

The Evangelical Lutheran Church
of the Holy Trinity
Cocoa and Granada Avenues
Hershey, Pennsylvania 17033
(717) 533-2467

Sunday, January 12, 2025
Baptism of Our Lord

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.

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**GATHERING**

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

*Let us prepare for Worship*

**GATHERING PRELUDE:** *(text for reflection, ELW 304)*

*Lobt Gott, ihr Christen (Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized)* .....Johann Gottfried Walther

*Lobt Gott, ihr Christen (Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized)* ..... F. Bland Tucker/Nickolas Herman

*Lobt Gott, ihr Christen (Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized)* ..... Robert Lind

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

✠ *All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

**All: Amen.**

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Merciful God,

**All: you speak blessing and compassion into the world.**

**Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**

**We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice;  
we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another.**

**Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp.**

**Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world,  
that we may live in Christ's ways.**

**Amen.**

P: God proclaims these words of assurance:  
 “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.”  
 In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy,  
 live anew as beloved children of God.

All: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: *I'm Going on a Journey* ..... ELW 446

Follow the cross as the procession passes by.



1 I'm go-ing on a jour-ney, and I'm start-ing to-day. My



head is wet, and I'm on my way. Christ's mark is on me;



it's on you, too; it says he loves me, and he loves you, too!



2 I'm be-com-ing this day a saint of God. It



real-ly does-n't mat-ter what roads I trod. Wher-ev-er I go, God's



been there, too. God's love has touched me and will car-ry me through.



3 There are oth-er saints who have said a-men. They'll



keep me faith-ful to my jour-ney's end. A - long the way



I want to be the kind of per-son that God set free.

**GREETING**

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

**All:** **And also with you.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: 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.

All: Amen.

**CHORAL INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD, *Sing & Rejoice!* Choir**

*Born, Reborn*.....Justin Rimbo

**WORD**

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

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

*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.*

- <sup>1</sup> 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** (*Sing Responsively; Congregation sings the Refrain and **Bold** verses.*)

Refrain:



Verse:



<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 beau- | ty 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 pow- | erful voice;  
 the voice of the Lord is a | voice of splendor. R**  
<sup>5</sup>The voice of the Lord breaks the | cedar trees;  
 the Lord breaks the ce- | dars 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 wilder- | ness of Kadesh. R**  
<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 a- | bove the flood;  
 the Lord sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.**  
<sup>11</sup>O Lord, give strength | to your people;  
 give them, O Lord, the bless- | ings of peace. R

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

*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.*

<sup>14</sup> 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.

**P:** Word of God, word of life.

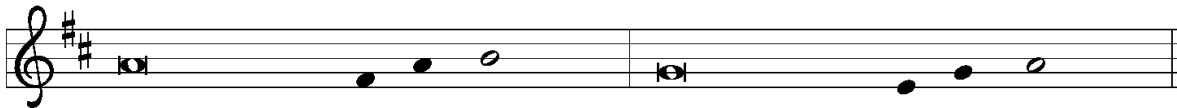
**All:** Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

*Refrain:*



*Verse:*



*A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, <sup>l</sup> the Beloved,\* with whom I <sup>l</sup> am well pleased." (Matt. 3:17)*

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

**All:** Glory to you, O Lord.

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

*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.*

<sup>15</sup> 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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.  
All: Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: *Crashing Waters at Creation*..... ELW 455**

1 Crash - ing wa - ters at cre - a - tion, or - dered by the Spir - it's breath,  
2 Part - ing wa - ter stood and trem - bled as the cap - tives passed on through,  
3 Cleans - ing wa - ter once at Jor - dan closed a - round the one fore - told,  
4 Liv - ing wa - ter, nev - er end - ing, quench the thirst and flood the soul.

first to wit - ness day's be - gin - ning from the bright - ness of night's death.  
wash - ing off the chains of bond - age — chan - nel to a life made new.  
o - pened to re - veal the glo - ry ev - er new and ev - er old.  
Well - spring, source of life e - ter - nal, drench our dry - ness, make us whole.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993  
Music: STUTTGART, attr. Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876  
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**NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**  
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

*(continued)*

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Respond after each petition.*

**P:** God of Grace,  
**All:** **Hear our prayer.**

**PEACE**

*The presiding minister and the congregation greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**All:** **And also with you.**

**MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

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*Thank you for your generous support of our ministry at Holy Trinity. Offering can be placed in the Offering Plate at the entrance to worship or in the Offering Box on the table with the bulletins.*

**TABLE SETTING SONG:** *Now the Silence* ..... **ELW 460**

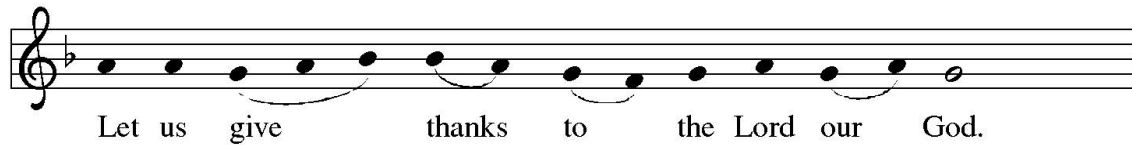
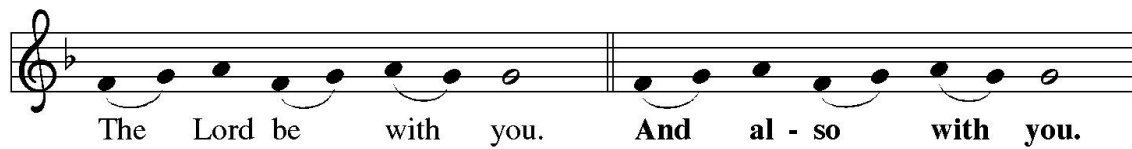
*(Join in singing from the red ELW hymnal in the pew.)*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

**A:** Let us pray . . . God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.  
**All:** **Amen.**

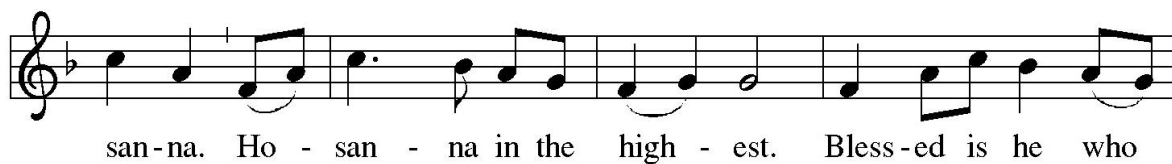


## GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE



## PREFACE

.....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:



## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

**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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P:** The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.  
**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

**COMMUNION SONG**

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.

**COMMUNION MUSIC:** *O Living Breath of God* ..... **ELW 407**  
(Join in singing from the red ELW hymnal in the pew.)

**COMMUNION BLESSING**

**P:** The body and blood of Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**All:** **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray... Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

All: Amen.

## BLESSING

P: The Spirit of the triune God ☩ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

All: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *Baptized and Set Free*..... ELW 453

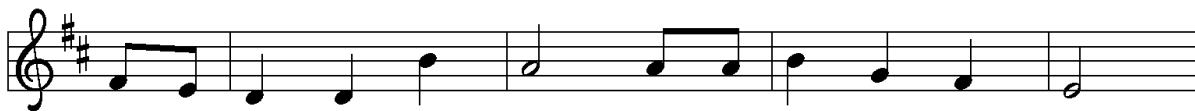
*Follow the cross as the procession passes by.*



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.  
 2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.  
 3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,  
 4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.  
 Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.  
 and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.  
 All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door  
 For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:  
 As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:  
 Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.  
 end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.  
 pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.  
 one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

**DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Live in hope.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** *Lobt Gott, ihr Christen (Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized)* ..... Paul Manz

**ALTAR FLOWERS AND BULLETIN IN THE CHURCH TODAY**

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Herb Brooks by Debra Brooks. The bulletin is given in loving memory of Nanna M. Bettleyon by her family; Vicki, Kellen, Matthew and Kirk. The bulletin is also given in honor of our daughter Elaine McMillan by her parents, Stephanie and Rodney Gross.

**SERVING TODAY**

**Assisting Minister:** ..... JoEllen Myers  
**Communion Assistants:**..... Jennifer Keeper and Joan Rizzo  
**Livestream:** ..... Kirk Sponaugle  
**Reader:**..... Elizabeth Stuart  
**Crucifer:**..... Anna Keeler  
**Torchbearers:**..... Malory Fox and Adam Gardner



Dear Lord Jesus, When You walked upon this earth, You healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, caused the lame to walk, and raised the dead. Now we come to You on behalf of those who are in need today and pray that You would send them Your healing power. Hear our prayer for Your name's sake. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH TODAY**

**Prayer Concerns:** Susan Bianchi, Jack Bishop, Lucy Campbell (daughter of Jacob and Sarah Campbell), Barbie (Hocker) Colestock (friend of Kendra Ruhl), Donna Dixon, Bill Fosnacht, Glenn Hoffa, Chip Murray, Sharon Murray, Tammy Murray, Wanda Oliver (friend of the Lechleitner's), Julia Padgett, Dona Pastuck, Tony Primerano (friend of Steve Shuey), Chris Ruff, Jenn and Greg Shirk (friends of Sandy Stine) and Ed Zaenglein.

**DAILY PRAYERS**

Roberta Anderson, Jim Bomberger (friend of Jim and Peg Huebner), Carole Bowman, Virginia Frank, Mike Hamilton (friend of Kendra Ruhl and Steve Shuey), Drew Herdson (friend of the Dunham's), Dennis Lubold, Nancy Miller, Darrin Mineke (cousin of the Dunham's), Ed Schaeffer, Pete Stone, Bob Warden (friend of Mary Ann Kelly), Melissa West (friend of Susan Bianchi), Vwawa Congregation of the Konde Diocese in Tanzania and all of our Homebound members.

**Members of Armed Forces and their families:** Evan Briggs, Marshal Fox, Michael Kristian, Riley Litman, Patrick Stewart, Tory Young

*We invite you to pray for all on our prayer list. Please contact the office by email at [htluth@comcast.net](mailto:htluth@comcast.net) or leave a message on the office phone (717-533-2467) if you have any changes to the prayer list.*



# Friendly Reminders

**Thank you for joining us for worship today in-person and through livestreaming.**

**All are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.** We invite all people, as well as young children who are not yet receiving the Sacrament to come forward and receive a blessing. Please ask the Pastor if you need a gluten free option. At Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. Thus, we believe that the Body and Blood of Christ are truly present in the bread and wine. At his table Christ grants us forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. *May your hearts be opened, and your lives made new by his gracious love.* Please give your completed communion card to the usher during communion.

**Holy Communion distribution today:** The usher will guide you down the center aisle. Prepackaged Communion elements with grape juice are available on the small table. If your preference is regular wine or non-alcoholic wine, take a cup from the silver trays. Proceed to the Pastor to receive a wafer or have the prepackaged elements blessed. Proceed to the rail where there will be an assistant on either side with regular wine. There will also be one assistant with non-alcoholic wine. Stand or kneel as you are able and remain at the rail for as long as you desire.

**Consecrated Communion Elements are available for “Live Stream” worship at home.** Please contact the church office at 717-533-2467 or by email at [htluth@comcast.net](mailto:htluth@comcast.net) to arrange to pick up elements or have them delivered to your home.

**Office Hours** The office will be open this week on Monday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. To contact the church: Phone Number: 717-533-2467, Email Address: [htluth@comcast.net](mailto:htluth@comcast.net); Holy Trinity website: [htluth.org](http://htluth.org). **In case of emergency** please call the church office and follow the prompts for emergency contact information.

**Sunday School Information:** All classes meet from 9:00am-9:45am. **Children’s Sunday School** meets in the Sunday School room (connected to the Fellowship Hall). **Confirmation Sunday School** for Grades 6-8 meets in the youth room. **Sunday School** for Grades 9-12 meets downstairs next to the Youth Room. **Adult Discussion** meets in room #16. All are welcome!

**Sing and Rejoice Choir.** Our youth choir will be celebrating the Baptism of Our Lord with a rendition of the hymn, “Born, Reborn”, at our service this morning. The next Sing and Rejoice Choir practice will be on January 26th in preparation for singing at the service on February 2. Questions about the Sing and Rejoice Choir can be directed to Izanne Leonard-Haak, Colleen Nielsen or Alan Hair.

**Statements of Financial Giving for 2024** are available before and after the service today, January 12th. Remaining Statements after that time will be mailed. If you have not received your statement by the end of January, or have any questions, please contact the church office, 717-533-2467, or Peg Huebner, 717-838-0686. Thank you.

**Bible Art Journaling** We will meet **TODAY** Sunday, January 12th at 6-7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex.

**Attention, Attention: Our 3rd Family Fellowship Luncheon is scheduled for NEXT Sunday, January 19th right after church from 11:15am to 1pm-ish.** Come out to this special luncheon. This event is open to ALL families and members of Holy Trinity!! At this "special" January luncheon, we will enjoy conversation, share a meal, and play maybe even play Christmas Pictionary. **If you want to provide the main course, or step up and help with sides, PLEASE contact Danielle Mariano NOW and let her know.** These luncheons can only happen with your support. Hope to see you and your family NEXT Sunday for this awesome event!!

**Birthday Blessings!** Mildred Fair and Virgie King will celebrate 90+ birthdays in December: Mildred's birthday is on January 24<sup>th</sup> and she will be turning 100! You can send cards to her at: 103 North Larkspur Drive, Apt 52, Palmyra, PA 17078. Virgie's birthday is on January 25<sup>th</sup>, you can send cards to her at: 8 Valley Road, Hummelstown, PA 17036.

**Faith in Action Service Project-** On Monday January 20<sup>th</sup> 2025, in conjunction with G2:10 Outreach, the Faith in Action committee is sponsoring a meal for the unsheltered in south Harrisburg at the Quality Inn Riverfront parking lot near Shipoke. We have planned a menu and are looking for monetary and in-kind donations of food and clothing items. If you would like to drop off donations or volunteer your time, please contact Rodney Gross at [rodgross@comcast.net](mailto:rodgross@comcast.net) or (717)649-6224. A detailed list of food and clothing items and a sign-up sheet are available in the Narthex.

**Many thanks for your generous donations!** We continuously express our thanks to all for your faithfulness and generosity in giving which allows us to continue to operate valuable ministries and pay for the ongoing bills at Holy Trinity. The Simply Giving program offers automatic withdrawals from your bank account or charges to a credit card; donated through our website ([htluth.org](http://htluth.org)) by clicking on the "Give Now" button; donated by downloading the Mobile App "GivePlus Church" (be sure to select Ev. Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity) or by taking a picture of the QR code. Please contact the church if you have any questions about any of these methods.



**Please send articles and announcements for the Newsletter to** Anita Housman, our Communications/IT Specialist. Please send articles to her at [aahousman2@gmail.com](mailto:aahousman2@gmail.com). She is always gathering announcements and articles for the monthly newsletter. Just a reminder – submit articles for the newsletter by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Readers, Greeters and Flower Deliverers for January and February** are needed to greet people as they come into church and deliver flowers after the service on Sunday. Readers are needed to read the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and the Psalm. The lists are available on the bulletin board. Please sign up today or contact the church office if you would like to volunteer.

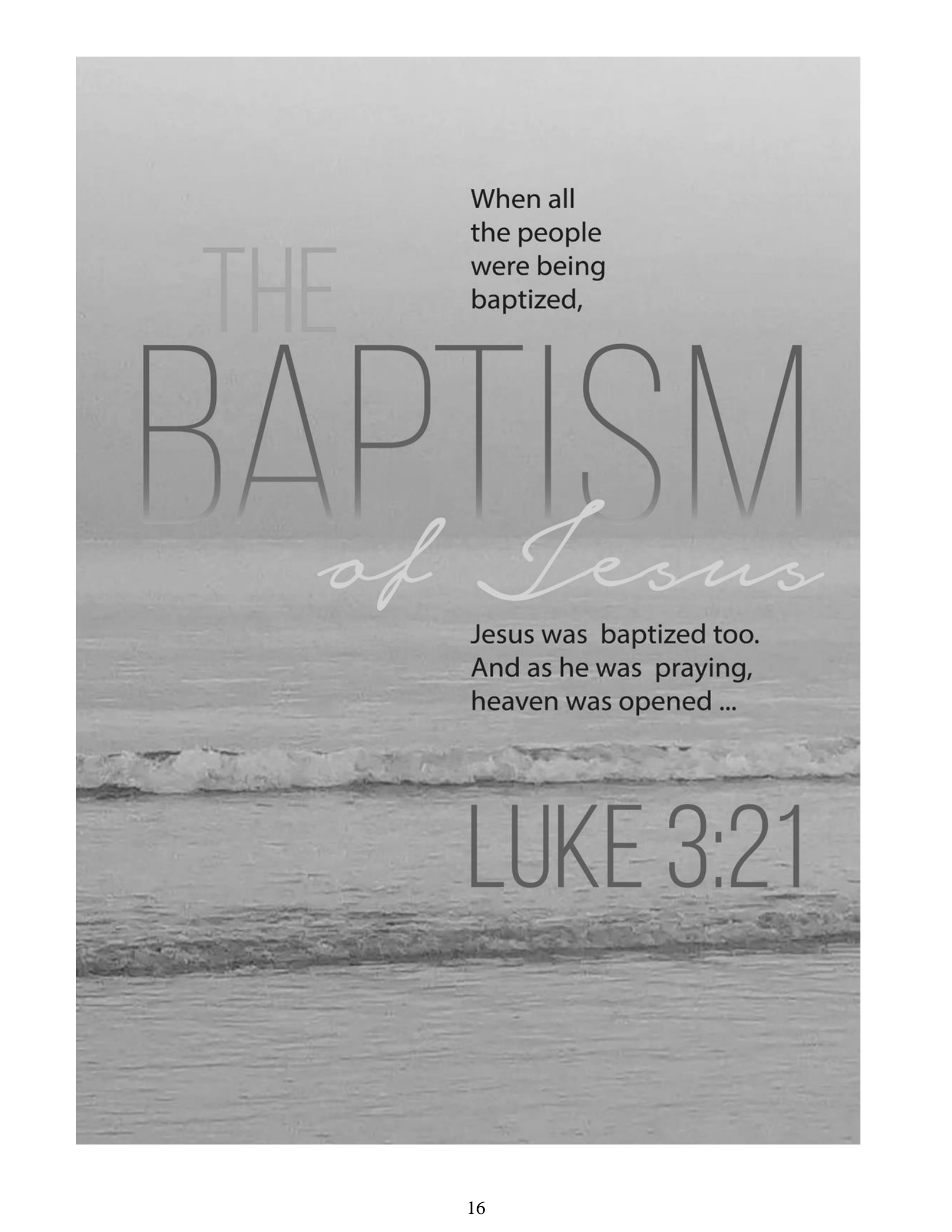
**Inclement Weather.** Holy Trinity will follow the Derry Township School District schedule for cancellations in the case of inclement weather. If school is closed or virtual, no meetings, functions, or office hours will be held. Church services will be held, if at all possible. If questions arise regarding cancellation of Sunday services check the Holy Trinity website or Facebook page and watch for cancellations on CBS21 or ABC27 or online at [cbs21.com](http://cbs21.com), or [abc27.com](http://abc27.com).

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### **You are Welcome Here!**

***Holy Trinity Lutheran Church welcomes and affirms everyone seeking God's love and grace, regardless of faith background, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, ability, size, class, immigration, or relationship status. We explicitly stand against hate and discrimination, as our Church community strives to continually grow and learn within the Body of Christ according to Christ's teachings. We are committed to creating and maintaining a welcoming and safe environment for all people.***



When all  
the people  
were being  
baptized,

THE  
BAPTISM  
*of Jesus*

Jesus was baptized too.  
And as he was praying,  
heaven was opened ...

LUKE 3:21