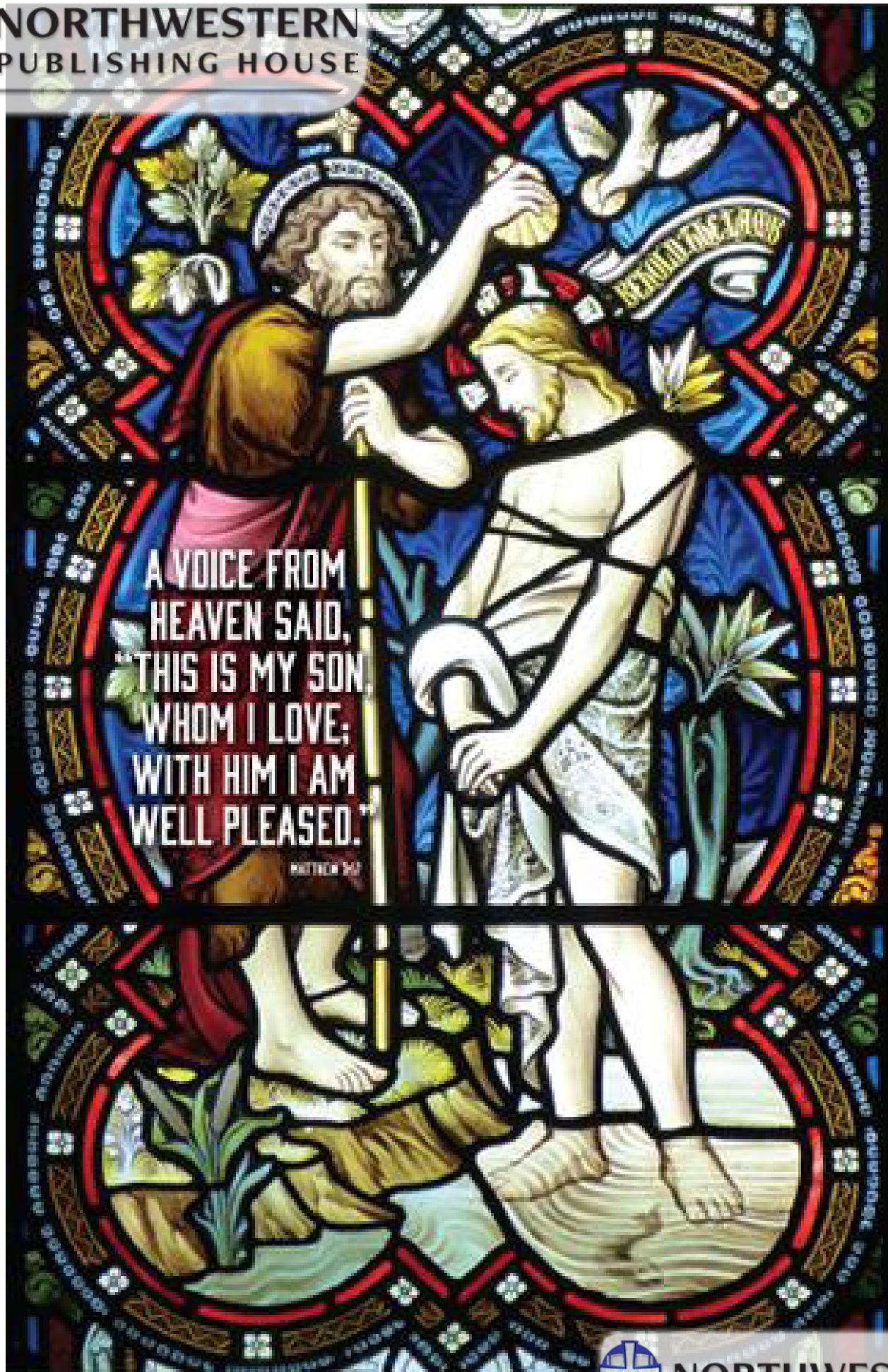
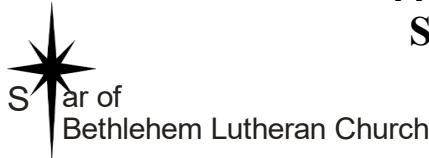




NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE



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Santa Maria, CA 93455
Office: 805-937-0339
www.starlutheran.org
Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, January 11, 2026 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday after the Epiphany THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Theme of the day: The long-expected Christ has arrived; the waiting is over as the Son of David is anointed. The Father's approval sounds from heaven and book-ends the season of Epiphany, when with the Holy Spirit and with power it thunders again on the Mount of Transfiguration as the Son is revealed in glory.

WELCOME

A warm welcome to our friends and visitors! Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church is eager to share with you the blessings of its Christ-centered ministry. If you are a new or long-time resident of the Central Coast looking for a church home, we invite you to meet with us at the close of this worship service or at your convenience. All are welcome to stay for refreshments in the fellowship hall.

Families are encouraged to worship together. If you need to step out with your children, the service can be seen and heard in the fellowship hall or narthex area. Feel free to enter and return at any time.

OUR MISSION

Our congregation exists for the purpose of "HOLDING OUT THE WORD OF LIFE." This is accomplished by faithfully preserving and proclaiming all of God's inerrant word, and administering the Sacraments as they were instituted by Christ.

OPENING HYMN: # 374 “The Star Proclaims the King Is Here”

♪ The star proclaims the King is here;
but, Herod, why this senseless fear?
For he who came from heaven’s throne
does not desire an earthly crown.

The eastern Magi saw from far
and followed on his guiding star,
and, led by light, to Light they pressed
and by their gifts their God confessed.

Within the Jordan River stood
the pure and holy Lamb of God;
the Father’s voice, the Spirit-dove,
confirmed the Savior from above.

At Cana, miracle divine, when water reddened into wine,
the faithful saw his glory shown
and put their trust in him alone.

Please stand for last verse:

All glory unto Jesus be and praise for his epiphany,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit evermore.

Minister: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: In the name of the Triune God who has given us his
blessed name through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Amen.

M: We rejoice to carry the name of our gracious and merciful Lord.

C: For he has assured us, “In every place where I cause my name
to be remembered, I will come to you and I will bless you.”

(Exodus 20:24)

♪ All Who Believe and Are Baptized (CW 692:1)

All who believe and are baptized
shall see the Lord’s salvation;
baptized into the death of Christ, they are a new creation;
through Christ’s redemption they shall stand
among the glorious, heav’ly band
of ev’ry tribe and nation.

CONFESSiON and ABSOLUTION (reflecting on our baptism)

M: You and I were baptized in the name of the Triune God.

**C: Today we reflect on the meaning of our own baptisms,
considering once again what God has done for us in that
blessed sacrament.**

M: God's holy Word reminds us that Baptism is not a mere, outward ceremony, but "the washing of rebirth and the renewal by the Holy Spirit (*Titus 3:5*)."

C: Baptism is the vital life of the Christian, for "Certainly, I was guilty when I was born (*Psalm 51:5*)", and like the rest of fallen mankind, "we were by nature objects of God's wrath."

(Ephesians 2:3)

M: But in Baptism, we died, dying to sin and its eternal consequences.

C: "All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death." (*Romans 6:3*)

M: The Bible also tells us that in Baptism we were born again, being made alive by faith in Jesus.

C: "We were therefore buried with him by this baptism into his death, so that just as he was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too would also walk in a new life."

(Romans 6:4)

M: How can the water of Baptism do such wonderful things?

C: Baptism is not just plain water, but it is water used by God's command and connected with God's Word. So it is certainly not the water that does such things, but God's Word which is in and with the water.

M: Therefore, what blessings do we receive?

C: Baptism works forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

M: Brothers and sisters, be at peace, for "you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. Indeed, as many of you as were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ." (*Galatians 3*)

C: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

♪ Song: The Church's One Foundation (CW 855:1,2)

**The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the Word.
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.**

**Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.** (*spoken*)

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 42:1-7

**Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom I delight.
I am placing my Spirit on him.
He will announce a just verdict for the nations.
²He will not cry out. He will not raise his voice.
He will not make his voice heard in the street.
³A bent reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not snuff out.
He will faithfully bring forth a just verdict.
⁴He will not burn out, and he will not be broken
until he establishes justice on the earth.
The coastlands will wait for his law.
⁵This is what the true God says,
the LORD who creates the heavens and stretches them out,
who spreads out the earth and everything that it produces,
who gives breath to the people on it
and life to those who walk on it.**

6I am the **LORD**. I have called you in righteousness.
I will hold on to your hand, and I will guard you.
I will appoint you to be a covenant for the people,
to be a light for the nations,
7to open the eyes of the blind,
to bring the prisoners out from the dungeon,
and to bring those who sit in darkness out of prison.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 45

Refrain

Great are the works of the Lord. Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Great are the works of the Lord.

Psalm tone

My heart is stirred by a noble theme*
as I recite my verses for the King.

You are the most excellent of men,*
and your lips have been anointed with grace.

Gird your sword upon your side, O Mighty One;*
clothe yourself with splendor and majesty.

In your majesty ride forth victoriously;
let your right hand display awesome deeds.

Refrain

**Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;^{*}
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.**

**You love righteousness and hate wickedness;^{*}
therefore God has anointed you with the oil of joy.**

**I will perpetuate your memory through all generations;^{*}
therefore the nations will praise you for ever and ever.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. Alleluia. “You are my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with you.” Alleluia! (Mark 1:11)

**C: ♫Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

SECOND LESSON: Acts 10:34-38

³⁴Then Peter began to speak: “Now I really am beginning to understand that God does not show favoritism, ³⁵but in every nation, anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶He sent his word to the people of Israel, proclaiming the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

³⁷“You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached. ³⁸God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the Devil, because God was with him.

HYMN: # 377 “To Jordan’s River Came Our Lord”

♪ **To Jordan’s river came our Lord,
the Christ, whom heav’lly hosts adored,
the God from God, the Light from Light,
the Lord of glory, pow’r, and might.**

**The Savior came to be baptized—
the Son of God in flesh disguised—
to stand beneath the Father’s will
and all his promises fulfill.**

**As Jesus in the Jordan stood
and John baptized the Lamb of God,
the Holy Spirit, heav’lly dove,
descended on him from above.**

**Then from God’s throne with thund’rous sound
came God’s own voice with words profound:
“This is my Son,” was his decree,
“the one I love, who pleases me.”**

**The Father’s word, the Spirit’s flight
anointed Christ in glorious sight
as God’s own choice, from Adam’s fall
to save the world and free us all.**

**Now rise, faint hearts: be resolute!
This man is Christ, our substitute!
He was baptized in Jordan’s stream,
proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.**

SERMON: Matthew 3:13-17

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to be baptized by John at the Jordan. ¹⁴But John tried to stop him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you come to me?”

¹⁵But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, because it is proper for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John let him. ¹⁶After Jesus was baptized, he immediately went up out of the water. Suddenly, the heavens were opened for him! He saw the Spirit of God, descending like a dove and landing on him, ¹⁷and a voice out of the heavens said, “This is my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with him.”

THE THIRD ARTICLE of the APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him.

But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers. On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

HYMN: # 679 “God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It”

♪ God’s own child, I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it, gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth’s treasures many?
I have one worth more than any
that brought me salvation free, lasting to eternity!

Sin, disturb my soul no longer: I am baptized into Christ!
I have comfort even stronger: Jesus’ cleansing sacrifice.
Should a guilty conscience seize me
since my baptism did release me
in a dear forgiving flood, sprinkling me with Jesus’ blood?

Satan, hear this proclamation: I am baptized into Christ!
Drop your ugly accusation, I am not so soon enticed.
Now that to the font I’ve traveled,
all your might has come unraveled,
and, against your tyranny, God, my Lord, unites with me!

Death, you cannot end my gladness: I am baptized into Christ!
When I die, I leave all sadness to inherit paradise!
Though I lie in dust and ashes
faith’s assurance brightly flashes:
Baptism has the strength divine to make life immortal mine.

**There is nothing worth comparing
to this lifelong comfort sure!
Open-eyed my grave is staring: even there I'll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising,
still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ; I'm a child of paradise!**

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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 forever and ever. Amen.

**M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.**

C: ♫ Amen. Amen. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: # 681 “Christ Is with Me”

**♫ We were buried with him into death,
that as he was raised by God's glory,
we might walk in life made new by grace;
having died with Christ, we shall live with him.
Christ is with me ev'rywhere I go;
never to leave me, this I know.**

**I have now been grafted to the vine,
drawing life from roots rich in mercy,
bearing fruit as I abide in him,
fruit forever fresh, glorifying God.
Christ is with me ev'rywhere I go;
never to leave me, this I know.**

**I have now been crucified with Christ,
I no longer live; Christ lives in me;
now I live by faith in God's own Son —
one who loved me so, gave himself for me.
Christ is with me ev'rywhere I go;
never to leave me, this I know.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS: Remember to pray for: Shawn Lozano, little Elias, Dennis Douglas, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Molly Webb, Doug Ward, Kathy Jones, Art Amarillas, Melinda Brown, Alice Taubman, Monica, Louise Perry, Rylan Downs, Jeff Brown, Aaron Taubman, Marlene Washburn, Helen Cummings, Delores Bass, Rick Stovall, Suzy Garvin, Linda Wilkinson, and Kathie Stillwater.

THIS WEEK

Today	Potluck Fellowship, after service Voters' Meeting, 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday	ESL, 6:00 p.m.
Thursday	Bible Class, 10:00 a.m. ESL, 6:00 p.m.
Sunday	Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.

Look! The Lamb of God,



who takes away the sin of the world!