

THE PATHFINDER

Website: www.ctslutheran.net

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Phone (715) 762-4107

Publisher CTS Volume 37 Issue 1 January 2021

Dear Fellow Disciples,

It is our tradition to light candles, one from another, as we sing “Silent Night” at the end of our Christmas Eve worship service here at Christ the Servant. Out of safety concerns for those who gathered, we used little keychain flashlights and our cell phones this year. No, it was not the same as sharing the light one candle to another as we have done in the past. But as the COVID 19 pandemic has shown us there are many new ways to do old things. And just because we have always done something one way, does not mean that we cannot do it another way and still be effective. Certainly, whether we liked it or not, we have all learned that in 2020.

January 6th is the feast of Epiphany, which means manifestation. This day concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. Since this year, Epiphany of Our Lord falls on a Wednesday, we will not be gathered in worship together to mark this day when the story of the visit of the wise men is told by Matthew. The wise men *“set out and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.”* Matthew 2:9-10 This star that guided the three wise men to Bethlehem might have been the same rare conjunction appearance that some of us witnessed a week or so ago, when Jupiter and Saturn came close to each other in our night’s sky.

Whatever, or more correctly, whomever accounts for the Bethlehem star in the sky on that first Christmas or today, it is true that the light not only guided the magi, but also it reveals who we are. We are Christians that follow the light of Christ, claimed and washed in the waters of baptism and then sent out to be beacons of light of Christ. We are Christians who share the good news of God’s love for all people. We are Christians who follow the light of that newborn babe wrapped in bands of cloths in the manger and again as He is wrapped in strips of cloth when He is laid in the tomb on Good Friday. Jesus remains our light.

Throughout January, in our lectionary lessons, we will see Jesus, the light of the world, call all to follow Him. That fact will never change. Whether we use flashlights, cell phones or see the Star of Bethlehem, Jesus is the true light that will shine in the darkness and overcome it. We need only to believe in His mighty power.

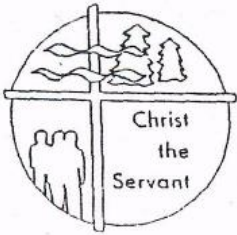
I suspect that 2021 will start off much the same as 2020 left us, but we should not be dismayed. Jesus is still the light of the world and He is a light that shines brightly even in a dark world. So I urge you to find new ways to share that light with others as we continue to walk past this pandemic. God is in control and if we remember and share that Good News and focus His light, He will continue to guide us to abundant and everlasting life!

May His Light Shine on You,

Pastor Gwen



“Christians Serving God By Serving Others”



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When you see a snowman
Three snowballs round,
He is reminding you
That in God Three in One are found.

The bottom reminds us of God the Father,
Our strong rock and foundation
The Creator of all living things,
People, tribes and nations.

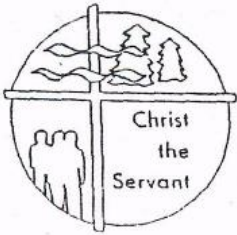
The middle shows us God the Son
With His arms spread open wide.
Who died on the cross for each of us
Our sins Jesus' blood did hide.

The head reminds us of God the Holy
Spirit
Who is our counselor and friend,
He speaks to our hearts and minds
Transforming us in the likeness of
Him.

So when you see a snowman
In the midst of all the wintertime
fun,
Listen carefully and he'll tell you,
"Remember, God is Three in One."



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Office Hours for Pastor - January 2021

January 5th	2:00-5:00 pm
January 7th	9:00-12:00 pm
January 12th	2:00-5:00 pm
January 14th	9:00-12:00 pm
January 19th	2:00-5:00 pm
January 21st	9:00-12:00 pm
January 26th	2:00-5:00 pm
January 28th	9:00-12:00 pm

Men's Group—Thursday

January 7th	5:00-6:00 pm
January 14th	5:00-6:00 pm
January 21st	5:00-6:00 pm
January 28th	5:00-6:00 pm

Bible Study

Sunday following Worship

January 3rd
January 10th
January 31st

Women's Quilting Group—Thursday

January 7th	9:30 am
January 14th	9:30 am
January 21st	9:30 am
January 28th	9:30 am

Confirmation

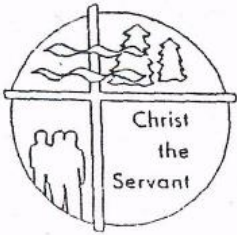
January 5th	2:30-3:30 pm
January 12th	2:30-3:30 pm
January 19th	2:30-3:30 pm
January 26th	2:30-3:30 pm

Sunday Tuesday School

January 5th	4:00 pm
January 19th	4:00 pm



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January Bible Readings

January 3rd, 2021 Second Sunday of Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:1-18

January 10th, 2021 Baptism of Our Lord

Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

January 17th, 2021 Second Sunday after Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-10
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

January 24th, 2021 Third Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5,10
Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

January 31st, 2021 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:29-39

Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed... James 5:16.

Please remember these people and requests in your prayers.

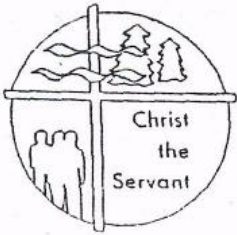
Health/ Concerns: Dale, Scott, Margaret, Tom, Mary, Angie, Kurt, Steve, Sally, Gerry, David, Susan, Matthew, and Pete.

Military - Anton, Allea Marrie and Natalie.

CTS Church Council, Men's Group, WELCA, Quilting Ministry, Adult Bible Studies, CTS Youth, AIDS orphans in Malawi, Hunger and poverty in the world, and those struggling with the Coronavirus.

New Year
fresh start
RESOLUTIONS
determination
GOALS AND DREAMS
PEACE
joyful beginnings
OPPORTUNITY
HOPE

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Important Information



Men's group meets on Thursday evenings from 5:00-6:00 p.m. All men are welcome to join in. You can call Mike Roberts for more information.

Since Pastor Gwen is not doing house visits until COVID 19 is under control, she will make herself available for private communion in the sanctuary. Please call Pastor to schedule a time that will work for you if you would like communion at a time other than on Sunday morning.

Bible study continues on Sunday mornings after worship. Our Advent series is called "Prepare Ye" will continue for another week or two and then we will go on to a Max Lucado study. See Pastor for more details. All are welcome to come and join us.

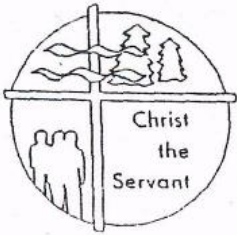
Due to the mandate by our Governor, masks are required when in our building. Social distancing of 6 feet should also be observed as well. Masks, hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes are available through the building.

The annual meeting of the congregation will be on January 24 immediately after worship. Annual Report booklets will be available by January 17th. You may pick one up in the office prior to the meeting.



Please remember that the first Sunday of each month is Food pantry Sunday. Bring in food donations and place in the box for delivery to the pantry. Also, if you would like to donate money to the pantry, you may give checks or cash to Pastor Gwen or drop a donation off at Forward Bank.

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Worship Volunteer Schedule January –March 2021

Date	Assisting Minister	Altar Guild	Greeter/Usher
January 3rd	Liz Carpenter	Ann Wojcieszak	Margaret McCulloch
January 10th	Terry Tarras		Ann Wojcieszak
January 17th			
January 24th	Chuck Schindhelm	Ann Wojcieszak	Margaret McCulloch
January 31st			
February 7th	Barb Schindhelm		Ann Wojcieszak
February 14th		Margaret McCulloch	Chuck and Barb Schindhelm
February 17th Ash Wednesday			
February 21st	Barb Schindhelm		
February 28th		Margaret McCulloch	
March 7th		Ann Wojcieszak	Chuck and Barb Schindhelm
March 14th			Ann Wojcieszak
March 21st	Chuck Schindhelm	Margaret McCulloch	
March 28th Palm Sunday			

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