congregationally Focused (Matthew 28:18-20)*

OUR VISION:

One Relationship at a Time

BE OUR GUEST

Can't wait to see what God can do!

