

Summary

The sermon delivered by Pastor Diane Birkland at Zion Lutheran Church focused on the baptism of Jesus and its significance. It highlighted the humility and obedience of Jesus as he set an example for us by being baptized, even though he was without sin. The sermon also emphasized the importance of living as examples of God's love and grace in our daily lives, reflecting the kindness, generosity, and peace of God to those around us.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for gathering us here today. Open our hearts and minds to receive Your word and guidance. Help us to understand the significance of Jesus' baptism and how we can live as examples of Your love. May Your Spirit move among us, teaching us and transforming us. Amen.

What is your favorite beach memory or experience?

Key Verses

Isaiah 43:1-2

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Matthew 3:13-17

Questions

What does Jesus' baptism mean to you personally?

How can we live as examples of God's love in our daily lives?

Why do you think Jesus chose to be baptized by John?

What are some ways we can show God's kindness and generosity to others?

How does understanding our identity as God's beloved children impact our actions?

What role does the Holy Spirit play in guiding us to live like Jesus?

How can we create a welcoming and hospitable environment in our church community?

What are some practical steps we can take to spend more time in prayer and reflection like Jesus did?

Life Application

This week, focus on one area of your life where you can be a better example of God's love and grace. Whether it's at work, home, or in your community, find a way to reflect God's kindness and generosity.

Key Takeaways

Jesus' baptism was an act of humility and obedience, setting an example for us.

We are called to live as examples of God's love and grace in our daily lives.

Understanding our identity as God's beloved children empowers us to live faithfully.

Spending time in prayer and reflection is crucial for aligning our lives with God's will.

Our actions and behavior can be a powerful witness to others about God's love.

Ending Prayer

Gracious God, thank You for the time we've spent together reflecting on Your word. As we go forth, help us to live as examples of Your love and grace. May our lives be a testament to Your kindness and generosity. Guide us with Your Spirit and strengthen us to follow Jesus' example in all that we do. Amen.