



## Greetings in Christ!

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, the Christian church celebrates the day of Epiphany. On that day, we rejoice that our Lord caused a star to shine in the sky and led the wise men to the baby Jesus.

This festival of the church has been a time when the church remembers that Christ came for the Gentiles (the non-Jews – like us!), and God still desires that those who are not yet His children would be saved. As it is written in 1 Timothy 2:4-6, “[**God our Savior**] **desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.**” God cares about all people – Jew and Gentile, Christian and non-Christian. He wants all to believe and be saved.

This is wonderful, good news! Although man rebelled separated himself from God by his sin, God did not give up on us. God has provided a way for man to be made right with Him.

We must keep in mind, however, that God did not provide many ways for people to be right with Him. We cannot choose our own path. We cannot choose the path that seems most appealing to us and fits with our goals, schedules, and preferences. Jesus is the only way to be reconciled with the Father. As is pointed out in 1 Timothy 2:5 (see quote above), Jesus is the one mediator between God and man. Jesus is the only One through whom sinful man can be made right with God the Father. As Jesus says in John 14:6, “**I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**”

A person cannot reject Jesus or His Words and teaching and still hope to

## January 2023 News



be right with God. Apart from Jesus, a person is in the devil’s kingdom of darkness. But in Jesus, we have life and light.

Our Lord Jesus Christ desires that all people live in His light, receiving His forgiveness and new life each and every week. He does not want any of us to rejoin the kingdom of darkness. He wants all those who are in the kingdom of darkness to hear the Good News of the Gospel, be baptized, hear His Word faithfully, and receive His forgiveness in the absolution and the Lord’s Supper. He wants those in darkness to be brought into and remain in His kingdom.

This Epiphany, pray that the light of Christ would shine on those who are now in darkness. Pray that we and all believers would continue to live in this light. Pray that the light of the Good News of Jesus Christ would continue to shine in our community, state, and nation. – Pastor Burfiend

**Wednesday Good News Class** resumes on January 4 at 6 pm. Please join us to learn more about how the Good News of Jesus impacts our lives. Dinner will no longer be provided.

**Wednesday Bible Study** on the readings for the coming Sunday resumes on January 4 at 7 pm. Please join us!

**Study God’s Word in 2023...**  
The Word of the Lord Endures

Forever is a daily, 15-minute, verse-by-verse Bible study produced by Lutheran Public Radio and hosted by LCMS Pastor Will Weedon. Pastor Weedon is currently leading a study on the Book of Luke. You can listen at [thewordendures.org](http://thewordendures.org) or your favorite podcast provider.

**Sundays, 1 pm** – Every other Sunday, New Hope provides a service for the residents of Ossian Health Care. Please join us to gather residents and assist them in the service. Upcoming Sundays include Jan. 1, 15, and 29.

**Sunday School Teachers** are needed in January, March, April, and May. If you are able to teach on any Sundays in those months, please sign up in the gym.

**Jan. 8 New Year’s Party, 2-4 pm** - Mary Martha will host a New Year’s Party for all women of the congregation and their friends.

**Home Blessings** – During the season of Epiphany, when we celebrate the Magi’s visit to the home of Jesus, it has been a custom amongst Christians to have their homes blessed by the Word of God and prayer. Please contact Pastor Burfiend if you are interested in having him visit so that you may use this rite of home blessing and pray God’s blessing over your home.

### From the Finance Board:

YTD Income: \$134,791

YTD Expenses: \$135,981

(Income does not include donations toward the mortgage)

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**JANUARY 2022**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 Circumcision and Name of Jesus</b> Numbers 6:22-27 Gal. 3:23-29 Luke 2:21  <b>Divine Service: 10</b> NT Class: 11:45			4 Bible Study, 7:30 am Wells County Courthouse  11:10 am Pre-K Chapel  Good News 6 pm Bible Study 7pm	5 Council Meeting, 6:30 pm	<b>6 Epiphany of Our Lord</b>	
<b>8 Baptism of Our Lord</b> Isaiah 42:1-7 1 Cor. 1:26-31 Matt. 3:13-17 Bible Study: 8:45 <b>Divine Service: 10</b> NT Class: 11:45 Ladies' New Year's Party, 2-4 pm	9	10	11 Bible Study, 7:30 am Wells County Courthouse  11:10 am Pre-K Chapel  Good News 6 pm Bible Study 7pm	12	13  Mary Martha, 10 am	14
<b>15 Epiphany 2</b> Ex. 33:12-23 Eph. 5:22-33 John 2:1-11  Bible Study: 8:45 <b>Divine Service: 10</b> Voters' Meeting, 11:30	16	17	18 Confession of St.Peter  Bible Study, 7:30 am Wells County Courthouse  11:10 am Pre-K Chapel  Good News 6 pm Bible Study 7pm	19	20  Chili Cook-off and Game Night. 6 pm	21
<b>22 Epiphany 3</b> 2 Kings 5:1-15a Rom. 1:8-17 Matt. 8:1-13  Bible Study: 8:45 <b>Divine Service: 10</b> NT Class: 11:45	23	24 St. Timothy	25 Conversion of St.Paul  Bible Study, 7:30 am Wells County Courthouse  11:10 am Pre-K Chapel  Good News 6 pm Bible Study 7pm	26 St. Titus	27	28
<b>29 Transfiguration</b> Ex. 34:29-35 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matt. 17:1-9  Bible Study: 8:45 <b>Divine Service: 10</b> NT Class: 11:45	30	31	February 1  Bible Study, 7:30 am Wells County Courthouse  11:10 am Pre-K Chapel  Good News 6 pm Bible Study 7pm	<b>Upcoming Events in February/March:</b> Sunday, Feb. 12 – Bake Sale after Divine Service Friday, Feb. 17 – Game Night, 6 pm Wednesday, Feb. 22 – Ash Wednesday Divine Service Wednesday, March 1 – Lent dinners and services begin Tuesdays in February, 7-9:15 pm: Lutheran Bible Institute at Wyneken Lutheran School		