



Grace Lutheran Church

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THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD (Observed) January 1, 2023

Welcome: We are glad that you are here or are watching our worship service online. May you be blessed through this time of worship. We pray you find today's service a source of encouragement and strength. *Offerings are received at the door as you enter or leave. Please take a moment to complete an attendance registration slip found in the pew rack and return it in the offering plates also.*

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until he comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor.

For those desiring to receive the sacrament using the common cup (large chalice), it is offered at the 8:00 a.m. service in addition to the individual cups. Those with special dietary needs such as gluten free or alcohol free are encouraged to speak with the pastor.

Lectionary Summary: The Feast of the Epiphany centers in the visit of the Magi from the East. In that respect, it is a "Thirteenth Day" of Christmas, and yet it also marks the beginning of a new liturgical season. Where Christmas has focused on the incarnation of our Lord, that is, on God becoming flesh, the Season of Epiphany emphasizes the manifestation or self-revelation of God in that same flesh of Christ. For the Lord Himself has entered our darkness and rises upon us with the brightness of His true light (Is. 60:1–2). He does so chiefly by His Word of the Gospel, which He causes to be preached within His Church on earth, not only to the Jews but also to Gentiles (Eph. 3:8–10). As the Magi were guided by the promises of Holy Scripture to find and worship the Christ Child with His mother in the house (Matt. 2:5–11), so does He call disciples from all nations by the preaching of His Word to find and worship Him within His Church (Is. 60:3–6).

Order of Worship
Divine Service Setting 1 *LSB 151*

Prelude

Welcome and Greeting

Ringing of the Bell

♪ **Opening Hymn: “Angels from the Realms of Glory”**

LSB 367 sts. 1, ref, 3, 5

1 Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation’s story,
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth. *Refrain*

ref **Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star. *Refrain*

Stand

5 All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the_ eternal Three in One. *Refrain*

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P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Introit

Ps. 45:6–8a; antiphon: Ps. 45:17

P I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;

C **therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.**

P Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.

C **The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;**

P you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

C **Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;**

P your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;

C **therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.**

Kyrie

LSB 152

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

♩C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

♩C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

♩C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

♫C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

♫C **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise “Gloria in Excelsis”

LSB 154

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

♫C **Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:**

We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

♫C **And also with you.**

P O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

♫C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1–6

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. ³And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall

bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Ephesians 3:1–12

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

♪ **C** **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1–12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

♪ **C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶““And

you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared.⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.”⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.¹¹ And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting.
Amen.

Sit

Children's Message

♪ Sermon Hymn: “As with Gladness Men of Old”

LSB 397

- 1 As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led by Thee.
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to Thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

- 3 As they offered gifts most rare At Thy cradle, rude and bare,
 So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,
 All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.
- 4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry day Keep us in the narrow way;
 And when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last
 Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glory hide.
- 5 In the heav'nly country bright Need they no created light;
 Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;
 There forever may we sing Alleluias to our King.

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Sermon "This is the Day"

Pastor Buchhorn

Officer Installation

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Preface

LSB 160

P The Lord be with you.

✪C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

✪C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

✪C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161

- ♪C** Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- C** **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 162

Pax Domini

LSB 163

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- ♪C** Amen.

♪ **Agnus Dei**

LSB 163

- ☐ Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Those with mobility issues who would prefer to receive the sacrament at the pew are encouraged to remain standing at the conclusion of the Agnus Dei.

Those coming to the altar will be welcomed and dismissed half table by half table.

It is helpful to fill the table from the wall toward the middle on both sides.

Used individual cups can be left in the holes in the altar rail.

Sit

Distribution Hymns

♪ **“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”**

LSB 394

- 1 Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
Manifested by the star To the sages from afar,
Branch of royal David’s stem In Thy birth at Bethlehem:
Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.**
- 2 Manifest at Jordan’s stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
And at Cana wedding guest In Thy Godhead manifest;
Manifest in pow’r divine, Changing water into wine;
Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.**
- 3 Manifest in making whole Palsied limbs and fainting soul;
Manifest in valiant fight, Quelling all the devil’s might;
Manifest in gracious will, Ever bringing good from ill;
Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.**
- 4 Sun and moon shall darkened be, Stars shall fall, the heav’ns shall flee;
Christ will then like lightning shine, All will see His glorious sign;
All will then the trumpet hear, All will see the Judge appear;
Thou by all wilt be confessed, God in man made manifest.**
- 5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Present in Thy holy Word—
Grace to imitate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;**

**That we might become like Thee At Thy great epiphany
And may praise Thee, ever blest, God in man made manifest.**

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♪“What Child Is This”

LSB 370

- 1** What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!
- 2** Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!
- 3** So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

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Stand

♪Post-Communion Canticle “Thank the Lord”

LSB 164

- ☐** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Post-Communion Collect

- ☐** We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

♪☐ Amen.

Benediction

LSB 166

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

🎵 Amen.

Sit

🎵 Closing Hymn: “Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning”

LSB 400

- 1** **Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
 Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
 Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

- 2** **Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining;
 Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,
 Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.**

- 3** **Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion,
 Fragrance of Edom and off’rings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
 Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?**

- 4** **Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
 Vainly with gifts would His favor secure.
Richer by far is the heart’s adoration;
 Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.**

- 5** **Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
 Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
 Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

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NEWS AND NOTES

WE REJOICE with the following members of Grace who are celebrating this week.

BIRTHDAYS: Dick Nolte, Ridge Broders, Diana Langemeier, Katie Talbott, Daniel Greenwald, David Stuthmann & Scott Heinemann

ANNIVERSARIES: Mike & Mindy Heithold and Todd & Angie Fredrickson

LAST WEEK our offerings were \$12,612.

NURSERY: A nursery room has been created to help parents with young children. The nursery is located in the first room west of the upstairs fellowship hall. Please feel welcome to use the room to quiet your child.

PARENTS OF LITTLE CHILDREN: Books which your children may enjoy are available in book bags located near the doors at the east end of the sanctuary. Please return the books after the worship service. Thank you.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS: Today we will be continuing our short study on some hymns of the season and turn our attention to some notable Epiphany hymns. Join us in the basement at 9:15.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: Join us on January 4 as our study of Second Kings resumes with a study of a king who was given more time by God in answer to his prayer. The class meets at 9:00 a.m. and new faces are always welcome.

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES have been distributed in your church mailbox for those making use of them. If you cannot locate your envelopes, please contact the church office.

LUTHERAN HOUR: "Gifted" -- Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
What if we learned to see this world and everyone in it as gifts from God? Hear the "Lutheran Hour" message on KTCH AM next Sunday at 7:30 am.

LUTHERAN HOUR SPONSORS are needed for 2023. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast, please contact the church office. Broadcasts are \$20.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: In the lesson for this week, “Wise Men Worship,” God leads Gentile scholars to worship the Christ. Following their visit, Joseph immediately flees with his young family to the safety of Egypt. When Herod’s insane jealousy dies with him, the Holy Family returns home to Nazareth. Discuss, “How does God keep you and I safe today?”

NEW YEAR’S DAY SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School will again be special today with Sarah Hansen teaching the younger kids in the Nursery and Symphony Jareske will be teaching the older kids in the 6th, 7th and 8th grade room. Take some time to start the new year off with the love of Jesus knowing He will be with you throughout all of 2023!

YOUTH ICE SKATING AND SLEDDING: Our Youth will be going to Sioux City January 21st. We will meet at church at 9am to travel to Cone Park. It is \$10 for both ice skating and sledding rental. Or if we have 25 people attend, we can rent the entire space for a private event at \$250. We will also eat a late lunch which is not included in this amount, and then we hope to be home by 5pm in the afternoon. Please RSVP as soon as possible by going to [Bit.ly/YouthSkating](https://bit.ly/YouthSkating)

COLLEGE SUNDAY NIGHT DINNERS: The schedule for our College Sunday Night Dinners has been posted and we would love for you to sign up to host a meal or two. Our students are truly blessed by you each semester, and not only can you sign up to provide food, but you can come join us down at Cup of Grace for Bible Studies, and Fellowship! The more we get to know these students the more we can help them feel welcome in our congregation. God bless you this year and thanks again for all of your support!

BUILDING HEALTHY FAMILIES: How about considering a new and improved plan for making your New Year’s Resolutions this year? Here’s a novel idea: don’t make it about you! What if instead of losing ten pounds, you resolved to spend unscheduled time every Sunday afternoon with your children? What if instead of getting up early to go to the gym, you resolved to read to a nursing home resident who has no family or visitors every Tuesday morning? What if instead...you get the idea. Look around; ask God to open your eyes. Who has He put in your life who needs the gift of your time and attention? Resolve to give it! Happy and Blessed New Year from your friends at Lutheran Family Service! Lutheran Family Service - www.LutheranFamilyService.org

OFFICER INSTALLATION: During our morning worship services we joyfully install our new congregational officers. Those who have been elected to serve are Craig Evans, Chairman; Ron Sebade, Vice- Chairman; Doug Heithold, Elder; Payton Janke, Elder; Mike Temme, Mission Council; Pam Janke, Mission Council. We thank God for these willing servants of Christ who have offered their time and talents to the Lord and our congregation. Also thank you to those who will be continuing in office and those whose terms of office have come to an end.

Our Officers for 2023 are as follows

Chairman - Craig Evans

Vice-Chairman - Ron Sebade

Secretary - Michelle Ekberg

Treasurer - Louise Green

Financial Secretary - Jeanette Swanson

Elders -

Chuck Potosnyak

Mike Heithold

Josh Ruwe

Jared Heithold

Doug Heithold

Payton Janke

Mission Council Members -

Diana Langemeier

Lowell Johnson

Mike Temme

Pam Janke

Dwight Mock

Megan Dubbs

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

PASTORS: Pastor Michael Buchhorn, Senior Pastor

Pastor's phone: 402.833.1071 Email: pastorbuchhorn@gmail.com

Pastor Erik Christensen, Associate Pastor

Pastor's phone: 979.204.0752 Email: pastorerik@gracewayne.com

Pastor Emeritus: Pastor Carl Lilienkamp

ELDER ON DUTY: Chuck Potosnyak (8:00) Josh Ruwe (10:30)

ACOLYTES: Maddux Heithold & Reagan Heithold (8:00)

Courtney Roeber & Colston Starzl (10:30)

LAY READER: Jeff Simpson (8:00) Louise Green (10:30)

GREETERS: LeRoy & Carol Robbert (8:00)

Louise Green & Chuck Potosnyak (10:30)

FISHERS OF KIDS PRESCHOOL: Teacher – Keila Olson – 402.584.2257

Director – Sara Ruwe – 402.369.2661

LUTHERAN HOUR SPONSOR: Eldon & Ellen Heineman

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY	8:00 am.	Worship
	9:15 am.	Sunday School & Bible Class
	10:30 am.	Worship
MONDAY	3:30 pm.	Kinship Communion
	7:30 pm.	Elders
TUESDAY	9:00 am.	Circuit Pastors @ Grace
WEDNESDAY	9:00 am.	Bible Study
	5:00 pm.	Bell Choir
	6:30 pm.	Midweek
	7:45 pm.	High School Study
SATURDAY	4:00 pm.	Family Communion
NEXT SUNDAY	8:00 am.	Worship/Communion
	9:15 am.	Bible Study & Sunday School
	10:30 am.	Worship/Communion
	7:30 pm.	Sunday Night Dinner

+ + +
**KIDS IN THE
DIVINE SERVICE**
+ + +



Why was it so important for Jesus to be born as a man?

Jesus had a big job ahead of Him when He was born! If you really think about it, Jesus was born to die on the cross to pay for the sins of the whole world. But before He died, He lived a perfect life under God's Law. That means that during His entire life, Jesus never sinned. Not even once! As a man, Jesus took the place of mankind under the Law and fulfilled it. That means that for every time we failed to keep the Law, Christ succeeded!

Why was it important for Jesus to be true God?

It would take more than an ordinary man to suffer and die on the cross to pay for the sins of the whole world. Jesus had to be true God so that He could live a perfect life and fulfill the requirements of the Law, die a perfect death on the cross, and rise from the dead victorious over sin, death and the devil! All of this He did in obedience to the Father and out of complete and total love for us. Through faith, the Holy Spirit delivers all of the great things Jesus won for us in His death and resurrection!



Parents: Review the Ten Commandments with your child (Ex. 20:1–17). Discuss the commandments and be sure to point out just how often we fail to keep them. Remind your child that because of Christ's perfect sacrifice on the cross, in faith we have the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.

