

Welcome to Peace!

We are glad that you are here as we gather around the Word and Sacraments of our Lord Jesus Christ! If you have not already done so, we ask that you sign the Guest Book at the entrance to the church. Contact information can be written in the Fellowship Book located in the aisle side of each pew. If you do not have a church home and are interested in becoming a member here at Peace, please contact Pastor Gaunt 308-627-7238.

The Lord's Supper is a Gift . . . and as with all our Lord's gifts, we desire to give and receive them as He intends. The Lord's Supper is for our benefit, but it can be received unworthily. *"Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord"* (1 Corinthians 11:27). Therefore, in faithfulness to our Lord, and in love for you, Peace follows the practice of closed communion. If you are a fellow LCMS member, please let Pastor Gaunt know beforehand!

All Guests should visit with our pastor before coming to the Altar to receive the Lord's Supper. If you do not have opportunity to visit with our Pastor prior to the service, he is more than willing to visit with you during the week.

Prayers of the Church

Loss to Community Zion Lutheran Church N. Shelton-Fire **Mourning** + Family of Wynette Graham **Hospice, Surgery, or Hospitalization** + Maxine Weseman + Lucille Fitzke + Kay Krueger + Allen Glathar + Kase and Daniel Klein + Linda Parsons + Mabel Schmidt + Celeste Neimoth + Al Kress **Expecting** + Sarah Allen (complications) + Kelli Chandler + Amanda Zeisler **Health Issues** + Margret Herbert + Randy Russell **Cancer** + Josh Schroetlin + Nickie Shellberg + Morgan Hanson + Kara Nissen + Judy Meier + Maria Gomez + Kent Cohagan + Barbara Classan + Andy Jacques + Marilyn Houston **Military** + Tyler Mars + Ross Peters + Gary Thompson

In His Service

Minister: Rev. Micah R. Gaunt
 Organist: Dr. Phil Hesterman Cantor: Mr. David Witt A/V: Mr. Tim Yurk
 Altar Guild: Jan. Mary W., Marge O. Feb. Ruth A., Ethel S.
 Elders: 01/05 Ernesto A. 402-705-3472 01/12 Kevin H. 402-984-2182
 Bus Drivers: 01/05 Wes C. 402-984-4650 01/12 Gary O. 402-469-9797

Gifts of Time and Treasure

Last Week's Attendance 42
Last Week's Offering \$ 2,916.51
Weekly Need \$ 3,475.00

OTD II Capital Campaign: Remaining Loan Balance as of 12 31 19 is \$.00 balance

For more Financial Information see monthly newsletter.

A complete accounting of all financials are provided at each Quarterly Voters' Meeting.

Contact our Treasurer, Jerry Blazer jblazer@imne.com Office Hours: 9a-12p-1p-4p Monday-Friday

2020 Theme: All In-Being Present in an Age of Distraction

The Lord God Is Manifested in the Incarnate Son

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. While 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). With gold they confess His royalty; with incense, His deity; and with myrrh, His priestly sacrifice (Matt. 2:11).

From the Catechism:

"I believe that Jesus Christ...has redeemed me...that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity." (2^d Article of the Creed)

"Faith is a divine work in us which changes us and makes us born anew of God... O, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith...It does not ask whether good works are to be done, but before the question is asked, it has already done them, and is constantly doing them...Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that the believer would stake life itself on it a thousand times. This knowledge of and confidence in God's grace makes people glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and with all creatures." (Formula of Concord, Article IV, par. 10-12)

Take Home Questions: Listen for the Hymn *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*. Who is the "Morning Star"? What other names for this "Morning Star" are given in the hymn?

Readings for Next Sunday: 1 Kings 8:6-13, Romans 12:1-5, Luke 2:41-52

The Lord's Week

Sunday, January 5th	9:00am	Divine Service
	10:30am	Sunday School & Bible Class
	4:00pm	Youth Group
Tuesday, January 7th	2:00pm	Communion Service Perkins
	3:00pm	Communion Service Villa
	6:00pm	Leadership Planning Meeting
Wednesday, January 8th	11:00am	Senior Bible Study/Lunch Village Diner
	6:00pm	Choir
	6:30pm	Midweek Classes
Sunday, January 12th	9:00am	Divine Service
	10:30am	Sunday School & Bible Class

Prelude & Ringing of Bells
 Hymn #412
 Confession & Absolution p. 184
Service of the Word
 Introit *insert*
 Gloria Patri
 Kyrie
 Gloria in Excelsis
 Salutation and Collect
 First Reading
 Gradual
 Epistle Reading
 Alleluia & Verse
 Holy Gospel
 Nicene Creed p. 191
 Hymn of the Day #395
 Sermon
 Offertory & Offering
 Prayer of the Church
Service of the Sacrament p.194
 Preface & Proper Preface
 Sanctus & Lord's Prayer
 The Words of Our Lord
 Pax Domini & Agnus Dei
 Distribution & Hymns #622 #400 #810 #399
 Dismissal & Nunc Dimittis
 Thanksgiving & Collect
 Salutation & Benedicamus
 Benediction
 Hymn #397
 Postlude
 Announcements
 P: *Go In Peace*
 C: **Thanks Be To God!**

News and Notes of Interest

Please use new Narthex to enter and exit the Sanctuary!

Thanks be to God for our Members and Supporters over the last 5 years whose generosity have given over 1 million dollars to the Open the Doors of Peace and Open the Doors of Peace II capital campaigns. Through *Faith* and a lot of hard work, Peace opened the doors of the new addition on September 10, 2017 and continues to use the facility for funerals, bible studies, serving meals and many other ways in service to our Lord and Savior. As you read this we would like to inform everyone that the loan balance for the new addition has reached zero as the loan has been paid off. Thank you to all. The Board of Finance

2 Corinthians 9:8-10 ⁸And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." ¹⁰Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: 01/05 Keegan Morgan 01/06 Arlene Carlson, Ethan Hoins, Wayne Archer, Lisa Carllson 01/07 Mark Thurin 01/09 Elik O'Shea, Annette Steiner 01/10 Kari Wolfe, Diana Troutd 01/11 Grace Gnagy, Haidyn Russell

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES: 01/11 Dan Witt, Mary Wolzen

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES: 01/07 Jim & Kathy Stutesman 01/09 Rick & Sonya Latta

PORTALS of PRAYER & HIGHER THINGS DEVOTIONS available in the Narthex, copies January 6th - February 1st, 2020. Study Notes for the Christian Layperson in bulletin.

UNPLANNED Free Movie Sunday, January 12th & 19th at 2pm Hastings Museum Theatre 1330 N. Burlington Ave. Hastings Parents present with minors age 16 and under.

Men's Steak Night 6:00p Monday, January 13th
10:30am Quarterly Voters' Meeting Sunday, January 19th
Deb Johnson-Family Budgeting 10:30am Sunday, Jan. 26th

FIRE BANQUET - Saturday, March 7, 2020 at the Adams Co. Fairgrounds in Hastings. Proceeds go to benefit the two Lutheran schools in Adams County. Doors open 5 pm; the banquet is at 6:30pm live and silent auctions to follow. Tickets are \$60/each or a reserved table of ten for \$800. Zion-Hastings (462-5012), Christ Lutheran(744-4991), Ruhter Auction (463.8565).

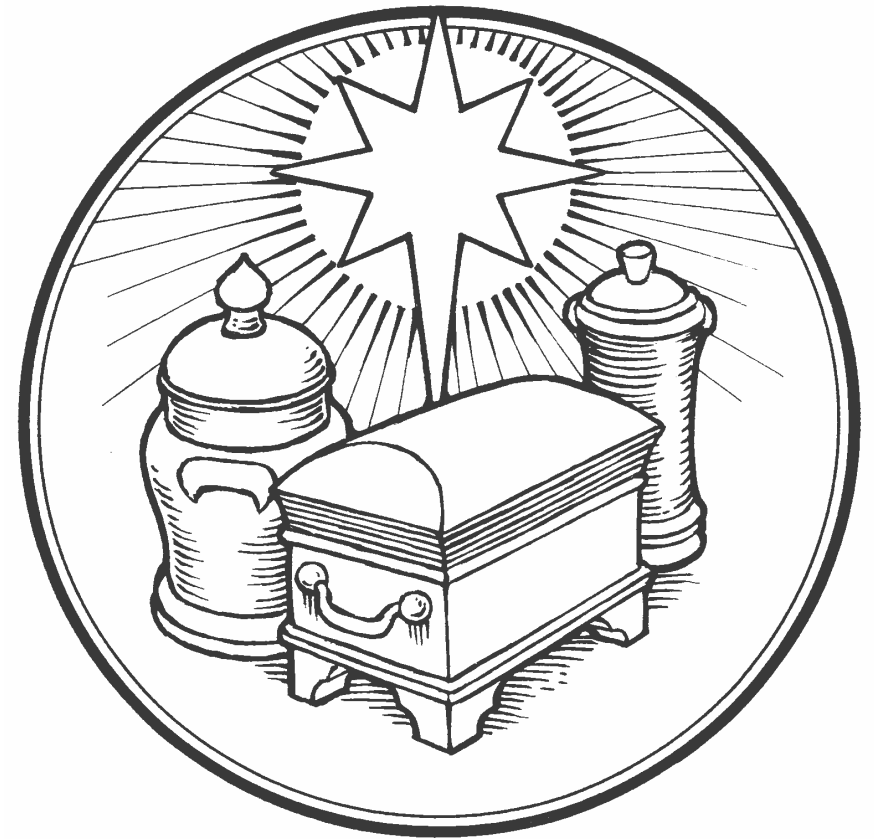
LIFEQUOTE "As this New Year begins and you make resolutions of things to do for yourself, consider ways in which you could spend one hour a week helping someone in need—at a crisis pregnancy center, a hospice house, a nursing home, etc." *Rev. Scott Licht, National Director of Lutherans For Life - A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

LCMS Epiphany

Matt. 2:11 – "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." For the wise men and for us, worship and offering gifts go together. How could this not be since our God is the great Giver of gifts? We receive His gifts in worship, and then, being conformed to the likeness of His image, we imitate His generosity.

Epiphany of Our Lord

January 5th
9:00am



Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

906 N. California Ave Hastings, NE 68901
402-462-9023 peacelutheranhastings@gmail.com

www.peacelutheranhastings.org

Pastor Gaunt Contact Information
revgaunt@gmail.com + 308-627-7238

The Epiphany of Our Lord

5 January 2020

INTROIT (*Ps. 72:1-2, 10-11; antiphon: Liturgical text*)



Behold the Lord, the rul- | er, has come,
and the kingdom and the power and the glory are | in his
hand.*

**Give the king your justice, | O God,*
and your righteousness to the | royal son!**

May he judge your people with | righteousness,
and your poor with | justice!*

**May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him
| tribute;***

may the kings of Sheba and Seba | bring gifts!

May all kings fall down be- | fore him,
all nations. | serve him!*

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.

GRADUAL (*Is. 60:6b, 1*)

Those from She- | ba shall come.*

**They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring
good news, the praises | of the LORD.**

Arise, shine, for your | light has come,*

and the glory of the LORD has risen up- | on you.

VERSE *Mt. 2:2b*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

We saw his star | when it rose*

And have come to | worship him.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Old Testament: 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.

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.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

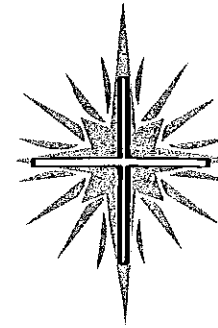
¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, 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." ⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And 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." ⁹After 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. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And 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. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

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. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And 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.

- The star that the magi had seen before appears again, this time to lead them directly to Jesus. These men are filled with joy, awe, and reverence for the Child Jesus, the King of the Jews. Epiphany means manifestation, or appearance. When Jesus appears the response of these Gentiles stands in stark contrast with that of Herod and the Jews. Indeed, this is one of the chief themes of Epiphany: when the Messiah appears His people are those who receive Him in faith.
- Many have speculated that the gifts of the magi each have a specific meaning, however, the point is not the individual gifts, but rather that they came and worshipped this Child as the King. They believed the Holy Scriptures, they followed the star, and they gave honor to Jesus with their worship and gifts.

¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

- God the Father protects His Son in the same way He protects us. "From this we learn how paternally God the Father dealt, and cared for His own, not letting them come into the hands of their enemies except at the hour provided by God; for even the hairs on our head are numbered, yes, before we endure trouble, God has sent His angel from heaven as our escort and protector." (Spangenberg, *The Year of Christian Grace*, 54)



THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Study Notes for the Christian Layperson

by: Rev. Sean Willman

Collect of the Day:

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. **Amen.**

Introit:

Psalm 72:1-2, 10-11 (antiphon: Liturgical text) – *Behold the Lord, the ruler has come*

Psalm:

Psalm 24 (antiphon: v. 7) – *The generation that seeks the Lord*

Old Testament Reading:

Isaiah 60:1-6 – *All those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense*

Gradual:

Isaiah 60:6b, 1 – *Arise, shine, for your light has come*

Epistle:

Ephesians 3:1-12 – *The mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs*

Verse:

Matthew 2:2b – *Alleluia. We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. Alleluia.*



www.steadfastlutherans.org/parish

Matthew 2:1-12 ESV

Author and Date:

The Holy Spirit caused St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist to write this Gospel around AD 50.

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem,

- Matthew makes clear the historical nature of Jesus' birth by naming both the ruler of Judea and the town in which Jesus is born. These details place the miraculous virgin birth into space and time and remind us that the gospels are records of actual events, namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
- The wise men, literally *magi*, are unnamed, unnumbered, and essentially unidentified in any way. Although often referred to as "three kings," we do not know where they came from, how they knew the Word of God, what their title was, or even how many of them there were. Magi is vague term that refers to those who were the most learned. Wherever in the east they come from, these magi were likely the local experts in the fields of medicine, science, the stars, interpretation of dreams, etc.

² saying, "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."

- The magi make an assertion: Jesus, the Babe born in Bethlehem, is King of the Jews. The star that rose was His, put there to lead them to Jerusalem. These Gentiles are not in Jerusalem to find facts; they know these things are true, and they have come to worship this Child.

³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;

- Herod had risen to power by use of force. He was, by all accounts, a ruthless and unmerciful ruler. As such, he had to always be on guard against any who would seek to unseat him by the same means he had gained superiority. That there might be a challenger to his reign caused him consternation. What is more, the Child born was supposedly King of the Jews. Herod, the foreigner, was aware that the Jews were constantly praying for a Messiah who was to come and rule His people. He feared that this One just born would quickly gain popularity, thereby robbing him of power.
- While those in Jerusalem longed to be out from under Herod's thumb, they feared that a king coming to challenge Herod would result in endless deaths and bloodshed. By this fear these Jews make their

unbelief clear. While praying for a Messiah, they did not recognize Him when He came. Instead of rejoicing that the promised one had finally come, they cower in the fear of unbelief.

⁴ And assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They 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."

- Of course Herod did not believe the Holy Scriptures, but here makes use of them, and those called to proclaim them in order to gather information about Jesus. The chief priests and scribes know the prophecies concerning the Christ who was to come and quickly answer Herod's theological question by quoting Micah 5:2. Sadly, they later show that they have no faith in these prophecies when they reject their fulfillment, Jesus.
- Bethlehem was not a large city by any means, but from this city of David would come another king who was to rule over Israel. Unlike Herod, or even David, the Messiah would not be a warrior king, but rather a shepherd. Jesus would come to guide His people into the way of truth and guard them from any who would seek to harm them. He would ultimately give His own life for theirs.

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared.

- Herod is careful not to make the leaders of the church suspicious by asking too many questions, so he speaks to the magi in private. He assumed that they first saw the star when the Child was born. By having this information, he would know exactly how old the Child was and could more easily find this tiny threat to the throne.

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."

- As friendly and inquisitive as Herod appeared, his intentions with the Child were evil. Not unlike those who only search the Holy Scriptures for promises of wealth and long-life, Herod was the consummate hypocrite and rank unbeliever. He desired to know the Scriptures, not to have life in Christ, but that his own life and evil desires might be fulfilled. The same can be said of anyone who sees the Holy Scriptures as a means to the end of personal gain rather than the only source of truth and life.