



The Light

Gloria Dei Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor's Page ...

*"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of
Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd[d] my people Israel."
Matthew 2:6*

The tree has been dismantled and all of its ornaments and lights have been put away for another year. The stockings have all come down, the wrapping paper stored in its proper place. The children will be returning back to school soon and the rush of activities and homework and hockey practices will begin again.

At church, we are entering into a season as well. The season that we're starting is Epiphany. The word, "epiphany" means "manifestation, and in the church we celebrate Epiphany as the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles, namely to all nations and all people. To you and to me. In particular over the next few weeks, we will focus on Christ's epiphany or revelation to others through: the magi's adoration of the Christ child, Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River, and Christ's first miracle of turning water into wine while at a wedding in Cana.

For the magi, their revelation of Christ occurred one fateful night after following a star in the sky which would lead them to the promised child. Being in the presence of God himself, the very Word made flesh, was enough for the Magi to return home another way and thus save Jesus from being slaughtered by the ruler Herod. For John the Baptist and the people gathered at the Jordan River one fateful day, their revelation of Christ occurred when Jesus appeared and wanted to be baptized as the heavens were parted the Holy Spirit descended like a dove and the voice of the Father spoke to him. For the guests at a wedding in Cana, their revelation of Christ occurred when Jesus performed his first miracle, turning jars full of water into the best wine.

Today, the great epiphany of Christ revealing himself to us occurs in the word and sacraments. In baptism where we are washed in God's Word and water and marked as children of God forever. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed with the Holy Spirit, and named God's beloved children. In turn our baptismal mission is to is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of healing.

In Holy Communion, where we receive Christ's body and blood in bread and wine for the forgiveness of all of our sins. Having received such a gift, we go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One, and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.

Filled with the gift of Christ himself, we then go forth out into our daily lives and into the world around us to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst and that no amount of darkness can ever overcome.

May this revelation of Christ to you and to me fill our hearts with His overabundant light and peace, and may we share this revelation with others.

Peace,
Pastor Martha

January
2017



ELCA



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Worship: 10:30 a.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GLORIA DEI

Jan.3 – 7:00 PM – Worship and Music Committee meeting	Jan. 18- 10:00 a.m. Quilter’s Small Hall 6:30 Choir Practice
Jan. 9 – Noon WELCA Executive Board	Jan. 22- Noon Annual Meeting
Jan. 10- 7:00p.m. Church Council	Jan. 24- Articles for Newsletters Due
Jan. 11- 10:00 a.m. Quilter’s Small Hall 6:30 Choir Practice	Jan. 25- 10:00 a.m. Quilter’s Small Hall
Jan. 12- Noon WELCA	
Jan. 17- 11:30 Altar Guild	

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY TEXTS

January 1

Numbers 6:22-27
Psalm 8
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:5-11

January 6 Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3: 1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

January 8

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10 34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

January 15

Isaiah 40:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

January 22

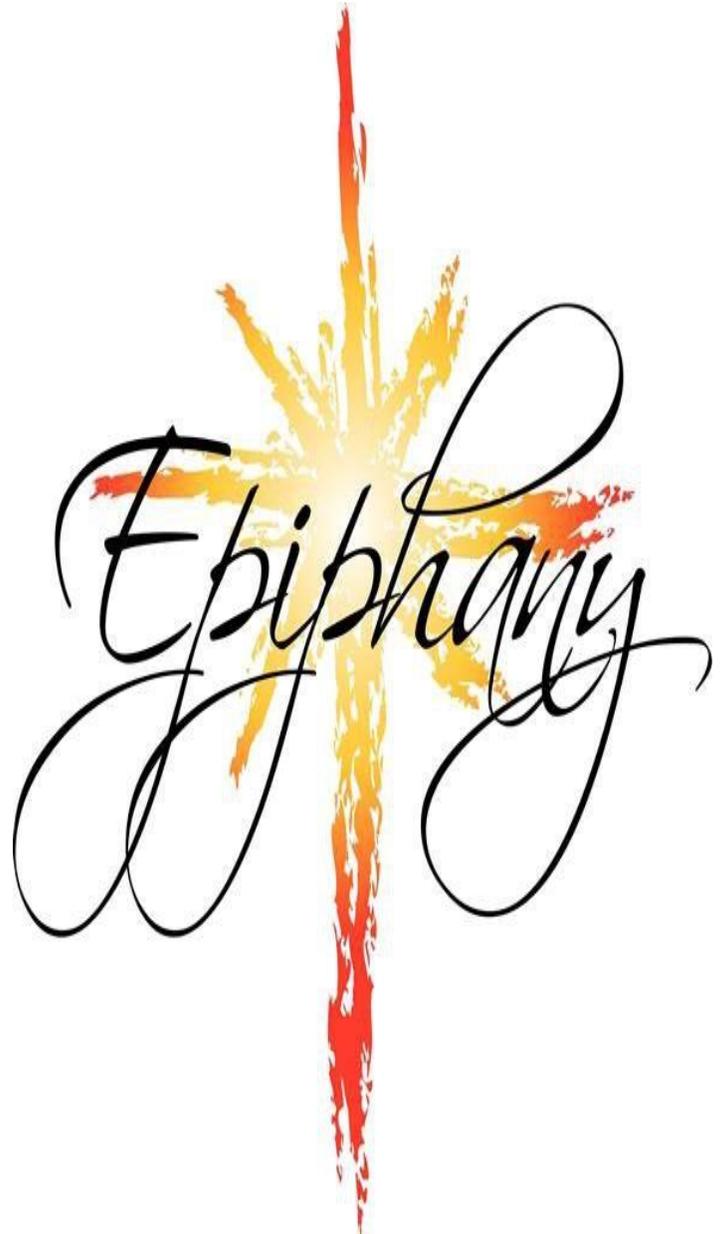
Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 271:10-18
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

January 29

Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

Men’s Bible Study resumes January 12 Thursday at 7:00 AM at Perkins.

WELCA Bible study, every 2nd Thursday, is a video series called “Loved by God.”



SERVICE COMMITTEE PROJECTS



Yvonne & Scot Tempel January 14th
Susan & Pete Madison January 23rd
Bev & Bob Becker January 27th



Ashley Abraham	Jan. 4 th
Tylor Cebulski	Jan. 10 th
MaKenzie Hadley	Jan. 10 th
Mavis Bentley	Jan. 11 th
Wayne Monroe	Jan. 13 th
Jessica Rosa	Jan. 13 th
Pete Madison	Jan. 14 th
Keli Zemljak	Jan. 14 th
Donna George	Jan. 17 th
Sigrid Isaacson	Jan. 18 th
Jamey McDaniel	Jan. 19 th
Doloris Osier	Jan. 19 th
Keith Vinecke	Jan. 20 th
Kim Walsh	Jan. 21 st
Alan Franklin	Jan. 22 nd

Please let the church office know whenever a birthday or anniversary is missed or needs to be taken off the list. Thank you!

Thanks from the Service Committee!

Many thanks to everyone who adopted one or more of the children on our Mining City Christmas list! Our congregation provided clothes and gifts for 19 children this Christmas! Special thanks to Town Pump Charitable Foundation for the \$500 grant which allowed us to adopt more kids at the end when there were still many names available. Janel Morgan, this could not have happened if you didn't do all of the shopping and organizing! And, thanks to our gift wrappers: Ginny McCarthy, Marilyn Krause, Pat Sanders and Mariya Peck! Thanks to Ken Morgan for delivering all of the gifts to Action, Inc. (Human Resources Council).



We also were able to deliver many Coats for Kids and Hats and Mittens to be distributed to kids who need them in Butte! Thanks to all who contributed!!

Words from the Bishop

Words From the Bishop: -"Come now, O Prince of Peace, make us one body."

It is almost Christmas Eve. The Sunday School pageants and school concerts are over. Office parties are behind us. There is a kind of calm that sets in just before Christmas (unless you are a pastor who hasn't finished your sermon, or a parent who hasn't finished wrapping.) In this calm, we stop to contemplate God's coming to live among us as one of us. And we look around at our broken world.



Slaughter of the innocents trying to escape from Aleppo; terrorism in Berlin at a Christmas Market; assassination in an art gallery in Ankara; antisemitism in Whitefish-we wonder what kind of world this is, and how we can welcome an innocent child into it.

But God knows. God knows the kind of inhumanity the world is capable of. And God chose to come into this sometimes terrifyingly inhumane world, to redeem it. God came as a Jewish baby into a world that was controlled by the Romans, who consolidated their power and crushed resisters. God came as a helpless child into a province where the local king was threatened, and ordered that all the babies be killed, just in case the rumors of a rival were true. God knows all this, and yet God loves us anyway.

God knows what it is to try to escape from tyranny. God knows what it is to be imprisoned unjustly, executed unfairly. God knows what it is to be hated, reviled, rejected. God stands with us in our brokenness. And God stands with us as we stand with others in their brokenness.

That is the gift of Christmas, the gift of the Incarnation-not that God magically re-creates a perfect world, but that God comes into and redeems an imperfect world full of imperfect people and unspeakable tragedy. And God invites us to join in loving that world, proclaiming the Good News, and walking with our neighbors-beloved children of God.

Are you one of those people who waits until the last minute to get your final inspiration for Christmas giving? Consider a gift to ELCA World Hunger or Lutheran World Relief, in the name of your loved one. Or make a gift to Lutheran Social Services or Intermountain, for the sake of vulnerable children. Consider Freedom in Christ or Spirit of Life. Think about our camps and campus ministries. Consider making a gift to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services.

The Montana Synod Christmas card this year contained a Christmas song written by Geonyong Lee (ELW 247). It expresses our hope and our promise:

*Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body. Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
Come now, O God of love, make us one body. Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior. Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
Come, Hope of unity, make us one body. Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.*

May it be so.

Jessica Crist, Bishop



Greetings,

For the past four years, in the interest of saving money, the Stewardship Committee has relabeled unused offering envelopes for your offering.

We are currently working on this project again, and before we distribute the envelope, we would like your feedback.

How many envelopes would you like to receive? For instance, if you prefer to give weekly, you will need 52+. However, if you give monthly, 12-14 may be plenty.

Please email your number to Susanne Whelchel at rossw@bresnan.net

Thank you for your help. The envelopes will be available on Sunday, January 22nd for the Annual Meeting.

If you need envelopes in the meantime, please ask Mariya in the office.

Happy 2017!

“God's Work, Our Hands” is the catch phrase of the ELCA but is embodied by WELCA groups across the world. So much work is accomplished by the Service Committee and our “pick-a-project” program and we invite **YOU** to be part of the effort! Please join us for our next WELCA meeting on Thursday, January 12. The video Bible Study entitled “Loved by God” by the entertaining Liz Curtis starts at 11:00 in the church library followed by lunch in the small fellowship hall. We hope you can join in for whatever time your schedule allows.

If you have questions, please contact Marilyn Krause at 490-7486 or any of the WELCA officers - Betty McDaniel, Stephanie Stodden, or Doris Schultz. We look forward to seeing you!

January WELCA Cookies

Pat Sanders
Stephanie Stodden
Vonnie Nuthak