



# CHRIST THE KING Evangelical Lutheran Church

Green Bay, Wisconsin

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**OUR MISSION:** *Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church gives all praise and thanks to the Triune God for His grace received through Word and Sacrament by sharing the saving Gospel of Christ with the people of this community and the world.*

## JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

### EPIPHANY LIGHT

*Reprint of article in WEL's 'Forward in Christ' by Pastor Richard Lauersdorf at Good Shepherd, West Bend, WI*

It was dark inside our tent. We had set up in a primitive campground in a national park. The evening sky was overcast as we crawled into our sleeping bags. Wouldn't you know it—in the night one of the kids had to go to the bathroom. Good thing we had a large flashlight to light the way to the outdoor facilities. Light in the darkness is what we needed and had.



Shine on Me—The Epiphany festival speaks also of light in the darkness. Only this darkness is more dense and this light more brilliant than in our campground that night. When Isaiah wrote in 60:2 that “darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples,” he wasn't referring to an overcast sky or midnight's lack of light. He had in mind the sin that enveloped the world like some toxic cloud and the fatal spiritual condition of the human heart. When he spoke of the “light [that] has come,” he was referring to the glory of God's love, the light that shines in full radiance around the cross of Christ.

Some seven hundred years before Bethlehem and Calvary, Isaiah was writing as if he were hearing the Savior proclaim, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12). When Isaiah prophesied “nations will come to your light” (Isaiah 60:3), it was as if he were in the temple that day when Simeon described the Christ Child as “a light for revelation to the Gentiles” (Luke 2:32).

Just as sin's darkness envelopes all, so God's light of salvation in Christ is also for all, Jew and Gentile alike. That's the message of the Epiphany festival. It began with wise men from the East. Later it was the woman at the well of Samaria; the centurion whose servant needed healing; the Greeks who came looking for Jesus; the countless others over the centuries from every land and language, color and culture. And me!

This Epiphany it's time for me to bask in the sunshine of God's love. Perhaps I've been there so long that I take it for granted. Perhaps sin's darkness doesn't look so dense and my salvation so brilliant that I don't appreciate the light of God's love as fully as I might. Epiphany is a good reminder to pray, “Lord, thank you for Jesus, my light and my Salvation. Lord, let your light shine brightly on me.”

Shine From Me—When Isaiah urges us to “arise, shine,” he's reminding us that God wants us to shine with that light to those around us. Like using the flashlight that night in the campground, we are to shed clear light on the pathway to heaven for others. Where better to start than in my home? What better gift could I desire for my loved ones? Or for my neighbors, fellow church members, friends, and acquaintances? And what about the millions across my country and my world? With my prayers and offerings I can help send others to tell them about my Jesus, the light of the world. Like some solar panel I can soak up the Sonshine and help pass it on to others.

At my age I no longer use that camping flashlight, and I surely don't miss sleeping on the ground in some darkened tent. But I still need the brilliant light of salvation shining on me through God's Word. And as long as the Lord leaves me here, may he use me to shine with that light to others.



**WE'RE LIVE!**

Worship Services streamed live every week on our website!  
Visit us at [christthekinggb.org](http://christthekinggb.org) for more information!

## News & Notes



Dear Members of Christ the King:

Recently I came across this quote attributed to Winston Churchill: "Truth is incontrovertible. Panic may resent it. Ignorance may deride it. Malice may distort it. But there it is."

It reminded me also of this quote from an ELS devotional book based on Ps. 73: "We do not expect to see truth and justice prevail in the present course of this world. We know very well that lying will prosper, adorn itself with the name of truth, and trod the saints underfoot as enemies of happiness." (*Book of Family Prayer*, by N. J. Laache, p. 403.)

You may have become jaded in the past on account of hearing others telling you that what you are hearing is truth from them but in the end is falsehood. They may be politicians, relatives struggling with addiction, even spokespersons from so-called "Christian" churches. Do not become cynical as you enter this new year. There is still the source of absolute truth upon which you can continue not only to rely, but trust with eternal benefits.

Jesus said: "If you hold to My teachings ... you will know the truth and the truth will set you free." (Jn. 8:32) Jesus' truth is incontrovertible AND powerful to save. The truth that God loves you unconditionally in His Son, whom He sent to save you, truly sets you free from the burden and work of the Law. Your sins have all been paid for through His blood and the holiness required of you has been produced for and credited to you. Enter this New Year trusting that you can rely absolutely on Jesus' truth and are benefitted everlasting. You are forgiven and declared righteous before God forever.

A blessed New Year to you and your dear ones in Jesus' name!

Vacancy Pastor Roger Holtz

HEY YOU GUYS—I WAS LOOKING AT THIS STAR AND I JUST HAD A SUDDEN INTUITIVE REALIZATION!



Little-known Epiphany Scene

### ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual congregational and voters meetings will take place Sunday, January 14, after the worship service. Year end reports will be given, and voters will approve the 2024 budget. All members are welcome to attend. Voters especially are encouraged to participate. In preparation for this meeting, the Church Council will meet on Sunday, January 7, at 10:30 a.m. *Annual reports/summaries are due in the office by Friday, January 5. Thank you!*



### TAKING DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

—As the Christmas season draws to a close, it is time to take down our decorations. If you'd like to help, we are meeting at church on Saturday, January 13, at 9:00 a.m. Thank you in advance!

### A New Year's Prayer

May God make your year a happy one!  
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,  
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;  
Not by making your path easy,  
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;  
Not by taking hardships from you,  
But by taking fear from your heart;  
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,  
But by keeping your face bright,  
even in the shadows;  
Not by making your life always pleasant,  
But by showing you  
when people and their causes need you most,  
and by making you anxious to be there to help.  
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you  
for the year ahead.

~Anonymous

### January Birthdays!

10 Steven Kirchner  
11 Mackenzie Stewart  
13 Lila Barlament  
21 Karen Spaude  
30 Sharon Dunbar



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**ALTAR GUILD FOR JANUARY:**  
Julie Busse & Sandra VanderHeyden



## YEAR AT A GLANCE

- 1/14 - Annual Cong. & Voters Meetings
- 2/14 - Ash Wednesday
- 2/21, 2/28, 3/6, 3/20 - Midweek Lenten Services
- 3/24 - Palm Sunday
- 3/28 - Maundy Thursday
- 3/29 - Good Friday
- 3/31 - Easter Sunday
- TBD - 1st Quarter Cong. & Voters Meetings
- None - Oral Examination Day
- 5/12 - Mothers' Day
- 6/16 - Fathers' Day, Synod Sunday
- 6/16-20 - Annual Convention of the ELS
- TBD - 2nd Quarter Cong. & Voters Meetings
- TBD- Vacation Bible School
- 7/25-28 - ELS LYA Youth Rally
- 9/8 - Rally for Christian Education (First Day of Sun. School & Bible Class)
- TBD - ELS General Pastoral Conference
- TBD - 3rd Quarter Cong. & Voters Meetings
- 10/31 - Reformation Day, Trunk or Treat
- 11/20 - Thanksgiving Eve Service
- 12/4, 12/11, 12/19- Midweek Advent Services
- 12/24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



# January 2024

## EPIPHANY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 4:00 Emerald Bay Service	4 6:30 Board of Elders	5	6
7 9:00 Divine Service w/Holy Comm. 10:30 Education Hour 11:30 Council Meeting  Livestream: Jason Diestler	8	9  6:00 WOM Meeting	10 4:00 Emerald Bay Service	11	12	13 9:00 Undecorate Church
14 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 4th Qtr Congregational Mtg.	15	16	17 4:00 Emerald Bay Service	18	19	20
21 9:00 Divine Service w/Holy Comm. 10:05 Fellowship 10:30 Education Hour  Livestream: Lori Greenwood	22	23	24 4:00 Emerald Bay Service	25	26	27
28 9:00 Divine Service 10:05 Fellowship 10:30 Education Hour	29					

