

# BAPTISM OF OUR LORD ~ JANUARY 11, 2026



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 250 \* 205 West Jefferson Street  
Cole Camp, MO 65325

**"Being Transformed By God's Grace To Love And Serve."**

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*If it is uncomfortable for you to stand where indicated, please feel free to remain seated. The congregation responds where it is bold print.*



Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism:

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things. Blessed be God now and forever.

**By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. Blessed be God now and forever.**

In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Blessed be God now and forever.

**We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your**

**Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.  
Blessed be God now and forever! Amen.**

On this day of the Baptism of our Lord, we remember all the members of St. Paul's who were baptized this past year.....Clyde Alcorn, Scarlet Theisen, Braxton Balke, Korbett Dieckman, Grace Fowler, Kinnley Kyle, Ellisyn Oelrichs, Everett Schweitzer.

*please stand in body or spirit*

Opening Hymn      "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"      #310

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.**

Hymn of Praise      "Glory to God"      Page 139

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.....**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*

Reading

Isaiah 42:1-9

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

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory 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.

<sup>34</sup> Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> 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. <sup>39</sup> 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, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> 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. <sup>42</sup> 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. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

Children's Sermon

Pastor Kim Knowle-Zeller

*please stand in body or spirit*

Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia”

Page 142

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 3rd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>13</sup> Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.

<sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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*

Sermon

Pastor Stephen Zeller

*please stand in body or spirit*

Hymn of the Day

“When Jesus Came to Jordan”

#305

Apostle's 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

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Sharing The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*please be seated*

Offering

*please stand in body or spirit*

Offertory

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

#184



## Offering Prayer

Let us pray.....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.**

## Words of Institution

### The Lord's Prayer

Hear, O Lord, the prayer you taught 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.**

*please be seated*

## HOLY COMMUNION

By Stations

All who believe that Jesus is present in the Bread and the Wine  
and has the power to forgive are welcome to commune.

Red wine or white grape juice is available.

## Communion Hymns

“Spirit of Gentleness”

#396

“Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters”

#445

*please stand in body or spirit*

### Post-Communion Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

### Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.....**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.**

### 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      "Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized"      #304

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**Thanks be to God.**

# “GOD, IN FLESH, WITH US”



**Welcome:** Welcome to worship in the name of God the Father, his beloved Son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, who descended as a dove at Jesus' baptism. May we all sense God's touch today.

*We invite everyone to enjoy coffee and fellowship before worship in the Gathering Space. Please join us!*

**In Our Prayers:** “Unspoken prayer concerns”, Dennis & Claudia Moellman, Gene Beckman, Robert Tatum, Jerome Goosen, Nathan Vanderlinden, Ron Eickhoff, Gordon Ives, Norene Ives, Jon Beckman, Scott Cash, Judie VonHolten, Greg Ives, and Kyle Luetjen.



Mary Ann Oelrichs (grandmother of Nicholas Dieckman), Mike Wingerter (brother of Susan Goosen), Kathy Harms, Deanna Browning, Debra Eichler, Kylie Simon, Hazel Karstons, Marvin Logan (brother of Gale Logan), Larry Haase (brother-in-law of Gene Beckman), David Mobely (brother-in-law of Randy Healan), Joyce Jones (sister of Connie Gerken), Kris Barnes (friend of Julie Cronin), Joe Campbell, Cliff Eckhoff, Carmilla Swaim and husband (friends of Debbie Eckhoff), Joseph Fuelling (nephew of Paul Fuelling), Karen Haase (sister-in-law of Gene Beckman), Jackie Ross (sister of Randy Healan), and Adam Gumbel (son of Jim & Kim Gumbel).



**Nursing Home:** Vern Dean Bohling, Shirley Cash and Larry & Judy Schlesselman: *Anew*. Eugene Beckman & Florence VonHolten: *GSCC*. Earl Bauer: *EW Thompson*

**Prayers:** If you would like your name added or removed from the prayer list, please contact the church office at 668-3537.



**Military:** Please keep all those who have served our country past and present in your prayers, especially: Rank E3 Jensen Hamilton (grandson of Dennis Hamilton), Private Bradyn Hood (grandson of Connie Gerken), MSgt. Jason Ostberg (son-in law of Suzanne Lutjen) Lt. Col. Ron Poe, SSG Nick Smith and Major Joseph Strathman.

**Audit:** Those with check books or receipts or money market/banking statements, to please have items in to Brian Randall as soon as you are able after the new year. The audit committee will meet around the second week in January.



 Pastor Stephen will be out of the office on January 13 & 14 for an out-of-town continuing education event.

**Health Care:** The Benton County Health Department will be here on Thursday, **January 15th** from 8:00am until 10:00am to assist you with your health care needs.



 **Worship:** There will be no Casual Worship Service on Saturday, **January 17th**.

**Annual Meeting:** It is time to regroup and find out where we have been in 2025 and where we want to be 2026. Come and spend time with us on Sunday, **January 18th**. We will begin with Sunday School Class at 9:00am. Then worship will begin at 10:00am. After worship we will enjoy a soup and chili lunch together, stretch our legs and then gather at 12:15pm in the Sanctuary for the Annual Meeting.



Esther Circle will be on Monday, **January 20th** at 7:00pm at the home of Sharel Wienberg.

**Planning:** Worship & Music committee will meet on Wednesday, **January 21st** at 3:30pm.



**Newsletter:** The Sunbeam committee will meet on Wednesday, **January 28nd** at 3:00pm.



**Envelopes:** The 2026 offering envelopes are available in the [link](#). If there isn't a box for you and you would like 2026 offering envelopes, please contact Russell Oelrichs, or the church office to request a box.

**Souper Bowl:** The Cole Camp Food Pantry once again invites local churches and organizations to participate in the annual Souper Bowl of Caring collection. The church or organization with the most items donated by the day of the other "big game" on **February 8th** will win the coveted traveling trophy. Donations can be any non-perishable food item. Join us for this friendly competition as we fight hunger in our community one item of food at a time!



**Little Blessings Angel Tree:** There is an additional Angel Tree in the Gathering Space which is designated for the Little Blessings Day Care. The angels on the tree contain gift ideas for the day care, including non-perishable food items, needs for infant and toddler care, or a monetary donations. These gifts can be bagged and placed under the tree through **January 18th**. Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plates, designated for the Little Blessings Day Care. **Thank you** for your generosity for our day care kiddos!

#### ~ \* ~ IN OUR COMMUNITY ~ \* ~

**Concert:** The Cole Camp Community Choir will present "Night of the Father's Love", a beautiful collection of music focusing on the awe and mystery of God with us. **January 11th, 2026**, beginning at 4:00pm with pre-organ music at 3:45, location at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cole Camp. Come and enjoy listening to friends in our own community share the love of Christ through music.



**SAMPLE BALLOT**  
**NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION ON**  
**January 18, 2026**

**CONGREGATIONAL TREASURER:**  
**(vote for one)**

- Tara Anderson
- Erin Oelrichs

**CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL:**  
**(vote for two)**

- Melisa Balke
- Greg Bredehoeft
- Scott Gerken
- Lynn Schear



**CEMETERY TRUSTEES:**  
**(vote for one)**

- Mark Oelrichs
- Cody Rice

**SYNOD ASSEMBLY:**  
**(vote for one man and one woman)**

- Paul Fuelling
- Glen Webb
- Janice Gerken
- Rhonda Schlesselman

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:**  
**(vote for four)**

- Angela Alcorn
- Bob Farrington
- Lenny Gerken
- Allen Oelrichs
- Joyce Schlesselman
- Lesa Warden

## THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

<b>Sunday, January 11:</b>	8:45am	Confirmation Class
	9:00am	SS / Adult Class
	10:00am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion by Stations
	AW	Chili Cookoff
<b>Thursday, January 15:</b>	8:00am	BCHD
<b>Saturday, January 17:</b>	NO	Casual Worship
<b>Sunday, January 18:</b>	8:45am	Confirmation Class
	9:00am	SS / Adult Class
	10:00am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion by Stations
	AW	Soup & Chili Lunch
	12:15pm	Annual Meeting



### **~ \* ~ Coming Events ~ \* ~**

January 17	.....	No Casual Worship
January 18	.....	Annual Meeting
January 19	.....	Esther Circle
January 21	.....	Worship & Music Meeting
January 28	.....	Sunbeam
February 8	.....	SOUPer Bowl Challenge

# Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

**Ministers**.....The Whole Congregation  
**Presiding Minister**.....Pastor Stephen Zeller  
**Organist**.....Sandy Schlesselman  
**Pianist**.....Jeannette VonHolten  
**AV Technicians**.....Russ Oelrichs & Todd Rusk  
**Altar Guild**.....Janice Gerken & Rhonda Schlesselman  
**Ushers**.....Melinda Strathman, Head Usher  
.....Chad Schlesselman, Randy Schlesselman & Steve Triplett



## Baptism of our Lord ~ January 11, 2026

**Assisting Minister**.....Melisa Balke  
**Communion Assistants**.....Virgil & Diann Holsten  
**Reader**.....Charlotte Zeller  
**Children's Sermon**.....Pastor Kim Knowle-Zeller  
**Acolytes**.....Miranda Gerken & Fred Goosen  
**Flowers**.....Melinda Strathman



## Second Sunday after Epiphany ~ January 18, 2026

**Assisting Minister**.....Janice Gerken  
**Communion Assistants**.....Erin Oelrichs & Greg Bredehoeft  
**Reader**.....Tiffany Nash  
**Children's Sermon**.....Joyce Schlesselman  
**Acolytes**.....Lexi Goyette & Gannon Elliott  
**Flowers**.....Shirley Logan