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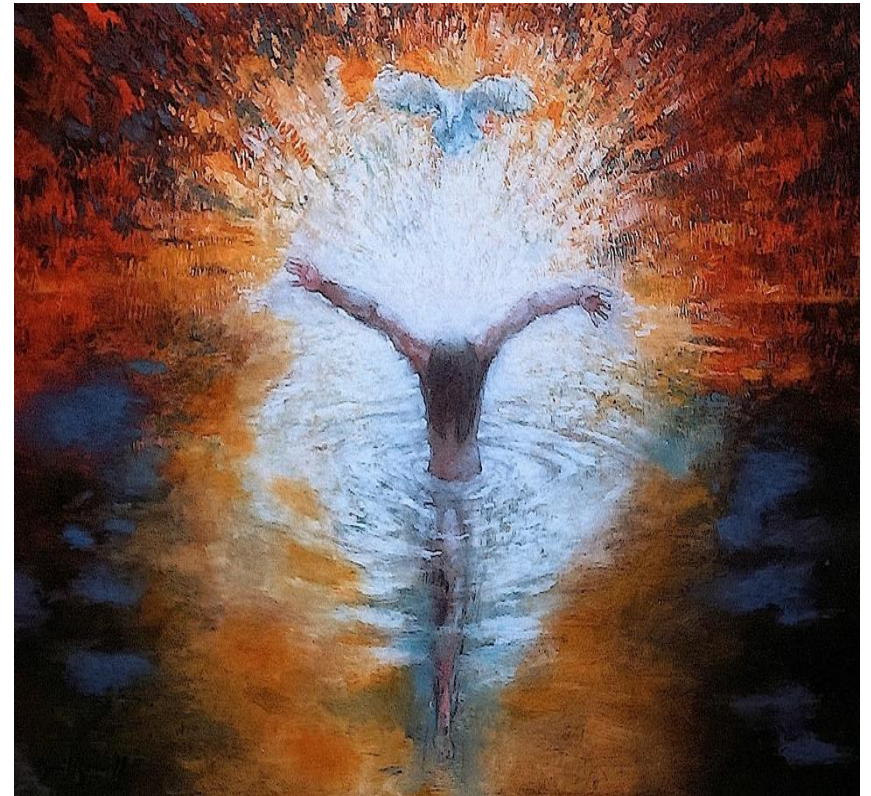
The Evangelical Covenant Church

The unique character of the Covenant is expressed in the design of the logo - people united in Christ, people serving people in God's name, and people bringing people to Christ. The basis of the design is symbolic of four people facing north, south, east, and west. Note that each one's arms are outstretched, indicating the church's outreach in mission and service to the world. The four are part of the whole, yet their hands do not touch, symbolizing their unity in the freedom and evangelical warmth that characterizes the Covenant. The geometric arrangement of the four figures results in a cross-like pattern, representative of the center of our faith. The center circle symbolizes the unity and the bond of fellowship which we call "the Covenant."

Covenant Community Church

Baptism of the Lord

January 7, 2023



We Gather

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship (from Genesis 1 and Psalm 29 NLT[©])

Leader: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters.

People: And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

Leader: Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

People: And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness.

Leader: God called the light "day" and the darkness "night." And evening passed and morning came, marking the first day.

People: Honor the Lord for the glory of his name. Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.

Leader: The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is majestic.

**People: The Lord gives his people strength.
The Lord blesses them with peace.**

*Opening Hymn #8 *How Great Thou Art*

*Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN

* All who are able are invited to stand

We Hear The Word

New Testament Reading

Acts 19:1-7 NLT[©]

*Gospel Reading

Mark 1:4-11 NLT[©]

*Second Hymn #317

Beautiful Savior

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

*Communion Hymn #572

Let Us Break Bread Together

Communion

We Respond

Prayers of the People (Lord in your mercy...**Hear our Prayer**)

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

*Offering Response

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, Alleluia*

*Prayer of Dedication

We Are Sent Into the World

Benediction

*Benediction Response (please stand & turn to face each other as we sing)

ALL: The LORD bless you and keep you, the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious, gracious, gracious to you, the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you, give you, give you peace.

Leader: Go in Peace, to Love and Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

water, he saw the heavens splitting apart and the Holy Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice from heaven said, “You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy.”

The word of the LORD. **Thanks be to GOD.**

Announcements

Church De-Greening: TODAY, Sunday, January 7, following the worship service. Hope you can stay and help put away the church decorations. “*Many hands make for light work.*” Thank you.

Ecumenical Food Shelf Distribution, January 20, 2024 from 8:30-11:00 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Route 15, Jericho. Susan T. is our church’s representative to this Ecumenical ministry.

Essex Jericho Underhill Ecumenical Food Shelf Needs: The EJU Food Shelf is running low on pretty much everything! Our church is "mac and cheese and canned veggies". Any non-perishable food or cash donations are graciously accepted! Food or cash donations can once again be dropped off at church on the shelf next to the doors in the Narthex or at the food donation boxes at Hannaford, Price Chopper in Essex, or the Jericho Market. If you have any questions, talk with Susan T.

Helping Us Worship

Pastor:	Rev. Jim Wilkens
Scripture Reader:	Benita Lord
Communion Provider & Server:	Benita Lord
Tech Team:	Don Turner & Doug Morrell

New Testament Reading

Acts 19:1-7 NLT[©]

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior regions until he reached Ephesus, on the coast, where he found several believers. ² “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” he asked them.

“No,” they replied, “we haven’t even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

³ “Then what baptism did you experience?” he asked.

And they replied, “The baptism of John.”

⁴ Paul said, “John’s baptism called for repentance from sin. But John himself told the people to believe in the one who would come later, meaning Jesus.”

⁵ As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ Then when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied. ⁷ There were about twelve men in all.

*Gospel Reading

Mark 1:4-11 NLT[©]

⁴ This messenger was John the Baptist. He was in the wilderness and preached that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven. ⁵ All of Judea, including all the people of Jerusalem, went out to see and hear John. And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. ⁶ His clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey.

⁷ John announced: “Someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not even worthy to stoop down like a slave and untie the straps of his sandals. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!”

⁹ One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. ¹⁰ As Jesus came up out of the