

From the Pastor – May 2025

We are continuing our journey into the reason why and what we do in the church year. We began our journey looking at Advent and Christmas, the first seasons in our year. Now we move into Epiphany..a transition time between the birth of Christ and His passion and death.

Epiphany is a Greek word meaning appearing or revealing of God in his Son to the nations of the world.

We continue use the white and gold as the colors of the season, to celebrate the joy of the birth and the coming of the Maji. During this time we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan and the first miracle at Cana in Galilee. It is often known as the season of light. To be in the Light, means to be alive and in a right relation with God. When we are right with God, we will have gained knowledge, healing and salvation from Him. The significance is not just that a baby was born, but that God became man in this event. We celebrate Epiphany on January 6 and it extends until the Transfiguration Sunday.

When we look at the church calendar, we notice that the days are called “ordinary”, but there is nothing ordinary about them. But, you might guess, that’s not what “ordinary” means. It comes from one of the Latin words for number, to indicate that instead of the days having names, they are numbered...”the third Sunday after the Epiphany”. The same is done during the long green season on Pentecost.

The first Sunday after the Epiphany is the Baptism of Jesus, where God declares Jesus to be “my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” Jesus now begins to call the disciples and fulfill what has been told about Him.

Notice though that we move in the Second Sunday after the Epiphany until the Transfiguration back to green paraments. This is a neutral color for times when festive or penitential colors are not appropriate. This is a time of reflection, of growth and time to reflect and look to growth in the seasons coming.

The final Sunday in Epiphany is the Transfiguration of Our Lord and we are reminded of how He took the disciples to the mountain and they saw Him in His glory and the voice of God speaks again from heaven. We are told again about what the baby is all about.

As the Maji arrived they brought gifts meant for royalty and death. Myrrh was first used in the tabernacle by Moses, in Psalm 45 it is named as the perfume for a King and the Romans used it as perfume, medicine and incense.

In Luke 2:29-32 we hear Simeon tell about the true identity and mission of Jesus.

The Maji, often represented by three crowns come to represent the nations of the world. Only three, maybe, but if we think of the Trinity, possibly.

The Star is often a symbol of the Light and led the Maji to Jesus. Numbers 24:17 tell us that “a royal star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter...out of Israel”. The Star of David has 6 points.

Water and Wine are major symbol, because of the Baptism and then the wedding at Cana as Jesus began public ministry.

Next month we will look at Lent and keep moving throughout the church year. I pray that you each have a blessed month and continue to learn.

Shalom, Pastor Cindy

Sunday, May 4 will be a Sunday to celebrate, Food for the Poor. Pastor Dan Cloeter will be joining us to talk about the ministry and to receive an offering from us. We will gather our gift on April 27 and then match that for our benevolence. Come and hear Pastor Dan and share in his ministry.

May 7 begins a new study series on Wednesday evening. We will gather at 6:00 pm for dinner, it will be pot luck, come and join us. The study is “Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study”. The work books are \$32.00 and will be payable to the church. Let Pastor know if you will be attending, so she can order the books. There is a video along with this study and we will watch it during dinner.



Rejoicing Spirits

110 gathered to share in worship and lunch. How can you help? Come on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 11 am and share in the fun.

Birthdays

5/8 Megan Phillips
5/15 Louise Skoglund
5/24 Marsha Burke
5/31 Riley Ingebritson

Anniversaries

5/19 Jerry and Brenda Beaudette
5/20 Don and Mary Ann Knee

May Worship Servants

Greeters

4 Connie Atkinson
11 Steve & Nancy Buss
18 Donna Young
25 Dean & Doris Hoffart

Ushers

4 Warren Bennett, Al Boelman
11 Al Boelman, Ron Cone
18 Ron Cone, Greg Moen
25 Greg Moen, Lonnie Sparks

Lector

4 Brenda Beaudette
11 Charlie Skoglund
18 Kay Jaeger
25 Connie Atkinson

Communion assistants

11 Jared & Sau Man Weich
25 Linda Sheppard, Megan Phillips

Coffee/clean-up

4 Jared & Sau Man Weich
11 Rich & Kay Jaeger
18 Brad & Kathy Rogers
25 Steve & Nancy Buss

Offering counters

4th, 11th Charlie & Louise Skoglund
18th, 25th Jared & Sau Man Weich

Membership Care: Doris Hoffart
Altar Guild: Linda Sheppard

The quilting group on first Thursdays will no longer be meeting. We hope someone will take it over, but if not in three months we will dismantle everything and give it to where it is needed. Thanks for all who have helped these many years! God has blessed us richly.

Doris Hoffart

Please sign up to help staff the Food Pantry the first two weeks in June. Sign-up calendar is on the back table.

This month we are collecting canned meat and proteins for the Food Pantry.

In our prayers: Immanuel Lutheran Church and Pastor Joseph Lambert in Ceresco.

Altar Guild members needed. Volunteer sign-up sheets are on the back table.

Pastoral Acts

Funeral of Judy Sparks, April 5, 2025

March financial report

Income: \$12,236.30

Expenses: \$10,990.85

Net: \$1,234.45

May 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 7 Scouts round-table	2 6:30 Girl Scouts	3 CTS-Oddfellow pancake feed 10am-2pm
4 9 Bible school 10 worship 11 fellowship	5 7 online Bible study	6	7 6 Bible study	8	9	10
11 9 Bible school 10 communion worship 11 potluck	12 7 online Bible study	13	14 11 Rejoicing Spirits worship, lunch following 6 Bible study	15 2 card club 6 MOPS 6:30 council	16 6:30 Girl Scouts	17
18 9 Bible school 10 worship, senior quilt presentation 11 fellowship	19 7 online Bible study	20	21 6 Bible study	22 <i>Kathy out of office</i>	23	24
25 <i>Food Pantry</i> 9 Bible school 10 communion worship 11 fellowship	26 MEMORIAL DAY <i>office closed</i> 7 online Bible study	27	28 6 Bible study	29	30	31