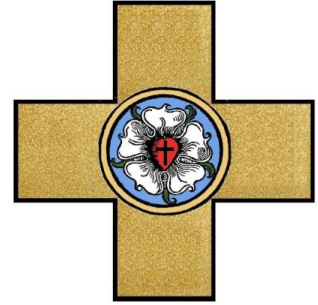




# The Lutheran Church - International and World Lutheran Parish

## **BULLETIN**

### Christmas-Epiphany, 2019



<sup>16</sup> So [Jesus] came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. <sup>17</sup> And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,  
Because He has anointed Me . . . .”

Luke 4:16-18a [NKJV]

Dear Brothers and Sisters in in the LC-I Family:

My prayer is that you had a blessed and holy Christmas! One of our pastors mentioned to me that we ought to be very grateful because, by God’s grace, our rejoicing of the Father’s gift to us in celebration of the nativity of His Son is not limited to a few hours. In fact, our joy is not restricted to the days of Christmas, but also can extend throughout our lives. By the Lord’s eternal goodness we always have joy in the life of Christ and in the mission to which He has called us in the LC-I.

As we begin another calendar year of service to the Lord’s Christian people, we have **hope that we can be rededicated** for the special work that Christ would have us do through the LC-I. We have many opportunities, and there is great need for us and for our ministries.

In that hope in Christ our Savior we are **blessed by accepting the opportunities** to work as Christ has asked us to do, and, in His name, go forward together. Reach out to those with whom you come in contact. Let them know about Christ through the LC-I and its World Lutheran Parish ministries and missions.

Let others know that, just as you **set the example of service and support** with your dues and contributions, they too can help the LC-I through their contributions. They can also be of help to the LC-I (ILF) by purchasing with “Amazon Smile.” If you need help in knowing how to do that, please contact Pastor William Wigmore (our LC-I Treasurer) or myself.

It is by God’s grace alone that these ministries will be accomplished. We are **called to be instruments of the grace of God!** May we continue to have joy in that work together throughout the coming year!

Blessed and happy New Year to us all!

**++Robert**

The Most Rev. Dr. Robert W. Hotes, LC-I Archbishop





**“...and kings will come to the light of your dawning day.”**

<sup>1</sup> *Jerusalem, stand up! Shine!  
Your new day is dawning.*

*The glory of the LORD  
shines brightly on you.*

<sup>2</sup> *The earth and its people  
are covered with darkness,  
but the glory of the LORD  
is shining upon you.*

<sup>3</sup> *Nations and kings  
will come to the light  
of your dawning day.*



*Isaiah 60:1-3 [CEV]*

Matthew writes that upon the arrival of the magi from the East, looking for the King of the Jews whose birth they had seen by the rising of a new star, both Herod and the city of Jerusalem were disturbed at the news. What the gospel does not tell us is Herod's ruthless rule of Judaea; his audience would have known all too well the political background of the time filled with power plays, murder and intrigue. Herod's main concern is where this child is, and the priests and scribes refer him to the prophecy of Micah [5: 2]:

*Bethlehem Ephrath,  
you are one of the smallest towns  
in the nation of Judah.*

*But the LORD will choose  
one of your people  
to rule the nation—  
someone whose family  
goes back to ancient times.*



*Micah 5:2 [CEV]*

The Good News of the birth is found in Isaiah 60, but Herod's priority is the security of his own reign not the furtherance of Christ's. Herod and his supporters in the ruling class are more interested in maintaining their own positions, not in seeing their rule evaporate in the light of the dawn of a new age. And so, Herod devises the plan of having the magi locate the Christ Child and then to let him know.

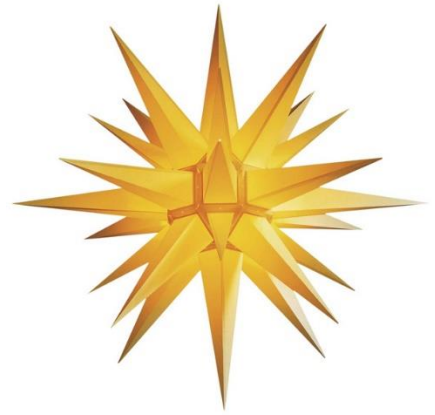
In our modern Christmas stories, it seems like, soon after the shepherds depart, the three wise men arrive with their gifts. Matthew tells us that they find Mary and the child Jesus at a house, not in a stable. Given Matthew's recount of the final step in Herod's plan by the massacre of innocent children two years old or younger, there is a time gap; and the Church calendar ensures our focus on the two distinct but related events in the Christmas story. This separation is especially helpful when the decorations of secular Christmases are tossed by many even before the New Year.





The message of the Epiphany is Isaiah's joy of the Light that has come into the world, and for us, like Jerusalem, to stand up and shine. The first witnesses are the Judean shepherds who see God's angels; the other gospel witnesses are foreigners, thus the other title for the celebration of Epiphany: "The Manifestation to the Gentiles." To Herod and official Jerusalem's distress we have the magi's exceeding great joy. Today let that joy sing out!

- <sup>2</sup> *Come to worship him  
with thankful hearts  
and songs of praise.*
- <sup>3</sup> *The LORD is the greatest God,  
king over all other gods.*
- <sup>4</sup> *He holds the deepest part  
of the earth in his hands,  
and the mountain peaks  
belong to him.*
- <sup>5</sup> *The ocean is the Lord's  
because he made it,  
and with his own hands  
he formed the dry land.*
- <sup>6</sup> *Bow down and worship  
the LORD our Creator!*
- <sup>7</sup> *The LORD is our God,  
and we are his people.*



*Psalm 95:2-7a [CEV]*

The earthly gifts presented by the magi were beyond value both in the currency of the time and indeed ours. The heavenly gift which God had manifested to "the earth and its people ... covered with darkness" is the eternal Gift of God made Man, and He is and remains priceless.

## ***Richard Sorfleet +***

**Ed. Note:** Father Richard Sorfleet is a friend of the LC-I, known to many. He is an Anglican priest of the ECE/ECC in Canada and a supporter and participant in the World Lutheran Parish. Fr. Richard and his wife live in Renfrew, Ontario. We welcome his articles and graphics shared with us.

## ***Meeting Notice:***

The LC-I Executive Board will meet by teleconference on **Saturday, January 19 at 9:00 a.m. EST.** Please contact the archbishop's office with any items you want brought to the Board's attention.

***Did You See:*** your NEW LC-I website? Pastor Wigmore, our Webmaster, encourages you to look at it and provide pictures, text and ideas for us to include: <http://www.lutheranchurchinternational.org/>.

***Did You See:*** page 8?







**World Lutheran Parish** on behalf of the LC-I around the world  
**active through Ministry in Word and Sacraments,  
Study and Prayer,  
in Partnership and in Service  
with food and with medicine  
in the US, Canada, India, Kenya:**



Thanks to Pastor Philip Mwendwa,  
The Lutheran Church of East  
Africa (Kenya) and to Pastor  
Rajendra Tanuku Prasad, LC-I  
Missionary Dean for India for  
most of the photos provided for  
publication.

*Editor*





## CHRISTMAS IS KNEELING TIME

**Psalm: 95:6** “O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our maker.”

In the Ozark Mountains, I am told, there is an old legend that at midnight on Christmas Eve the cattle kneel in adoration of the Savior who came into their stable so many years ago. A part of the legend, however, is that they will not kneel if any human being is watching. That, of course, makes the story safe from prying, scientific eyes.

We shall never be able to prove the legend or disprove it with our senses. But isn't that what Christmas is . . . an intimate and ultimate experience which is forever beyond the eyes of proud minds.

Only the cattle know if they really kneel to the Savior at midnight – as only we ourselves know in the deepest regions of our hearts whether we too are really there at the manger.

Christmas is kneeling time for the entire earth as the eyes of faith-filled hearts are wide open as they look upon the only-begotten Son of the Father. For those who kneel at the manger rise again, filled with the love of God which brings peace and joy to their lives.

**Prayer:** “Dear Lord, this Christmas may I use my knees to strengthen the faith of my heart.”



*John H. Krahn +*  
(used by permission)

*Ed. Note:* The Rev. Dr. John H. Krahn is an ELCA pastor serving in Faith Lutheran Church, Syosset, LI, NY and is an author of numerous articles and books, including the acclaimed From Surviving to Thriving.







## **'Twas the Night After Christmas**

'Twas the night **after** Christmas, and all through the house  
not a creature was stirring (not even a mouse!).

The presents were scattered all over the floors  
amid wrapping paper from walls to the doors.

MaMa in her nightgown and I in PJs  
had finally laid down after what seemed like days.

Some presents, once wrapped, like Humpty lay cracked,  
with batteries all worn, some clothing now torn.  
It all seemed so futile to say "Christ is Born!"



The carols, once heard in each store and each mall  
lay silent, like midnight, within every wall.



"Christmas is OVER!" I sighed with relief,  
undimmed and unquestioning in my belief  
that, indeed, it was past  
(perhaps like a flag now flown at half-mast).

The stars through my window shone faintly and dim,  
unmoved across miles by our clamor and din  
of a Christmas now past, but not far behind,  
of a Christmas gone fast, our memories remind.



The voice of the cynic truly believes that Christmas IS past.  
The Infant Jesus is grown-up (at last);  
like a precocious child too grown for his age,  
he seemed no more than a prophet or sage.

But the shepherds returned to the hills,  
speaking to each other with wonder and thrills



of the Joy,  
of the Birth,  
of the Savior so dear,  
long-awaited, now present, forever near.



This great news has changed them, and changed their lives;  
their ideas are replaced now by a strong faith that thrives!

**If the shepherds were changed,  
then why are not we?  
Jesus, the Savior, IS BORN! (Isn't he?)**

*Richard W. Horn*  
© December 26, 1987





## ***Special prayer requests:***

- ❖ for the special intentions of Bishop Juan Cepero and wife Carmen in Puerto Rico.
- ❖ for Pastor Walton Horn and family.
- ❖ for the special intentions of Dean Rajendra Tanuku Prasad and his wife and co-minister.
- ❖ for Missionary Dean Prasad and his co-ministers that they may reach many with the gift of the gospel and through the distribution of help in the form of Christmas boxes.
- ❖ for all those who may be stressed in mind, body or spirit during this season.
- ❖ for the special intentions of Pastor Herbert Michel.
- ❖ for all those suffering from natural disasters especially fires and flood, tsunamis, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.
- ❖ for the members of the Lutheran Deaconess Association.
- ❖ for the special intentions of Pastor Art Hebbeler.
- ❖ for Holy Cross Mission in Sacramento CA.
- ❖ for the intentions of the World Lutheran Parish mission in Maryland.
- ❖ for the new mission start in the Los Angeles CA area.
- ❖ for all those in physical or spiritual need.
- ❖ for the victims of violence, illness and personal disasters.
- ❖ for all LC-I lay members, congregations, missions, ministers, candidates, deacons, pastors, bishops.
- ❖ for world peace in the name of Christ and especially for Christians in Iraq, Syria, Egypt and in all countries threatened by terrorists; for all refugees from conflicts; for the dedicated Christians and others who are aiding the refugees of all faiths.
- ❖ for those who provide gifts, contributions and endowments to the LC-I and its ministries (in the U.S., these are **tax-deductible**).
- ❖ for those who do not live near an LC-I parish and would like to be a part of this ministry  
(contact the Archbishop at: [Archbishop@LutheranChurchInternational.org](mailto:Archbishop@LutheranChurchInternational.org) 217-691-3090).

## ***OOPS!***

Our **BULLETIN** editor, Bishop Richard Horn, has pointed out one disadvantage – and one advantage – of self-publishing. Mistakes are often unnoticed until later, like one made in his ***Seasons and Saints***, published in 2018, with the wrong color for the January 6 Day of Epiphany (obviously White, not scarlet)! One advantage: it is easily corrected for future use. If you have received a copy and want an updated one, or if you would like to receive a copy for yourself or to share, contact him at [Bp.RWHorn@gmail.com](mailto:Bp.RWHorn@gmail.com). He does request, however, that any errors be brought to his attention for correction.

**May God bless (+) you in this new year of God's grace and favor!**

**++*Robert W. Hates***

*Archbishop, Lutheran Church - International*

Please forward a copy of this **BULLETIN** AND send the names and email addresses to the Archbishop: [Archbishop@LutheranChurchInternational.org](mailto:Archbishop@LutheranChurchInternational.org)





## 2019 CONTRIBUTIONS (and/or DUES INVOICE now overdue!)

**For continuing support of the LIFE AND MISSION of the Lutheran Church – International:**

### **My personal receipt:**

*I have sent to the Treasurer of the LC-I the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ on date \_\_\_\_\_  
as my voluntary contribution to the LC-I (and/or for payment of 2019 Ministerial / Congregational Dues)*

**Clergy and Lay Minister Membership Dues: \$75.00 U.S.D.**

**Congregations / Communities of Faith Membership Dues: \$150.00 U.S.D.**

(Payments are due on the First Sunday in Advent and are required for good standing and credentialing)

*NOTE: Individuals or congregations unable to meet their responsibility for 2018 are asked to please contact their bishop as soon as possible to make arrangements for 2018 and 2019. Please remember that, on request, these obligations may be adjusted or excused for financial necessity.*

**Please note:** These dues are not required for ordained or lay members of the World Lutheran Parish who have not been received on the official ministerial roster of the LC-I.

**All contributions, gifts and bequests are gratefully received.**

*Please detach or copy the form below and send or email it to the Treasurer of the LC-I:*

-----  
\_\_\_\_ 2019 Dues for Ministerial members: \$75  
\_\_\_\_ 2019 Dues for Congregations and Communities of Faith: \$150  
\_\_\_\_ Voluntary Contribution (for members of the World Lutheran Parish, lay members, friends)  
\_\_\_\_ Additional gift(s), bequests of, in memory of, or designated for: \_\_\_\_\_



**Amount sent:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date sent:** \_\_\_\_\_ **by Check # or Electronic Fund Transfer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Send to:** The Rev. William Wigmore, Treasurer  
15 High Street  
Lyons NY 14489


or send to: [PastorWigmore@gmail.com](mailto:PastorWigmore@gmail.com) (1-215-416-9591)

**NOTE: you will receive an acknowledgement to confirm receipt of your dues/contribution/gift/bequest.**





# JANUARY, 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> <b>CIRCUMCISION AND NAME OF JESUS</b>	<b>2</b> Wilhelm Löhe (1872): pastor, renewer of the church	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Kaj Munk (1944): martyr
<b>6</b> <b>EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Basil the Great, Bishop of Caesarea (379); Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishop of Constantinople (c. 389); Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa (c. 385): pastors and confessors	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <b>FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY: THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD</b>	<b>14</b> Eivind Josef Berggrav (1959): Bishop of Oslo  1/13: George Fox (1691): renewer of society	<b>15</b> Martin Luther King, Jr. (1968): renewer of society, martyr	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Antony of Egypt (c. 356), Pachomius (346): renewers of the church	<b>18</b> <b>CONFESSION OF SAINT PETER</b>  [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Begins]	<b>19</b> Henry, Bishop of Uppsala (1156): missionary to Finland, martyr
<b>20</b> Second Sunday after the Epiphany  Sarah: matriarch	<b>21</b> Agnes (304): martyr	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL</b>  [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Ends]	<b>26</b> Timothy, Titus, and Silas: missionaries
<b>27</b> Third Sunday after the Epiphany  Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe: witnesses to the faith	<b>28</b> Thomas Aquinas (1274): teacher	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		