

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 10, 2024

A WORD FROM PT

The word *epiphany* may not be completely unknown, but it is a term that I don't believe is used much. Perhaps you have heard an expression like, "he had a sudden epiphany, and he finally knew what he would say." So, what does epiphany mean? It could be defined as a sudden manifestation that reveals or illumines a truth or reality that would otherwise be hidden.

January 6 is the traditional date for celebrating the Epiphany. Now there are many epiphanies in the Bible including many specifically revealing truths of Jesus' identity and mission. But on the date called the Epiphany three such illuminations have been especially commemorated. They in-

clude the visit of the Magi guided by the light of a star to worship Christ, the newborn king; the baptism of Jesus where the Father's voice from heaven and the descent of the Holy Spirit mark Jesus as the Son of God; and the turning of water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana of Galilee. The latter being one of the first signs in John's Gospel.

Our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters in Christ celebrate five "luminous mysteries" related to Christ every Thursday in their devotional use of the Prayers of the Rosary. Those five mysteries in order are: Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan River; Jesus turning water into wine at a wedding

feast; Jesus' teachings concerning the Kingdom of God; Jesus' transfiguration with Moses and Elijah; and Jesus' instituting the Lord's Supper.

Such epiphanies reiterate the truth that we know God because He graciously chooses to reveal Himself to us. We might otherwise have known there was a Creator, an intelligent designer who built intelligibility in what He created. But we would know little else about Him.

And without His revelations we certainly would not know of God's Triune nature, nor would we have known that the man Jesus was not only truly a man, but unlike any other man, He also was true God.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What is the Significance of The Baptism of Our Lord? John the Baptist came proclaiming a *baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins*. Since Jesus was sinless he had no need to be forgiven. The human race, however, is sinful. And our need for forgiveness is great

indeed. In explaining why he should be baptized by John, Jesus said, *it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness*. In other words, Jesus came to stand with us and accomplish on our behalf all that God requires of us, including repentance and the forgiveness of sins! At

his baptism there was a revealing (an epiphany) of the Holy Trinity. And at his baptism, Jesus took our humanity which he assumed in the Incarnation and lowered it in the cleansing water of Baptism. His public ministry would commence with this public rite.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tuesday, 1/9**
9am Winkel at Faith Lutheran in LX
- Wednesday, 1/10**
5:30pm Confirmation Class
- Thursday, 1/11**
9:30am Prayer Gathering
- Friday, 1/12**
7am Men's Breakfast Bible Study
- Saturday, 1/13**
9am Elder Meeting
4pm Service at Emmanuel Lutheran
- Sunday, 1/14 2nd Su after Epiphany**
8am Choir Practice
9am Divine Service with Communion
10:15am Fellowship with treats
10:45am Worship Team Meeting
- Monday, 1/15**
6pm Council Meeting
- Tuesday, 1/16**
5:30pm Ladies Night Out at Su Casa Café in Holmen
- Wednesday, 1/17**
5:30pm Confirmation Class



**Making
Disciples
for Life**

LCMS (Lutheran Church Missouri Synod) (LCMS.org)

THIS AND THAT...

It is important that as many of you as can sign up for the **Evangelism Workshop** that PT is helping to host on Saturday, January 20 from 9am to 4pm at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. A registration form has been sent to each of you.

We may be calling it a **'Voters Meeting'** but you can certainly call it our Congregation's **Annual Meeting**. It is slated for Sunday, January 28 shortly after the Divine Service that day. Elec-

tions and approval of the annual budget lead the agenda.

We have returned to a full slate of activities this week.

Don't forget non-perishable **Food Donations** for the Food Pantry!

Jacki Repaal is signed up for the week of January 21 to clean the church. The Duesenbergs are signed up for the week of February 18

The January **Designated Benevolence** will be determined at the January Council Meeting.

Lots of people like to share their opinions and feelings of what they imagine God to be like. But the great Sovereign and Creator of the heavens and earth has not left it up to our imaginations to decide what He is like. Instead He reveals Himself in His Word, through many epiphanies, and most fully through His only begotten Son's Incarnation - becoming visible to us..

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For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God. - Eph 2:8

HUMOR DEPARTMENT

Celebrations

Birthdays

Jan 2 Elliott Cunningham
Jan 13 Carol Peterson
Jan 21 Elyse Schoonover
Jan 26 Marge Wangen
Jan 27 Lily Cunningham
Jan 27 Ann Fisher

Anniversaries

Puns for Educated Minds

Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turns to the other and says, "Dam!"

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank,

proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, "I've lost my electron." The other says, "Are you sure?" The first replies, "Yes, I'm positive."

Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root-canal? His goal: transcendental medication.

There was one person who sent ten puns to friends, with the hope that a least one of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

1/14 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Asst Minister: Tom Rislow

Reader: Craig Bartos

Crucifer: Stella Roll

Acolyte: Asher Roll

Ushers: Jarrod Roll

Counters: Jarrod R/Dave B

Comm Asst: Jeremy Schoonover

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: Karri Bjornstad

Livestreamer: Tim Betlach

1/21 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Asst Minister: Karri Bjornstad

Reader: Naomi Rislow

Crucifer: Dawson Staff, Roll child

Acolyte: member of Roll family

Ushers: Mary Bartos

Counters: Cole W/Tom R

Comm Asst: Mike Meunier

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: Connie Meunier

Livestreamer: Jarrod Roll

1/28 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Asst Minister: Jeremy Schoonover

Reader: Connie Meunier

Crucifer: Elliott Cunningham

Acolyte: Regan Cunningham

Ushers: Tim Betlach

Counters: Jeremy S/Tim B

Comm Asst: Jeremy Schoonover

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: tbd

Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

2/4 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Asst Minister: Leslie Duesenberg

Reader: Mike Meunier

Crucifer: Jed Roll

Acolyte: Stella Roll

Ushers: Paula Betlach

Counters: Connie M/David B

Comm Asst: Tim Betlach

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: tbd

Livestreamer: Tim Betlach

Gift of Grace Lutheran Church
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Services held at 9am at:
642 Western Avenue
A block north and then
a block west of King Furniture