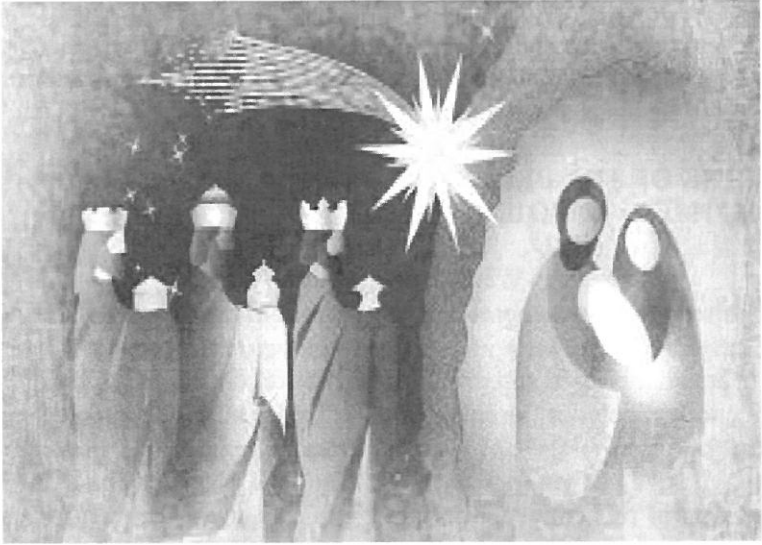


St. Johns Lutheran Church

For we saw his star when it rose



and have come to worship him.

AS WE GATHER

We consider the mysteries highlighted by the Readings for the Feast of the Epiphany. The Wise Men, or Magi, mysteriously show up in Jerusalem, and these strangers are looking for the King of the Jews. The King of the Jews is mysteriously an infant, born to a humble family in Bethlehem, not in Jerusalem. And this King of the Jews mysteriously invites all people from all nations into His kingdom. These mysteries, hidden for the ages, are revealed in Jesus, the Light of the world.

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME GUESTS

We're glad you are here! Make it a point to introduce yourself to the pastor. *(Please keep your distance though)* Please take time to fill out an attendance card and drop it in the basket during the offering. . Our service today includes the celebration of God's presence, as He comes in the true body and blood of Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Any who are not yet instructed or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church-Missouri

Synod, are asked to refrain from receiving the sacrament until they have spoken with the pastor.

PREPARATION

HYMN

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

LSB 397

**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.**

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.

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.

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.

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.

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *(during the lighting of the white candle on the Advent wreath)*

Arise, shine, for your light has come!

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

All the nations shall come to the light of Christ.

Kings shall bring Him gifts.

For Christ reveals the mystery hidden through the ages,

that all nations are partakers of the promise in Jesus Christ.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Through the Gospel, all people are fellow heirs of salvation and members of the same Body. Yet there have been times when we have failed to live in unity, when we have failed to treat our brothers and sisters in Christ with respect and honor. Our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him and ask for His forgiveness.

Silence for reflection.

Heavenly Father,

we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have created division and discord. We have hidden the light of Christ from others. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us with the light of Christ, that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways. Amen.

Almighty God in His mercy sent His Son, Jesus, into our world to shine as a light for all people, including You. Jesus has died for your sins and is risen for your righteousness. Therefore, 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 ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen. We are partakers of the promise. We are forgiven in Christ.**

WORD

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

LSB 170

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

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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star You made known to the Gentiles Your only-begotten Son. 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.

MEMORIZED WORD

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL *Psalms 117:1-2a; 96:8*

Praise the LORD, all * nations!

Extol Him, all * peoples!

For great is His steadfast * love toward us,

and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for * ever.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory * due His name;

bring an offering, and come in * to His courts!

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Matthew 2:2b*

Alleluia. 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. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 2:1–12*

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

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.” 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HYMN “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” *LSB 395*

**O Morning Star, how fair and Bright!
You shine with God’s own truth and light,
Aglow with grace and mercy!
Of Jacob’s race, King David’s Son,
Our Lord and master, You have won
Our hearts to serve You only!
Lowly holy!
Great and glorious,
All victorious,
Rich in blessing!
Rule and might o’er all possessing!**

Come, heav'nly Bridegroom, Light divine,
And deep within our hearts now shine;
There light a flame undying!
In your one body let us be
As living branches of a tree,
Your life our lives supplying.
Now, through daily
Earth's deep sadness
May perplex us
And distress us,
Yet with heav'nly joy You bless us.

Lord, when You look on us in love,
At once there falls from God above
A ray of purest pleasure.
Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood
Refresh our souls with heav'nly food.
You are our dearest Treasure!
Let Your mercy
Warm and Cheer us!
O draw near us!
For You teach us
God's own love through You has reached us.

Almighty Father, in Your Son
You loved us when not yet begun
Was this old earth's foundation!
Your Son has ransomed us in love
To live in Him here and above:
This is Your great salvation.
Alleluia!
Christ the living,
To us giving Life forever,
Keeps us Yours and fails us never!

O let the harps break forth in sound!
Our joy be all with music crowned,
Our voices gladly blending!
For Christ goes with us all the way
Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!

**His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out!
Jubilation!
Exultation!
Tell the Story!
Great is He the King of Glory!**

**What joy to know, when life is past,
The Lord we love is first and last,
The end and the beginning!
He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
Transport us to that happy place
Beyond all tears and Sinning!
Amen! Amen!
Come, Lord Jesus!
Crown of Gladness!
We are yearning
For the day of Your returning!**

SERMON

NICENE CREED *found in the back of hymnbook or on the screen*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

LSB 176

**What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of
the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

INSTALLATION OF CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *Response from LSB 400:1*

**Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Light of the world,
dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.**

**Lord, there are many divisions in the church, divisions based on class,
culture, race, wealth, and age, divisions that need not exist. Bring unity**

where there is division, peace where there is discord, and reconciliation where there is conflict. Light of the world,

dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.

Lord, comfort all those who are suffering in the darkness of grief, who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially . . .*]. and heal them according to Your good and gracious will. Light of the world,

dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.

Lord, strengthen all marriages, encourage those who are single, and help us to recognize the value of each person, for Your redemption stretches to all people. Light of the world,

dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.

Lord, bless all pastors, teachers, church planters, missionaries, musicians, and servants in Your Church. Embolden them as they seek to reflect Your light to all the nations. Light of the world,

dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.

Lord, shine Your light of hope upon all those who are caregivers. Send them rest and peace, knowing that in You their labor is not in vain.

Light of the world,

dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.

Lord, we commend all of these things to Your caring hands, trusting in Your mercy to all people. Light of the world,

dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid. Amen.

SACRAMENT

PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

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 singing:

SANCTUS *LSB 178*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T BE WITH US

Many Lord, desire to be here at your altar today, but since they cannot at this time receive You sacramentally, Grant them Your Holy Spirit and come into their hearts through your Holy Word and promises so that they are assured of your personal embrace and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation. Never permit them to doubt being separated from You. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ on the cross.

Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

LORD'S PRAYER *found in the back of hymnbook or on the screen*

PAX DOMINI

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

AGNUS DEI *LSB 180*

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,
grant us peace.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Angels from the Realms of Glory *LSB 367*

Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning *LSB 400*

NUNC DIMITTIS...SONG OF SIMEON

LSB 182

Lord, now You let your servant go in peace;

Your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation which

You have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people:

A light to reveal You to the nations and

the glory of Your people Israel.

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

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have welcomed us into the Body of Christ and have given us Your Church as a home for all nations. Strengthen us through this Sacrament, that we may love others as Christ first loved us; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

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.

**The star proclaims the King is here;
But, Herod, why this senseless fear?
For He who offers heav'nly birth
Seeks not the kingdoms of this earth.**

**The eastern sages saw from far
And followed on His guiding star;
And, led by light, to light they trod
And by their gifts confessed their God.**

**Within the Jordan's sacred flood
The heav'nly Lamb in meekness stood
That He, of whom no sin was known,
Might cleanse His people from their own.**

**And oh, what miracle divine,
When water reddened into wine!
He spoke the word, and forth it flowed
In streams that nature ne'er bestowed.**

Stand

**For this Thy glad epiphany
All glory, Jesus, be to Thee,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit evermore.**

Preacher	Pastor Michael Tanney
Liturgist	Pastor Michael Tanney
Lector	Dan Reh
Elders	Al Bohannon
Organist	Suzanne Manelli
Ushers	Don Osiek, Ben Thomas, and Roger Schmidt
Children's Message	Pastor Michael Tanney
Acolytes	Tra-Mi and Thao-Vy
Greeter	Roger Schmidt
Worship Screen	Tra-Mi and Thao-Vy

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2021 Boards

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Vice President: Ray Gluesenkamp

Secretary: Kim Karner

Treasurer: Ruth Evers

Members at Large: Bob Rehmer; Debbie Schmidt

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Board of Social Ministry

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Ethelmae Leuther

Ruth Trauth

Eileen Wehrheim

Board of Evangelism

Melba Fanger – Chair

Sue Hampel

Karl Frerichs

Joan Potvin

Board of Stewards

Eunice Bain – Chair

Announcements

Saved to Share Called to Care

Our Response to God's Love Last Week

Attendance Sunday: 27

ATTENTION: PLEASE TAKE A HYMNAL from the rack nearest to you and leave it on the pew where you are sitting prior to leaving the sanctuary today. This will enable us to be more efficient when we sanitize the pews this week. Thank you.

SOCIAL MINISTRY is requesting coats, blankets, coats, gloves and hats, which will be available for clients outside. Clothing room will be closed until after COVID is resolved. Therefore, no other clothing items will be accepted.

Brown paper grocery bags are also needed in the "Food Pantry."

2020 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS are available for pick up in the Narthex. If you have any questions about your statement, please send an email to stjohnslechl@gmail.com

JONAH'S OFFICE HOURS are changing for the next four months. He plans on being in the office on Monday 8am-2pm, Wednesday 8am-2pm, and Friday 8am-2pm.

VOTER'S AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DATES here are the dates for Voter's and Executive Council in 2021.

Voter's: February 14th, April 11th, July 11th (budget), September 19th, and November 14th

Executive Council: January 24th, March 14th, May 16th, August 8th, and October 17th

Prayers

Special Prayer Petitions – **Bobbie** as she feelings of loneliness; **Sue Hampel's parents** for quick recovery, both physically and mentally and improvement in rehab; **Ray** as he goes through treatment for stage 4 lung cancer; **Melba Fanger** who has been feeling sick and weak and for the passing of Ken Fanger; **St. Johns** for blessings on our virtual learning center; **For** those infected by the corona virus for quick healing and recovery. **Field-workers** and **Vicars** for their class work; **Nepali Congregation** blessings.

Shut Ins – Jeanette Creamer, Carmen Hobson, Bobbie Kepford, Dennis Solomon, Jerry Schmaltz, Carol Carr

Opportunities to Love and Serve Christ this Week

January 10-January 17

Sunday	9:00am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Bible Study
Monday	8am-2pm Office Open 7:30am-5:30pm Virtual Learning Center
Tuesday	Office Open (No Secretary) 7:30am-5:30pm Virtual Learning Center 6:30pm Seminary Class
Wednesday	8am-2pm Office Open 7:30am-5:30pm Virtual Learning Center 6:30pm ESL 6:30pm NT Class
Thursday	Office Open (No Secretary) 7:30am-5:30pm Virtual Learning Center
Friday	8am-2pm Office Open 8am Bible Study 7:30am-5:30pm Virtual Learning Center
Saturday	8:30am Food Pantry
Next Sunday	9:00am Worship 10:30am Bible Study