

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Crookston, MN

January 11th, 2026 Baptism of Our Lord



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

January 11th, 2026

Baptism of Our Lord

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WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/SHARING THE PEACE

OPENING WORDS/CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning, at creation, the Spirit hovered over the waters of the deep.

In the waters of the flood, God cleansed the earth and humankind.

God caused the waters to part so that Israel could cross from slavery to liberation.

God formed Jesus in the waters of Mary's womb.

Jesus taught us how to live by washing his disciples' feet in water.

Drinking water from a well, Jesus met a Samaritan woman, the first person to recognize that he was the Christ.

Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, the Christ.

God meant for Jesus to be the firstborn in a large family. Praise be!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us be bold and confess our sins, for God is gracious and always ready to forgive. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, you show no partiality, yet we are not always as tolerant and accepting. Forgive our intolerance, and help us to see as you see, that we may be found acceptable in your sight through Jesus our Christ. Amen.

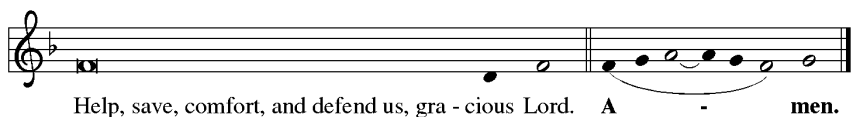
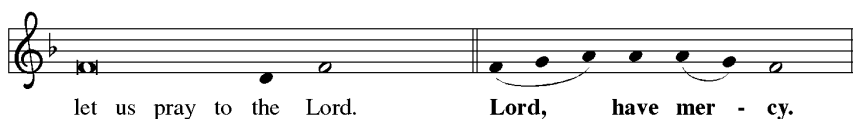
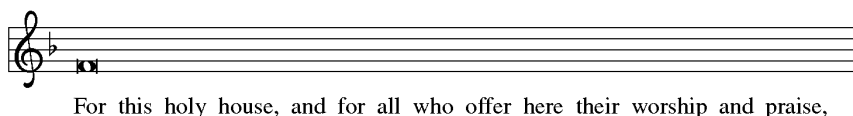
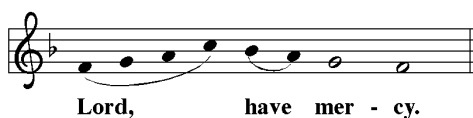
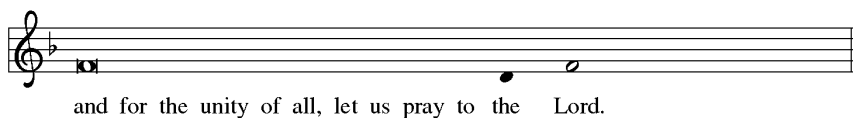
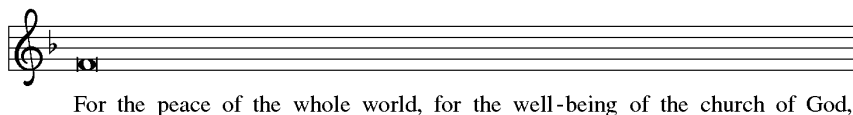
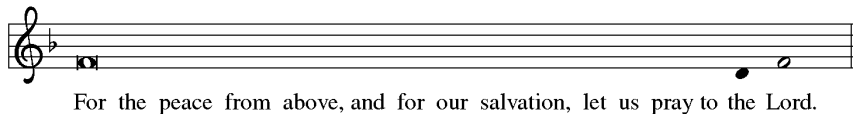
God forgives all our sins and promises to bring us to everlasting life. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

HYMN: #302 As with Gladness Men of Old

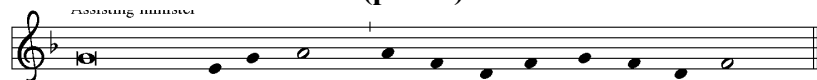
GREETING (p. 203)

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.**

KYRIE (p. 138)



CANTICLE OF PRAISE (p. 140)



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



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

God of life and new life, you are splendid and strong! Your voice thunders above the sound of loud waters. You sit enthroned above the floods of life. As Jesus heard you speak to him in his

baptism, may we also hear you calling us your beloved, through Jesus Christ, your son, our brother. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC St Paul's Choir "Out of the East"

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9 (CEB)

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

¹ But here is my servant, the one I uphold;
my chosen, who brings me delight.

I've put my spirit upon him;
he will bring justice to the nations.

² He won't cry out or shout aloud
or make his voice heard in public.

³ He won't break a bruised reed;
he won't extinguish a faint wick,
but he will surely bring justice.

⁴ He won't be extinguished or broken
until he has established justice in the land.
The coastlands await his teaching.

⁵ God the Lord says—
the one who created the heavens,
the one who stretched them out,
the one who spread out the earth and its offspring,
the one who gave breath to its people
and life to those who walk on it—

⁶ I, the Lord, have called you for a good reason.
I will grasp your hand and guard you,
and give you as a covenant to the people,
as a light to the nations,

⁷ to open blind eyes, to lead the prisoners from prison,
and those who sit in darkness from the dungeon.

⁸ I am the Lord;
that is my name;
I don't hand out my glory to others
or my praise to idols.

⁹ The things announced in the past—look—they've already
happened,
but I'm declaring new things.
Before they even appear,
I tell you about them.

Psalm: 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.

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43 (CEB)

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

³⁴ Peter said, "I really am learning that God doesn't show partiality to one group of people over another. ³⁵ Rather, in every nation, whoever worships him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ This is the message of peace he sent to the Israelites by proclaiming the good news through Jesus Christ: He is Lord of all! ³⁷ You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism John preached. ³⁸ You know about Jesus of Nazareth, whom God anointed with the Holy Spirit and endowed with power. Jesus traveled around doing good and healing everyone oppressed by the devil because God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses of everything he did, both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him up on the third day and allowed him to be seen, ⁴¹ not by everyone but by us. We are witnesses whom God chose beforehand, who ate and drank with him after God raised him from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Before: The holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17 (CEB)

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

¹³ At that time Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River so that John would baptize him. ¹⁴ John tried to stop him and said, "I need to be baptized by you, yet you come to me?"

¹⁵ Jesus answered, "Allow me to be baptized now. This is necessary to fulfill all righteousness."

So John agreed to baptize Jesus. ¹⁶ When Jesus was baptized, he immediately came up out of the water. Heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and resting on him. ¹⁷ A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son whom I dearly love; I find happiness in him."

After: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON "Behold the Glory"

HYMN: #304 Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized

APOSTLES' CREED (p. 105)

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

Each petition concludes: Lord, in your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

OFFERING

God gives us not only genesis life but the new life born of repentance, forgiveness, and resurrection. Therefore, with generous hearts, let us give back a portion of what has already been given to us in our baptismal covenant with God and each other.

Offering Song: #186 Create in Me a Clean Heart

Offering Prayer: Great, saving God, you have gathered us into one baptism, regardless of our backgrounds and conditions. Therefore we praise you with our tithes and offerings. May they join with others to become a mighty river, bringing your peace and healing to the world. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (p. 145)

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.

BLESSING

Now the God who called Jesus "beloved" speak blessing to you, beloved children in Christ, and empower you to bring that good news to others who still need to hear it. **Amen.**

HYMN: #303 Brightest and Best of the Stars

CHARGE

God shows no partiality between people according to class, color, or country but accepts people of all backgrounds who love God and do what is right. Go in peace and do likewise. **Thanks be to God.**

SUNDAY BULLETIN

St. Paul's Lutheran, Crookston, MN

January 11th, 2026

Baptism of our Lord

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

PRAYER LIST

For those who need healing in body, mind, or spirit:

Julie Love	Eunice Sondrol	Judy Luettjohann
Darleen Jackson	Katie Bakken	Julian Bertils
Marlo Moren	Evie Gunderson	Nancy Eia
Mike Ophus	Loiland family	Dale Cameron
Dale Knotek	Nash Erdman	Barb Erdman
Mark Peterson	Lenny Devos	Glorrayne Casmey
Lucile Torkelson	Delores Sandager	Carol Chaffee
Kari L Trudeau	Stuart Hanson	Bev Montieth
Trevin Monahan		

For our missionaries: Steve & Kelly Solheim
City of Joy Rwanda

For our servicemen: Brandon Johnson D.J. Brace

Please keep them in your prayers this week.

If you have prayer requests, please contact the church office at 218 281-3638 or our prayer chain coordinator, Marian Bakken: (h) 218-281-1584, (c) 218-275-3143, marianbakken@gmail.com.

MISSION

To bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people

1214 University Avenue – Crookston, Minnesota 56716

Website: stpaulscrookstonmn.com

facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn

Phone: 218-281-3638

Email: stpauls@midconetwork.com

Ministers

St. Paul's members

Council President

Anna Peterson

Pastor

Rev. Curt Peterson

Organist

Mary Ann Knotek

Webmaster

Anna Peterson

Treasurer

Betty Arvidson

Financial Secretary

Kathie Barnes

Custodian

Marilyn Flateland

Administrative Assistant

Tammy Frohlich

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING TODAY!

Ushers

Kari Moe and John Vallager

Scripture Reader

Kari Moe

Altar Guild

Marilyn Flateland

Offering Counters

Nancy Bruggeman and Kathie Barnes

Livestream

Anna Peterson

Fellowship

CYF (Cinnamon Rolls-Yummy)

JANUARY WORSHIP TEAM

Thank you, Amazing January Worship Team, for giving of your time and signing up early! Please check out the remaining opportunities. Acolytes still needed for all Sundays. Thank you so much. 😊

Dan and Stacey Grunewald

Barb and Doug Erdman

Grant and Gina Gunderson

Lacia Hanson

Scott and Julie Kleven

Judy Luettjohann

Kari and Tim Moe

John and Jan Vallager

SCRIPTURE READING FOR NEXT WEEK

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalms 40:1-11

1 Cor. 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

Readings for January 18, 2026

Second Sunday after Epiphany

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday: 9am- 2pm

Please leave a message after 2 pm on the answering machine/drop something in the mailbox (north side of building)/call ahead. Pastor Curt is usually in the building but may be out on other church business. Worship via Facebook: facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn

Sunday, January 11

8:45 am

10:00 am

11:00 am

Baptism of our Lord

Sunday School/Adult Bible Study

Worship

Fellowship

Monday, January 12

8:30 am

6:30 pm

LWR Quilting

Fellowship Committee Mtg.

Tuesday, January 13

7:00 am

7 :00 pm

Men's Coffee Fellowship

AA

Wednesday, January 14

7-8:30 pm

7:00 pm

Confirmation

Choir practice

Thursday, January 15

Friday, January 16

Church Office Closed

Pastor's Day Off

Saturday, January 17

Fellowship Hall Reserved 11:00 – 2:00 pm

Sunday, January 18

8:45 am

10:00 am

11:00 am

6:30 pm

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday School/Adult Bible Study

Worship and Communion

Fellowship

Women's Book Read

WEEKLY FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Our Response to God's Love

January 4th, 2026

Attendance: 51

Our gifts towards Budget:

Sunday Envelopes	\$1,484.22
Loose Offering	\$ 3.00
Over and Above Benevolence	\$ 10.00
Ben. Treasury/No Benevolence	\$ 400.00
Initial Offering	\$ 50.00

Other (non-budget) Receipts:

Improvement Fund	\$ 85.00
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Needed weekly towards 2025 Budget: \$ 4,959.61

Total received towards Budget \$1,947.22

Total (non-budget) Receipts \$ 85.00

Total Received \$2,032.22

December 31st, 2025

End of Year

Our gifts towards Budget:

Sunday Envelopes	\$ 1,836.89
Over and Above Benevolence	\$ 10.00
Gen Treas/No Benevolence	\$ 2,550.00
Christmas	\$ 224.64

Other (non-budget) Receipts:

Parsonage Siding Fund	\$ 75.00
Memorials	\$ 100.00

Needed weekly towards 2025 Budget: \$ 4,959.61

Total received towards Budget \$ 4,621.53

Total (non-budget) Receipts \$ 175.00

Total Received \$ 4,796.53

The parsonage siding fund is \$24,773.63. Thank you so very much for blessing the church this Holiday season!

TREASURER'S END OF NOVEMBER MONTHLY REPORT

The Treasure's end of November report was approved at the November Church Council Meeting. It was published in the November 30th Sunday Bulletin. If you would like to review the report, please refer to that bulletin or request a copy from the church office.

SPECIAL MESSAGES

SIGN UP FOR CAMP EMMAUS

Early Bird Registration for Camp Emmaus begins December 1st! The 2026 Camp Emmaus brochure is on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

GIVING HEARTS DAY

Founded in 2008, Giving Hearts Day is a 24-hour event for charities in North Dakota and northwest Minnesota. Each year, Giving Hearts Day provides a platform for charities to fund their missions through an ever-increasing community of donors, many of whom get to experience the joy of giving for the first time. Donate dollars, donate new or nice used goods, or volunteer! See **GIVINGHEARTSDAY.ORG**

HELP WANTED

St. Paul's Church is seeking a **paid Substitute Secretary** to fill in as needed. Basic computer skills and familiarity with **Windows programs** required. No experience with church bulletins? **No problem – we will teach you?** If you are organized, friendly, and willing to learn, we would love to have you on our team. For more information or to apply, contact the Church office.

St. Paul's WOMEN'S BOOK READ

Our Book Read group will meet Sunday, January 18, from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Our January book read is - "*The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride*" by Joe Siple. Dana Johnson will lead our discussion, and Barb Erdman will host.

ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVING

Alzheimer Caregiving, Parts 2 to 5, will be presented by Alicia Berhow from Tri-Valley, on Tuesdays, January 6, 13, 20, 27 at 10:00 am, at the Golden Link.

CROOKSTON CARE AND SHARE

The Donation Room and New Hope Food Shelf are open every Monday and Wednesday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., and every Friday

from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. For more information or to donate, call **218-281-2644**.

Care and Share has a variety of **opportunities to love and serve the poor and the homeless**, either as individuals and/or as group. Help with odd and ends type jobs, such as changing light bulbs, painting projects, providing a weekend meal while their cook is off, and more! Please contact Candace Sam at 218-833-7105 to help make a difference!

COMING IN 2026

Mark Your Calendars

As we look ahead to the new year, we invite you to mark these important dates in your calendars:

January

- **Wednesday, January 7:** Confirmation classes resume
- **Sunday, January 11:** Sunday school resumes

February

- **Sunday, February 8:** Annual Meeting—receive the annual report and vote on new church council members.
- **Wednesday, February 18:** Ash Wednesday

Lenten Season Join us on Wednesdays in Lent for suppers and a transformative Lenten journey with our theme **"Rebuilding: A Lenten Journey of Repentance and Renewal,"** as we explore powerful themes from Ezra and Nehemiah.

Holy Week & Easter

- **Sunday, March 29:**
Palm/Passion Sunday
- **Thursday, April 2:**
Maundy Thursday
- **Friday, April 3:** Good Friday
- **Sunday, April 5:** Easter



May

- **Sunday, May 3:** Confirmation—celebrating our 9th grade confirmands.

We look forward to worshipping, learning, and growing together in the year ahead!

CPR CLASS

RiverView Health will be offering a CPR class on Thursday, January 8, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the RiverView Home Care Building, 721 South Minnesota Street in Crookston. The cost is \$60 for those requiring certification, and the class is free for those who do not need certification. To register, call 218-281-9536. No walk-ins will be allowed.

THIS WEEK IN FAITH FORMATION

Confirmation: Journeys Through Church History

This week, our Confirmation class begins an engaging new unit on **Church History**, starting with the "Early Church to the Great Schism." The students are exploring the challenges faced by the first Christians, the influence of Emperor Constantine, and the early debates—known as "heresies"—that helped define the creeds we still confess today.

Sunday School: Investing Our Gifts

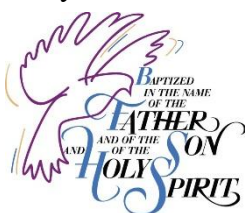
Our Sunday School students dove into the **Parable of the Talents** (Matthew 25:14-30). Through this story, the children learned that God gives each of us unique "talents"—not just money, but gifts, time, and abilities—to be used for good in the world. We talked about how we can be "good and faithful servants" by being brave and sharing our gifts rather than hiding them.

REFLECTION AND PRAYER

In Romans 8:29 Paul wrote that God meant for Jesus to be "the firstborn within a large family." What does that mean to you? What does your baptism have to do with it?

Household Prayer: Morning

God, you make old things pass away and declare new things to be.



As I am renewed in my baptism this morning, help me to confirm my baptismal vows in my life today. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Holy One, you stretched out the heavens and spread out the earth, and in that context I give you this small day that I have lived.

Now may I sleep, safe and secure in your covenant promise to me that I am your beloved child, in whom you are well pleased. Amen.