

Christmas/Epiphany

hile most of us are familiar with the song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," it actually has Biblical connections. Twelve is the number of Days the Church celebrates in the Christmas Season. The Christmas Season runs from December 25 thru January 5 (count the days). January 6 begins a new Season we call Epiphany.

Epiphany is one of the oldest seasons in the Christian Church Year, second only to the Easter season. This season of lights emphasizes Jesus' manifestation, or epiphany, as God and man. The earliest Christians called the Feast of the Epiphany the Theophany, the "revelation of God." When Magi, who were Gentiles, came to worship Jesus, they showed that everyone now has access to God (remember my sermon of December 26 — "A Savior Has Come for All People!"). Yes, now ALL people, both Jews

Inside This Issue

and Gentiles, can come to God's temple to worship, because Jesus is the new temple: God in the flesh. The Epiphany of Our Lord, January 6, marks the celebration of the visit of the Magi.

The Epiphany Season may include as many as nine Sundays, depending on the date of Easter. The season is marked at its beginning and at its end by two important feasts of Christ. Thus, we actually have four important days we call feast days of Jesus. They are Christmas, the Epiphany of our Lord, the Baptism of our Lord, and the Transfiguration of Our Lord. The color for feast days is white; the color of divinity, purity, and joy. The Sundays after the Epiphany focus on the growth of Jesus' ministry, and the color green is used to symbolize that growth.

On the First Sunday after the Epiphany, January 9 this year, the Church celebrates the Baptism of Our Lord. The Father sent Jesus to bear the sins of the world. So Jesus steps down into baptismal waters so that He can soak up the sins of the world: He is baptized into our sins so that our Baptism might be into His death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins.

The Feast of the Transfiguration, celebrated on the Last Sunday in the Epiphany season, February 27 this year, is a significant and uniquely Lutheran contribution to the Christian calendar. This festival commemorates the moment of the Mount of Transfiguration when three of Jesus' disciples glimpse their Lord in divine splendor seeing Him as the center of the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah). Jesus proclaims to His disciples, then and now, that He is the longawaited One who has come to die for the sins of the world and be raised again in glory.

Thus, the Transfiguration of Our Lord is the last Sunday before the Season of Lent begins. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Lenten Season and occurs on March 2 this year. (Easter will be on April 17).



Remember: During Epiphany, we worship Jesus, Who has given all mankind access to God through Himself. You might like to read these three short passages related to Epiphany: Matthew 2:1-12; Matthew 3:13-17; & Matthew 17:1-13.

So as we enter a New Year, a year filled with elements of fear and uncertainty in many aspects, let us

memorize these two important verses Jesus shares with us: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). And from the Sermon on Mount in Matthew 5:16, "In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

May your heart be filled with the love and light of Jesus Christ every day in 2022! And to all eternity! Thanks be to God! AMEN! Pastor Gary Brandt

oitalize

If you or a loved one is hospitalized, have experienced a death in the family, are home bound, or scheduled to go to the hospital, please call Pastor Brandt (580-421-8108). Please keep in mind that privacy laws also limit the information hospitals can share with us. Both Pastor Anderegg (573-528-4597) and Pastor Brandt are available for any emergency, or any issue you and your loved ones might be having. Remember, our two pastors are here to serve you. Our Elders: Jeff Hedberg (573-819-4446), Joe Stauch (573-347-2903) will also assist in getting one of the pastors to follow up on any issue, not just hospitalization for you, a loved one or a death in the family. To find out which Elder you are assigned to, please see the bulletin board in the Narthex.





hen Peter said, **Silver** or **gold** I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk. Acts 3:6

Those of us who have gone to certain National Parks are used to seeing signs which say, "PLEASE DON'T FEED THE BEARS." It seems that bears who are used to handouts no longer want to forage and feed themselves. The end result is a bear that can become aggressive when he doesn't get what he wants. Now, in your mind, leave the open places of

nature and go to Ocean Beach, California. There, if you look carefully, you will see stores with the sign: "PLEASE DON'T FEED OUR BUMS." Those signs are aimed at a "new kind" of bum. By that I mean we're not talking about the dignified hobo of the Depression who was willing to work when he could find a job. No, these bums are employable, but choose not to work. Many come from well-to-do families and carry cell phones but they prefer to panhandle. That is, of course, their right. But there have been reports that some of these bums have grown violent against those folks who don't come up with some cash. Now I can truly understand the desire of these people to have someone else take care of them. I even understand their aversion to the rat race and a job which isn't fulfilling. Even so, I can't justify their Robin Hood attitude which steals from the rich and gives to the poor . . . meaning themselves. So, what to do? Peter and John had the right idea when they visited the man who was begging on the steps of the temple. True, because of his infirmity, the man was a legitimate beggar rather than an I-choose-not-to-work bum. He was different, but he was looking for financial assistance. Confessing both poverty and wealth, Peter answered the man's pleas with the words, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you." Now that I think about it, those are the Church's words to every sinner. We aren't able to throw money at a problem, pain, or predicament. On the other hand, we are able to freely share the Savior. The Christ who was born, lived, suffered, died, and rose for our salvation is the ultimate solution to the needs, the sins, and the problems of humankind. "That which I have, I give to you." Reflecting the love of the Lord to a lost world. That is our job, our pleasure, and our trust. God grant we share the Savior's blood-bought salvation with those who need a handout and hand up.

The Prayer: Dear Lord, I don't know what today will bring. What kind of people will be placed in my path? What will be their needs? Grant me the wisdom, courage, and ability to share the Savior with them. Let them hear from me that I personally may not have the answers to their needs, but Jesus does. This prayer I pray in the Name of the crucified and risen Redeemer. Amen

LUTHERAN CHURCH

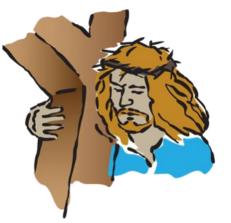
News of Peace is a monthly newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church, 9307 North State Highway 5, Camdenton, MO 65020; Rev. Richard Anderegg: 573-528-4597, Rev. Gary Brandt: 580-481-8108; Church Phone: 573-836-3959; Office Hours: M, T, W, 8 am to 12 pm; Church email: plccamdenton@gmail.com; Website: www.plccamdenton.org Our Mission: "We the members of Peace Lutheran Church gather and grow together as God's children and rejoice in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, proclaim His word, and reach out with his love to: each other, our community, and the world."

Connect with us: 1

Article Apologetics The Moral Law

from the "Reason I Believe" by Allen Quist In a previous column we noted that there can be no genuine law of right or wrong without a Creator God who made them. With a Creator God, we additionally have creatures made in His image and then morality becomes a necessary part of the picture. God has expectations for those creatures He has made to be like Him. If God is good, then He will expect them to be good also. And when we realize what those expectations are, we conclude that we have not lived up to them. C.S. Lewis in his book "Mere Christianity" explains that when he was an atheist, he believed that the existence of evil ruled out the existence of God. That is, until he realized that evil actually assumes the existence of God. That neither good nor evil can exist without God. He came to see that he was actually proving God's existence as he was trying to

disprove Him. And since He exists, we are accountable to Him. This puts us in a desperate position, said Lewis, and the only answer is faith in a Savior who paid the penalty for our wrongs by His death on the cross. We see a logical progression that takes place. We recognize from observation that genuine morality exists. If the moral law exists, then a Lawgiver (God) must exist – a Lawgiver to whom we are accountable. When we honestly compare ourselves to the moral law, we quickly see that we haven't conformed to its demands, nor to the Lawgiver's expectations. This realization leads us to



realize our need for a Savior. One who has paid the penalty for the sins of all by His suffering and dying on the cross. Russell Schulz, Evangelism Chair



Birthday and Anniversaries

Jan. 4	David Bald
Jan. 4	Penny Hansen
T 12	D.1. O C. I. Mante

- Jan 13 Dale & Gayle Montague
- Jan. 22 Jaccy Heinlein
- Jan. 26 Earl Hartenstein
- Jan. 30 Jeff Emery

Note –

- The church Council Meeting was cancelled for the month of December. The next council meeting will be held January 11 at 6:30 p.m.
- The LWML will not meet in the month of January.

Every One His Witness

It is a great privilege to join the Lord in His mission to make disciples to bring people to faith in Jesus. When we do join Him, we also join with other believers who have answered His call to make disciples. There is no other way to accept Jesus' invitation to join Him in His mission without joining others in His Church to do this work. He makes this clear by the imperative that He does



speak in the Great Commission: make (disciples). It is usually not the place of individual believers to make disciples by baptizing and preaching. In all but emergency situations, making disciples is the work of the whole Church through the witness of her members and the preaching and administering of the Sacraments Go therefore and through her pastors. The Great Com-

mission is a corporate calling. A faithful response involves the whole

body of Christ in a given place (i.e. a congregation) working together to make disciples through Word and Sacrament. Pr. Mark Wood

(https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/national/witness-and-outreach-ministry)



- to all who provided poinsettias to decorate the church for the Christmas season. Also the stands and embroidered covers made by Joe & Vicki Stauch and the candles provided by Carol Murrell.
- to all who served the Lord in a variety of ways in 2021.



A great deal happened in at Peace Lutheran Church

January

- 2021 started with a changing of the guard. On January 3 we had the installation of Officers and Directors, where we had a new President, Vice-President, Elder and Director of Education installed along with eight still serving Officers and Directors, and our new President and Vice President of the LWML.
- Christmas decorations came down with the help of many members of the congregation, and we settled into winter.

February

- Then came the snow and bad weather. We had to cancel our Worship Service on Feb. 14 (Valentines Day) and our Ash Wednesday Service was canceled on February 17 and rescheduled for February 24.
- Your Pastors, President and Elders attended a Joint Elders Conference on February 27, with Christ the King, Hope Chapel and Bethany, held at Christ the King.

March

- The first of our Mid-Week Lenten Services started on Wednesday March 3 and continued the next four Wednesdays in March.
- We finished the month celebrating Palm Sunday on the last Sunday of worship in March.

April

• The month started out with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the celebration of Easter, the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. and the celebration of Easter, the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

- The second quarter Voters Meeting included a presentation of the Survey results and Initiative recommendations from the Finance and Planning Committee. Those recommendations included:
- The Voters authorizing the Church Council to spend up to \$10,000, to invest in a new church sign to be built over the top of the preset sign. *Although not yet completed, the Sign Committee made a presentation to the Voters at the July Voters Meeting and we expect the sign to be completed early in 2022.*
- The Congregation is to donate 5 percent of the offering plate collections from October 31, 2020 to September 30, 2021, to organizations to be determined by a committee. *The Committee made a presentation at the July Voters Meeting and their recommendation will be finalized at a special Voters Meeting before the end of 2021*.
- The Voters approved expenditure of monies for these physical plant projects:
- Roof replacement on church and shed. *Completed.*
- Parking light replacement. *Completed in May.*
- Parking lot resurfacing. *Completed*.
- Replacement of three HVAC units. *We will complete as need-ed.*

May

• Our Circuit Pastors Conference was held at Peace this month.

• Replacement of three HVAC units. *We will complete as needed.*

May

- Our Circuit Pastors Conference was held at Peace this month. The LWML served the pastors lunch.
- The Voter approved replacement of the parking lights was completed in May

June

- Our Fellowship and Game Night was re-introduced on June 4 (first Friday of each month). While a small turnout, ranging in the mid-teens, the food was great and we had great games for entertainment.
- We had a very successful Life Line Screening on June 15. We had in excess of 40 people tested.

July

- At our July 4 Worship Service we ended our COVID Pandemic practice of giving communion at the pews and began receiving communion at the rail. We are attempting to maintain as much social distancing as possible.
- At our July 11 Worship Service we re-initiated coffee and donuts after the service in the Narthex.
- The Voter approved roof replacement was completed in June.

October

• At our October Voters meeting we elected Officers and Directors with all but the Treasurer being existing Officers and Directors re-elected for a new term. rectors re-elected for a new term.

- The Voters approved parking lot improvements were completed in October.
- We had a successful Halloween "Trunk or Treat" on Oct. 30.

November

- We held our traditional Thanksgiving Eve Service.
- On November 27 volunteers from the congregation decorated the Church and Church grounds as we prepared for the Advent Season and the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

December

- We look forward to the Advent season. There will be three Mid-Week Advent Services at 6 p.m. on December 1, 8 & 15.
- On December 24 we will have our Christmas Eve Service at 6 p.m.

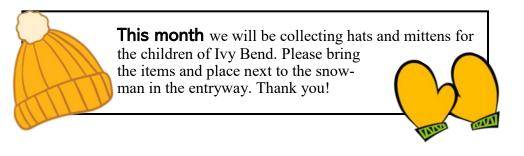
Thank You!!!!

to all who supported our Pocket Change for Mites in 2021. With your support our total for the year was \$304.20 Our Mites gathering in December totaled \$6.33 Our next gathering will be January 2.





Thanks to everyone who donated nonperishable items for the harvest table. All the items gathered were taken to the Morgan County Food Bank in Versailles. Thanks Jaccy Heinlein for decorating the table and Paula Emery for the sign.



L.W.M.L. **2021** The Year in Review

Thank you to the congregation for supporting the LWML throughout 2021. Here is the activities for the year.

- We hosted the spring rally with Faith, Warsaw
- We gathered nonperishable items for the St. Louis Seminary Food Bank and for the Harvest Table for Morgan County Food Bank
- We sewed blankets that were given to Lake Regional Family Birth Center
- Continue making Christmas Chrismons
- Served lunch the circuit Pastor's Conference
- Four ladies attended the National Convention in Lexington, KY
- Several ladies attended the Fall Rally at St. John's, Cole Camp
- The Mites total gathered for the year \$304.20
- Elections of officers new President and Vice President elected
- Held the Christmas party for all of the ladies of the congregation

L.W.M.L. Christmas Party Highlights

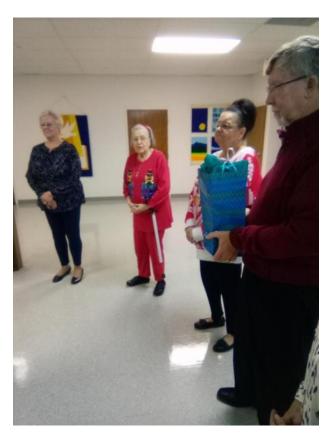
On December 15, fifteen people gathered for the annual LWML Christmas party. Photos by Paula Emery and Carol Murrell.













Our Christian Sympathy to

- Ed & Donna Bierbaum on the death of Ed's mother Annabell. She was called home on December 17 in Clearwater, KS.
- Norma Flenker (member of Peace from January 16, 1994 to November 29, 2020) was called home on December 21. No known service or memorial service arrangements.
- Ed & Jaccy Heinlein on the death of Ed's sister Charlotte Underwood from Belton, MO. She was called home on December 25.

I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: John 11:25



Peace members and friends attended the Royal Theater in Versailles to see the Nutcracker Ballet on Sun., December 12. Thanks to Susan Kral for organizing this activity.



If you are still in need of a calendar, there are a few copies available on the table in the sanctuary or the credenza in the narthex.



Amazon Smile

Do you shop on Amazon? You can now raise money for Peace by using the Amazon Smile program when you make purchases. Just use https://smile.amazon.com/ ch/431538817 You can also sign up through your regular Amazon.com and designate your charitable organization by entering Peace Lutheran Church—Camdenton. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the Amazon/Smile Foundation will donate \$0.5 percent of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable program.



On Friday, December 3, the sanctuary light bulbs were replaced in the hanging lights. Each hanging light requires seven bulbs. Thank you to Pat and Peggy Callahan for replacing the light blubs with the help of Sheryl Bald and Chuck Kral.









'Tis More Blessed to Give Than to Receive

"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' " (Acts 20:35) And indeed, it is. Does this not strike a chord that resonates in us all? Which of us can't recall the look of surprise and thanks for the Christmas gifts that we labored to give to those whom we love? And the joy written on their face when that gift is received with thanksgiving means more than all the gifts we have received. It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Our Lord knew this because He practiced it. He gave of Himself – sparing not even His life in death – in order to give us back to our Father in heaven. He knew that in giving you get more because joy is multiplied in giving. The one who receives and the one who



is multiplied in giving. The one who receives and the one who gives both rejoice in what is given and received. And, what is more, the one who receives only wants to give back to the one

who gave so generously in thanksgiving.

So it is with our tithes and offerings in church. We want to give because we have received from God all that we are and all that we have. Our giving does not originate in what we must do to earn God's favor. We have God's favor because of His gift of His Son, given through Word and Sacrament. Thus, we are made free from the compulsion of giving so that our tithes and offering are freely given in thanksgiving for what God has so generously given to us.

Why then does the church struggle to make budgets? Why does the church always seem stretched so thin when it is the place where God continually gives us His forgiveness of sins?



Why does the church struggle when God, out of love for us, generously pours out His grace and mercy?

It is because we are sinners. Our fallen nature makes us selfish and miserly. It leads us to believe that we can have our cake and eat it, too. Because of sin, we want God's grace and mercy; we want His blessings of body and soul. But we don't want to share it with those around us. We want to remain comfortable in our own self-contained, neat, and tidy lives – without the headaches of loving those around us by helping them in their time of need.

"Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "Remember that God has placed you in a church, not only to receive His grace and mercy, but to press His eternal and temporal blessings into service to your neighbor. Your tithes and offerings ensure that those around you have a pastor to preach the life-saving and lifegiving Word of God. They ensure that the lights, heat, and air-conditioning are working. They ensure there is water for Holy Baptism as well as bread and wine for Holy Communion. They even ensure that your pastor has food and clothing and presents for his own family. The gifts of God are immeasurable. They multiply and redound to everyone's good as the fish and loaves in the feeding of the five thousand.

So, remember the words of the Lord Jesus: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." And remember the joy that attended the gifts you gave at Christmas. This same joy attends your gifts to the church.

Reprinted from the LCMS Stewardship website

Worship Schedule

January 2—Second Sunday after Christmas Presiding Pastor: Pastor Richard Anderegg Liturgy and Creed: Divine Service I, Apostles' Creed Hymns: 390, 370, 358 (1-6), 368 Flowers: Bob Hansen celebrating Penny's birthday

January 9—Second Sunday after Christmas Presiding Pastor: Pastor Richard Anderegg Liturgy and Creed: Divine Service I, Apostles' Creed Hymns: 390, 370, 358 (1-6), 368

January 16—Second Sunday after Epiphany Presiding Pastor: Pastor Richard Anderegg Liturgy and Creed: Divine Service I, Apostles' Creed Hymns: 549 (1,2,5,6,7), 566 (1,2,5,6), 395 (1-4), 729

January 23—Third Sunday after Epiphany Presiding Pastor: Pastor Gary Brandt Liturgy and Creed: Divine Service I, Apostles' Creed Hymns: 507, 644 (1-4), 625, 410

January 30—Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Presiding Pastor: Pastor Gary Brandt Liturgy and Creed: Divine Service I, Nicene Creed Hymns: 394 (1-3), 570 (1-4), 919, 394 (4-5)



H old firmly to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)
A ssemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)
P ray and thank God earnestly (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)
P etition God for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)
Y ield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

N otice opportunities to serve others (Galatians 6:10)
E xamine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)
W ork diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Y earn for righteousness (Matthew 5:6)

- **E** xercise godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)
- **A** im for sinless perfection (Hebrews 6:1)
- **R** edeem the time, living wisely (Ephesians 5:15-16) Newsletter Newsletter



Each year Peace has a display Peace on Earth at the Enchanted Village of Lights in Laurie.

Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the February newsletter is due Mon., January 17 at 9 a.m. If you have an article you want published, or information you want to get out to the whole congregation, prepare it and send it to plccamdenton@gmail.com.

Servants of God

Elder: Jeff Hedberg Altar Guild: Penny Hansen January 2, 2022 Organist: Pastor Gary Brandt Ushers: Bob & Penny Hansen, Paul Bartels Counters: Joe & Vicki Stauch

January 9, 2022 Organist: Pastor Gary Brandt Ushers: Earl & Shelia Hartenstein, Jeff & Paula Emery Counters: Bob & Diane Borgmann

January 16, 2022 Organist: Diana Schwab Ushers: Diane Borgmann, Sheryl Bald, Mic Carlson, Rodney Schulz Counters: Mic Carlson

January 23, 2022 Organist: Diana Schwab Ushers: Jeff & Dawn Hedberg, Russell Schulz Counters: Ed & Jaccy Heinlein

January 30, 2022 Organist: Diana Schwab Ushers: Mic Carlson, Bob Hansen, Earl Hartenstein, Jeff Hedberg Counters: Joe & Vicki Stauch

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 New Jeans Day
2 Worship 9 am Bible Study/SS 10:30 a.m. Mites Sunday	3 Elders Meeting 9:30 am	4 David Bald Penny Hansen	5	e EPIPHANY	7 Fellowship and Game Night 6 p.m.	8
9 Worship 9 am Bible Study/SS 10:30 a.m. JESUS	10 NO LWML Mtg.	11 Council Mtg. 6:30 pm	12	13 Dale & Gayle Montague	14	15
16 Worship 9 am Bible Study/SS 10:30 a.m.	17 Newsletter Deadline 9 am	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	Jaccy Heinlein 29
Worship 9 am Bible Study/SS 10:30 am						
			Earl Hartenstein			
30 Worship 9 am Bible Study/SS 10:30 am	31					
Jeff Emery						



Peace Lutheran Church 9307 N. State Hwy. 5 Camdenton, MO 65020

Worship Schedules		The Lord's Servants at Peace		
Sunday Worship*	9:00 am	• Elders—Monday before Council Meeting 9:30 am Chairman: Jeff Hedberg, Joe Stauch		
Bible Class/Sun. School	10:30 am	• Council—2nd Tuesday 6:30 pm		
Wednesday Evening Services:		President: Jeff Emery; Vice President: Bob Hansen Secretary: Susan Kral; Financial Secretary: Vicki Stauch; Treasurer: Peggy Callahan		
Ash Wednesday	6:00 pm			
During Lent	6:00 pm	Stewardship Chairman As announced		
• During Advent	6:00 pm	Dawn Hedberg		
Holy Week		• Evangelism Chairman As announced Russell Schulz		
 Maundy Thursday* 	6:00 pm	Education		
 Good Friday Service 	6:00 pm	Sara Anderegg		
Easter Sunday* 9:00 am		• Trustees As announced Chuck Kral, Rodney Schulz, Pat Callahan		
Thanksgiving Eve Service				
Wednesday Evening	6:00 pm	• LWML—2nd Monday of March-November 9:30 am President: Sara Anderegg		
Christmas Eve		Altar Guild As announced		
Evening Service	6:00 pm	Diane Borgmann		
		Bible Studies As announced		
*Holy Communion		• Elected Offices		

Г