

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**WEEK OF JANUARY 9, 2022**

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Jim Cleveland; Carolyn Wilkins; Jack & Lureen Vaught; Tony Sikora; Cindy; Aiden Snyder; Mason Salomon; Michelle Zeller; Peter Lange; Josiah Mullet

**BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST** today is Jonathan Michael Mullet, son of Pastor & Megan Mullet. Sponsors are Samantha Mullet & Avery Mullet.

**THE VOTERS' MEETING** for the first quarter is **TODAY** between services.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** resumes today at 11:30am!

**THE YOUTH GROUP** will meet **TONIGHT** at 6:00pm. Join us as we plan activities and outings for the second half of the school year!

**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE** at Faith on Thursday, Feb. 3, from 1-6pm.

**CALENDAR**

Sun. Jan. 9 (Baptism of Our Lord)	8:00 & 10:00am Divine Service 10:00am Rite of Holy Baptism 9:00am Voters' Meeting 9:00am Sunday School 11:30am Confirmation 6:00pm Youth Group
Wed. Jan. 12	7:00pm Divine Service
Thu. Jan. 13	7:00pm Bible Study
Sun. Jan. 16 (Epiphany 2)	8:00 & 10:00am Divine Service 9:00am Sunday School / Bible Study 11:30am Confirmation

## THE BACK PAGE

As we celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord today it is worth revisiting how the baptism of Jesus is the same as our own Holy Baptism and how it is different.

The baptism of repentance and forgiveness being carried out by John the Baptist in the Jordan River was not “Christian Baptism” in the Triune Name of God. Rather, it was something much more akin to our Confession and Absolution. One could be baptized many times by John, confessing sins, going through the ritual of washing, and receiving forgiveness.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is different. It indeed involves water and even the promise of forgiveness, but it also pours out the Holy Spirit, sent out by Jesus to His Church as He promised. What was once a simple outward ritual of washing to signify the inward forgiveness of sins now takes on an eternally greater significance! For now, the water is a rebirth, a renewal in the Holy Spirit (Titus 3). This Baptism does not just forgive your sins, but it *saves you* (1 Peter 3).

What, then, of the baptism of Jesus? There is water. There is John the Baptist. There indeed is the Holy Spirit, descending upon Christ like a dove. John asks the question most of us are probably thinking: “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” To be sure, Jesus has no sins to be forgiven, nor does He have any need of repentance or confession. But hear Jesus’ answer: “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.”

The fulfillment of all righteousness is, in short, the cross of Christ, where the work of salvation was finally carried out and completed. Jesus’ baptism is preparing Him for His earthly ministry and His eventual sacrificial death in our place. He is baptized to take on the sins of the world, so that when we are baptized into His death and resurrection our sins might be washed away forever. And this, of course, is why St. Peter can tell us that baptism saves. It is because in those waters we are joined by the power of Word and Spirit to the cross of Christ, to the blood He shed to pay for our sins, and to the empty tomb of Easter. “I am baptized into Christ—I’m a child of paradise!”