



Pastor Peter Jonas

Epiphany - Three Kings



Epiphany is one of my favorite holidays in our Christian liturgical year. The word Epiphany means a revealing or manifestation. Epiphany celebrates the day the star of Bethlehem led the magi or wise men to the presence of Jesus. Through the magi, Jesus is revealed to all the nations they came from. The day of Epiphany is January 6, twelve days after Christmas. Customarily we celebrate it in church on the Sunday before the sixth, but this year we will celebrate it the Sunday after, on January 8.

What I love most about the day is how the journey of the magi sparks my imagination. All the Bible tells us is that they are from "the east". The lack of detail regarding their origins and the beautiful image of the star are quite evocative. They seem to be on some kind of spiritual quest or journey, like the medieval search for the Holy Grail, or a native American vision quest. At the heart of the story, the quest comes to an end when the star stops and the magi find what they are looking for in Jesus. As St. Augustine writes, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."

Many traditions and customs have developed around the world to celebrate Epiphany. In the Czech Republic, there is a tradition where people plunge themselves into the freezing cold Vltava River to look for a wooden crucifix. Burr. But the cultures of Spain and Latin America celebrate Epiphany with unique flair.

They call Epiphany "Three Kings Day". In Madrid, Miami and Puerto Rico there are parades the night before. In Mexico and other Spanish speaking countries and communities they make and eat "Three Kings' Bread". Three Kings Bread, also known as *rosca de reyes*— is an oval-shaped dish made of sweet dough and typically flavored with additions like orange extract, orange blossom water, crystallized fruits, jam, and sugar paste. Children in Puerto Rico collect grass and leave it in a shoe box by their bed, so the magi's camels can have a snack. In the morning, the grass is gone, and in its place are presents!

Because of the significance of Three Kings Day in Latin American culture, I have invited Deacon Lidix Montoya to be our guest preacher on Epiphany Sunday. Lidix is a mission developer in our Northwest Synod of Wisconsin and has started *Neighbor to Neighbor: Together in Ministry*. This ministry is aimed to create bridges between Anglo Lutheran congregations and the Hispanic community in the Eau Claire, Wisconsin area. I became acquainted with Lidix when she offered to partner with RUTH to organize a health fair for Latin Americans in Trempealeau County. *(continued on page 3)*

Sharing God's
Love With All!

2023

happy new year



Our Saviour's Members in Nursing Homes



Pigeon Falls Nursing Care Center-P.O. Box 310-Pigeon Falls, WI 54760
Jeanette Gilbertson, Marian Miller & Arline Stuve

Assisted Living- Pigeon Falls - P.O. Box 310-Pigeon Falls, WI 54760
Richard Eide

Sunrise Manor - 36024 Park Street - Whitehall - 54773
Clinton Larson & Ann Torrason

Trempealeau County Health Care Center-W20410 WI-#121-Whitehall- 54773
James Windjue

Grandview Nursing Home - 620 Grandview Avenue - Blair - 54616
Marilyn Speestra, Mavis Mitskogen & Donna Oates

Meadowbrook Care Center-1311 Tyler Street-Black River Falls - 54615
Fern Moe

The Classic - Eau Claire
Joanne (Selkurt) Martin

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

*Mary Harnisch-Johnson

*Arline Stuve

*Mavis Olson

*Dawn Coburn

*Donna Lindberg

*Jason Semb

*Dolores Beardsley

*Family and friends of Carol Helstad



Church News



Pastor Peter Jonas message continued from page 1



Lidixe is originally from El Salvador, Central America, and brings a rich background and expertise to her work. She is a physician and worked 8 years as a rural medical doctor for the public health department in El Salvador. She came to the U.S. with her (then) 5 years old son and got a degree in Human Resources Management with emphasis in Public Health from the University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire and a Master degree in Leadership and Innovation for Ministry from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota.

I hope you will join me in welcoming Deacon Lidixe on Jan 8. You can learn more about Neighbor to Neighbor on the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin website at:

<https://nswsi.org/neighbor-to-neighbor>

Peace, Pastor Peter



The Sunday School Children performed their Christmas program during worship service on Sunday, December 18th. Great Job Everyone!!!

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on **Sunday, February 5th**, following worship services. Items of business will include the election of church leadership positions and the approval of the proposed 2022 budget. Please watch the bulletin for notice when the complete Annual Report will be available for your review.

****Annual reports from Councils and Ministry groups are due to the church office no later than Monday, January 16th! Thank you for your cooperation!**

The Noisy Offering for January, 2023 will go to help the World Hunger Missions.



More Church News



Un-decorating the Church

We will be taking down the Christmas decorations in the church on Sunday, January 8th, immediately following the 9:30 Worship service. We welcome anyone to come and join our fellowship of workers! All help will be very appreciated!



Poinsettias

Thank you to all who blessed our church with beautiful Poinsettias for our Christmas Services. Please see memorial listing on page 7.

January Birthdays



- 1 - Bonnie Lyga
- 2 - Megan Densmore, James Gilbertson
- 4 - Duane Fimreite, Aaliyah Macharia, Melissa Pientok, Renae Stendahl,
- 5 - Tyanna Beck, Sharon Ringstad
- 6 - Kelly Herness, Anna Kopp
- 7 - Mikailah Lindberg
- 9 - Rick Paulson
- 10 - Janice Fimreite
- 11 - Kiera Kjos
- 15 - Harriet Witt
- 16 - Martha Bruneau, Peter Semb
- 17 - Tammie Coburn
- 19 - Gloria Qualley
- 20 - Kenneth Giese Sr., Randy Olson
- 21 - Jay Coburn, Linda Middleton
- 22 - Andrea Lyga, Kinley Foss
- 25 - Donald Lewis
- 26 - Donald Johnson



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

More Church News



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Council Minutes - December 6, 2022

Members Present: Dave Anderson, Pastor Jonas, Kris Dubiel, Marnie Anderson, Ellen Hauser, Steve Lamberson, Barb Mathson, Kay Nelson, Clarice Laehn, and Lori Paulson. Dave Anderson, council president called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Preparation:

1. Opening Devotions: Meeting opened with devotions by Barb Mathson.
2. Prayer Requests/Homebound: none
3. Communication from Congregation:
 - a) Annual meeting agenda to include congregation discussion regarding church organ.
 - b) Jeff Eide has offered his auction services free of charge for auction fundraisers.

Communication/Action:

1. **Secretary's Report:** Steve Lamberson made a motion to approve November minutes with a second by Clarice Laehn. Motion carried.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** There has been an increase in offerings which will help meet expenses. Ellen Hauser made a motion to approve treasurer's report with a second by Kay Nelson. Motion carried.
3. **Ministry Teams Updates:**
 - a) **Worship & Music:** Noisy offering donations were enough to put money back in General Fund for donation to RUTH.
 - b) **WELCA:** WELCA had a Christmas program at their meeting at Grace Lutheran on Thursday, December 1st; there will be no meetings in January or February.
 - c) **Life & Growth:** Good Gifts donation tree is set up; Christmas gift bags will be given to youth members on behalf of the congregation.
 - d) **Men's Brotherhood:** No report.
 - e) **Board of Education:** Christmas program discussed at Board of Education meeting.
 - f) **Finance & Property:** Finances are looking okay for now.
4. **Sharing from Pastor:**
 - a) Parish Board: The balance is large enough in the United in Faith Parish checking account so that December payment will not need to be submitted to that account.
 - b) Pastor Jonas recommended keeping his salary the same for 2023.
 - c) Pastor Jonas has provided notice of his intent to retire in April of 2023. Parish will start working on options after the first of the year.
 - d) Office secretary Sherry Pabst will be retiring at the end of April 2023.

(continued on page 6)

More Church News



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Council Minutes - December 6, 2022

(continued from page 5)

Celebration/Affirmation:

1. The next council meeting is scheduled for January 3, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.
2. Quilts were great at Sunday's service.
3. The Hispanic Health Fair was a great event that included about 30 families.

Business Items:

1. Finance and Property will submit the 2023 budget to the church office so it can be forwarded to council members.
2. Motion made by Kay Nelson and seconded by Steve Lamberson to schedule the annual meeting for February 5, 2023. Motion carried.

Adjournment and Lord's Prayer:

Unspoken:

- a) Undecorating the church is scheduled for January 8th
- b) Need people to sign up for ushers, communion servers, power point, etc. Dave Anderson will announce this at Sunday service.
- c) Hospital employees are using church parking lot.
- d) Church pays for the electricity for star on Boy Scout Hill.

Steve Lamberson made a motion to adjourn with a second by Marnie Anderson. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Lori Paulson, Council Secretary

In Christian Sympathy

**We pray for the family and friends who have lost
loved ones especially ~**

***Carol Helstad—December 10th, 2022**





Christmas Poinsettias

In Loving Memory of:

John Hansen by Sue Hansen & Family
Alvin & Esther Nelson by Jim & Kay Nelson
Willard Halverson by Jim & Kay Nelson
Donald Laehn & Russell Laehn by Clarice Laehn
Fred & Millie Guse by Donna & Randall Lindberg
Ronald & Rod Lindberg by Donna & Randall Lindberg
Marilyn Ann (Knutson) Stalhiem, Lila's Cousin, by Lila Ann Solberg
Tom Toraason by Ann Toraason & Family
Francis & Hazel Foss; Roman & Ruby Thomas; Roger Thomas by Joanne & Les Foss
Lorraine Nehring by The Nehring Family
Robert Byington by Carol Byington
Ray Shaffer, Dad, by Michelle & Eric Herman
Lu Herman, Mom, by Michelle & Eric Herman
Raymond & Alma Loga; Hugh & Alvina Goard; John & Viola Dunham by Dave & Brenda Loga
Howard & Carolyn Tjoflat by Jeff & Ellen Hauser
Viola Tjoflat by Jeff & Ellen Hauser
Victor & Samuel Foss; Helen & Leonard Foss by Their Family
Ben Ringstad; Ken & Nat Rusk by Sharon Ringstad
Frank, Neil, and Kari by Deloris Coburn and Family
Gerald Schansberg by Melanie & Jeff Sygulla
Noel Halama by Melanie & Jeff Sygulla
Shirley Eide by Dick Eide
Alfred & Elenora Sesvold; James & Ethel Hughes by Jim & Georgia Hughes
Elsie & Albert Gauger; Sue Pearlman by Chuck & Kathy Gauger
Bob & Shirley Gauger by Chuck & Kathy Gauger
Helen Pollman & Jim Alex by Chuck & Kathy Gauger
Bennie & Stella Ringstad; Tina & Clarence Waldera; August Ringstad by Richard & Bev Waldera
Fred & Marilyn Chamberlain by Karen Witte
Marv & Ardis Witte by Karen Witte
John Witte by Karen Witte
Bud Wozney by Shirley Wozney, Children & Grandchildren
Duane Halverson, Morgan Halverson, & Blanche Wheeler by Shirley Wozney
Eldon & Eldora Schorbahn and Debbie by your families

In Honor of:

Donna Shepherd by Jeff & Ellen Hauser
Our 4 grandsons: Devin Klomsten; Jackson, Gannon, & Bennett Loga by Dave and Brenda Loga
Helen Halverson by Jim & Kay Nelson
Sherry Pabst by Jim & Kay Nelson
Elizabeth Edwards by Karen Witte
Matthew Edwards by Karen Witte
Our 15 Grandchildren by Joanne & Les Foss
Marilyn Speerstra by Jack & Mary Speerstra
Our Godchildren, Mikayla, Chloe, and Darren by Kris & Duane Dubiel
Paul's mother, Mary, in honor of her birthday on December 15 by her son, Paul Dean Beck
8 Grandchildren & 2 Great Grandsons, Grayson & Owen by Jim & Georgia Hughes
By Jan & Olin Fimreite



W-ELCA NEWS!



WELCA Meeting



Women-ELCA will **NOT** meet in January or February. Watch for meeting announcement for Thursday, March 3, 2022. We will begin collecting for birthday boxes & mission kits again at that time. Blessings to all for the new year!

W-ELCA GIFT COLLECTION:

Thank you for all the donations to TCHCC, the Mitten tree, & Pajama Gramma this past Christmas season. It is much appreciated.



faith and
finances

DISBURSEMENT & GIVING RECEIPTS-DECEMBER 1st, 2022 THRU DECEMBER 25th, 2022

Disbursements:				THANK YOU	
Administration	\$897.13				
Physical Plant	\$2,501.50				
Salaries & Benefits	\$1,020.01				
Benevolence	\$4,300.00				
Parish Expense	\$0.00				
Dues and Fees	\$0.00				
Harvest Dinner	\$0.00				
Total Disbursements =		\$8,718.64			
Giving Receipts					
Simply Giving Total =	\$3,511.30		General Fund Total =	\$12,030.40	
On-Going Total =	\$0.00		Improvement Fund - Total =	\$235.00	
November, 2022 Giving Grand Total =			\$15,776.70		

January 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
¹ Sunday Worship 9:30am NO Sunday School	² OFFICE CLOSED	³ Quilters 8:30am Sunrise Manor-1:30 pm Board of Education—5:30 pm Council-6:30 pm	⁴ Bible Study 9:30am NO CONFIRMATION CLASS	⁵ Pigeon Falls Care Center—10:30 am	⁶	⁷
⁸ Sunday Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Undecorate the Church —10:30	⁹	¹⁰ Sunrise Manor	¹¹ Bible Study 9:30am In-Class Confirmation—2:45	¹² Tri-County Care Center-10:00 am	¹³	¹⁴
¹⁵ Sunday Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am	¹⁶ Yearly Reports due for all Committees	¹⁷ Quilters-8:30 am	¹⁸ Bible Study 9:30am Confirmation Class —At Home-2:45 pm Grace Council—7:00 pm	¹⁹	²⁰	²¹
²² Sunday Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am	²³	²⁴	²⁵ Bible Study 9:30am Food Pantry 11:00 - 1:00 pm In-Class Confirmation at 2:45	²⁶	²⁷	²⁸
²⁹ Sunday Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am	³⁰	³¹				

***"Sharing God's Love With
All"***

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
36197 Main Street
P.O. Box 455
Whitehall, WI 54773

Return Service

Requested



Pastor: Peter Jonas

Pastor Email: pastoroslc@gmail.com

Office Hours:

Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday
10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Church Secretary: Sherry M. Pabst

Church Office: 715-538-4334

Church E-mail: osluthwh@gmail.com

Church Website: oslwhitehall.org

Check us out on Facebook at: [Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Whitehall, WI](#) and
[United in Faith Parish](#) and [OS Sunday-School](#) and [OSLC Youth](#).

