

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.

²When 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.

³For 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.

⁴Because 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.

⁵Do not fear, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;

⁶I 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—

⁷everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

Psalms 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.

¹⁵The 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). ¹⁷Then 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, ¹⁶John 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. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his

continued

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.

Gospel, continued

hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and 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."

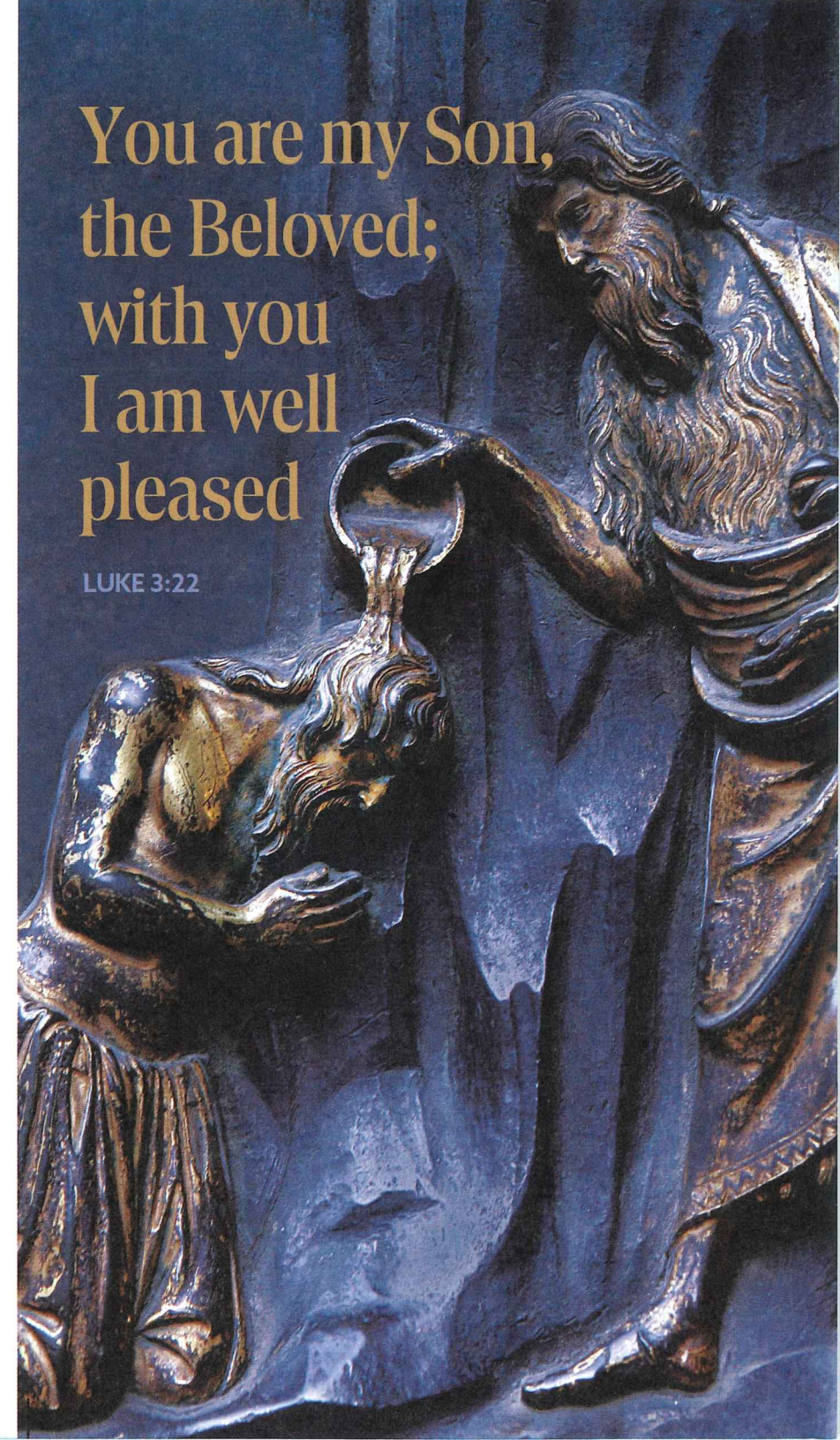
Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11.

Cover: Metal relief of the baptism of Jesus, Baptistery of San Giovanni in Florence, Italy by Godong. Copyright © 2024 Robert Harding Photo Library/Alamy Stock Photo. Used by permission.

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

LUKE 3:22





Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

7800 West McCarthy Road, Palos Heights, IL 60463

The Pastor: Rev. Chris Buresh

The Associate Pastor: Rev. Andrew Bell

The Director of Children's & Family Ministry: Lori Puttkammer

The Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Wayne A. Basch



THE 9:00 AM SERVICE OF THE WORD

A Time for Silent Prayer and Meditation

The Prelude: "Noel" Dubois

The Call to Worship: "**Bright and Glorious Is the Sky**" Rice

+THE HYMN: SHALL WE GATHER AT THE RIVER No. 423

+ The Kyrie – page 213

+ The Hymn of Praise: "Glory to God" – page 213

+ The Prayer of the Day (insert)

The Readings for the Baptism of Our Lord

The Anthem: "**In the Bleak Midwinter**" Wilson

The Sermon: "**The Muddy Waters**"

+THE HYMN: CHRIST, WHEN FOR US YOU WERE BAPTIZED
No. 304

+ The Apostle's Creed – page 105

+ The Prayers (insert)

The Voluntary: "**Hail, O Star!**" Grieg

+ "Salvation Belongs to Our God" – page 219

+ The Closing Prayers – page 220

+ The Blessing and Dismissal – page 221

+THE HYMN: SENT FORTH BY GOD'S BLESSING No. 547

The Postlude: "**Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts**" Saint-Saens

Today's chancel flowers are given by the Buresh family in thanks for all the generosity shown to them by the people of Good Shepherd throughout the year and especially during the Christmas season.



The 2025 Flower Chart is posted on the bulletin board. There are a few dates still open in the next few months. Please consider signing up for flowers to celebrate an anniversary, wedding, birthday or to remember a loved one. The cost remains \$40.

THE 11:00 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

A Time for Silent Prayer and Meditation

The Prelude: "Noel" Dubois

The Call to Worship: "**Bright and Glorious Is the Sky**" Rice

+THE HYMN: SHALL WE GATHER AT THE RIVER No. 423

+ The Kyrie – page 203 (Sung by All)

+ The Canticle of Praise: "Glory Be to God" – page 204

+ The Prayer of the Day (insert)

The Readings for the Baptism of Our Lord

The Anthem: "**In the Bleak Midwinter**" Wilson

The Sermon: "**The Muddy Waters**"

+THE HYMN: CHRIST, WHEN FOR US YOU WERE BAPTIZED
No. 304

+ The Apostle's Creed – page 105

+ The Prayers (insert)

The Voluntary: "**Hail, O Star!**" Grieg

+ The Communion Liturgy – page 206

THE HYMNS DURING COMMUNION:

BY YOUR HAND YOU FEED YOUR PEOPLE No. 469

BAPTIZED IN WATER No. 456

+ The Prayer after Communion

+ The Blessing and Dismissal – page 209

+ THE HYMN: SENT FORTH BY GOD'S BLESSING No. 547

The Postlude: "**Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts**" Saint-Saens



The Organist: *Beth Ridderhoff*

The Flute Choir Dir: *Joy Ausec*

The Lectors: 9:00 *Susan Mish*

11:00 *Deanna Wachholz*

The Acolytes: 9:00 *Jack Dalton and Evelyn Dalton*

11:00 *Allison Schmidt and Nick Schmidt*

Portals of Prayer should be arriving this week. They were lost in transit and have been re-ordered.

The 2025 giving envelopes are available in the narthex today. If you do not see a set for you and would like one, please contact Donna in the office. Thank you!

Our intercessions include:

The bereaved: The Hultquist family upon the passing of Marj



Save the Date: The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, February 9 at 9:50 am. Every effort is made for efficient use of time. Please come and participate as we take care of family business.

Please plan on attending one of the two sessions to hear about our new Mission Statement. One is this Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 2:30 pm. The second session is on Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 7:30 pm. Come hear about how these were developed and provide your feedback.

Now is a great time to join a choir! Junior Choir started up last week on Monday. **Cherub Choir** starts up today while **Adult Choir** starts up this Wednesday. **Joy Ringers & Carillon** will start up on Thursday. **Flute Choir** would be happy to have more participants. Please consider giving a choir a try; our youth choirs could really use some more singers & ringers!

The 2025 High School Basketball season is about to begin. The first meeting and scrimmage will be held tonight from 7:00 – 8:00 pm in the Family Life Center. Games will begin on Sunday, Jan. 26 at 7:00 & 8:00 pm. Cost is \$20 to participate in the league. See Pastor Bell for more details.

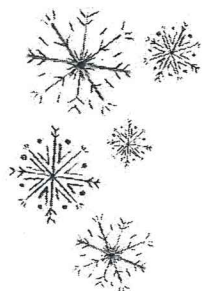
Attention Early Childhood Moms! Make plans to gather together on Friday, January 24 at 6:30 pm for a freezer meal Mom's night out. Please see the bulletin board for meals and either sign up or email Lori if interested in joining us.

Calling all 5th – 8th graders! The lock-in starts at 7:00 pm on Fri., Jan. 31 with pick up at 8:30 the next morning. RSVP to Pastor Bell ASAP!

See the back of the insert for this week's calendar.

DURING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 12

SUN	10:10 am	8 th Grade Confirmation
	10:15 am	Puppets
	10:30 am	Cherub Choir
	11:00 am	Sunday School
	7:00 pm	High School Basketball Meeting/Scrimmage
MON	4:30 pm	Missions Committee Meeting
	6:00 pm	Junior Choir
	7:00 pm	6 th & 7 th Grade Confirmation
	8:00 pm	"Body and Soul"
TUE	9:30 am	"Cooking with Care"
	9:30 am	Faith, Prayer & Joy Group
	10:30 am	Bible Study
	2:30 pm	Mission Statement Session
	6:30 pm	Discovering the Bible
	7:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting
	7:30 pm	Youth & Ed Meeting
WED	6:00 pm	Adult Choir
THU	6:00 pm	Joy Ringers
	7:00 pm	Carillon Choir
	9:00 pm	Prayer Walk
SAT	3:15 pm	Bowling League
SUN	9:00 am	Service of Holy Communion Online service
	10:15 am	Sunday School Teachers' meeting
	10:30 am	Cherub Choir
	11:00 am	Service of the Word
	11:00 am	Sunday School



KINDNESS
IS LIKE
SNOW -
IT BEAUTIFIES
everything
it covers.

--Kahlil Gibran

Welcome to Worship

In baptism you called Jesus — and you call us — “beloved.” May we grow in your love, God, and share it with others.



Self-Fulfilling Prophecies

“Children have this amazing way of becoming exactly who we tell them they are,” writes Amy Weatherly. “If we tell them they are strong, they become strong. If we tell them they are kind, they become kind.”

Perhaps Jesus knows this when he tells his disciples, “You are the salt of the earth [and] the light of the world” (Matthew 5:13-14). Clearly they haven’t already mastered sharing Jesus’ goodness with everyone! They are works in progress, as are we. But Jesus, teacher that he is, seems to set the bar high so his followers will strive to meet his expectations.

“You are Peter,” Jesus tells Simon, “and on this rock I will build my church” (Matthew 16:18). We can hear Weatherly: “If we tell them they’re faithful, they become faithful.” And when Jesus declares, “You are of more value than many sparrows” (Matthew 10:31), we believe in our worth and live it out. We become what Jesus tells us we are. —Heidi Mann

A Prayer for Spiritual Growth

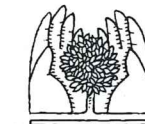
When my spiritual vision is foggy, help me to find my way.

When my understanding is incomplete, open my mind and increase my patience.

When my indifference blocks my senses, touch my heart.

When worry or fear raise their voices, speak to my faith.

Let your Spirit permeate my longings as well as my living and my loving. Amen. —Peggy Ferrell, *Prayers and Poems*



Spiritual Growth

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 who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence

You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized here, in Coronationville and in all places. God of grace, **receive 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 all it nourishes. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide federal, state and local leaders, judges and juries, first responders and our military. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment or recovering from surgery (*especially*). Uphold each person as your beloved. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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, **receive 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.**

PRAYER LIST

Members of the Congregation

Matt Wolan	Chriss Hassel
Donna Dinkmeyer	Jack Tinberg
Lynn Evers	Nicole Baldwin
Carol Ross	Sue Buerger
Bill Johnsen	Georgia Brennan
Gerhard Haigis	

Family and Friends of Members

Chuck Dirks	Katy Peterman
John and Julie Wagner	Rose Shannon
Carol and Rick Challenger	Barbara Borg
Mike Maty	Tom Seiberlich
Clara Gersch	Mary Harris
Jim Lawler	David Payne
Lee Sheridan	Dannis Angeles
Alma Fremarek	Tracy Simmonds
Howard Butville	Samantha Shank
Jean Madaus	Dale Koch
Jasper Farr	Arlene Hajost
Dean Huidobro	Joyce Latham
Al Innocenti	Anya Magnuson
Bob Stevens	Sylvia Rodriguez
Justin Emmick	Howard Gantz
Debbi Barry	Greg Feil
Bill Poore	James Mayerak
Dave Wonder	Mary Jones
Ray Fredrick	Dan Zakowski
Cathi Kay	



The Prayer List has been recently edited. If there is someone you need added or removed, please contact the church office by 9 am Friday. Thank you!