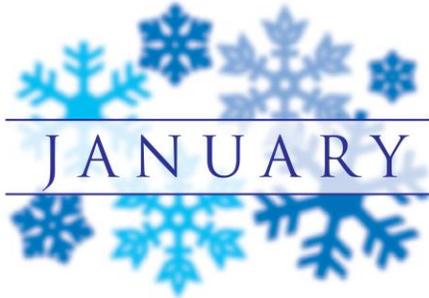


# THE LAMP

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[www.americanlutheranjesup.org](http://www.americanlutheranjesup.org)

“Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”

Romans 15:7



# January 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2 10-12 Prayer Shawl	3 7pm Confirmation	4 9:30am Womens Bible Study 11:30 Be Our Guest Meeting	5	6
7 Epiphany 9am Worship with Communion 10:00 Fellowship and belssing and Dedication of the Kitchen 10:15 Adult Discussion 10:15 Sunday School	8 9-12 Quilting 6:30 Budget and Council Meeting to follow	9 10-12 Prayer Shawl	10 7pm Confirmation	11 7pm Christian Unity Service Choir Rehearal at Jesup United Methodist	12	13
14 First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord 9am Worship 10:15 Adult Discussion 10:15 Sunday School	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (observed)	16 10-12 Prayer Shawl	17 7pm Confirmation	18 7pm Christian Unity Service at Jesup United Methodist	19	20
21 Second Sunday after Epiphany 9am Worship with Communion Annual Meeting to follow service with Potluck Brunch to follow Annual Meeting 10:15 Sunday School	22 9-12 Quilting	23 10-12 Prayer Shawl	24 5-6pm Be Our Guest Community Meal 7pm Confirmation	25	26	27
28 Third Sunday after Epiphany 9am Contemporary Worship 10:15 Adult Discussion 10:15 Sunday School	29	30 10-12 Prayer Shawl	31 5-6pm Be Our Guest Community Meal 7pm Confirmation	1	2	3
4	5	<p><b>Council President: Maureen Even 563-827-3270</b>  <b>Pastor, Kristen Corr Rod 563-212-1366</b>  <b>Church Phone: 827-6626 Web Address: <a href="http://www.americanlutheranjesup.org">www.americanlutheranjesup.org</a></b>  <b>Church e-mail: <a href="mailto:secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org">secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org</a></b>  <b>Pastor's e-mail: <a href="mailto:pastor@americanlutheranjesup.org">pastor@americanlutheranjesup.org</a></b></p>				

## Service, Ushers, Readers, and Communion Assistants

### January Readers

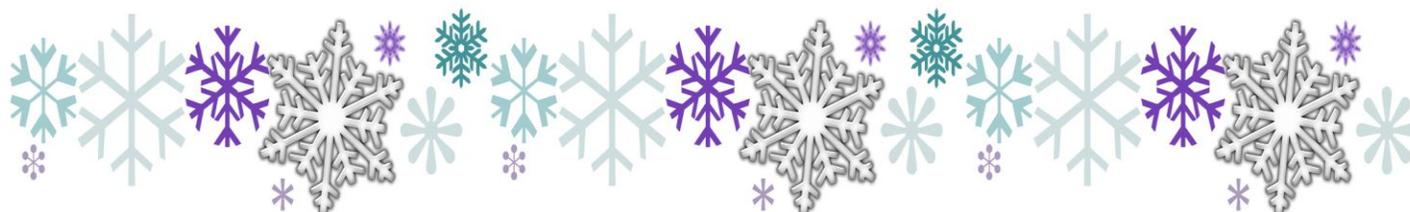
Sun. Jan 7      Mary Adams  
 Sun. Jan 14    Maureen Even  
 Sun. Jan 21    Maureen Even  
 Sun. Jan 28    Wayne Schneider

### January Communion Assistants

Sun. Jan 7      Mary Adams  
 Sun. Jan 21     Maureen Even

### January Usher

Wayne Schneider





# FROM THE PASTOR

Dear friends in Christ,

On Sunday, January 7, we will be celebrating the day of Epiphany. This is one of my favorite holidays in the church year!

Epiphany is the day we celebrate the arrival of the Wise Men to worship the baby Jesus. (Because let's face it, they had to come from MUCH farther away than the shepherds, so it would have taken them longer.) No one knows for sure who the wise men were, or where exactly they came from. We don't even actually know how many there were-- the Bible mentions three gifts, gold, frankincense, and myrrh, so tradition has assumed that there were also three people to carry those gifts.

Perhaps they were kings from distant countries, as the Christmas carol assumes. Perhaps they were astronomers who spent their time studying the night sky, since they first noticed something unusual with the appearance of a new, very bright star. Perhaps they were magicians-- they were also called Magi. Perhaps they were adherents of a different religion, maybe even one that worshiped the stars. In any case, they were foreigners, and they learned from the sky that something very cool was going on, and they wanted to be a part of it.

So they traveled from far away, following the star until it led to the place where baby Jesus was. And there, they worshiped him.

We're so used to thinking of the Wise Men as a part of the Christmas story that we can easily miss how powerful the story of the Wise Men really is. But their presence is really strange!

The people of God, the Jewish people, also called Israelites, had been waiting for a Messiah for centuries. And even though the prophets had said that the Messiah would be a light to all the nations, the Israelites at that time still had a sense that the Messiah was supposed to be a special gift for them. Each country and culture at that time had their own religion, and it didn't really make sense to people that a Messiah would bless anyone beyond their own religion. But God often sees more broadly than people see.

And for all that we DON'T know about the Wise Men, we know they weren't Israelites. They were from far away, and likely belonged to another religion, which means that they hadn't heard the prophecies that a Messiah was coming. Yet, through the appearance of a new star, God showed them that something special was going on. And they followed the star and found the baby Messiah, and they worshiped him. Do you see how strange this was? *Foreigners from a different religion worshiped the baby Jesus as Lord before most of the Israelites even knew of his existence.* When God guided the Wise Men to this baby, God was showing, through their presence, that Jesus was a Messiah not just for the Israelites, but for the *whole world*.

This is why I love the day of Epiphany, the story of Epiphany. The word "Epiphany" means a great discovery, and through the story of the Wise Men, we make the great discovery that God's love is incredibly expansive, and that God's work will not be bound by human expectations.

And after the day of Epiphany, we get the season of Epiphany, a whole season in the church year to continue making great discoveries about who Jesus is and how much God loves us. Isn't it exciting?

Christ's peace,

Pastor Kristen



American Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting  
November 13, 2017

Chair ProTem Maureen Even called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM. Present at the meeting were Barb Hayek, Christy Phillips, Maureen Even, Mary Adams, Pastor Kristen, Wayne Schneider, Christa Leach and Bryan Tonne.

Devotion was led by Maureen Even. Maureen read the daily reading from Christ in Our Home. Bible verse for the day was from Revelations 16:7.

Secretary's Report—Christa Leach made a motion to accept the Secretary's report with corrections. Wayne Schneider seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report—Barb Hayek made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Christa Leach seconded the motion. Motion carried. The balance in the checking account at the end of October 2017 is \$1,189.41.

Committee Reports:

Hospitality—they will be helping with the Ecumenical Thanksgiving potluck supper after worship service at 6 PM on November 19, 2017.

Kitchen remodel—the floor was laid by McGraw's starting November 6, 2017 and finished November 8, 2017. The kitchen is almost complete. The appliances have been delivered and installed. The windows will be installed approximately December 12, 2017.

Parish Ed—the children are practicing for the Children's Christmas Program which will be held on December 10, 2017.

Property—no meeting

Worship & Music—the ladies will be meeting on November 14, 2017 to plan hymns for Advent and Christmas.

Youth—Tom, Sue, Alyssa & Kristen Hoey will be going to the Youth Gathering in Houston, TX at the end of June.

Pastor's Report:

In the last month Pastor has made 3 home communion visits and 2 non-communion visits.

Pastor officiated at the wedding of Kaecee and Adam Whitaker in Fulton, IL. Pastor is a relative of the bride.

Pastor attended her first meeting for Synod Conference Deans and Chaplains.

The Sparkhouse Book Fair was successful, lots of books were ordered, and they raised \$114.00 for the JAM program.

The Bremwood gift tree will be going up in the back of the sanctuary this week.

Pastor will be leading worship at Independence area care centers on Thursday, November 16, 2017 and Thursday, November 30, 2017.

Pastor will be taking the Confirmation kids on a field trip to Bremwood and to the Synod office on Wednesday, December 6, 2017 after school.

Pastor has been working with the Worship & Music committee on planning a Blue Christmas service. This is a special service that takes place a few days before Christmas Eve and is geared toward those who struggle at Christmastime—people who are grieving, far from family, etc.

#### New Business:

Designate special Children's Christmas program, Christmas Eve & Christmas offering—Mary Adams made a motion to split the offering evenly from the 3 services for the University of Iowa Chaplaincy and EWALU. Wayne Schneider seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Christmas caroling at Winding Creek & Prairie Hills Assisted Living on December 17, 2017 after church, there will be more information about this in the Lamp.

Jessica Saunders asked if she could teach voice lessons at church, possibly starting in either December or January. Council will table this until Mary Adams has a chance to talk to someone at the Treasurer's workshop in January if this could affect the church's tax exempt status with the IRS. There was a council member who had concerns regarding this issue.

Kristi Clayton and her family will be using the Fellowship on November 25, 2017 for their Thanksgiving dinner.

Set a budget work night & budget hearing—December will be budget work night along with the regular council meeting. The meeting will start at 5:30 PM. The budget hearing will be the same night as the regular council meeting in January, 2018. The Annual meeting will be held on January 21, 2018. Church service will be at 9 AM with the meeting afterwards and then have a meal.

Monette Colton requested a transfer out—Barb Hayek made a motion to accept Monette's transfer to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Independence, IA. Bryan Tonne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### Old Business:

Mary Adams submitted a rebate form by email to MidAmerican Energy for the insulation on the new roof above the 1964 addition. The rebate will be approximately \$517.53.

Jordan Leach will be having his Eagle ceremony for Boy Scouts at the church on November 19, 2017.

#### Correspondence:

A thank you note was received from Marlene Mangrich for the Wednesday night community meals.

Waterloo Courier—advertising for Christmas, Progress & Easter worship services. Council decided to stay more local with advertising for these services.

Deacon assignments were given for the month of December.

The next council meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2017 at 5:30 PM. Budget work will also be done at this meeting.

Wayne Schneider made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM. Christa Leach seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christy Phillips  
Secretary



## January 2018, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

### **Raising our Voice for Iowa Children and Families – Lutheran Day on the Hill**

Families living in poverty. Iowa children in need of a forever family. Former refugees building new lives.

These kinds of issues are rarely the center of attention at the Iowa State Capitol. Let's change that!

Please consider joining Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA for Lutheran Day on the Hill, an annual day of advocacy in Des Moines to uplift the needs of our neighbors. The event will be held on Thursday, February 8. Visit [www.LSIowa.org/advocacy](http://www.LSIowa.org/advocacy) next month for event details, online registration, and an online toolkit for your congregation.

If you are new to advocacy, come learn more about the legislative process and your role as a citizen. If you've attended before, join us again. We hope this year's schedule will also allow you more opportunities to connect with legislators. If you would like more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org).

*Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at [www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

### **Friendly Competition**

When the time came to take their U.S. Citizenship Exam, Bhakti and Chhali felt overwhelmed.

Originally from Bhutan, the couple moved to Des Moines from a refugee camp in Nepal. Since then, they have been busy improving their English and settling into their new home. They both worked seven days a week and struggled to find time to study for their exam.

LSI's Refugee Community Services were there to help. LSI provides English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, and Bhakti and Chhali studied hard in class to prepare for the writing and reading component of their exam. They supported and competed with each other, pushing themselves to succeed.

Their work paid off, and Bhakti and Chhali recently passed their exam and are now U.S. Citizens.

"We appreciate the help our LSI volunteers gave us on the Citizenship Exam," Bhakti says. "They are so committed to seeing us meet our goals."

Thank you for empowering your Iowa neighbors. We couldn't do this important work without you!

# Events

## **Kitchen & Fellowship Hall Dedication**

On Sunday, January 7, we will be holding a dedication of our newly remodeled kitchen and fellowship hall! This is the Sunday we will celebrate the day of Epiphany, which, in the early church, was a traditional day to do house blessings. So, after worship on January 7, we will hold a time of extended fellowship, during which we will have a service of blessing and dedication of these spaces. Our extended fellowship will include a brunch potluck, so you are invited to bring brunch food to share (muffins, fruit, egg bake, etc) if you wish. We will also be inviting the families of those whose memorial money was used to help fund these projects, as well as the contractors who worked on the project. Save the date!

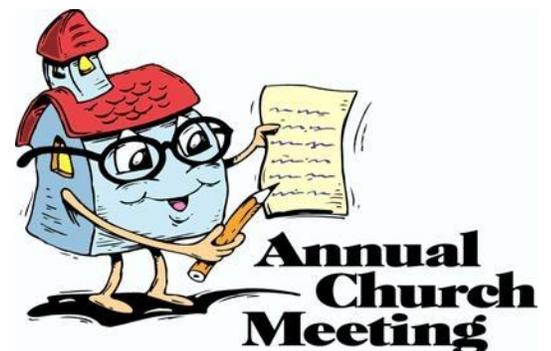


## **Christian Unity Service Choir**

The Jesup Ministerium is putting together a choir to perform an anthem at a special service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Thursday, Jan 18, at 7pm at the. Rehearsal will be at 7pm on Thursday January 11<sup>th</sup> at the Jesup united Methodist Church. The Unity Service will take place at 7pm on Thursday January 18<sup>th</sup>. All singers are encouraged to participate!

## **Annual Meeting and Potluck**

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday January 21<sup>st</sup> immediately after the 9am Service with a potluck brunch will follow the annual meeting. Any budget items should be addressed at the Budget/Council meeting on Monday January 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm prior to the annual meeting.



## **Be Our Guest Resumes**

Be Our Guest Meals will resume on January 24<sup>th</sup> and January 31<sup>st</sup>. Watch our Facebook page and website for menus.

# Announcements

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## Military Members

Shawn Even is in the Army Reserves and currently at home.

*If you know of anyone else serving in the armed forces, please contact the church office via phone (827-6626) or e-mail*

*(secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org). We'd like to remember them in our prayers*



## ELCA National Youth Gathering 2018

Registration is open for the 2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering! Discounted early registration ends November 15<sup>th</sup>. The Gathering will take place in Houston, TX on June 27-July 1, 2018 and is open to all current high school students. Interested? Have questions? Contact Sue or Tom Hoey, Pastor Kristen, or visit <http://www.elca.org/YouthGathering>.

## Christmas Thank You

Thank you very much for all of the Christmas gifts you gave to my family and I this Christmas! We are extremely grateful for your generosity. We feel very blessed to be able to be a part of the people of God at American Lutheran Church in Jesup!

-- Pastor Kristen

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## Notes from Worship and Music

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### **Chime choir practice:**

#### **January Break**

February 21 practice 6 PM;

(play Feb 25 9 AM)

March 21 practice 6 PM;

(play March 25 9 AM)

### **Praise team practice: TBD**

**Special Music:** We're looking to expand our special music ideas for the fall. Know anyone who could offer the gift of special music sometime? Contact Shirley Bergman at [bergmansa@hotmail.com](mailto:bergmansa@hotmail.com) or 319-827-2451 to discuss options!

# Celebrations



Rayla Tonne	1/6
Nadine Marsh	1/8
Connie Gosse	1/10
Cyndi Nuehring	1/10
Clayton Wolf	1/13
Collin Clayton	1/16
Sara Borland	1/18
Greg Lysne	1/20
Olivia Hemmer	1/22
Jordyn Bergman	1/23
Chris Waring	1/23
Ron Gosse	1/27
Renee McAtee	1/27
Ray Zummak	1/30

Kaye Jones	1/1
Caroline Rod	1/2
Kash Niichel	1/5
Kohl Nuehring	1/8
Charlotte Jones	1/9
Kyle Nuehring	1/10
Marcy Ruckdaschel	1/10
Katie Stalheim	1/13
Connie Gosse	1/16
Angie Maus	1/17
Jillian Schares	1/17
Harper Fox	1/19
Emily Clark	1/21
Jason Thompson	1/21
Katie Clark	1/22
Amanda Phillips	1/22
Jacob Clark	1/25
Rayla Tonne	1/25
Brian Hayek	1/26
Christy Phillips	1/26



James & Jennifer Anderson	1/10/2008	10
Paul & Andrea Anhalt	1/1/2005	13
Harold & Denise Clayton I	1/25/1975	43
Robert & Paula Clayton I	1/13/1962	56
Roger & Sheila Collins	1/17/1976	42
Andy & Tina Dalziel	1/16/1981	37
Wayne & Doris Natvig	1/13/1972	46
Gene & Debra Putnam	1/16/1971	47