

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

Palmer, Kansas 66962

Rev. Joshua Hayes, **Pastor**

E-mail: pastor.hayes@outlook.com

Pastor Hayes - Home: (785) 692-4228; Cell: (720) 897-6829 (call or text)

Website: www.stjohnpalmer.net

Mrs. Sheila Stuenkel, **Organist**

Office Phone: (785) 692-4228

Member – Linn Lutheran School Association

Email: linnluth@bluevalley.net

Phone: (785) 348-5792

Principal & Teacher: Mr. David Beikmann; Teachers: Mrs. Laura Stunkel,

Mrs. Kelsey Hatesohl, Mrs. Kim Burke, & Mrs. Renae Bott

January 1, 2023

The Epiphany of our Lord (observed)

Welcome to St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church. If you are a guest or visitor with us today, we welcome you and invite you to come and worship with us again. Please take the time to introduce yourself to Pastor Hayes, and we hope to see you again soon.

Remember that the Worship Service begins when you enter. As the Music for Meditation begins, you are invited to join in quiet, preparation time for worship. Before the service, speak to the Lord; during the service, let the Lord speak to you; after the service, speak to one another.

Liturgy – Divine Service Setting Three (Page 184)

Opening Hymn: 384 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Hymn of the Day: 395 "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"

Distribution Hymn: 370 "What Child Is This"

Distribution Hymn: 389 "Let All Together Praise Our God"

Distribution Hymn: 374 "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

Distribution Hymn: 399 "The Star Proclaims the King Is Here"

Closing Hymn: 394 "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please e-mail prayer requests to Pastor Hayes at pastor.hayes@outlook.com.

Prayer requests will remain for 2 weeks unless you specify a length of time.

Angie Reinert, Lula Stuenkel, Marilyn Ohlde, Loraine Oldehoeft, & Lorna Heitman (in the nursing home); **family of Bill Burger; Edith Lange** (recovery)

Acolyte this Sunday - Greyson Ohlde

Acolyte next Sunday - Gretchen Bott

Ushers today - *John Bott, Lance Gerleve, Aiden Sweet, & Mason Tiemeyer

Ushers Jan. 8th - *Aaron Stuenkel, Dylan Ohlde, Conner Ohlde, & Zac Hiltgen

LYF Fellowship Hour today - No Adult Bible Class

LYF Fellowship Hour Jan. 8th & 15th - Sophia & Ethan Bott

Upcoming Events

- January 1** 9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. **NO** Adult Bible Class or Children's Sunday School
- January 2** 7:00 p.m. Men's Club meeting
- January 4** 5:30 p.m. **NO** Midweek/Confirmation
7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting
- January 8** 9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Children's Sunday School
11:30 a.m. New Member Potluck w/Quarterly Voters Mtg following

Announcements

- * During our Quarterly Voters meeting the voters assembly will vote on ratifying the changes to our Constitution and Bylaws that have been approved by the Kansas District. A copy of both documents were put in your bulletin box last October.
- * Zion Lutheran Church in Linn is hosting a circuit-wide Epiphany service and soup-supper on Friday, January 6th. The soup supper begins at 6 p.m. Worship begins at 7 p.m. There is no cost for the meal. All offerings will go to support the church-plant in Concordia, KS.
- * The St. John Men's Club will have a meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, January 2nd. We will have a Bible study and a short business meeting to discuss the upcoming soup supper, which is on January 15th. On the list for refreshments are Gary Voelker and Ron Ohlde. All men of the congregation are invited to join us for the evening of men's Christian fellowship.
- * The St. John Men's Club will host their annual soup supper from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 15. There will be four kinds of homemade soup, fresh-made grilled cheese sandwiches, and a variety of desserts! There will be a free-will offering with proceeds going to benefit LLL and other Men's Club projects.
- * The family of Lorna Heitman requests a card shower for her 95th birthday on Jan. 5th, 2023. Her address is: Lorna Heitman, c/o LCNH, 612 3rd St., Linn, KS 66953.
- * Christmas Break for Linn Lutheran School runs until Wed., Jan. 4, when classes resume. Merry Christmas & God's Blessings from all of us at Linn Lutheran School as we begin a new year!
- * **Calling all parents (past, present, and future)** - St. John will host a parenting Bible class led by Pastor Hayes. The class will run on the six Wednesdays leading up to Ash Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. (January 11th - February 25th). Open to all. Materials included. Topics will include: What does Biblical wisdom teach us about parenting? How can we instill in our children a love for God and his ways? What about discipline and nurture, friendship and extended family? Come build one another up in Christ and share our mutual burdens: **Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ (Gal. 6:2).**

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His Table those who trust His words, repent all sins, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily, according to Holy Scripture, do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, are asked to refrain from communing with us until such a time as they are properly instructed.

A short, more detailed explanation of our Confessional practice is available from our Ushers or Elders. If you would like to learn more about the Sacrament of the Altar and our confessional position, I would be happy to visit with you.

-Rev. Joshua Hayes, Pastor, St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

In preparation for Holy Communion, you may use the following statements as part of your self-examination:

- ☐ I admit that I am a sinner. **(1 John 1:8-10)**
- ☐ I believe that Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from all sin, from Satan and death. **(Acts 4:10-12; John 14:6)**
- ☐ I desire to live as God wants me to. **(John 14:15; 1 John 2:6)**
- ☐ I am sure of my eternal salvation because Jesus died for me and rose again. **(John 3:16; Romans 8:14; & 1 John 5:11-12)**
- ☐ I believe the Risen Christ is really present in Holy Communion and that with the bread and wine I receive His Body and Blood. **(Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 4:22-24; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; Luke 22:17-20)**
- ☐ I forgive those who have wronged me.

MORNING PRAYER

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life my please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.



Introit *(Psalm 72:1-2, 10-11; antiphon: Liturgical Text)*

Behold the Lord, the ruler, | 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!**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

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

Collect for the Epiphany of Our Lord

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.

* **STUDY GOD'S WORD IN 2023...** The Word of the Lord Endures Forever is a daily, 15-minute, verse-by-verse Bible study produced by Lutheran Public Radio and hosted by LCMS Pastor Will Weedon. Pastor Weedon is currently leading a study on the Book of Luke. You can listen at thewordendures.org or your favorite podcast provider.

Old Testament Reading: *Isaiah 60:1-6*

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ² For 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. ³ And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴ Lift 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. ⁵ Then 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. ⁶ A 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.

Gradual (*Isaiah 60:6b, 1*)

Those from Sheba 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 upon you.

Epistle Reading: *Ephesians 3:1-12*

¹ For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— ² assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³ how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴ When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which 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. ⁶ This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of 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. ⁸ To 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, ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

Alleluia Verse (*Matthew 2:2b*)

Alleluia. We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 2:1-23*

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

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. 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.” 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. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 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. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

¹⁹ But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” ²¹ And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³ And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

As We Gather...

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 (**Isaiah 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 (**Ephesians 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 (**Matthew 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 (**Isaiah 60:3–6**). With gold they confess His royalty; with incense, His deity; and with myrrh, His priestly sacrifice (**Matthew 2:11**).

The Season of Epiphany

Begins on January 6

The Greek word *epiphaneia* refers to the appearance of a god among mortals. The same word was adapted to describe the visit of a king to a favored city. He was greeted with pomp. Days were spent in feasting and revelry, all at the king's expense.

The epiphany of Jesus is the Lord's gracious appearance to His people with signs and wonders and favors given at His own expense. Epiphany is about the Magi, the gathering of the Gentiles as God's people. It is also about the Baptism of our Lord, who prepares the waters of Baptism for us. Epiphany is about Jesus' first sign or miracle performed at Cana to bless a marriage.

Calendar: Epiphany always begins on January 6. The length of the season depends on the date of Easter. The last Sunday in Epiphany is always Transfiguration Sunday.

Customs: For Epiphany Day and The Baptism of Our Lord (the first Sunday after Epiphany Day) the color is white, symbolizing joy and purity. For the rest of the Epiphany season, the color is green, the color of life and growth. On Epiphany Day burn the Christmas trees at a bonfire. Sing carols or hymns. On Baptism of Our Lord Sunday, celebrate God's blessings for you in Baptism by renewing your baptismal vows. Encourage baptismal sponsors and mentors to fulfill their “loving and faithful work.” Tell children the story of their baptismal day and encourage them to play around a basin of water. Read Bible stories with them each day.

**from The Lord Will Answer: A Daily Prayer Catechism by CPH.*

*“For we saw his star when it rose and
have come to worship him.”*

(Matthew 2:2)



January 1st, 2023

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