

FROM THE PASTOR

EPIPHANY – JESUS REVEALED TO US

What is Epiphany? That question has been asked many times. "Why it's the religious holiday that falls on January 6th." Outside of this simple explanation, just what is Epiphany? That was a question that I asked many times, until someone took the time to explain it to me. I understood the rest of the church year fairly well but Epiphany just didn't seem to make much sense.

Many of us know that it is a season of the church year that follows right after Christmas and it falls just before Lent and Easter. That is the time frame for the season of Epiphany. The length of the season is determined by the date of Easter which changes from year to year. Epiphany means in simple words, "to reveal". But what is revealed during this season? In the simplest terms, it is Jesus who is being revealed.

Epiphany starts when the Wise men came to Bethlehem as they were led by the star to see the baby Jesus. Jesus was revealed to the people of the East who had not heard of the Savior. This is the greatest way that Jesus is revealed. He is revealed as the Savior of all people in this world. This goal is accomplished when the Holy Spirit works faith in a person's heart who hears the gospel message.

As we look at the Epiphany season, we can see many different stories to reveal Jesus to the world and to us. He revealed His power and glory as He was declared to be the true Son of God at His baptism.

Jesus performed many miracles which also show us that He was more than just a man living on this earth. He is the almighty God, our Lord and Savior. He not only has power over the wind and waves, illness and disease, but over life and death, the grave and hell.

During the season of Epiphany, in one Scripture lesson after another, we learn more and more about this wonderful Jesus. We see His glory, His power, His love, His mercy, His..... What a beautiful message the Epiphany season proclaims!

It is also the perfect lead into the Lenten season and Easter. When we see the work of Jesus as it pertains to our salvation, we are reminded that our sins were paid for not just with the blood, suffering and death of another man. No, they were paid for by the life of the Son of God, Jesus Christ. We are reminded that the almighty power of Jesus was not used when it came to the cross but that Jesus willingly laid down His life for us.

Let us always remember what the Epiphany season means for us. Let it always fill us with hope and strength. Let it mean more than a few Sundays which follow Christmas. Let us say to our heavenly Father, "Thank you for revealing to us the power and glory of Your one and only Son. In Him we can see the power and glory which came to seek and to save the lost."

-- Pastor Kehren

Congregational Meeting

We encourage all members to attend our regular Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 27th at Noon. Lunch will be served.

Evangeline Carroll's baptism was affirmed at Jerusalem on Sunday, December 16th. Evangeline is the daughter of Ashley and Jeremy Carroll.

May God bless and keep Evangeline strong in faith throughout her life.

We welcome new member Travis Enberg to the Jerusalem family.

Our Synod has an amazing opportunity to build and operate a theological training facility in Hanoi, Vietnam, to reach more than **two million** Hmong people who live in Vietnam and the surrounding countries with the message of the gospel.

Check your member mailbox in January for more information about this opportunity!



Thank you for your generous gifts reaching out to those in need in our community! Our barrel for the Morton Grove Fire Department's food drive was once again filled and overflowing. Many, many gifts of diapers, clothing, wipes etc. were left under the Giving Tree for our Mundelein Pregnancy and Life Center.



Divine Call Received

Principal Duane Vance has received a Divine Call to serve as Principal and 5th-8th grade teacher at Cross of Glory Lutheran Church and School in Peoria, Arizona. Please keep him, his family, and both ministries at Cross of Glory and Jerusalem in your prayers as he deliberates where his gifts may be best used to serve God and his Kingdom.

Let's Go Bowling

Join us on Sunday, January 20th at 1:30 pm for this January bowling fellowship event at Classic Bowl in Morton Grove (8530 Waukegan Road). No talent necessary. Come for fun, laughs, and competition. Prizes will be awarded. Come early for an optional lunch at 12:30 at Boba Burger (inside Classic Bowl) if you like. Cost of \$10.00 per person covers two games of bowling plus shoe rental. Sign-up sheet is in the narthex and pay Brian Felsing the day of the event.

2018 Baptisms

Kyle Buetow *June 3*
Evangeline Carroll *December 16*

Saints Called Home in 2018

Victor Anderson *May 17*
Gilda Schmiegelt *June 24*
Kathryn Stumpf *August 14*

Bible Studies at Jerusalem

Sunday Morning Bible Study

We resume on January 6th with a Bible Study on St. Paul called "To the Ends of the Earth". We meet at 9:15 am in the back of the sanctuary.

Sunday School

Sunday School for kids ages 3 through high school meets at 9:15 am. Parents, consider bringing your kids so they grow in the good news of Jesus. While the kids are in Sunday School, you could also attend adult Bible study. **There will be no Sunday School on the morning of December 30th. We resume on January 6th.**

Tuesday Morning Chapel

Everyone is invited to join the students of Jerusalem School for a 20 minute chapel service every Tuesday morning starting at 8:20 am. **Our next chapel service is on Tuesday, January 8th.**

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Wednesday Bible study meets from 10:00 – 11:00 am in the downstairs auditorium. We are continuing a study of the book of 1 Peter. 1 Peter speaks of the hope that we have in Jesus even in hurtful times. Come and join us. **We resume on Wednesday, January 9th.**

Women's Bible Study

St. Matthew's Women's Bible study group invites the women of Jerusalem to join them for a monthly Bible study. Our next meeting will be here at Jerusalem on Monday, January 28th at 7:00 pm. We will be continuing a Bible Study called, "Prepared to Answer" focusing on how to respond to questions or objections many people have to the Christian faith.

Korean Exchange Students at Jerusalem

In January, we will be hosting four Korean students along with Pastor and Mrs. Choi from our sister Lutheran Church in Seoul, South Korea.

This is an opportunity for us to strengthen our relationship with our fellow Lutheran Christians in Korea and for them to have a stronger bond with us.

Mundelein Pregnancy/Life Resource Center



Please help us keep our doors open!

We desperately need donations to be able to pay the rent for our Pregnancy and Life Resources office. Our funds are almost exhausted, and unless we receive contributions very soon, we will have to close our doors within a few weeks.

For almost 38 years, from the opening of our Pregnancy Counseling Center in Palatine in January 1981, our ministry has brought a sure and certain hope through the Word to many hopeless and hurting clients. We've often found ourselves low on funds and/or without a sufficient number of volunteers. But the Lord has been faithful and has repeatedly blessed us.

May the Lord use YOU to help keep our doors open! Please prayerfully consider a year-end gift to support our ministry, make your check payable to WELS Lutherans for Life, and mail it to:

WELS Lutherans for Life
359 Cambridge Drive Grayslake, IL 60030
Phone (847) 752-5948

“... a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you.” Deut. 16:17 Whether small or large, your donation is important!

Jerusalem Preschool and Kindergarten Open House

Friday, February 1st 9:00-11:00 AM

Invite your friends and neighbors with young children to meet our teachers and learn about our programs.

Preschool Applications will be accepted through February 1st. You will be notified of your child's status the following week. Please give all applications to Mrs. Burger.

Applications for Kindergarten will continue to be accepted until the class limit has been reached.

If you have any questions about preschool, please contact Vicki Burger, vburger@jerusalemlutheran.org or at 847-965-4750, ext. 2.

For kindergarten, speak with Julie Epple, jepple@jerusalemlutheran.org or at 847-965-4750, ext. 3.

You Can Help Our Kindergarteners!

The kindergarten students are starting to read full sentences and short books. They also read aloud better when they have an “audience” that gives them lots of praise. We would love it if you could come to school to listen to them read on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons from 2:00 – 2:30 pm starting Tuesday, January 15th. Please check the available dates on the sign-up sheet in the church entryway and see if you could help us out.



School News

Morton Grove Fire Department 2018 Fire Safety Poster Contest Winners

Congratulations to Jerusalem School students recognized by the Morton Grove Fire Department.

Molly O'Hara	3rd Grade
Lydia Miner	4th Grade
Joseph Yoon	6th Grade
Mya Lusco	7th Grade
Joonhwa Hong	8th Grade

Overall Winner!! Faith Vo

Congratulations to the **Eagles of the Week** for the month of December. The following students were recognized for their Christ-like attitude and academic effort.

Elly Kim
Nathan Vance
Nathan Sim
Xiaoqui Guo
Mika Manansala
Josiah Viruet
Myles Waters
Jade Viruet

Instead of exchanging gifts in their classrooms this year, Preschool and Jerusalem students focused on helping others during the Christmas season. A few examples:

Preschoolers deliver Toys for Tots!



68 pairs of pajamas collected for families in need!



3rd-8th Grade Caroling at the Homestead in Morton Grove

Students and congregational members pack meals at Feed Our Starving Children.



Come out and cheer on the **Jerusalem School Eagles Basketball teams** at their January games. Home games are held at Parkview Grade School in Morton Grove.

Tuesday	January 15	Lord and Savior	Away – Crystal Lake	5:00 pm
Friday	January 25	Good Shepherd	Home	6:30/7:30 pm

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6218 Capulina Ave
Morton Grove, IL 60053

Pastor Jonathan Kehren
Phone: 847-965-7340
Email: pastor@jerusalemlutheran.org

Fall-Spring Worship Schedule

Sunday 8:00 am & 10:30 am
Sunday School and Bible Study 9:15 am

*“Our purpose is to serve all people with
the gospel of Jesus Christ on the basis of
Holy Scripture”*

Happy New Year!

We give thanks to God for the many blessings he has given us during the past year. We look forward with faith in God’s grace and promises, trusting that God will continue to bless us as he has in the past. May our God of grace be with you in the new year.

