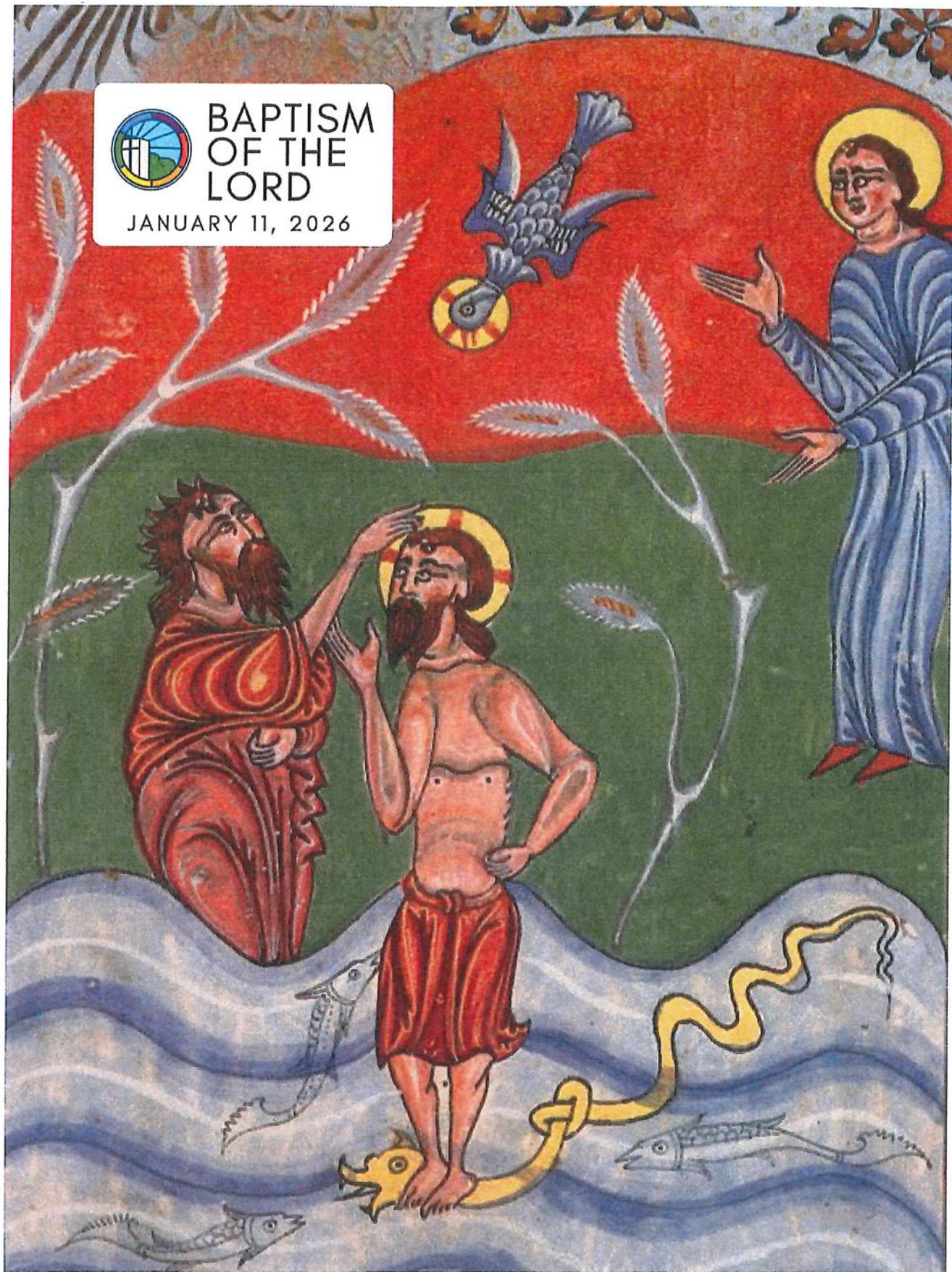




BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 11, 2026



Welcome! The mission of First Congregational United Church of Christ is to: **Live by faith, embody love, proclaim hope, and seek justice.** If you are worshipping with us for the first time, we hope that you will find God's presence among us. When the Friendship Folder is passed during the announcements, please sign it, and then pass it back across the pew to the inside aisle.

All are welcome. Jesus called us to welcome all into God's family. Join our Fellowship Hour after worship where everyone is invited to enjoy refreshments in the Community Room. A restroom for families and every body is in the narthex.

Children are welcome in worship! Activity bags are available in the narthex. There is an area for parents and children at the front of the nave which allows children to be close to the action in worship. Our staffed nursery (downstairs) is an option as well; all kids workers have undergone a background check. Today, the children will remain in worship to help lead worship.

Livestreaming Notice for Worship. We strive for worship to be accessible for all, so we livestream our worship services on our YouTube channel, First Congregational UCC, La Crosse. Your voice and/or image may be visible in the broadcast. These recordings are publicly available at the church's discretion. If you prefer not to appear, we invite you to sit in the sanctuary's last six rows, which are not shown on camera.



Please ask an usher if you would like a large print or sensory friendly bulletin, or if you need directions or any other assistance. A Hearing Loop system is available. Turn your hearing device to the "T" setting.

Serving in Worship Today

Leading Worship & Preaching.....	Laura Wright
Organist, Pianist, and Choir Director.....	Nancy Allen
Reading Scripture.....	Jonah Brouwer
Head Usher	Allan Beatty
Ushers	Diane Schumacher, Tom Stolpa
Nursery.....	Zali Stanton
Fellowship.....	Finance

* In the order of service indicates all who are able, please stand.

Gathering

in the presence of God

Gathering Music

"O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus"

Nancy Allen
Arr. by Krug

Welcome and Announcements

Thank you for joining us today. Please pass the Friendship Folder, fill out the information you wish to share, & note those worshipping in your pew so you can greet them by name.

Prelude Music

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Annabelle Brouwer

"The Lonely Pine"

Autumn White

"Home on the Range"

Hazel Kemp

"Für Elise"

Peter White

"Morning Prayer"

Nada Austin

"You Raised Me Up"

Jonah Brouwer

*Call to Worship

Reese Boorn-Nederloe

One: We come to worship God.

Jesus came to the water, humble & full of love.

All: **We come with humble hearts.**

One: The heavens opened, and the Spirit came like a dove.

All: **We come ready to listen for God's voice.**

One: Come — let us worship God together and sing:



Christ be - side me, Christ be - fore me,
 Christ be - hind me-- King of my heart;
 Christ with - in me, Christ be - low me,
 Christ a - bove me-- nev - er to part.

Moment of Silence

Take this moment of silence to be still and listen for God.

*Hymn 248 (*All join in singing the hymns.*)

"I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light"

Houston

*Sharing the Peace

Blaire Boorn-Nederloe

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

Please greet those near you with Blaire's kid-friendly greeting and with words such as: "Peace be with you. / And also with you."

Listening

for the Still-speaking God

The Word for Children

Children will join the pastor in the center aisle as we walk forward for the Word for Children. Kids will return to their families after the Word for Children and continue to participate in worship.

Baptism of Joan Budnick

Acclamation (*Sung by all.*)

Halleluja

All: 

Hal-le-Hal-le-Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le-Hal-le-Hal - le - lu - ja.
Hal-le-Hal-le-Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le-lu-ja. Hal - le - lu - ja.

The First Lesson

Jonah Brouwer

Acts 10:34-43

The Psalter

Psalm 29 (*Reading is based on The Message.*)

One: Bravo, God, bravo!

Gods and all angels shout, "Encore!"

Many: in awe before the glory, in awe before God's visible power.

One: Stand at attention! Honor him!

Many: God thunders across the waters,

One: brilliant, his voice and his face, streaming brightness—
God, across the flood waters.

Many: God's voice is powerful;

God's voice is majestic.

One: God's thunder smashes cedars.

God topples the northern cedars.

Many: The mountain ranges skip like spring colts;

the high ridges jump like wild kid goats

One: God's thunder spits fire.

God's thunder, the wilderness quakes;

Many: He makes the desert in the south shake.

One: God's thunder sets the oak trees dancing a wild dance, whirling;
the pelting rain strips their branches.

Many: We fall to our knees—we call out, "Glory!"

One: God makes his people strong.

Many: God gives this people peace.

The Gospel

Matthew 3:13-17

Sermon

"When the Sky Spoke"

Rev. Dr. Laura Wright

Responding

with the voice of hope

*Anthem

The Sanctuary Choir

"Things that Never Die"

Arr. by Lee Dengler

The Community Invited into Prayer

Prayers of the People

Leader: God, in your love,

All: hear our prayer.

The Prayer of Jesus (*Said by all. Use language that reflects your view of God.*)

Our (Father / Mother / Creator) 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,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

Thanksgiving

for the gifts of God

Stories of Generosity

Brad Seebach

Music at the Offertory

*As the Gifts Are Presented: Sing to the tune of Old 100th (Hymn 34).

(All who are able are invited to stand and sing.)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Praise God, for all that love has done,
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One!



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Going

to be messengers of good news

*Hymn 719 (All join in singing the hymns.)

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

Ar Hyd y Nos

*The Blessing

Postlude Music

"Spirit of God"

Nancy Allen

Ritter

Acknowledgements: "Christ Beside Me," words © 1969 James Quinn, S.J. (Selah Publishing Co., Inc., North American administrator) and music arr. © 1989 Hope Publishing Company. "I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light," words and music © 1970 Celebration (Admin. The Copyright Company). "Go, My Children, with My Blessing," words © 1983 Jaroslav J. Vajda and music in the public domain. Hymns and music reprinted and streamed with permission under Onelicense.net #A-728014.

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*Flowers today are given by Lori Graff
in Memory of her father, Oswald Klonsten, on his Jan. 11th Birthday.*

First Congregational UCC Ministry Team

All the Members.....	Ministers
Rev. Dr. Laura Wright.....	Senior Pastor
Nancy Allen	Organist & Choir Director
Sue Retzlaff	Bell Choir Director
Michelle Logan	Office Manager

Contact Information: First Congregational UCC, 2503 Main Street, La Crosse, WI 54601, 608-784-8137 or office@firstcongolax.org, or visit us on the web at www.firstcongolax.org.

What gifts did you give God this week?

Can we share your gift to God with the congregation?

Yes_____ No_____

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week in our Church:

Sunday, January 11

Baptism of the Lord

9:00 am	Faith Forum: Prayer, Meditation & Mindfulness (C)
10:00 am	Worship
10:00 am	Nursery
11:00 am	Fellowship (CR)
11:00 am	Missions & Social Justice Meeting (L)
4:30 pm	Congo Crew (L)

Tuesday, January 13

5:00 pm	Creation Care Meeting (Zoom)
7:15 pm	Christian Education Meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday, January 14

10:00 am	Sip & Scripture (P)
6:30 pm	Building & Grounds Meeting (CR)

C = Chapel, J = JAM Rooms, L = Lounge, N = Narthex,

Thursday, January 15

7:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir (S)
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Friday, January 16

Office Closed

10:30 am	Bell Choir Rehearsal (CR)
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Sunday, January 18

Second Sunday after Epiphany

10:00 am	Worship
10:00 am	Nursery
10:20 am	JAM
11:00 am	Fellowship (CR)
11:00 am	WISE Meeting (C)

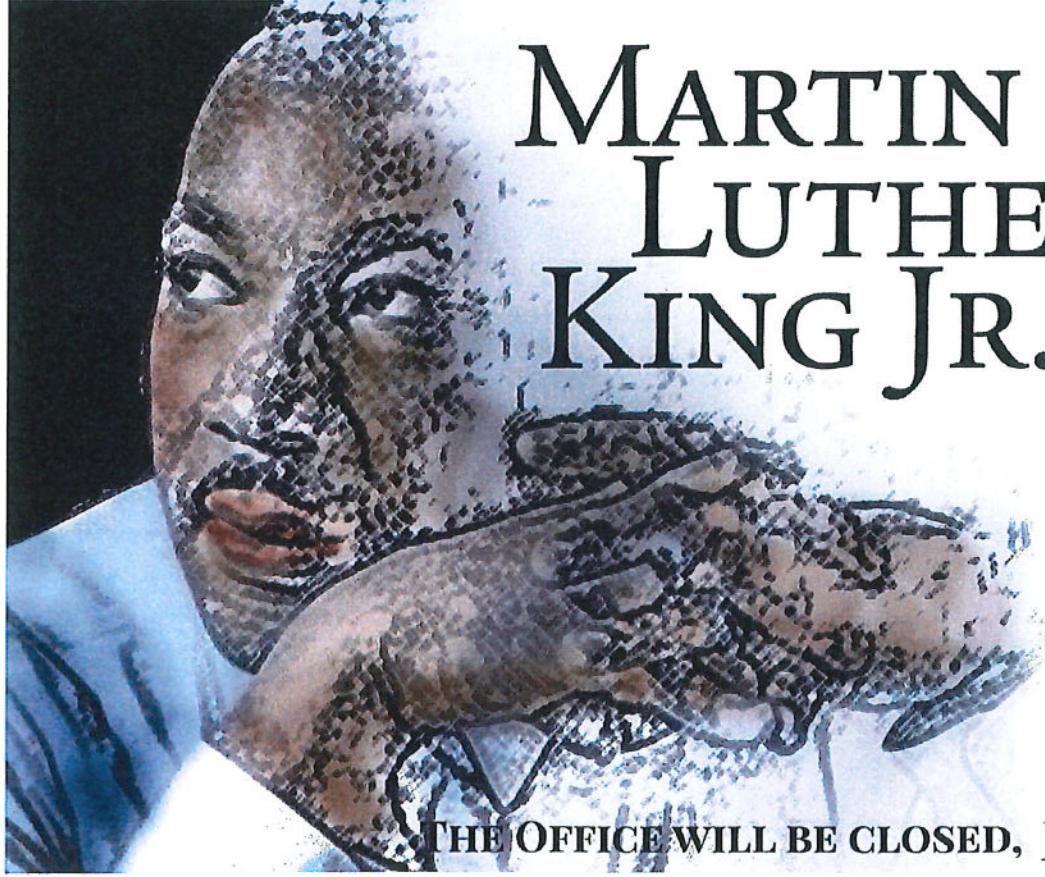
CALENDAR KEY

CR = Community Room, P = Pastor's Office, S = Sanctuary



*The rose on the altar is in
celebration of the baptism of
Joan Budnik.*

Today we joyfully welcome Joan
into the family of Christ,
surrounded by God's love and this
community's promise of care and
support.



MARTIN
LUTHER
KING JR. DAY

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED, JANUARY 19TH

CONGO CREW

JANUARY 11TH AT 4:30PM
DON'T MISS IT

Tonight's the night! 🎉

We're kicking off our
4th & 5th Grade Youth Group!

📍 Meet at First Congo
🕒 4:30–6:30 pm

Get ready for fun games,
faith-building time, and yummy food!

Parents—please plan to
pick students up at 6:30 pm.
We can't wait to see you there! 🤍



MONDAY MEALS



**It's not too late to sign up for our first
Monday Meal of 2026!**

 **January 19**

 **Trinity Lutheran Church,
1010 Sill Street, La Crosse**

**Join us as we help our neighbors and share God's
love through service.**

We'd love to have you with us! 



Let's Get to Know Each Other!

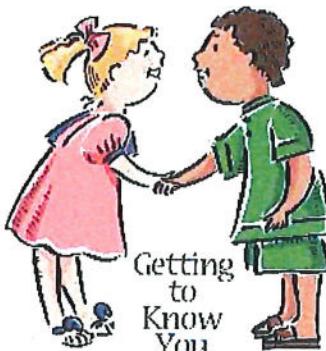
INTERGENERATIONAL SPEED GREETING & CHILI COOK-OFF

Friday, January 23 | 5:30–7:30 PM

Kick off the new year with a fun (and delicious!) evening designed to connect generations across our church family. Join us for a chili dinner and a lively speed-greeting experience where kids and adults get to know one another through play, conversation, and laughter.



- Think you make the best chili? Enter as a chili-maker!
- Love tasting chili? Come enjoy great food, fellowship, and friendly competition.



Intergenerational Speed Greeting

Adults will host activity tables—think Legos, tea parties, drawing, and more—while kids rotate through each station. Kids will use bingo cards to ask questions, make connections, and win prizes along the way!

If you're interested in hosting a friendship shuffle or being a chili chef, please use the QR code to sign up or contact Michelle in the church office at office@firstcongolax.org or (608) 784-8137.



Come hungry, come curious, and come ready to connect!  