

# The Baptism of Our Lord

January 13, 2013 • Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22



**F**OR SIX MONTHS IN 1969, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers diverted the water feeding into Niagara Falls to expose and study the rock structure underneath. This gospel text reveals the bedrock of our faith: the triune God in action. Jesus presents himself for baptism; the Spirit descends upon Jesus; and the Father proclaims Jesus the beloved son. “All the people” are invited into this baptism, to be claimed as God’s sons and daughters and called to Christian vocation. Baptism unites us with Christ and renews us daily in our faith.

Recognizing that we share “one Lord, one faith, one baptism” is the anchor of ecumenical full communion relations. We are joined together with all those who have been baptized in Jesus’ name, and we are called to make the church’s unity apparent in our lives and words, in our actions and in our worship, that the world may believe.

Responding to that call are Peace Lutheran Church and St. Alban’s Episcopal Church in Annandale, Virginia, who nurture their baptized children in an annual joint Vacation Bible School. Across the U.S., 18 Lutheran-Episcopal joint campus ministries, like Stanford University’s, encourage college students in their faith journeys. In these ecumenical ministries, students experience the outpouring of God’s baptismal grace, and the world witnesses the unity of Christ.

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*Holy God, who united us to Christ and to one another through baptism, stir up baptismal faith within us daily. Strengthen us in our call to common mission, that we might be witnesses to the world in unity, faith, love, and service, through the grace of Jesus Christ, your beloved Son and our Savior. Amen.*

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*Mitzi J. Buddle* (Alexandria, Virginia), a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in American, is Head Librarian and Professor at Virginia (Episcopal) Theological Seminary, and serves as ELCA co-chair of the Lutheran-Episcopal Coordinating Committee.

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