ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH: ***stpaulswatertown.org***
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CHRIST COMMUNITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL: Principal - Jeff Boehlke
ccls.net (952) 955-1419
LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL: Executive
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*THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD JANUARY 9, 2011
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WELCOME to all who are visiting today! Our greatest desire is to share that wonderful message of forgiveness and eternal salvation for all in Jesus' name. We pray you will be drawn closer to Christ as the Holy Spirit nurtures us through God's Word in this service. Before you leave, please, take time to sign our guest register in the entrance way, and we hope you will join us every week as we gather as God's family in worship.

10:30am

WELCOME

SONG: *"You Are My All in All"*

1. You are my strength when I am weak, You are the Treasure that I seek, You are my All in All. Seeking You as a precious jewel, Lord, to give up I'd be a fool. You are my All in All.

Chorus: Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name. Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name.

2. Taking my sin, my cross, my shame, rising again I bless Your name. You are my All in All. When I fall down, You pick me up; When I am dry, You fill my cup. You are my All in All! *(Repeat chorus)* (C. 1990 Shepherd's Heart Music. Used by permission. CCLI #1561573)

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM: *(Responses adapted from Romans 6)*

P. In one and the same instant you died and were born again.
C. DON'T YOU KNOW THAT ALL OF US WHO WERE BAPTIZED IN CHRIST JESUS WERE BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH?
P. The Bible tells us that there is "a time to be born and a time to die." For you, however, it was the reverse. First you died, and then you were born again.
C. WE WERE THEREFORE BURIED WITH CHRIST THROUGH BAPTISM INTO DEATH IN ORDER THAT, JUST AS CHRIST WAS RAISED FROM DEATH THROUGH THE GLORY OF THE FATHER, WE TOO MAY LIVE A NEW LIFE.
P. Daily - in the morning when you get up, and in the evening, when you go to bed - remember that you have died and been reborn through Baptism,
C. IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 3:13-17
13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. *14* But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 15 Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. 16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

A NEW BEGINNING IN BAPTISM:

P. You are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who are baptized in Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. *(Gal 3:26-27)*
C. AS GOD'S CHILDREN WE REMEMBER WHAT A BAPTISM IS. BAPTISM IS NOT JUST PLAIN WATER, BUT IT IS THE WATER INCLUDED IN GOD'S COMMAND AND COMBINED WITH GOD'S WORD.
P. What is that word of God?
C. CHRIST OUR LORD SAYS IN THE LAST CHAPTER OF MATTHEW; THEREFORE GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND TEACHING THEM TO OBEY EVERYTHING I HAVE COMMANDED YOU.

EPISTLE READING: Acts 10:34-38
34 Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism 35 but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. 36 You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. 37 You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

THE POWER OF BAPTISM:

P. Since you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. *(Col 3:1-3)*

C. CERTAINLY NOT JUST WATER, BUT THE WORD OF GOD IN AND WITH THE WATER DOES THESE THINGS, ALONG WITH FAITH WHICH TRUSTS THIS WORD OF GOD IN THE WATER. FOR WITHOUT GOD'S WORD THE WATER IS PLAIN WATER AND NO BAPTISM. BUT WITH THE WORD OF GOD IT IS A BAPTISM, THAT IS A LIFE-GIVING WATER, RICH IN GRACE, AND A WASHING OF THE NEW BIRTH IN THE HOLY SPIRIT.

P. God saved us through he washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit so that, having been justified by His grace,

C. WE MIGHT BECOME HEIRS HAVING THE HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE. *(Titus 3:5-8)*

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 42:1-7

1 "Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations. 2 He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. 3 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; 4 he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his law the islands will put their hope." 5 This is what God the LORD says— he who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: 6 "I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, 7 to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

LIVING IN BAPTISM - OUR DAILY JOURNEY:

P. What does baptizing with water indicate?

C. IT INDICATES THAT THE OLD ADAM OR SINFUL NATURE IN US SHOULD BY DAILY CONTRITION AND REPENTANCE BE DROWNED AND DIE WITH ALL SINS AND EVIL DESIRES, AND THAT A NEW MAN SHOULD DAILY EMERGE AND ARISE TO LIVE BEFORE GOD IN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PURITY FOREVER.

P. We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. *(Eph 2:10)*

C. PUT OFF YOUR OLD SELF, WHICH IS BEING CORRUPTED BY ITS DECEITFUL DESIRES, TO BE MADE NEW IN THE ATTITUDES OF YOUR MINDS, AND PUT ON THE NEW SELF, CREATED TO BE LIKE GOD IN TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HOLINESS. *(Eph 4:22-33)*

CHILDREN'S LESSON

SONG: *"I Stand in Awe" (Ps 33:8)*

Vs. You are beautiful beyond description, too marvelous for words, too wonderful for comprehension, like nothing ever seen or heard. Who can grasp Your infinite wisdom, who can fathom the depth of Your love? You are beautiful beyond description, majesty enthroned above.

Chorus: And I stand, I stand in awe of You, I stand, I stand in awe
of You; Holy God, to Whom all praise is due, I stand in awe of You.

Vs. You are beautiful beyond description, yet God crushed You for my sin; In agony and deep affliction, cut off that I might enter in. Who can grasp such tender compassion, who can fathom this mercy so free? You are beautiful beyond description, Lamb of God who died for me. *(chorus)*

*Ending…..*I stand in awe of You, I stand…. in awe….of You.

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SERMON: Acts 10:34-38 **"How Could God Accept Us?"**

(A sermon outline with the Scripture reading is printed in the bulletin to aid your meditation on God's Word)

BAPTISMAL CONFESSION OF FAITH:

P. Do you believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

C. I DO.

P. Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord?

C. I DO.

P. Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C. I DO.

P. Will you continue in the apostle's teaching and fellowship, the breaking of prayer, and in prayer?

C. I WILL WITH THE HELP OF GOD.

P. Will you continue to resist evil, and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

C. I WILL WITH THE HELP OF GOD.

P. May the Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting.

C. WHICH HE DOES BY REASSURING US OF HIS ACCEPTANCE, AND PLACING HIS NAME AS OUR GOD UPON US IN OUR BAPTISM. THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.

OFFERING + RITE OF FELLOWSHIP

(Please sign fellowship book at end of pew.)

SONG: *"Like a Shepherd"* *(sung during offering)*

1. Like a father feeds his children, like a shepherd leads his flock, the Lord will always guide us and show us where to walk; And in times when we have plenty, in times when we have not, He is our Provider and His mercy never stops.

Chorus: Like a shepherd He leads us, like a father He feeds us, from the morning, to the evening, till the sunrise again; Like a shepherd He leads us, like a father He feeds us, He is the great I Am.

2. As we come into His presence confessing Him as Lord, His Holy Spirit leads us, He feeds us by His Word; We're seated at His table, partaking of His love, children of His kingdom, purchased by His blood. *(Chorus)*

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OFFICER INSTALLATION AND RECOGNITION

PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER: *(Spoken together)*
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:
P. As Almighty God sent forth His Son from the waters of Baptism, filled with the Spirit for service,
C. SO HE SENDS US HIS HOLY AND ACCEPTED PEOPLE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT FOR SERVICE AS WELL.
P. May we shine as the Lord's light to the nations in the name of Jesus, our baptized Lord.
C. SO BE IT! AMEN.

SONG: *"Shine Jesus Shine"*

1. Lord, the light of Your love is shining, In the midst of the darkness shining; Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us, Set us free by the truth You now bring us; Shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus: Shine, Jesus shine, fill this land with the Father's glory. Blaze, Spirit blaze, set our hearts on fire, Flow, river flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy. Send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be light.

2. Lord, I come to Your awesome presence, From the shadows into Your radiance; by the blood I may enter Your brightness; Search me, try me, consume all my darkness; Shine on me, Shine on me. *(Chorus)*

3. As we gaze on Your kingly brightness, so our
faces display Your likeness; Ever changing from
glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell
Your story. Shine on me, Shine on me.

(Chorus x2) (C. 1987 MakeWay Music. Used by permission. CCLI 1561573)

ANNOUNCEMENTS + POSTLUDE

PRAISE BAND SCHEDULE FOR MONTH OF JANUARY:
January 9th, 23rd and 30th – 10:30 Service

<u>Acts 10:34-38 "How Could God Accept Us?"</u>
34 Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism 35 but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. 36 You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. 37 You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

1. In what way do we want to be like a VISA card?

2. Because others don't always accept us, what does that lead us to wonder about God?

3. What does God require for his acceptance?

A.

B.

4. What does it mean to fear God?

5. How do our lives show us we don't always fear God like we should?

6. Where do we see true fear of God displayed?

7. How do we know what's right for us to do?

8. When did Jesus really do good and heal those who were under the power of the devil?

9. What does Jesus do to make us acceptable to God?