



*Dear Friends in Christ:*

*As 2019 comes to a close and we embark on 2020 let's make a splash in the New Year by pondering with me what it means to be*

*living our baptism. We will ponder over the next few months what it means to be baptized, how that impact upon our daily lives and what it means for our discipleship in Christ.*

*In the baptismal service the parents, and then the sponsors and then the entire congregation is asked to affirm the following vow or promise.*

AS YOU BRING YOUR CHILD TO RECEIVE THE GIFT OF BAPTISM, YOU ARE ENTRUSTED WITH RESPONSIBILITIES: TO LIVE WITH (HIM/HER) AMONG GOD'S FAITHFUL PEOPLE, BRING (HIM/HER) TO THE WORD OF GOD AND THE HOLY SUPPER, TEACH (HIM/HER) THE LORD'S PRAYER, THE CREED, AND THE TEN COMMANDMENTS, PLACE IN (HIS/HER) HANDS THE HOLY SCRIPTURES, AND NURTURE (HIM/HER) IN FAITH AND PRAYER, SO THAT YOUR CHILD MAY LEARN AND TRUST GOD, PROCLAIM CHRIST THROUGH WORD AND DEED, CARE FOR OTHERS AND THE WORLD GOD MADE, AND WORK FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE. DO YOU PROMISE TO HELP YOUR CHILD GROW IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AND LIFE?

**RESPONSE: I DO, WE DO, RESPECTIVELY**

*In the service for the Affirmation of Baptism the Confirmand is asked in similar fashion to "affirm" this very vow made for them in baptism. But this comes as they have hopefully been nurtured and raised and taught and experienced the faith by those same parents, sponsors and congregational members that committed to do so when they were baptized.*

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

**RESPONSE: I DO AND I ASK GOD TO HELP AND GUIDE ME.**

*Unfortunately two things happen in both these*

*instances. First, many parents do not carry through with this vow until confirmation and secondly after confirmation we rarely see the student. Therefore we shall address this in the months to come. How do we live our baptism? What are the gifts of discipleship?*

PONDER WITH,

**Pastor Hal**





### CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Hal.....715-828-1112  
Email.....harkihear@gmail.com  
If you are hospitalized, know someone who is, need pastoral assistance, a prayer request, home visit, private communion or other pastoral service contact Pastor Hal at any of the above.



Below is the Sunday and texts with a theme. Use these to prepare for worship.

### Second Sunday of Christmas

January 5, 2020  
John 1: 1-18  
“Hymn to the Word”

### Baptism of our Lord

January 12, 2020  
Matthew 3: 13-17  
“Touched by the Spirit”

### Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 19, 2020  
John 1: 29-42  
“The Domino Effect”

### Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 26, 2020  
Matthew 4: 12-23  
“Calling of the First Four”



**ANNUAL MEETINGS**  
January 26, 2020  
Barum- 9:00 a.m.  
Big Elk Creek-10:30  
Following an abbreviated worship!



### A penguin “parable”

During storms, emperor penguins huddle for warmth, taking turns at the center and on the perimeter of the group. While incubating eggs, up to 6,000 male penguins have been observed clustering for shelter against the harsh Antarctic winter. Partially grown chicks gather in protective “crèches” (French for “cribs”); often surrounded by a colony of adults, these groupings ward off predators and cold.

In stormy times, humans also need supportive groups; we can’t survive alone. A church family allows us to take turns giving and receiving care. Amid social upheaval, injustice, illness, natural disaster and any loss or crisis, God invites us to gather for protection and warmth. In the church community, we support and strengthen one another and are empowered to go out again into the less-sheltered world.

### +Christian Symbol+



XPICTOC

This set of letters spells “Christ” in Greek. It may be written using the Roman alphabet (from which the English alphabet descended), but is also often presented in Greek characters, as shown here.