

The Season of Epiphany

Friday, January 6th is the Feast of the Epiphany, the day we celebrate Christ's appearing and the arrival of the Magi in Bethlehem. "Epiphany" is a Greek-derived word meaning "appearance" or "manifestation." For the Sundays in this season we will hear Scripture lessons that speak of how God has revealed God's very self to us in Jesus Christ. The season ends on February 26th with the Feast of the Transfiguration.



The Baptism of Our Lord

January 8th

This Sunday we celebrate Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan by John. We will think about what it means that Jesus, the greater, submitted to John, the lesser, to fulfill God's will and what that means for us in our lives as we endeavor to live out our union with Christ in Holy Baptism.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

I

What is baptism?

Baptism is not simply plain water. Instead, it is water used according to God's command and connected with God's word.

What then is this word of God?

Where our Lord Christ says in Matthew 28, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

II

What gifts or benefits does baptism grant?

It brings about forgiveness of sins, redeems from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe it, as the words and promise of God declare.

What are these words and promise of God?

Where our Lord Christ says in Mark 16, "The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned."

III

How can water do such great things?

Clearly the water does not do it, but the word of God, which is with and alongside the water, and faith, which trusts this word of God in the water. For without the word of God the water is plain water and not a baptism, but with the word of God it is a baptism, that is, a grace-filled water of life and a "bath of the new birth in the Holy Spirit," as St. Paul says to Titus in chapter 3, "through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is sure."

IV

What then is the significance of such a baptism with water?

It signifies that the old person in us with all sins and evil desires is to be drowned and die through daily sorrow for sin and through repentance, and on the other hand that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

St. Paul says in Romans 6, "We were buried with Christ through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life."

Dear Members,

This year is the lead up to the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation (October 31, 1517). Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has called upon every congregation in the ELCA to recommit itself to the study of the Small Catechism as we celebrate the importance of our Lutheran heritage. As this Sunday is the Baptism of Our Lord, I thought you might like to be reminded of what we believe about Baptism. You'll find Luther's explanation on the opposite page. As you enter the church this Sunday you will find the baptismal font at the door. Dip your fingers in and touch your forehead, make the sign of the cross to remember that you have been claimed by Christ as his own. In this water you were drowned and made alive again. Death has lost its grip on you.

It is easy to fall into despair. We try to do the right thing and in the midst of doing the right things we falter, we worry, we doubt Whose we are. The devil tempted Jesus by saying, "***If*** you are the Son of God..." trying to lead Jesus to doubt. We are tempted daily to forget who and Whose we are. When Luther felt this despair, which was often, he would shout out loud, "I **am** baptized!" Note, he did not say "I **was** baptized," as if that was something past and done, but "I **am** baptized!" meaning something that is ongoing and with him still. When the world presses in, when you feel that doing what you know is right is too hard, when you doubt that you are loved and of infinite worth, go wash your face, tap your forehead and say to yourself or shout out loud, "I am baptized!" Then be who you are: a beloved child of God!

Pastor Kevin



Bible Study of Matthew

Pastor Kevin is offering a Bible Study on the *Gospel of Matthew* on Thursday nights at 7pm ***beginning again on January 12th***. Matthew wrote his gospel for his community that was reeling from the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD. They had been expelled from the Jewish synagogues and were living in exile in Syria away from the Jewish homeland. "What does it mean to be the People of God?" and "How do we reach out to people not like us?" were the questions being asked. Perhaps we are asking similar questions. Matthew's gospel maybe a place to start!

Thursday evenings at 7pm in the Fellowship hall! Dinner provided.

Member Prayer List

Alice Raffa
Whitney Taylor
Doris Sharpe



Member Shut-ins

Bobby Frazier
Margaret Kyzer
Frank McLeod
Roberta Pound
Dollie Pounds
Anna Ree Roland
Kathleen Smith
Joan Leskoske
Norma Moore

Friends & Relatives of Church Members

David Ball - Father of Rosemary Davis
Randy Baker - Friend of the Freeman's
Pam Crossland - Friend of Cheryl Austin
Jacob & Alberta Dooley - Relative of Margaret & Allen Hollis
Clarence Davis - Father of Jason Davis
Barbara Eckard - Cousin of Mary Hines
Donna Florence - Mother of Megan Joyner
Gracey Goodman - Great Niece of Henry Poplin
Mildred Gunter - Cousin of Anna Ree Roland
Lee Hamilton - Grandson of Norma Moore
Terri Moore Hamilton - Daughter of Norma Moore
Haley Hilliard - Friend of the Freeman's
Colene Hook - Mother of Kristie Joyner
Keith Gossett - Brother of Brenda Poplin
Lynne Hendrix - Daughter of Margaret Hollis
Bob Florence - Father of Megan Joyner
Ann Addy—Friend of Katrina Shealy
Karen Henderson—Dalton Freeman's mother-in-law

Lanell Hicks - Mother of Miranda West
Rick Kyzer - Son of Richard Kyzer
Roger Lindler - Brother of Mendel Lindler
Billy Long - Brother of Mike Long
Sandy Martin - Friend of Janet & Russell Taylor
Samantha Molnar - Sister of Carolyn Steele
Gerald Roof - Brother of Debbie Kyzer
Priscilla Shealy - Sister of Alice Raffa
Allie Snider- Granddaughter of the Freeman's
Johnny Starnes - Brother of Anna Ree Roland
Susan Russell - Friend of Brenda Poplin
Corey Taylor - Friend of Mary Hines
Hazel Tisdale - Friend of Tracy Shealy
Sandra Voelker - Friend of Margaret Hollis
Lois Watson - Mother of Debbie Areheart
William Watson - Father of Debbie Areheart
Julia Shealy—Friend of Katrina Shealy

Military Workers

Michael Anderson - Friend of St. James
Dwight Barrs - Grandson Eunice Backman
Joseph Brown - Grandson of Bill & Kathryn Kyzer
Ryan Caulder - Son of Mot Caulder

Daniel Herb - Son in Law of Mot Caulder
Jeremy Jolly - Grandson of Hazel Rawl
Wayne Watkins - Nephew of S. Jeffords
Keith Zeigler - Son of Tom Zeigler

This Week At St. James

Sunday, January 1
The Name of Jesus
No Sunday School
10:30 AM Holy Communion

Wednesday, January 4
No Choir Practice

Thursday, January 5
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

Sunday, January 8
The Baptism of Our Lord
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Holy Communion

Birthdays

1/2
Betty Clark
1/3
Scott Summers
1/5
Lunette Davis
1/7
Linda Bailey
Brandy Crumpton
1/8
Mandy Jenkins
Gabriel Harmon
Jann Boyd
1/9
Carolyn Steele
Jonah Harmon
1/11
Tommy Tyson
Shelby Duke
Pastor Kevin
1/13
Robert Sharpe
1/14
Elizabeth Peeples

WORSHIP LEADERS IN JANUARY

Sunday, January 8

Presiding Minister
Pastor Kevin Ogilvie

Assisting Minister
Vicar Shea Berbaum

Acolyte
Chaise Jones

Crucifer
Xavier White

Communion Assistants

Altar Guild
Tammy O'Quinn

Lector
Tammy O'Quinn

Ushers
Dick Kyzer
Tom Boozer

Sunday, January 15

Presiding Minister
Pastor Kevin Ogilvie

Assisting Minister
Vicar Shea Berbaum

Acolyte
Daunte Smith

Crucifer
Chaise Jones

Communion Assistants

Altar Guild
Tammy O'Quinn

Lector

Ushers
Dick Kyzer
Tom Boozer

Sunday, January 22

Presiding Minister
Pastor Kevin Ogilvie

Assisting Minister
Vicar Shea Berbaum

Acolyte
Callie Poplin

Crucifer

Communion Assistants

Altar Guild
Tammy O'Quinn

Lector
Brenda Poplin

Ushers
Dick Kyzer
Tom Boozer

Sunday, January 29

Presiding Minister
Pastor Kevin Ogilvie

Assisting Minister
Vicar Shea Berbaum

Acolyte

Crucifer

Communion Assistants

Altar Guild
Tammy O'Quinn

Lector
Mary Browder

Ushers
Dick Kyzer
Tom Boozer

Request from Red Bank Elementary School

Tony is ten years old. He's never seen his dad because he was incarcerated from the time Tony was born. Anna's mother died and, not knowing the whereabouts of her father, she was taken in by her mother's boyfriend who can barely keep up with the three other children he has. Johnny is being reared by his 19 year old aunt because both parents are addicted to drugs. Andrew struggles because he loves sports, fishing, and all-boy activities but there is no male figure in his life.

These children are precious. They have no choice about to whom they were born, where they live, or who will be there for them. They need you. Would you consider being a mentor to one of these students? A lunch buddy comes once per week and visits with the child during their lunch time. The attention from one caring adult, once per week, makes a tremendous difference for these children.

If you can be a friend to a child, please call Jeannie Epps at Red Bank Elementary School at 803.821.4600.

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" Matt. 25:40

MEMORIALS & HONORARIA

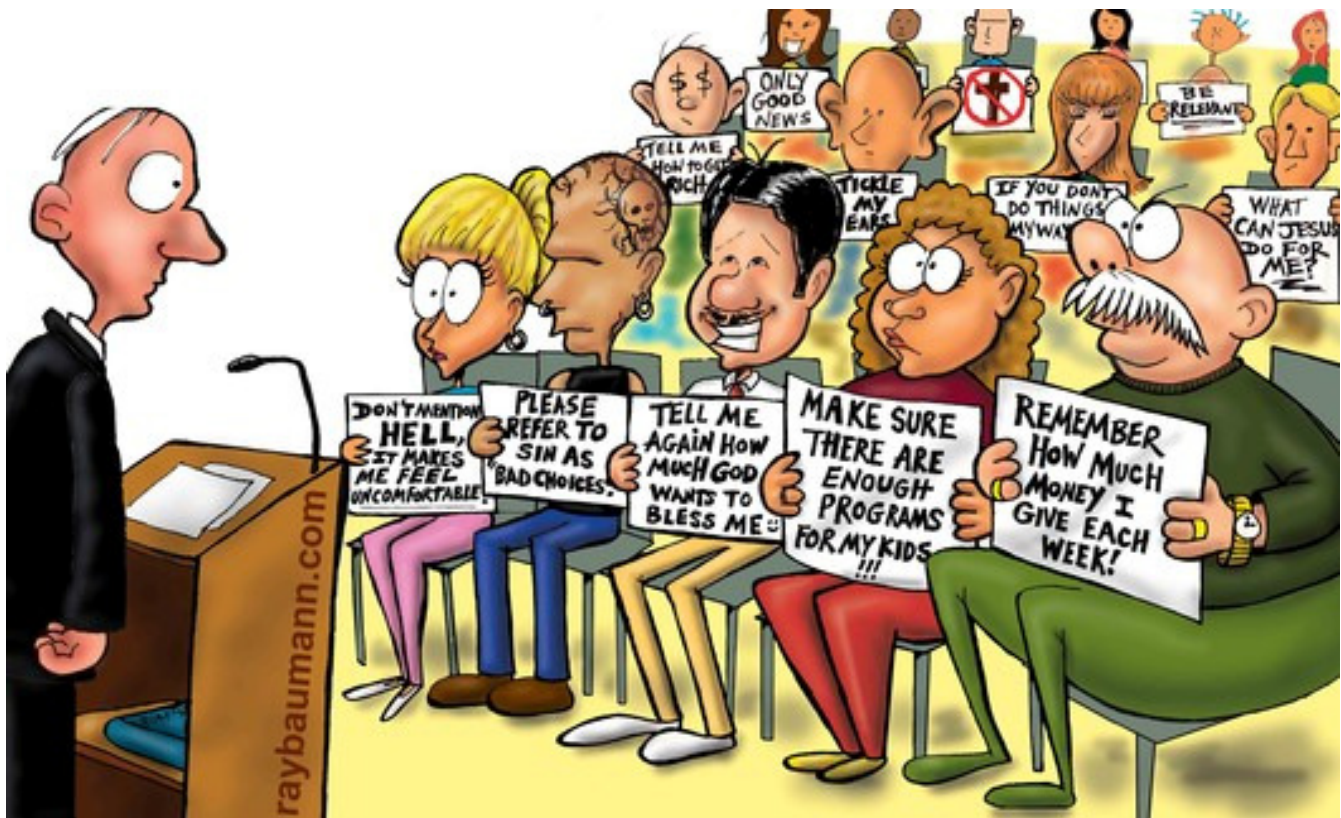
In memory/honor of:

In honor of Kenny & Kathy Goings
In memory of Woody Duke

By:

Cindy K. Schmitt
Kevin & Rami McCutchen

Laughter is the best medicine!



CHURCH OFFICE NOTES

- ~ Anyone interested in volunteering as worship assistant in one, or more areas, please feel free to call the church office or sign up in the narthex. We are in need of assistants in all areas of worship.
- ~ Any articles that you would like to have included in the Weekly Messenger need to be emailed to office@stjameslex.com or simply brought by the church office prior to Wednesday of the week you would like to see it in the publication. Thank you!

**St. James Lutheran
Church**

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(803) 359-7803

office@stjameslex.com

Visit us on the web at
www.stjameslex.com

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

Kevin Ogilvie, PhD.
pastor.kevin@stjameslex.com

Music Director

Martha Caulder

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:15am Sunday School
10:30 Holy Communion

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

THANK YOU

- to all our choir members, musicians, handbell choir members, Mot Caulder for making such glorious music at Christmas!
- To everyone who decorated the church and cleaned up afterwards!
- To the Internship Support Committee that worked so well with Vicar Brian Foulks!
- To Gwen Freeman and Cheryl Austen for the extra help in the office these past few weeks!