



Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XIII, Issue I

January 2018

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Saviour Lutheran Church welcomes all people to a safe place to grow in faith and serve the Lord Jesus Christ

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The Day of Epiphany



On the day we call **The Epiphany of our Lord**, astrologers from the Near East found the world power predicted by their cosmic calculations -- the God-man, Jesus. Were they disappointed at the humble baby shown proudly by working-class parents, Mary and Joseph?

The Day of Epiphany was known in the earliest Christian centuries as the *Feast of the Manifestation*, the *Theophany*, and even as the *Feast of Light*. By the second or third century A.D., Epiphany was observed in the Eastern Church, second only to Easter in importance. The Eastern Church celebrated the fact that God became man more than Jesus' birth date.

Christians in the East may have set the date of Epiphany to replace a popular festival, just as Roman Christians may have done in choosing a date for Christmas. Epiphany became the day to receive new members through baptism who were called *illuminandi* - those who were about to be enlightened by Christ, the **Light of the World**.

The Day of Epiphany is a celebration by us who are not descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, a celebration that hope -- light in the darkness -- is ours too in Jesus Christ, the Lord!

In this way, the Day of the Epiphany opens a season of light -- the Lord's light -- that has entered our lives and helps us see beyond the darkness, and energizes our lives with his work in the world.

Today little is made of the "Old Christmas." the Epiphany revelation of the Saviour. In the western world all our attention goes to the heartwarming scenes of Christmas. Yet, along with our Lord's resurrect

tion on Easter, the Epiphany revelation of God to the people of the world is an equally mind-boggling history-changing event.

Epiphanies of Jesus' Glory. Early Christians celebrated Epiphany by recalling the first times disclosed his glory as the Son of God when:

- foreign magi discovered divine royalty in the baby Jesus (Mt. 2)
- *bystanders heard a heavenly voice identify Jesus at his Baptist (Mt. 3)*
- *guests at a merry wedding party in Cana saw Jesus' power in his miracle (Jn. 2). Today we hear and taste and celebrate the discovery, too.*



The Season of EPIPHANY

In Protestant Churches this season extends from January 6th through Transfiguration Sunday, the climactic conclusion of this part of the Church Year.

Some might argue that the Sundays after Epiphany are not really a church season at all, but just sort of a "buffer" between Christmas and Lent. Some even refer to these weeks, with their green paraments, as "ordinary time" as though they are nothing special. But that's not what the church word "ordinary" means. It comes from one of the Latin words for number, to indicate that instead of having names, these Sundays are simply as (continued page 2 - The Season)

THE SEASON from page 1

signed numbers ("the third Sunday of the Epiphany"). The same is done with the "green Sundays" in the long Pentecost season. It seems that names ought to be given to these Sundays (more useful than mere numbers), probably names derived from the Gospel reading for each Sunday. That would make a good classroom exercise week by week.

If Christmastide presented the Son of God as a human infant, and then as a growing child, the readings for Epiphany seem to ask the question, "But who is this really?" The very **first Sunday after the Epiphany** presents God's own answer. At the **Baptism of Jesus**, the voice of God from heaven declares Jesus to be "my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

With the authority of the Son of God, then Jesus begins to call disciples, and to teach them and train them. His role as a prophet (today we would probably say preacher) shows up frequently in the Epiphany Gospel readings. Miracles, when they occur, reveal Jesus as one who cares about people's problems -- whether those problems be something like running out of wine at a wedding or serious, even crippling or life-threatening illness-- and is able to do something to deal with those problems.

The **final Sunday in the Epiphany season** celebrates the Transfiguration of our Lord, when Jesus leads his three closest disciples up a mountain, where they see him shining with brilliant light. At the Epiphany season had begun with the voice of God from heaven at Jesus' baptism, proclaiming Jesus to be God's beloved Son, so the season ends with that voice again, with the very same message. If the Christmas season ended by making us wonder, "Who is this baby, really? And what is he going to become?" the time of Epiphany offers a shining response: "This is the Son of God, who speaks God's good word and does God's wonderful deeds." The wise men had it right: This is the One who deserves to be worshiped!

Transfiguration, the last Sunday after the Epiphany, celebrates Jesus' last epiphany in this season and calls for our last alleluias until the resurrection of our Lord on Easter.

**HOLY HUMOR**

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" — His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you know what the Bible means?" — The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?" — "That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "*It stands for Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.*"

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. — "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "*Only the Ten Commandments,*" answered the lady.

Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world: There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "*Good morning, Lord,*" and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "*Good Lord, it's morning.*"

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "*I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses.*" — When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note "*I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation.*"

There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "*I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets.*"

While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign... "*Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass.. Caution: Do not step in exhaust.*"

A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?" A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy. "Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked.. "*You know - Our Father, who does art in Heaven....*"

People want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the center of attention

Our Saviour Lutheran Church Bill Trudnak, President November 20, 2017 Board Minutes



Devotions: Bud Penley

Meeting called to order by President Bill Trudnak.

Members present: Steve Digh, Bill Trudnak, Melinda White, Bud Penley, Alice Vlaservich, Robbie Wooten. **Absent:** Shirlee Marazza, Becky Messick, Teri Trudnak

Minutes for October 16, 2017 were reviewed. Motion by Steve Digh to approve the minutes and a second given by Alice Vlaservich.

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

- Adopt Foster Care Child through Lutheran Service. Three children were chosen by individuals of the council.
- A motion was made by Alice Vlaservich to post all other petitions and communications on the bulletin board for individual consideration. Melinda White gave a second to the motion.

Report of the Pastor: The Pastor's report was reviewed. Steve Digh made a motion we accept the Pastor's report of October 2017 and Bud Penley gave the second.

Report of the Treasurer: Motion by Steve Digh to accept the Treasurer Report and seconded by Melinda White

Report of the Ministries:

- Property: Light bulbs in sanctuary were installed by Dallas Electric. Thank you to Bill Trudnak for your labor.
- Stewardship and Finance: The 2018 annual budget was completed.
- Worship & Music: Plans underway to decorate the Sanctuary on 12/2/2017 at 3 pm for the Christmas season. Anyone interested in helping is more than welcomed.
- Youth Team: No report.
- Witness: Cards and prayers continue to be sent out.
- Christian Education Team: Confirmation classes continue each Sunday morning during Sunday School hour.

Report of Auxiliaries: Rachel Circle: Met at the home of Alice Vlaservich. Enjoyed Bible study and refreshments. The next meeting will be at the home of Betty Clemmer on Tuesday 12/19/2017 for a Christmas lunch.

Old and/or Unfinished Business:

- A new microphone for the Pastor was purchased at a very minimal expense.
- Discussed was given on the update of the hallway. Plans still in progress.
- Lutheran Support Group of Gaston Meeting (need rep).
- Still waiting to hear back from Rodger's Construction regarding the use of our parking lot. Nick Vlaservich to follow up with a phone call to check on the status.

New Business:

- The proposed 2018 budget was reviewed by council. Robbie Wooten made a motion to accept the proposal and

Alice Vlaservich gave the second on the motion.

- Church Annual Meeting to approve the 2018 budget will be on 12/10/2017.
- Nomination ballot for three new officers will be 12/3/2017 and voting will be on 12/10/2017. Robbie Wooten will fulfill the seat of Jon Clemmer through 12/2019. Alice Vlaservich made a motion we accept/approve placing Robbie Wooten in this position on church Council. Melinda White seconded that motion.

General Information:

- Attendance.
- Kids Alive Report
- Kids Alive Annual Ministry Report reviewed.
- Nick to send letter to congregation regarding the budget approval and congregational meeting.
- Gaston College Campus Police Dept. has requested the use of our parking lot for drills. Alice Vlaservich made a motion to approve this and Steve Digh seconded that motion.

Adjourned with Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: December 18, 2017

Devotions: Teri Trudnak



ANNUAL REPORTS

2017 has ended and a New Year as began.

All Team (Committee) Chairpersons please submit your Annual Reports, Scheduled for Team Meeting dates, and Looking Ahead activities, such as: Group Meeting, VBS, Conventions, etc. by Jan. 17, 2018

Thank you!



2018 JANUARY MISSION EMPHASIS

International Fellowship of Christians and Jews

Why and How Should Christians Support and Bless Israel? (from the IFCJ's website)

Christians should look to God's holy word as the voice of truth regarding the problems in the Middle East. What does the voice of Scripture say? Thousands of years ago, God made an eternal covenant decree in which He gave the Promised Land to Abraham and his descendants.

Israel needs to be supported by Christians because all other nations were created by an act of man, but Israel was created by an act of God! The royal land grant that was given to Abraham and his seed through Isaac and Jacob was an everlasting and unconditional covenant. (See Genesis 12:1-3; 13:14-18; 15:1-21; 17:4-8; 22:15-18; 26:1-5; and Psalm 89:28-37.)

The Lord said to Abraham: *And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.* (Genesis 17:7-8)

Today, we are witnessing the unfolding of biblical prophecy in the return of the Jewish people to Israel. The Bible foretold Israel's ingathering and also prophesied that God would call "the Gentiles" to help accomplish this miracle.

Thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders. (Isaiah 49:22)

Genesis 12:1-3 gives the clearest expression to this idea: *Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curse thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*

The biblical mandate given to the Gentiles is to relate to Israel and the Jewish people with unconditional love. Christians are called to be a source of solace and comfort to the people of Israel, to be a blessing and to stand in solidarity with them in their times of need.

It is important to also know what Jesus said about the future of Israel and Jerusalem. Jesus said: *And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.*

In this statement, Jesus made predictions about the future of Jerusalem. He predicted the destruction of Jerusalem which came true in 70 A.D. Jesus said His Jewish brethren would be dispersed among the nations. This also came true. The Romans scattered the Jews where they lived among the nations. But the cry of their heart has always been, *L'Shana Ha Ba 'A Birushalayim*—"Next year in Jerusalem."

Also, Jesus said the Gentile nations would dominate Jerusalem, as they have for the past 2,000 years. But Jesus spoke of a distant time when Gentile domination of Jerusalem would come to an end, and the Jews would once again control their ancient city. This prophecy of Jesus was fulfilled in 1967 when Israel took control of biblical Jerusalem and marched directly to the Western Wall, the only remaining wall of the Second Temple.

The Apostle Paul spoke about Christians helping Jews in their time of need. He wrote: *It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are, for if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them (Jews) in carnal things.* (Romans 15:27)

Our Mission

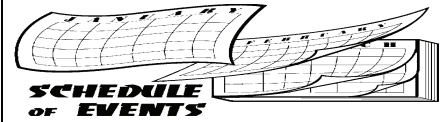
The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews was founded in 1983 to promote understanding and cooperation between Jews and Christians and to build broad support for Israel and other shared concerns. Our vision is that Jews and Christians will reverse their 2,000-year history of discord and replace it with a relationship marked by dialogue, understanding, respect and cooperation.






(Mission cont'd on page 6)

January 2017



Sunday School: 9:45 pm
Church Service: 11:00 pm



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  It's a New Year!	2	3	4	5	6  Epiphany
7  Baptism of Our Lord	8	9  Gaston Together	10	11	12	13
14 2nd Sun. after Epiphany	15  Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Board Mtg.	16  Prayer Group	17	18	19	20
21 3rd Sun. after Epiphany	22 CLW/Rachel	23	24	25	26	27
28 4th Sun. After Epiphany	29	30	31			

- Jan. 1— Happy New Year
- Jan. 6—Epiphany of Our Lord
- Jan. 7— Baptism of Our Lord/
1st Sunday after the Epiphany
Install of new Board members.
- Jan. 8— Team Meetings: Youth 6:30 pm
Others 7:00 pm
- Jan 9—Gaston Together (see p 8)
- Jan. 14— 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany
- Jan, 15—Board Meeting at 7:00 pm
Martin Luther Kings, Jr. birthday observed
- Jan. 16—**Deadline for Annual Reports**
Prayer Group will meet at Home
of Shirlee Marazza at 1:30 pm
- Jan. 21— 3rd Sunday after Epiphany
- Jan. 23— CLW/Rachel Group
- Jan. 22— 4th Sunday after Epiphany

FOOD FOR THE MONTH: **Pork & Beans,**
Pinto Beans, Soup



Choir practice each Sunday
at 5:00 pm unless otherwise
announced the bulletin



Birthdays

8 Shirlee Marazza
15 Mariel Finger
16 Brett Lowery
19 Ashley Trudnak
20 Noelle S. Agrew
25 Chris Messick
26 Carson Dease
31 Allison Murray



BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY

Doyle Clemmer
Bud Penley
Shana Dease
Sarah Wooten



Holy Communion Schedule:

Jan. 7: Baptism of Our Lord

Worship Service Assistance:

Altar Guild: Betty Ratchford
Alice Vlaservich

Acolyte:

Crucifer:

Communion

Asst: Nick Vlaservich

Lay Reader: Anna Lowery

Worship Asst:

Greeters: Melinda White

Ushers: Jeff White

Collection: Yvonne Finger

Devotion: Bill Trudnak

FLOWERS

Flower Schedule:

Jan. 7 Denise & Carlos Traveria
Jan. 14 Nick & Alice Vlaservich
Jan. 21 Brady & Betty Ratchford
Jan. 28 Melinda White/OSLC

Please sign up to place flowers on the
altar in the glory of God
and
in honor or memory of your love ones.

Plenty of opening
Please sign up and help
Decorate the altar of our Lord



ANNIVERSARIES

19thBrady and Betty Ratchford
23rdBryan and Jill Petzold

(Mission cont'd on page 4)

Based in Chicago and Jerusalem, *The Fellowship* operates under the leadership of Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, and is governed by an independent board of directors, people from both faith groups who share our strong belief in building bridges between the Christian and Jewish communities.

Projects

GUARDIANS OF ISRAEL provides food, clothing, shelter, housing and other urgent needs for all Israelis, who are suffering due to poverty, terrorism and war.

ISAIAH 58 provides children and elderly Jews in the former Soviet Union with food, clothing, heating, and other necessities by funding humanitarian programs in the FSU.

ON WINGS OF EAGLES helps Jews make aliyah (immigrate to Israel) from around the world, and helps them with their klitah (resettlement) needs once they arrive in the Holy Land.

- ***Aliyah***
- ***Klitah (resettlement assistance)***
- **Youth Movements Program**
- **Spiritual Center**

STAND FOR ISRAEL aims to engage people both spiritually and politically on behalf of Israel and the Jewish people by encouraging prayer for Israel and teaching others to advocate for the Jewish state.



A Light to the Nations

A Stewardship Minute

On Loving God and Giving

There is a quote by an unknown author which is worth our remembering: "You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving." One might say that our gifts to God and others are concrete evidence of our love for them.

The Bible does not teach us regarding how much we should give to humans, but it is fairly clear about giving to God. The prophet Malachi told the Jews to bring the "full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, and thereby put me

to the test, says the Lord of hosts," as they came to worship God. (Malachi 3:10) He was talking about a tithe of their crops or animals or monetary possessions. The rule of thumb of giving, according to the Bible, is one tenth of a person's gains.

Tithing is a wonderful practice throughout a person's life. It is so because it means that we are serious in showing our appreciation to God, who has enabled us to have all of the blessings we enjoy daily. It is an indication that we love God and want to show it by what we give.

What every tither seems to learn is that tithing is not a hardship, but a genuine joy. Try it and see.

More information about the blessings of tithing is in the January issue of the *Stewardship* newsletter.



Altar Flowers

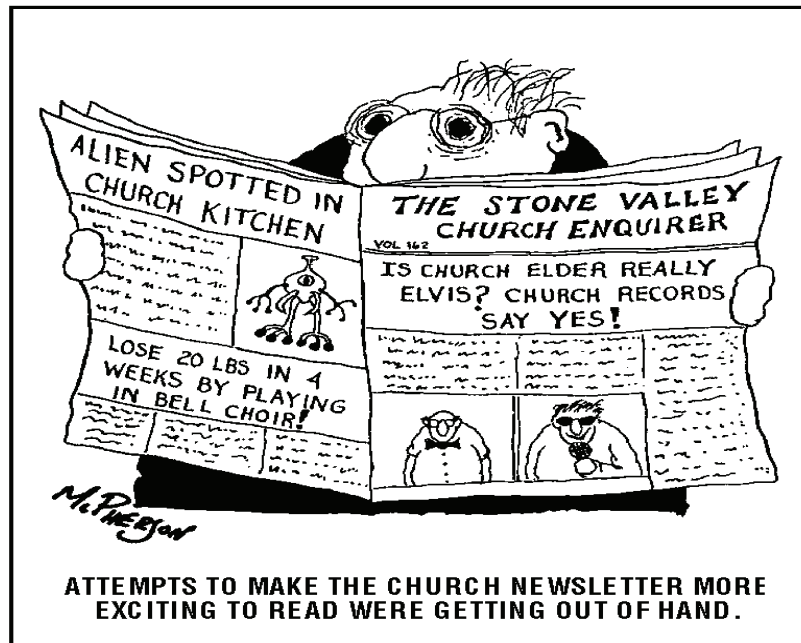
NEW FLOWERS CALENDER FOR THE CHURCH is posted on the first door in the hallway of the Education wing. Please sign up to place flowers on the altar in the glory of God and in honor or memory of your loved ones. You can then take them home with you or give them to one of our shut ins-



Congratulations to
Betty Ratchford
Denise Trveria
Jeff White
Melinda White*

They were newly elected to the Church Council.

Thank you for serving
 Shirlee Marazza, Becky Messick and
 Melinda White for serving on the
 Board.



ATTEMPTS TO MAKE THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER MORE EXCITING TO READ WERE GETTING OUT OF HAND.

Church News



GASTON TOGETHER'S CLERGY & CITIZENS COALITION

January 9
8:30 to 10:00 am
Clinton Room, Gaston Memorial Hospital

OUTREACH MISSION

SHUT-INS NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

Please remember our church members who are shut-ins or reside in a nursing home* and visit them.

Marilyn Finger*
1150 Meadow Way Dr., Dallas

Ralph Summey*
1612 Dallas-Cherryville Hwy., Dallas

Jerri Presley*
2604 Ole Home Trail, Dallas
(If others, please let the church office know)

EVENTS for:

Agrape/Kure Beach

Contact Camp Agapé:
Telephone: 919-552-9421
e-mail: agape@agapekurebeach.org

Contact Kure Beach Lutheran:
Telephone 910-458-0783
e-mail: kurebreach@agapekurebeach.org

Web site: www.agapekurebeach.org

Directions to Camp Agapé are on the web site.

Please see calendars and other information on the bulletin board or go on-line

Events for:

Lutheridge -Lutherock-Lutherspring- Lutheranch

Web site: www.NovusWay.com

If you need a Pastor, please contact Pastor Pete Feige at 704-516-2805 or our office at 704-922-4648. Check out our website at oslc-nc.org or email us at oslcdallas@aol.com.



CLWRACHEL GROUP

WILL BE MEETING IN THE HOME OF SHIRLEE MARAZZA
on January 22, 2018 AT 1:30 PM

LET US PRAY... "Are any among you suffering? They should pray...The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up." (James 5:13-15)

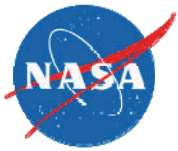


MARGARET Addington (friends of the community), SUSAN Aderholt, SETH Alexander, AMANDA (friend of the Penley's), MARVIS Anderson, KELLY Ballard (friend of Shana Dease), ADDISON Blanton (friend of Dease's), KATHY Bohanan (cancer), KAREN Braddy, COLEEN Cloninger (friend of community), ANN Digh (Steve Digh's mother-colon cancer HUNTER Digh (Steve and Julie Digh's nephew -cancer), MARILYN Finger, LEVI Friday (Joan Scarborough's nephew) CHARLIE Fox (friend of the Ratchford's), ROBERT Gentile (friend of Shirlee Marazza-heart attack), DOUG Hoffman (friend of Bill Trudnak -unknown C(friend of the community), MARY Johnson (Pastor Feige's mother-in-law), ELAINE Kanupp (friend of the Digh's— colon cancer), BOB Lewis (friend of Shana Dease), HALEY Mauney (brain blockage- daughter of Julie Digh;s co-worker), ROBERT L. McCanless, Jr. (failing health - Charles McCanless' father), GARY Neal, (friend of Caleb Dease), NANCY Parker (friend of Marie Lingle-ALS), EDITH Paysour, LAWRENCE Paysour (friend of Ratchford's), RIVER Peedin (Ursela Peedin's great-grandson— leukemia), SONDRRA Phillips (friend of Melinda White) JERRIE Presley, BERNICE—Leon Rawlinson's mother, LEIGH Sellers (college friend's daughter of Libby Bickley), RALPH Summey, KIM Tucker (friend of Jo-ann Scarborough-heart surgery) GARY Turner (father of Jason Murray), SHERREE B Turner (mother of Jason Turner), KELLY Walters (mother of Brie Murray) ANNE White (niece of Betty Ratchford-breast cancer), LORI Wood (Steve Digh's cousin-colon cancer).



GOD WANTS YOU!

- (1) God wants you to participate in His worship service for **2018** by servicing as a worship assistant as a Communion Assistant, Crucifer, Acolyte, Lay Reader, Worship Assistant, Greeter or Usher
See the sign up sheet on the bulletin board and please help.
- (2) New Flower Calendar is up. Please remember your love ones and also help decorate our Lord's altar. **Cost of Flowers: \$35.10**



NASA AND THE BIBLE

Thought this was pretty amazing and interesting!! For all the scientists out there, and for all the students who have a hard time convincing these people regarding the truth of the Bible, here's something that shows God's awesome creation, and that He is still in control.

Did you know that the space program is busy proving that what has been called 'myth' in the Bible is true?

Mr. Harold Hill, President of the Curtis Engine Company in Baltimore, Maryland, and a consultant in the space program, relates the following development. 'I think one of the most amazing things that God has done for us today happened recently to our astronauts and space scientist at Green Belt, Maryland.

They were checking out where the positions of the sun, moon, and planets would be 100 years and 1,000 years from now. We have to know this so we won't send up a satellite and have it bum into something later on in its orbits. We have to lay out the orbits in terms of the life of the satellite and where the planets will be so the whole thing will not bog down.

They ran the computer measurement back and forth over the centuries, and it came to a halt. The computer stopped and put up a red signal, which meant that there was something wrong with either the information fed into it or with the results as compared to the standards.

They called in the service department to check it out, and they said, 'What's wrong?' Well, they found there is a day missing in space in elapsed time. They scratched their heads and tore their hair out. There was no answer.

Finally a Christian man on the team said, 'You know, one time I was in Sunday school, and they talked about the sun standing still.' While they didn't believe him, they didn't have an answer either, so they said, 'Show us,' He got a Bible and went to the book of Joshua where they found a pretty ridiculous statement for any one with 'common sense.' There they found the Lord saying to Joshua, 'Fear them not, I have delivered them into thy hand; there shall not a man of them stand before Thee.'

Joshua was concerned because he was surrounded by the enemy! And if darkness fell, they would overpower them. So Joshua asked the Lord to make the sun stand still! That's right... 'The sun stood still and the moon stayed and lasted not to go down about a whole day!' (Joshua 10:12-13)

The astronauts and scientists said, There is the missing day! They checked the computers going back into the time it was written and found it was close but not close enough. The elapsed time that was missing back in Joshua's day was 23 hours and 20 minutes not a whole day.

They read the Bible, and there it was about [approximately] a day. These little words in the Bible are important, but they were still in trouble because if you cannot account for 40 minutes, you'll still be in trouble 1000 years from now. Forty minutes had to be found because it can be multiplied many times over in orbits. As the Christian employee thought about it, he remembered somewhere in the Bible where it said the sun went BACKWARDS.

The scientists told him he was out of his mind, but they got out the Book and read these words in 2 Kings that told of the following story: Hezekiah, on his death bed, was visited by the prophet Isaiah who told him that he was not going to die. Hezekiah asked for a sign as proof. Isaiah said 'Do you want the sun to go ahead 10 degrees?'

Hezekiah said, 'It is nothing for the sun to go ahead 10 degrees, but let the shadow return backward 10 degrees.' Isaiah spoke to the Lord, and the Lord brought the shadow ten degrees BACKWARD! Ten degrees is exactly 40 minutes!

Twenty-three hours and 20 minutes in Joshua, plus 40 minutes in Second Kings make the missing day in the universe! Isn't it amazing?

References: Joshua 10:8 and 12,13 and 2 King 20:9-11.

If God could do this then; how much more can he do for us today. If we would only believe in his word. Never be afraid to try something new. All I have and all that I am is by the Grace of **God!**



GO OUT ON A LIMB
GET INVOLVED
BE A WORSHIP ASSISTANT

A positions are still open. Participate in the service of the Lord and sign up.

Sign up sheets
for the 2018 calendar year are on the

JANUARY — Epiphany — Navigating by GPS

When they had heard the king, they 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. — Matthew 2:9

In the church of Jesus Christ we do our work by starlight.

The wise foreigners in the story of Jesus' birth found their way to the Messiah by following a mysterious light that guided them through unfamiliar territory. They navigated by GPS — God's Peculiar Star. It was a surprising, uncommon, traveling star. It appeared out of nowhere, but somehow they knew it was a sign from God. It led them to a peculiar place where they found a peculiar scene: a poor child in a manger who was King of the universe, Son of God, Prince of Peace, and Savior of the world. The Bible tells us that they were "overwhelmed with joy" as they bowed to worship him.

Leaders in the church are servants who allow themselves to be guided by God's mysterious starlight through unfamiliar territory to the places where Christ is revealed. As we move through the darkness of uncertainty, or conflict, or puzzling change, we know that we are headed in the right direction as long as we follow God's light. We never lose faith, even when the destination seems a bit peculiar. The manger and the cross are not treasures in the eyes of the world, yet in God's grace we know that these peculiar gifts come to us bearing eternal life.

God's guiding starlight is still everywhere in the church and the world. It glistens in the water of Baptism, illumines the bread and the wine, and shines over places of poverty and hopelessness where Jesus lives among the poor. By this light, miracles happen, wounds are healed, the hungry are fed, prayer is answered, leaders are raised up, and reconciliation overcomes hatred.

We can feel the joy grow as we find our way closer and closer to the places where God calls us to be the light of Christ. Even though we were frightened and uncertain as we set out to follow this peculiar light, the overwhelming joy at the end of the journey assures us that it is God who has brought us to this place.

Prayer: God of Grace, we thank you for starlight and peculiar destinations. Guide us by your mysterious light to the places where you want us to serve. Give us the courage to travel in unfamiliar territory, the wisdom to recognize your light, and joy at the end of our journey. Amen.



Daily Bible reading guide from NALC, LCMS and LCC

Reading the Word of God, a daily Bible reading guide, has been prepared for Lutherans to use over the next three years.

The North American Lutheran Church has joined with the Lutheran Church-Canada and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to compile a three-year plan of *daily* Bible readings and a year-long series of *weekly* readings on Martin Luther's approach to the Scriptures.

Daily readings

The daily readings are listed on calendars for **2018**, **2019** and **2020**. The plan provides a guide that will take the reader through the entire Old Testament one time in three years, with the exception of Psalms, which are read twice each year. The New Testament will be read twice in the three years.

A reading from the Old Testament, a psalm (or portion of a psalm) and a reading from the New Testament are assigned for each day. Certain church festivals - Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and so forth - have readings appointed for the specific occasion.

Each month of the Daily Bible Reading Guide will be in the monthly newsletter.

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Gen. 1:1-19</i> <i>Ps. 1</i> <i>Matt. 1:1-17</i>	2 <i>Gen. 1:20-2:3</i> <i>Ps. 2</i> <i>Matt. 1:18-25</i>	3 <i>Gen. 2:4-25</i> <i>Ps. 3</i> <i>Matt. 2:1-12</i>	4 <i>Gen. 3</i> <i>Ps. 4</i> <i>Matt. 2:13-23</i>	5 <i>Gen. 4</i> <i>Ps. 5</i> <i>Matt. 3</i>	6 <i>Epiphany</i> <i>Is. 60:1-6</i> <i>Ps. 7</i> <i>Matt. 2:1-12</i>
7 <i>Gen. 5</i> <i>Ps. 6</i> <i>Matt. 4:1-11</i>	8 <i>Gen. 5</i> <i>Ps. 6</i> <i>Matt. 4:1-11</i>	9 <i>Gen. 7:1-12</i> <i>Ps. 8</i> <i>Matt. 5:1-20</i>	10 <i>Gen. 7:13-8:5</i> <i>Ps. 9</i> <i>Matt. 5:21-42</i>	11 <i>Gen. 8:6-9:7</i> <i>Ps. 10</i> <i>Matt. 5:43-6:15</i>	12 <i>Gen. 9:8-29</i> <i>Ps. 11</i> <i>Matt. 6:16-34</i>	13 <i>Gen. 10</i> <i>Ps. 12</i> <i>Matt. 7:1-2</i>
14 <i>Gen. 11:1-9</i> <i>Ps. 13</i> <i>Matt. 7:24-8:13</i>	15 <i>Gen. 11:10-22</i> <i>Ps. 14</i> <i>Matt. 8:14-34</i>	16 <i>Gen. 12</i> <i>Ps. 15</i> <i>Matt. 9:1-13</i>	17 <i>Gen. 13</i> <i>Ps. 16</i> <i>Matt. 9:14-31</i>	18 <i>Gen. 14</i> <i>Ps. 17</i> <i>Matt. 9:32-10:4</i>	19 <i>Gen. 15</i> <i>Ps. 18:1-30</i> <i>Matt. 10:5-25</i>	20 <i>Gen. 16</i> <i>Ps. 18:31-50</i> <i>Matt. 10:26-42</i>
21 <i>Gen. 17</i> <i>Ps. 19</i> <i>Matt. 11:1-19</i>	22 <i>Gen. 18:1-15</i> <i>Ps. 20</i> <i>Matt. 11:20-3</i>	23 <i>Gen. 18:16-30</i> <i>Ps. 21</i> <i>Matt. 12:1-14</i>	24 <i>Gen. 19:1-28</i> <i>Ps. 22</i> <i>Matt. 12:15-37</i>	25 <i>Gen. 19:29-38</i> <i>Ps. 23</i> <i>Matt. 12:38-50</i>	26 <i>Gen. 20</i> <i>Ps. 24</i> <i>Matt. 13:1-17</i>	27 <i>Gen. 21:1-21</i> <i>Ps. 25</i> <i>Matt. 13:18-30</i>
28 <i>Gen. 21:22-32</i> <i>Ps. 26</i> <i>Matt. 13:31-43</i>	29 <i>Gen. 22</i> <i>Ps. 27</i> <i>Matt. 13:44-58</i>	30 <i>Gen. 23</i> <i>Ps. 28</i> <i>Matt. 14:1-21</i>	31 <i>Gen. 24:1-31</i> <i>Ps. 29</i> <i>Matt. 14:22-36</i>			



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A New Year of Giving

January 2018

