

January 11, 2026

Baptism of Our Lord



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

11 East Dawes Avenue, Somers Point, NJ 08244

Church Office: 609-927-3082 **Food Pantry:** 609-927-9982

Website: www.GraceLutheranSPNJ.org

E-mail: office@GraceLutheranSPNJ.org

Interim Pastor † Wendolyn Trozzo, Scott J. Breiner, Music Director
Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant

We welcome you to worship here at Grace!

*Note that all text written in **bold** is for congregation participation.*

*Most of our hymn songs are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship
red hymnal found in the pews.*

S=service music in the front part of the hymnal.

GATHERING

Thank you for joining us as we worship our Lord together!

INTRODUCTION

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.

WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

PRELUDE

As With Gladness Men of Old

by Wayne L. Wold

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in + Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

Shall We Gather at the River

ELW #423

GREETING

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

ELW S156

HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW S159

PRAYER OF THE DAY

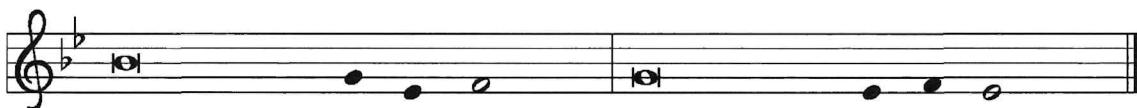
O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

PEACE The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Children are dismissed to Sunday School and will return before communion.

Please be seated.

PSALM 29

¹ Ascribe to the ¹ LORD, you gods,
 ascribe to the LORD glo- ¹ ry and strength.

² Ascribe to the LORD the glory ¹ due God's name;
 worship the LORD in the beau- ¹ ty of holiness.

³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of ¹ glory thunders;
 the LORD is upon the ¹ mighty waters.

⁴ The voice of the LORD is a pow- ¹ erful voice;
 the voice of the LORD is a ¹ voice of splendor.

⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the ¹ cedar trees;
 the LORD breaks the ce- ¹ dars of Lebanon;

⁶ **the LORD makes Lebanon skip ¹ like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a ¹ young wild ox.**

⁷ The voice ¹ of the LORD
bursts forth in ¹ lightning flashes.

⁸ **The voice of the LORD ¹ shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilder- ¹ ness of Kadesh.**

⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the ¹ forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are ¹ crying, “Glory!”

¹⁰ **The LORD sits enthroned a- ¹ bove the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- ¹ evermore.**

¹¹ O LORD, give strength ¹ to your people;
give them, O LORD, the bless- ¹ ings of peace.

READING: Acts 10:34-43

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 began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality,³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him.³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree,⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God 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.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C: Alleluia!

P: Lord, to whom shall we go?

C: You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 3rd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17

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

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

Please stand as you are able.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

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.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Wade in the Water* arr. by Mark Hayes

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE *Create in Me a Clean Heart* **WOV #732**

OFFERING PRAYER

God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed your people with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home. *Brief silence.*

At the end of each prayer petition when the worship assistant or pastor says, "Merciful God," please respond with "Receive our prayer."

P: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION (*Setting Five*)

GREAT THANKSGIVING	ELW S161
EUCARISTIC PRAYER	
HOLY, HOLY, HOLY	ELW S162
WORDS OF INSTITUTION	
THE LORD'S PRAYER	ELW S163
INVITATION TO COMMUNION	

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

COMMUNION HYMN	<i>Lamb of God</i>	ELW S164
COMMUNION HYMN	<i>Brightest and Best of the Stars</i>	ELW #838

Verse 1, 3, 5 ALL, Verse 2 WOMEN, Verse 4 MEN

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

EVERYONE IS INVITED to receive Holy Communion. The ushers will invite worshippers forward to fill the altar railings. Once you have received the wafer and the red wine/white grape juice, place your empty cup in the container on your way to return to your pew. If you do not wish to receive communion, or are worshipping with children who have not had First Communion, we welcome you to come forward for a blessing; as you kneel at the railing, cross your arms over your chest to show your preference to the pastor.

COMMUNION BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise* **ELW #310**

*Please be seated. Enjoy the postlude music.
and meditate on how God spoke to your heart today.*

POSTLUDE *Morning Star* by Wayne L. Wold

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*We are glad for your presence today.
We hope you come again soon!*

**We thank all those serving in worship today:
Worship Assistant: Shirley Blankenship**

**The flowers sponsor this week is: Carol Landes,
to the glory of God in this new year!**



*Please join us for coffee hour and fellowship
immediately following worship!*

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Per Diana McArdle's wishes, her family will be holding a private service to celebrate her life at a later date. The family appreciates your prayers during this difficult time.

EVENTS

Book Exchange throughout the month of January

Take a book, leave a book, it's that simple!

For the month of January, tables will be set up in our upstairs social hall. Most any kind of book is fine - fiction, nonfiction, cookbooks, inspirational books, history, mystery, even romance. The only rule is: no books that would make the Pastor blush! At the end of the month, we will donate any remaining books to an appropriate charity.

Youth Re-Launch Today-January 11

10:15 Service - Sunday School grades K-12

12:00-2:00 Youth Pizza Lunch and Photo Service Project at Grace
Grades 6-12

Budget Hearing January 18

10:15 AM worship service.

First Annual “United in Praise” Choir Festival Sunday, January 18, 2026 (snow date January 25)

The First Annual United in Praise Choir Festival will be held here at Grace Lutheran Church in celebration of Christian Unity Week at 3:00 PM

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FEBRUARY 1 immediately following the 10:15 AM worship service.

Corinne is scheduled for Jury Duty this Monday, January 12. Office hours this week may be different than what is printed.

Home Reading of the Week: Isaiah 42:1-9

¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
 my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
 I have put my spirit upon him;
 he will bring forth justice to the nations.

² He will not cry out or lift up his voice
 or make it heard in the street;

³ a bruised reed he will not break,
 and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
 he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
 until he has established justice in the earth,
 and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,
 who created the heavens and stretched them out,
 who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
 who gives breath to the people upon it
 and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
 I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
 I have given you as a covenant to the people,
 a light to the nations,
⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
 to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
 from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name;
 my glory I give to no other,
 nor my praise to idols.

⁹ See, the former things have come to pass,
 and new things I now declare;
 before they spring forth,
 I tell you of them.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

“United in Praise” Choir Festival

Celebrating Christian Unity Week

Sunday, January 18, 2026 at 3:00 PM

(Snow date: January 25)

Grace Lutheran Church
11 E. Dawes Ave. Somers Point



Enjoy hearing music and scripture
shared by local churches,
an expression of being truly
“United in Praise!”

Light refreshments will be served.

***Please bring non-perishable food items to donate to the
Grace Place Food Pantry!***

Sponsored by Thrivent

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

January 11, 2026-January 18, 2026

Baptism of Our Lord 1/11/26

8:00AM Spoken Worship
8:45AM Adult Forum
10:15AM Traditional Worship

MONDAY 1/12/26

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 1/13/26

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
12:00PM WELCA
6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 1/14/26

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge
6:00PM AA Book Study
6:30PM Compassionate Friends
7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

	
<p>Present this bulletin on a Sunday and Shore Diner will donate 20% to Grace Lutheran Church. Present this on any other day, and we will donate 10%.</p>	
<p>Shore Diner 6710 Tilton Road Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234 609-641-3669</p>	

THURSDAY 1/15/26

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
5:00PM Choir
6:00 AA 12-Step
7:00PM Al-Anon

7:00PM Church Council Meeting

FRIDAY 1/16/26

10:30AM Grace Stitchers
7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

SATURDAY 1/17/26

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

Epiphany 2 1/18/26

8:00AM Spoken Worship
8:45AM Adult Forum
10:15AM Traditional Worship
Budget Hearing
3:00PM United in Praise
Choir Festival

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

This week:

Mon-Tues 10:00-3:00

Thurs-Fri 10:00-3:00