

THE VIEW

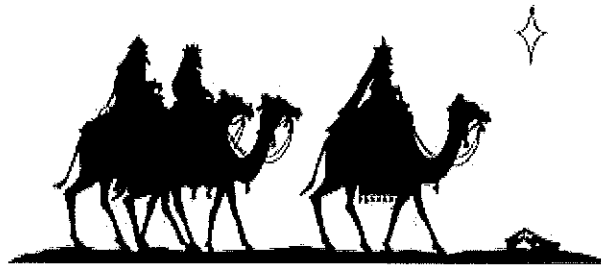
January 2020

vol. 64 NO. 1

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Hooray for Epiphany

Sometimes a pastor just needs to bite his tongue. We strive to be Scripturally and theologically correct in what we say and do. But there are some times when the Body of Christ is not in danger of falling into heresy or disbelief that the pastor does not need to fight tooth and nail, drawing a line in the sand, even though every fiber of his being desires to do so. For this pastor that point of frustration is the inclusion of the Magi in church nativity programs. Yes, I know that watching tikes dressed in crowns and fake beards is adorable. Yes, I know that it has become tradition. Yes, I know that they followed the star that heralded Christ's birth. But it still annoys me.



This of course is tongue-in-cheek. But I actually do have a good reason (in my opinion) for it. It's not just that the Magi are mislabeled as "kings" by popular carols, even though Scripture never calls them that, and neither does it say that there were three of them. Their number is assumed and traditionally accepted because there were three gifts listed. It's not even that they likely didn't show up until Jesus was around two years old. No. My reason is probably less meaningful than these to anyone who reads the newsletter article. I dislike Magi in the children's Christmas program because it steals away a major feature from the already overlooked season of Epiphany.

Epiphany is a nearly forgotten festival in the liturgical church year. The festival day is January 6th, but since elements associated with it, such as the Magi, have been reallocated to other places in the church year and because busy schedules deter people from midweek services, it is now typically observed on the following Sunday. This oft ignored festival and season is actually one of the oldest in the church, second only to Easter.

The name, "Epiphany," comes from the Greek word for "manifestation." It is a celebration of the light of the world coming to those who were sitting in darkness. We rejoice that Jesus has manifested as God and man. It was also accompanied with the use of incense in the church, specifically frankincense, which was given to the Christ Child by the Magi. The fragrant smoke symbolizes the prayers of God's people as they ascend to Him.

The earliest Christians referred to this festival as the Theophany: the revelation of God. This is where the Magi or Wise Men come into the tradition because they saw the sign in the heavens pointing them to the Christ, who is God incarnate. But the season of Epiphany is not limited to the visitors from the east. The season of Epiphany can last up to nine weeks, leading up to Lent and includes several points in the life of Jesus where his divinity is revealed.

When Jesus was baptized, the heavens opened, the Spirit descended upon him, and the voice of the Father revealed Jesus as the beloved Son. His disciples beheld his divinity as he changed water into wine with his first miracle at the wedding in Cana, and the disciples believed in him. The season ends with the Transfiguration. Three disciples saw Jesus in his divine splendor and glory.

Christmas announces the arrival of the Messiah. Easter declares his victory. But Epiphany invites us to join the disciples and those who met this Jesus of Nazareth as they begin to realize that there is something more to the child, this boy, this man. God's revelation to them and the witness that they bore has brought us by God's grace to as saving faith is the one who is true God and true man. This Epiphany, may you celebrate the revelation of God manifested in the flesh.

SERVING IN JANUARY

USHERS			LECTORS	
8:00 AM		10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM
01/05	Lydia Cassidy Bill Kruse	Leah Ryel, Harold Zell John Frost, Marion Miller	Rick Sanborn	John Zagone
01/12	Rudy Eidam Bob Morin	Jim Wing—Shirley Wing Bill Jaeger—Jerri Creech	Jerry Kaufman	Kathy Kirchoefer
01/19	Paul Mincer Rick Sanborn	David Hawthorne—Leah Ryel Harold Zell—Steve Leyrer	Paul Mincer	Jim Wing
01/26	Jen Stickney Mike Ebanks	Kirchoefer Family	Vickie Amatto	Maxine Tatreau

From the Pinochle Group:

Due to the declining number of our Senior Friendships Pinochle Group, we will no longer need your spacious Fellowship Hall. It has met our needs for more than 12 years on the 1st Tuesday night of each month. We are very grateful to have had your church available to us. Thank you very much!

Birthday Blessings

1/08 Mary Kaufman	1/20 Bill Weege	1/24 Michele Maloney
1/12 Jim Wing	1/21 Geraldine Ellerson	1/26 Sarah Christensen
1/16 Adell Keeney	1/21 James Stoltenberg	1/26 Eleanor Claycomb
1/19 Rick Sanborn	1/24 Mary McKinney	1/29 Joann Kapugi

Prayers and Concerns

Surgeries and Illness

Nancy Bargar	Brian Keeney	Buddy Harrison (Fry)
David Pellman	Mary Hill	Neil Motyka (Fry)
Marshall Hunt (Fry)	Joann Kapugi	Grant Germ(McLellan)
Maureen Duemig	Mike & Delilah (Perkins)	Wiley Ilowit (Fry)
Betty Ude	Ed Jenkins (Biddle)	Ann, Ace & William(Ryel)
April Thomas & baby Juda	Meredith Licht	Harvey Nash
Charissa Oleskow(Bertram)	Yvonne McLellan	David Hawthorne
Eleney Selius	Preston Thomas(Rappley)	Breanna Brooks(Rappley)

Homebound

Ann Cheadle	Geri Ellerson	Kathleen Fox
Joan Ginter	Millie Freese	Dorothy Lehman
Mike Lohr	Dianne Luecke	Jan Nelsen
Ivalee Rymer	Dave & Lee Marquardt	Gerald Orsmby
Glenn & Suzie Karnatz	Eleney Selius	Louise Bauer
Helen Schakel	Warna Berryman	

Other Prayers and Concerns

Our Preschool Staff, Children & Families
Evangelical Lutheran Church & School Laotchikit, Haiti
Preschool teachers out with health issues

COMMUNITY CONCERN OF THE MONTH



The general purpose of the Hendersonville Rescue Mission shall be to minister to needy persons by way of presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them and helping to provide for their spiritual and physical needs. The food services at the Mission are quite unique in that the food is *delicious* and the entire public is welcome to join us for a meal, not just those staying in our living quarters. Ann's Place is our transitional housing located off campus that is strictly reserved for women who have gone through our 6 month program with children and are ready to move toward total independence.



THANK YOU CAROLER'S AND BAKERS AND GOODIE SUPPLIERS:

Caroler's included Maloney Family (Wendy, Michele, Tyler, Arianna, and Gracie), Sylvia and Homero Gonzalez, Paula Moore, Deborah Leger, John and Debby Zagone, Leah Ryel, Vickie Amato, Craig and Michele Escude, Marilyn Pittman, Paul Mincer, Jen Stickney, Mike Ebanks, Robert and Vivian Armstrong and sister (Bonnie), Pastor Jon and Zoe Christensen, Linda Licht, Steve and Kathy Kirchoefer, Yvonne McLellan, Rick and Diane Sanborn.

The time for removing Christmas Decorations will be Saturday January 11 at 9 AM. Your help to Do this great task is appreciated.

Christmas Caroling

Pastor Jon, Zoey, Craig, Michelle, Homero and I went Christmas caroling on Dec 15th. I really enjoyed singing for the shut-ins.

Our second stop was to my mother's nursing home, Oaks of Sweeten Creek, in Arden. I called them when we were on our way to let them know we were coming. When we arrived, there were about 10-15 residents around the center nurses' station which is in the middle of 5 corridor hallways that lead to the rooms.

We stood next to my mother who is 97 years old and in a wheelchair. We sang several songs. With each song, more people started showing up to hear the singing and to sing along. Some of the CNA were even singing with us and everyone had smiles on their faces. At the end of our Christmas visit, there were about 25 folks listening and singing with us. It was a joyous occasion and you could see how much they really enjoyed us being there to brighten their day. I enjoyed it immensely. My mom asked for us to sing Silent Night at the end and she was singing along. This ended on a wonderful heartfelt note.

Sylvia Gonzalez

THANK YOU

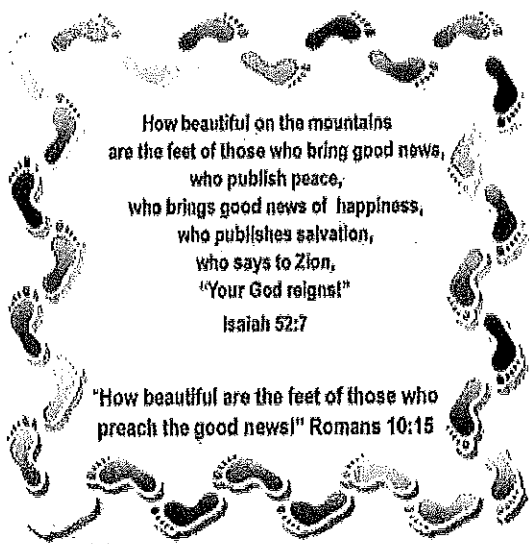
Thanks to Paul Mincer for arranging the Christmas Carolers. Thanks to the Caroler's who came to our house and sang to Joan and I. Thanks for letting Joan and I sing with you. Thanks to all of you who provided the cookies, cakes, and candy. What a bountiful amount.

God Bless to all of you!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Chuck Ginter

Thank You Church Decorators: Marilyn Pittman, Diane Sanborn, Bill Kruse, Paula Moore, Adell and Brendan Keeney, Rose Steen, Bill and Kathleen Weege, Roberta Perkins, Jerene Creech and Bill Jaeger, Bonnie Devaun, and Paul Mincer.

THANK YOU from the Blue Ridge Villas -Home Owner Association
For providing us a place to meet for our monthly board meetings.



How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good news,
who publish peace,
who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Zion,
"Your God reigns!"
Isaiah 52:7

"How beautiful are the feet of those who
preach the good news!" Romans 10:15

A special gift to warm those sweet little feet
that we think are pretty neat!
For without socks in the winter your outfit
would be incomplete!

The teachers of our preschool made a print of each child's feet on this gift and then put it in a pair of socks to be given to each parent. What a memorable reminder.

A Prayer for Our Preschool

Heavenly Father,

We Praise You for the opportunity to share the love of Jesus with 75 families in Hendersonville. Open our hearts in the congregation to prayerfully support the ministry of Christian education. Open our eyes to see the needs and hurts of our families and to minister to all of them in their trials.

Bring us godly teachers, staff and volunteers who love the Lord and want to serve You through this ministry. Bring your peace to every troubled parent who comes in these doors. Fill every child with love for You, with all their hearts, souls, and minds so

they will witness to their parents at home and when they grow up, will not depart from loving You with their whole heart. Put Your shield of protection around their hearts, minds and bodies. Guard them from the evil one.

Let Your peace and Your favor rest upon this church and school forevermore.

All this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Mark 10:14

Our Preschool is pleased to announce that Katherine Montgomery (Director) has gotten CEU Certificate of Completion for First Aid/CPR/AED Instructor-BL.

Altar flowers are needed for: January 5, 19, 26

Altar arrangements of cut flowers are needed for the open date indicated above. Please call the Church Office (692-7027) or sign up on the flower chart on the bulletin board near the Ladies' Room. If you choose to use a Florist other than Etowah Florist or Forget-Me-Not, please let the Church Office know to make arrangements for a Saturday delivery.

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1			1 Closed New Year's Day	2 Men's Bible Study 8AM Quilter's Ministry 9AM	3	4
5 Communion 8 AM Bible Study 9:15 AM Communion 10:45 AM Choir Rehearsal AA 7PM	6	7	8 Women's Bible Study 10 AM Prayer Shawl 1PM Mission Board 11 AM Evening Bible Study 6:30PM	9 Men's Bible Study 8AM	10	11
12 Worship 8 AM Bible Study 9:15 AM Worship 10:45 AM Choir Rehearsal AA 7PM	13 Ladies Guild 1 pm	14 Elder's Meeting 7 pm	15 Women's Bible Study 10 am Evening Bible Study 6:30PM	16 Men's Bible Study 8AM Quilter's Ministry 9AM Pastor Circuit	17	18
19 Communion 8 AM Bible Study 9:15 AM Communion 10:45 AM Choir Rehearsal AA 7PM	20 Martin Luther King Day Preschool closed	21	22 Women's Bible Study 10 AM Evening Bible Study 6:30PM	23 Men's Bible Study 8AM Council Meeting 7PM	24	25
26 Worship 8 AM Bible Study 9:15 AM Worship 10:45 AM Choir Rehearsal AA 7PM	27	28	29 Women's Bible Study 10 AM Evening Bible Study 6:30PM	30 Men's Bible Study 8AM	31	

