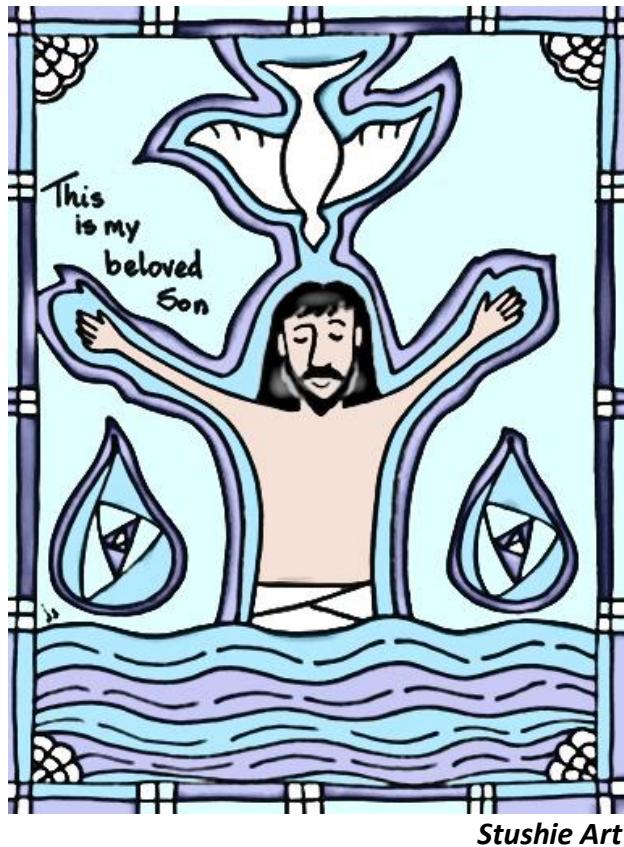


Worship Guide for January 11, 2026

The Baptism of the Lord



Welcome and Announcements

Let us prepare our hearts for worship.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \ddagger one God, Love from the beginning, Word made flesh, Breath of heaven. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another, trusting in God's endless mercy and love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God, ***we confess that we are not perfect. We have said and done things we regret. We have tried to earn your redeeming grace, while denying it to others. We have resisted your call to be your voice in the world. Forgive us, loving God. Give us the strength to put aside our failures, and the courage to try again. Amen.***

Dear people of God, hear the good news: You are loved and forgiven in the name of \ddagger Jesus, who has come among us. You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved, because God's love is given to you as the most precious gift of all. Rejoice in this love and share it with the world. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn**Shall We Gather at the River**

1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
 3 Ere we reach the shin-ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv - er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow-ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Prayer of the Day

Together we pray: ***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.***

Reading of the Word**First Reading: 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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

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

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.”

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

Gospel Acclamation

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (sing 3X)

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -

- le - lu - - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -

lu - - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - - jah.

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

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.**

Sermon



The
Annual Meeting and Potluck
is January 25
Don't Miss It!

POTLUCK

Hymn of the Day**Down Galilee's Slow Roadways**

1 Down Gal - i - lee's slow road - ways a strang - er trav - eled on
 2 A - ris - ing from the riv - er he saw the heav - ens torn;
 3 We too have found a road - way; it led us to this place.

from Naz - a - reth to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John.
 it seemed the sky so o - pen re - vealed the Spir - it's form.
 We all have had to trav - el in search of hope and grace.

He went down to the wa - ters like sol - dier, scribe, and slave,
 The ho - ly dove de - scend - ed a - mid a glo - rious voice:
 But now be - side this wa - ter a - gain a voice is heard.

but there with - in the riv - er the sign was birth and grave.
 "You are my own be - lov - ed, my child, my heart, my choice."
 "You are my own, my cho - sen, be - lov - ed of your Lord."

Prayers of the People

Hear us, O God. ***Your mercy is great.***

Sharing the PeaceTithes and Offerings**Welcome to New Salem**

We are blessed to have you worship with us today!

If you are looking for a church home, please contact Traci Schanke in the church office at 218-586-2262 or via email at newsalem@paulbunyan.net.
 If you are a visitor, please sign our guest book outside the church office.



Website: newsalemlutheran.org

YouTube Channel: New Salem Lutheran Church, Turtle River, MN

Offertory HymnLet Us Talents and Tongues Employ

1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear-ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro-ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 teach-ing peo-ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

Refrain

Je - sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a - bound!

Offering Prayer

Good and loving God, *as you have blessed us with these gifts, let them be a blessing for others, revealing your light and love in the world. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Words of InstitutionLord's Prayer

Together we pray: *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.*

Sharing Christ's Meal

Worship Volunteers Needed: Volunteers are needed to assist with various Sunday ministries here at New Salem! Ushers, readers/Communion assistants, helpers to set up Communion before the worship service and tidy up afterward, offering counters (we will train you!), and hosts for our coffee fellowship after worship. Sign up as a family or team up with a friend or two! **Signup sheets are available on the back table in the Fellowship Hall. Remember: If no one signs up to host coffee fellowship, THERE IS NO COFFEE FELLOWSHIP.**

Communion Hymn #1**Spirit of Gentleness***Refrain*

Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness



call-ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest-less - ness,



stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.



1 You moved on the wa - -ters, you called to the deep,
 2 You swept through the des - -ert, you stung with the sand,
 3 You sang in a sta - -ble, you cried from a hill,
 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes.



then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;
 and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;
 then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;
 From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the e - -ons you called to each thing:
 and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,
 and down in the cit - -y you called once a - gain,
 our wom - en see vi - -sions, our men clear their eyes.

Refrain

"A - -wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings."
 then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.
 when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.
 With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo-ple a - rise.

Communion Hymn #2**Brightest and Best**

1 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
 2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;
 3 What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion?
 4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,
 5 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,

dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.
 low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
 Shall we bring in - cense and of - f'rings di - vine,
 vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;
 dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.

Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorm - ing,
 an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
 gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
 rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,
 Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorm - ing,

guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.
 mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.
 myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?
 dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
 guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

Communion Blessing**Post Communion Prayer**

Radiant God, *in this holy meal you have revealed your glory to us in the gift of Jesus Christ. You have nourished us with your grace, now send us into the world bearing your light, that what has been made known to us may be made known through us in a world seeking your peace. Amen.*

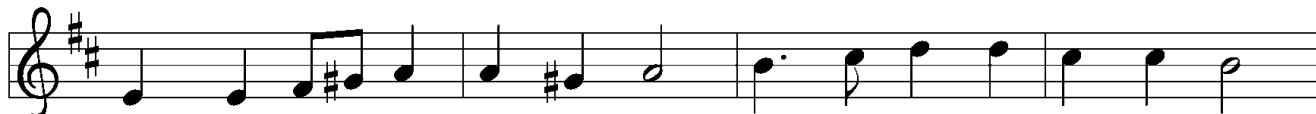
Benediction

Sending Hymn**Songs of Thankfulness and Praise**

1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph - et, priest, and king su - preme;
 3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak - ened bod - y, faint - ing soul;
 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
 and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;
 man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;
 grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
 man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;
 man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:
 that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,



an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,
 an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,
 an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,
 and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

God in flesh made man - i - fest.

Today's Worship Leaders/Assistants

Presiding Clergy: Pastor Terry R. Hagensen

Ushers: Nora and Jerry Illies

Reader/Communion Assistant: Sonya Kraft

Fellowship Hosts: Pauline Golden,

B and Roger Olson

Social Media Coordinator: Nora Illies

Setting the Lord's Table: Sonya & Paul Kraft

Pianist: Cheryl Durant

Cantor/Choir Director: Annalise Aakhus

AV Services: Traci Schanke

New Salem Lutheran Church - Terry R. Hagensen, Pastor

7491 Island View Drive NE, Turtle River, MN 56601

Office Tel: 218-586-2262/Office Email (Traci Schanke): newsalem@paulbunyan.net

Website: newsalem.lutheran.org/

YouTube Channel: New Salem Lutheran Church, Turtle River, MN

December Income vs Expenses (FINAL)**Total General Fund Income for Dec: \$21,031****DEFICIT for Dec: (-\$690)****Total Expenses for Dec: \$21,721****1.4 General Fund Offering: \$3,391****Attendance/Social Media Engagement (as of 1.7.26)****Jan 4 Attendance (in person/online): 35/47****YouTube Subscribers: 138****YouTube Views: 47****Facebook reach: 6,157****Announcements for the Week of January 5, 2026**

Annual Meeting/Potluck is January 25 – Mark Your Calendars! Please plan to attend this important gathering where we will review 2025, vote on the 2026 Mission Plan elect new Council and Endowment Committee members. The Annual Report will be distributed January 18 (hard copy and electronic version). Giving statements for 2025 will be available for pickup at the Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting Reports: If you are responsible for contributing to or submitting a team update for the Annual Report, please get it to Traci in Word or Excel format (no PDFs) no later than **Monday, January 12**, to allow for formatting in time to distribute the final report on January 18. Thank you!!!

Offering Reminder: Please remember to indicate on your check/offering envelope how you wish your gift to be credited. Unmarked offerings/those marked “general” go toward New Salem’s annual operating expenses; gifts marked for other entities are credited as such in your giving record and sent to those organizations. Thank you for supporting the missions and good works of New Salem!

Upcoming Events @ New Salem

Mon, 1/12	Annual Report Updates Due	
	New Salem Volunteers at Food Shelf	9 am-12:15 pm and 12 – 3:15 pm
Wed, 1/14	Choir Practice	5 p.m.
Thurs, 1/15	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sun, 1/18	Annual Report Distributed	
Tues, 1/20	Team/Church Council Meetings	6 & 6:30 p.m.
Wed, 1/21	Choir Practice	5 p.m.
Thurs, 1/22	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sun, 1/25	Annual Congregation Meeting and Potluck following worship	



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Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ – Text: Fred Kaan (b. 1929)/Music: Jamaican folk tune;
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Spirit of Gentleness – Text and music: James K. Manley (b. 1940)

Text and music © 1978 James K. Manley

Brightest and Best of the Stars – Text: Reginald Heber (1783-1826), alt.

Music: James P. Harding (1850-1911), adapt.

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise – Text: Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885), alt.

Music: Jacob Hintze (1622-1702); arr. JS Bach (1685-1750)

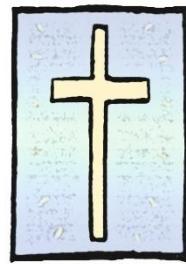
Join the Choir and Make a
Joyful Noise!

If you like to sing,

join the New Salem Choir.

We are a fun, friendly, supportive group, and the ability to read music is not necessary! The choir sings for worship on the first and third Sundays of each month, as well as presenting special music at Christmas/Easter and participating in the summer Bemidji Area Church Musicians recital. Rehearsals are at 5 p.m. on Wednesdays – join us!



New Salem's Highlighted Mission Partner — January 2026**Churches United***"Welcoming the stranger as Jesus."*

Churches United of Bemidji was first organized in 2002, when a number of clergy and lay persons came together to address the city-wide problem of the numerous low-income and homeless people and families who were frequenting the churches of Bemidji in need of financial assistance. As a result, after numerous meetings and discussions, it was decided that if all the various churches could come together we might find a way to pool our resources and therefore become more effective in assisting the poor. This, we all agreed, would also relieve pastors and church staff from the often time-consuming task of having to deal with those in need by referring them to a central location where trained volunteers and staff could be of greater help than we could accomplish by acting alone. Since that time, with the support of the many community churches, Churches United has successfully achieved our goal and continues to this day to be a place "where ministry happens" as we work cooperatively to "welcome the stranger as Jesus".

New Salem Lutheran has supported Churches United since its beginning and continues to be a strong partner.

Churches United is currently looking for individuals who are willing to donate 1-4 hours per month to helping in the office. Activities volunteers may be involved in include: greeting individuals as they come in, interviewing clients, photocopying, data entry, filing, donations inventory, fetching items from the backroom to meet client needs, and more. There is something for everyone and no need for everyone to do everything.

A love for people and a desire to make a difference are the main requirements. If you are interested, contact the director by stopping into the office business hours or calling and leaving a message anytime. Churches United is open from Noon to 4, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Through the various services it provides, Churches United assists impoverished people and people experiencing homelessness. There are specific areas in which **you can help Churches United** transform the lives of those Churches United serves.

1. Financial Support: *Churches United* relies upon financial contributions from its participant churches to provide these diverse services but contributions from individuals are also quite important. *Churches United* accepts donations year round (cash or check). Note: All donations are tax deductible.
2. Volunteering: *Churches United* is open and continuing to follow COVID 19 protocols. We ask for just four (4) hours of your time per month. We have a job for you, no matter what your skill set is. If you like helping people, greeting people, filing paperwork, data entry, or just organizing the office; we have a job for you.

Winter is here, please help us provide for the needs of our homeless neighbors.

Please call 218-444-1380 to be sure that we are open, before coming to our office.

God's Work, Our Treasure—January 2026

This month New Salem is lifting up the work of a mission partner, **Churches United**, and urges you to consider the various ways you might support this valuable ministry.

You can send your check to New Salem and indicate it is for the work of **Churches United**

And we will forward your gift to them. <https://bemidjicu.org>

Please prayerfully consider how you might support the work of this important ministry.

Sermon Notes/Weekly Assignment

The Baptism of Our Lord

Throughout the Sundays after Epiphany, the readings feature stories in which Jesus is shown forth as Christ, our Savior. The gospel for this coming Sunday tells of John the Baptist baptizing Jesus and a voice from heaven naming Jesus the Son of God. We who are baptized are also called sons and daughters of God. Come to worship, to remember and celebrate your own baptism.

The Readings on This Day

Matthew 3:13-17: At his baptism, Jesus hears the voice of God, receives the Spirit of God, and is acclaimed Son of God. For Christians, this narrative illuminates Christian baptism, when believers also are adopted as children by the name of the triune God.

Isaiah 42:1-9: The first Servant Song is appointed because Christians have seen in it a description of Jesus Christ, the one chosen by God to bring forth justice throughout the world. By baptism, believers are called into the way of Christ to be a new creation, to receive the name of God and become lights in the world.

Acts 10:34-43: This passage from Acts is chosen to coordinate with the gospel from Matthew 3. The sermon put into Peter's mouth places baptism as the beginning of Christian ministry. All who believe in the name of Jesus receive forgiveness.

Images in the Readings

There can be no life as we know without water. Christians see in the waters of baptism the matrix of our new life in Christ. The font is like the Jordan, a river of water that leads us to the new land of promise.

The dove functions in several biblical stories as a symbol of the presence of God's Holy Spirit. The white color matches the baptismal garment. Secular culture connects the dove especially with peace, which Acts cites as the message of Jesus' preaching.

The gospel reading uses the image of Son to describe Jesus' identity; the first reading uses the image of servant; and the second reading speaks of Jesus as the anointed one. Each of these images conveys something of the meaning of Jesus for believers. It is instructive to think about "Son" and "Christ" as metaphors before these words became literalized as part of Jesus' name.

Once again, light is an image for the power of God. Early Christians referred to baptism as enlightenment.

Gail Ramshaw, sundaysandseasons.com

