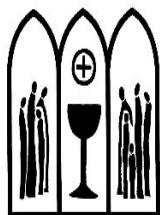


January 11, 2026  
Baptism of Our  
Lord

St. John's, Mahone Bay





# St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church (SJELC)

South Shore Lutheran Shared Ministry (SSLSM)  
Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia  
[www.stjohnsmahonebay.ca](http://www.stjohnsmahonebay.ca)

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**Sunday January 11, 2026 - Communion  
Baptism of Our Lord  
First Sunday after Epiphany**

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GATHERING

## THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

May God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

**It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, O God, Alpha and Omega,  
the beginning and the end.

You are the One who makes all things new.

To the thirsty you give water from the spring of the water of life.

You make the wasteland glad,

the desert rejoice and blossom,

turning parched ground into a refreshing pool

and arid terrain into an overflowing fountain.

By the gift of water you nourish and renew all living things

**Glory to you forever and ever.**

In the beginning, when darkness covered the face of the deep,  
you breathed your Spirit over the waters,  
calling forth life in abundance.

In the time of Noah, when the flood of judgment engulfed the earth,  
you rescued and made a covenant with your creation

**Glory to you forever and ever.**

At the Red Sea,  
you drove back the waters by the strong wind of your Spirit,  
opening up a path to liberation.

You released the children of Israel from the shackles of slavery  
to dance and sing on the shore of freedom and promise.

**Glory to you forever and ever.**

In the fullness of time, Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan,  
repenting for the sin of the world  
and restoring to water its healing work in all creation.

**Glory to you forever and ever.**

In the Jordan,  
you revealed Jesus as the one in whom your soul delights.  
You anointed him to open the eyes that are blind,  
to rescue the prisoners from the dungeon,  
to set free those who sit in darkness,  
and to bring forth justice to the nations.

**Glory to you forever and ever.**

Suffering the baptism of death and resurrection,  
Jesus set us free from the bondage of sin and death,  
and gave birth to the New Creation.

The crucified and risen Christ stands among us,  
baptizing with the Holy Spirit and with fire,  
enlivening us to proclaim the gospel to all nations,  
serve you as a royal priesthood,  
and act as faithful stewards of all that you have made.

**Glory to you forever and ever.**

Breathe your Spirit, O God, upon this water  
that your servants who are washed and anointed  
may share with your Christ in his death and resurrection.  
Let there be no distinction among those  
whom one font, one Spirit, one faith make one people.  
Together, may we stand as a sign and foretaste of your Kingdom,  
a covenant to the people, a light to the nations.  
We give you praise and honour and worship  
through your Child, Jesus the Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.  
**Glory to you forever and ever. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn ~ ELW #423**  
~ *Shall We Gather at the River*

## **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 ~ p. 184**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE ~ p. 187**

**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 Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**WORD**

**FIRST READING – Isaiah 42:1-9 (NRSV)**

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.  
He will not cry out or lift up his voice  
    or make it heard in the street;  
a bruised reed he will not break,  
    and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;  
    he will faithfully bring forth justice.  
He will not grow faint or be crushed  
    until he has established justice in the earth,  
    and the coastlands wait for his teaching.  
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:  
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,  
    to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
    from the prison those who sit in darkness.  
I am the Lord; that is my name;  
    my glory I give to no other,  
    nor my praise to idols.  
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 29

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,  
**ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.**  
Ascribe to the Lord, the glory due God's name;  
**worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**  
The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;  
**the Lord is upon the mighty waters.**  
The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;  
**the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**  
The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;  
**the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;**  
the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
**and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**  
The voice of the Lord  
**bursts forth in lightning flashes.**  
The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;  
**the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**  
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!"**  
The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;  
**the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.**  
O Lord, give strength to your people;  
**give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.**

## SECOND READING – Acts 10:34-43 (NRSV)

### Gentiles Hear the Good News

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 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. 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, but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 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. 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. 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**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Gospel Acclamation ~ ELW p. 188**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord**

## GOSPEL READING – Matthew 3:13-17(NRSV)

### The Baptism of Jesus

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” 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. 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. 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:** Pastor Annette

***Hymn of the Day ~ ELW #453***  
***~ Baptized and Set Free***

### NICENE CREED – p. 104

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; Was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

Who with the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

*A brief silence.*

Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs (*local water sources may be named*). Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill especially Jocelyn Wentzell, Florence Slauenwhite, Shelley Ernst, Donna Naugler, and Wendy Keddy and for those whom we name in the silence of our hearts or aloud.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Loving God, awaken the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation, that we may serve Christ by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. We pray for travelers and those who are homebound.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Promising God, in baptism we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Sharing of the Peace with one another*

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*~offered by Michelle Temple*

## **OFFERING**

Offering presented by our Greeters

## **OFFERTORY 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 us with the reign of God come near,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **MEAL**

### **Great Thanksgiving ~ ELW p. 190**

God be with you

**And also with you**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**It is right to give our thanks and praise**

## **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and hosts of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### **SANCTUS - Holy, Holy Holy ~ ELW p. 190**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

You are indeed Holy, O Lord,  
and all you have created gives you praise,  
for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,  
by the power and working of the Holy Spirit,  
you give life to all things and make them holy,  
and you never cease to gather a people to yourself,  
so that from the rising of the sun to its setting  
a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.  
Therefore, O Lord, by the same Spirit  
graciously make holy these gifts of bread and wine  
that they may become the Body and Blood of your Son  
our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Among friends, gathered around a table,

Jesus took bread, and broke it, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.  
Later he took a cup of wine. Again he gave thanks,  
gave it to them and said:  
drink this all of you; This is my blood.  
This is the new relationship with God made possible  
because of my death.  
Take it all of you, so that I may be present in your midst."  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.  
He whom the universe could not contain,  
who redeemed us and called us by name now meets us in this meal.  
So take this bread and wine.  
In them God comes to us so that we may come to God. **Amen.**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER p. 191**

**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.**

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

#### **LAMB OF GOD ~ ELW p. 191**

#### **COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
**Amen.**

#### ***Communion Hymn ~ ELW #396* ~ Spirit of Gentleness**

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Radiant God,  
we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you  
have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the  
beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our  
Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## SENDING

## 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~ ELW #310  
~ Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love Mercy.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER:**  
**Jocelyn Wentzell, Florence Slauenwhite, Shelley Ernst, Donna Naugler  
and Wendy Keddy.**

*Remember to pray for all those who we know  
~ family and friends ~*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NOTE:** Starting in January, weekly services will be held in the Education Centre until Easter.

### Practices:

- **Handbell** - Practice will resume Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.
- **St. John's Choir** - Practice will resume Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 6:15 p.m.

### Upcoming Events:

- There will **not** be a **Common Table** in January.  
There will not be a fellowship Sunday in January or February.
- **February 8<sup>th</sup>** Annual Meeting and Potluck following the communion service at 11:00 a.m.

### Meetings:

- **January 20, 2026**, Church Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.

### Other:

- Annual meeting reports are **due** January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Have them sent electronically to the church office.
- Grocery Card orders are **due** January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Give or email your order to David Eisnor. Order forms are available on the bulletin boards.
- Charitable tax receipts for 2025 will be ready for pickup February 15, 2025.

**SSLSM Worship Schedule – for Odd and Even Months**  
**Odd Months (January, March, May, July, September, November)**

**Pastor Annette**

**Pastor Victoria**

**First Sunday**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 9:00 am – Mount Calvary, Upper Northfield | 9:00 am – St. Andrew's, West Northfield |
| 11:00 am – St. Paul's, Bridgewater        | 11:00 am – Zion, Lunenburg              |
| 1:00 pm – All Saints, Newcombville        | <b>1:00 pm – St. John's, Mahone Bay</b> |

**Second Sunday**

|  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 9:00 am – St. James, Branch LaHave       | 9:00 am – St. Paul's, Bridgewater   |
| <b>11:00 am – St. John's, Mahone Bay</b> | 11:00 am – Mt. Olivet, Upper LaHave |
| 1:00 pm – Zion, Lunenburg                | 1:00 pm – Grace, First South        |

**Third Sunday**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 9:00 am – St. Andrew's, West Northfield | 9:00 am – Mt. Calvary, Upper Northfield |
| 11:00 am – St. Paul's, Bridgewater      | 11:00 am – All Saints, Newcombville     |
| <b>1:00 pm – St. John's, Mahone Bay</b> | 1:00 pm – Zion, Lunenburg               |

**Fourth Sunday**

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 9:00 am – Grace, First South        | 9:00 am – St. Paul's, Bridgewater        |
| 11:00 am – Zion, Lunenburg          | <b>11:00 am – St. John's, Mahone Bay</b> |
| 1:00 pm – St. Luke's, Rhodes Corner | 2:00 pm – St. James, Branch LaHave       |

**Even Months (February, April, June, August, October, December)**

**Pastor Victoria**

**Pastor Annette**

**First Sunday**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 9:00 am – Mt. Calvary, Upper Northfield | 9:00 am – St. Andrew's, West Northfield |
| 11:00 am – St. Paul's, Bridgewater      | 11:00 am – Zion, Lunenburg              |
| 1:00 pm – All Saints, Newcombville      | <b>1:00 pm – St. John's, Mahone Bay</b> |

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**Fourth Sunday**

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 9:00 am – Grace, First South        | 9:00 am – St. Paul's, Bridgewater        |
| 11:00 am – Zion, Lunenburg          | <b>11:00 am – St. John's, Mahone Bay</b> |
| 1:00 pm – St. Luke's, Rhodes Corner | 2:00 pm – St. James, Branch LaHave       |

**Contact Information South Shore Lutheran Shared Ministry**

**Pastor Annette Smith**  
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Messages & Emails are checked daily  
**Website: [sslsm.ca](http://sslsm.ca)**