



The season of Epiphany focuses on how God was made manifest in the flesh of Jesus. The church spends time hearing of the miracles, the signs and wonders, of Jesus in the world.

And this made plain to all that Jesus was who He said He was: He was the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the only-begotten Son of the Father, in the flesh. For “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

It is revealed for all the world to see that Jesus is God in the flesh. It is made manifest by His words and His work, by what He said and by what He did. And these belong together, for “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

Jesus is the Word and will of God in the flesh, that is, He is the walking, talking, enactment of God’s Word.

It is no different for us. We are called not just to believe in God in hearts, but also to trust in God in word and deed.

As James wrote: “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22), and again, “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead” (James 2:14, 17–18, 26).

Our faith is lived out in works for our neighbor. Our trust in the Word and will of God is lived out not in word only, but also in deed and in truth.

In other words, the Epiphany of the Lord creates in us an epiphany of our faith in our works of obedience to God who commanded them. By this, our faith is made manifest to the world. It is, as Luther wrote of faith:

“Faith is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God (John 1). It kills the old Adam and makes altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings with it the Holy Spirit.

“Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. And so it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly. It does not ask whether there are good works to do, but before the question rises, it has already done them, and is always at the doing of them.

“He who does not these works is a faithless man. He gropes and looks about after faith and good works and knows neither what faith is nor what good works are, though he talks and talks, with many words about faith and good works.

“Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times. This confidence in God’s grace and knowledge of it makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all His creatures.

“And this is the work of the Holy Spirit in faith. Hence a man is ready and glad, without compulsion, to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, in love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace.

“And thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate burning and shining from fire. Beware, therefore, of your own false notions and of the idle talkers, who would be wise enough to make decisions about faith and good works, and yet are the greatest fools.” (*Preface to the Book of Romans*)

So, then, let our faith be active by God’s power in the Word through the Holy Spirit. And let then our faith be made manifest to the world by what this faith does: serving our neighbor — in church, in the family, and society — with the works of faith in time, talents, and treasures.

**ST. JAMES CHALLENGE** – Getting ready for the next school year is approaching very quickly. Enrollment will begin in mid-January. Word of mouth has proven to be a highly successful marketing tool. Therefore, while seeing many people over the holidays, please participate in a challenge to tell five different families about St. James Lutheran School and the awesome opportunity that lies before them for a strong Christian education along with rigorous academics. Let me know how this goes. If you need further information or just want to talk about it, please contact the school office.  
-Principal Landskroener

**BOXTOPS AND UPC LABELS** – Please continue to save General Mills Box Tops, Hy-Vee UPCs and Tyson A+ labels throughout the school year. They help support our school library! Thank you!

**COLLECTING LIDS** – We are again in the business of collecting lids to purchase a hallway bench. (The current bench will find its permanent home on the playground.) We will collect lids until we have enough to get the bench (200 pounds). You can bring them into the church or school office. The lids must be clean!!

**Acceptable caps** include caps from medicine bottles, milk jugs, detergent, hair spray, toothpaste, deodorant, apple sauce pouch, drink bottle (soda, water, juice, sport drinks), flip-top (ketchup), spout (mustard), spray paint, ointment tube, baby food, shampoo or conditioner, cottage cheese container, mayonnaise jar, yogurt, peanut butter jar, ice cream bucket (under 8 inches), Cool Whip container, coffee can, cream cheese container, butter container and Pringles lids. Remember, the lids must be clean! Thank you for helping us purchase another bench!

#### **EAGLE VISION**

**EVERYONE** deserves our respect

**ACT** with kindness

**GOD'S LOVE** is our greatest strength

**LOVE** one another

**EVERY DAY** live for Jesus

**SHOW OTHERS** we are Christian

