

Epiphany Sunday

January 4th, 2026

Order of Service

7:45 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
DSI (pg. 151)	DSI (pg. 151)
Hymns	Hymns
412, 397, 399	412, 397, 399, 398, 389
Wednesday Hymns	399, 397

Sermon

"Mystery Solved!"

Pastor Wes Gillaspie

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 60:1-6: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

Ephesians 3:2-12: Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy

apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Matthew 2:1-12: After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king,

they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Serving in Worship Today

Elders	<i>Charlie Zwerk; Mark Schiefer, Rodney Hecht, Dennis Thurston</i>
Organist	<i>Pam Bierlein</i>
Usher	<i>Travis Bierlein; Luke Bierlein</i>
Altar Guild	<i>Nancy Bierlein, Ann Thurston</i>

Wednesday

Elders	<i>Jason Hecht</i>
Organist	<i>Heiki Palm</i>
Usher	<i>Luke Bierlein</i>

This week at St. Michael's

Today	Worship Service 7:45 a.m. <i>Bible Class 9 a.m.</i> Communion 10:30 a.m.
Mon	<i>School Resumes</i> Mary Martha 7 p.m.
Tue	<i>Elders 7 p.m.</i>
Wed	<i>Sisters of Ruth 12 p.m.</i> Communion 7 p.m.
Next Sun.	<i>Communion 7:45 a.m.</i> <i>Bible Class/KidzMin 9 a.m.</i> Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

The rose at the side of the altar is in loving memory of Shain Schoenow. His 39th birthday would be January 1st.

Mary Martha will gather tomorrow, January 5 at 7 pm in the church meeting room. Join us to create a Valentine's card, write a message or just come to chat and enjoy fellowship. A mite offering will be taken to support missions, devotion and singing, with a short business meeting and refreshments. Come and learn how to be a Lutheran Woman in Mission.

Sisters of Ruth will meet at church, January 7, for lunch at noon. Pizza will be ordered. Bring Christmas cookies for dessert.

No Wednesday Worship Jan. 14th: Much of the church building will be closed off that week for carpet cleaning.

Life Sunday will be observed January 18th with a door offering going to support our pro-life efforts.

175th Anniversary Kick-off: St. Michael's was founded in 1851 and turns 175 this year! We are pleased to have District President David Davis as our guest preacher on Sunday, January 25th. Pastor Elmer Schiefer, a son of St. Michael's who is 100 years old, will also be in attendance that day.

Adult Choir We are excited to extend a heartfelt invitation for you to join the Adult Choir here at St Michael's. Whether you're an experienced vocalist or simply love to sing from the heart, our choir is a welcoming space where voices come together to inspire, celebrate our faith, friendships and harmony. Rehearsals resume on Tuesday, January 13th. Come Join Us!

Poinsettas may be taken home by whomever ordered one.

Parents of young children: Be sure to check out the pew pack station and try one of our new colorful doodleboard tablets for your child to use during services. Donated by the Outreach Board.

Lutheran Witness Envelope for the Lutheran Witness Magazine subscription will be \$22.50 for 2026.

Dear Member's of St. Michael's...
"Pastor Gillaspie and secretaries Julia and Nancy would like to thank the members of St. Michael's for the Christmas gifts, cookies, and baked goods we received this holiday season. May God bless us as we work together for His glory in 2026."

The 2nd Annual Kelly Loves Christmas 4 Kids was attended by over 800 people that were in need this year. A large percentage of donated gifts came from our very generous congregation. A HUGE thank you goes out to the following members who donated money or gifts: St. Michael's Outreach Board, Cindy Howell, Jeff & Pam Mossner, Anthony, Donna, & Karli Bierlein, Gary & Bonnie Kern, Bruce & Linette Heinlein, Jerry & Nancy Schluckbier, Shirley Cummings, Matt & Marcy Buchinger, Vern & Becky Squanda, Sally Janson, Al & Jean Rodammer, Pat Roedel, Mike & Brenda MacKay, Larry Putman, Mark & Pam Mossner, Jeff & Sheri Karst, Mirian Mossner, Steve & Kathy Schwab, Terri & Sandy Keinath, Marge Rodammer, Tyler & Haley Clack. It definitely would not have been as successful without ALL of you! God's Blessings & Merry Christmas! Thank you, Ann Zwerk

Addition in the Jan. Newsletter: Dolores Bauer; was called home on July 10th, 2025.

Attendance
Christmas Eve. 529

Christmas Day 126
Sun. Dec 28th 283

Other News
The Lutheran Hour airs on WSAM-1400 from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Next Sunday: "Solidarity" *Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler*; Solidarity is how Christians understand their relationship to Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus, the Son of God, went where we had gone so that we might go where He goes. Romans 6:5

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is January 18th. Please join us in prayer for those harmed by abortion on the front steps of the Tuscola County Courthouse (440 North State Street on M-81) at 3 PM. The keynote speaker will be Marianne Brandt, Tuscola County Register of Deed, with a follow-up gathering inside the Blessing Center (located at 209 North State Street) with food and beverages.

Prayers
Health
Bruce Bierlein; Michelle DeCoe; Don Duperon; Hope Hecht; Ann Houser; Dave Janson; Jim Karst; Barb Kern; Jenna Mathews; Carolyn Navarre; Eugene Palmreuter; Barb Rupprecht; Rollie Wenzel

Mission
Rev. James and Deaconess Christel Neuendorf serve the Lord through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Puerto Rico. Both have served as missionaries in this region since 2008, in Panama and the Dominican Republic.

Prayer of the Day
"Heavenly Father, by the leading of a star You made

known to all nations Your only-begotten Son.
Now lead us, who know You by
faith, to receive the fullness of Your divine
mercy and grace; through
Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with
You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever, Amen."