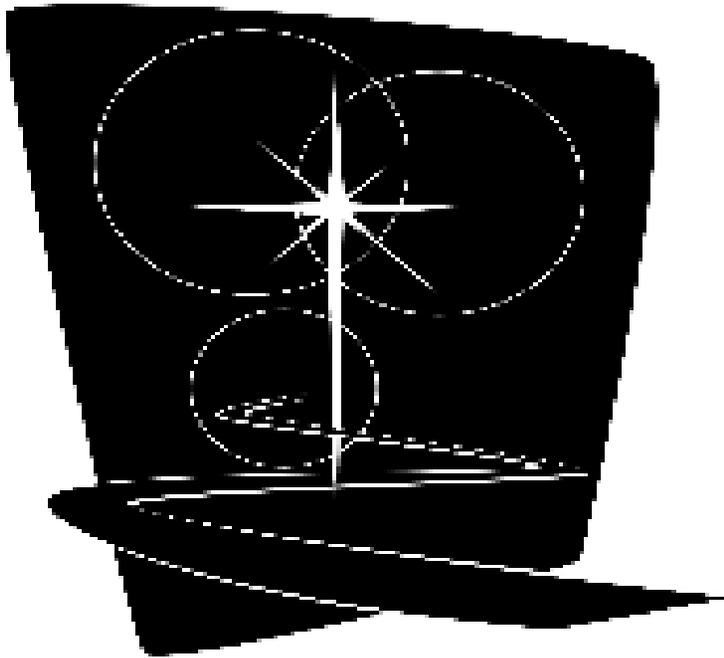


# The Epiphany of our Lord (Observed)

## January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018



“Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him. *Matthew 2:2*

**WELCOME!** We extend a cordial welcome to everyone in the name of our crucified and risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Visitors are always welcome in our midst and are asked to sign our guest book in the entrance to our church sanctuary.

**AS WE GATHER**—*“Star of Wonder, Star of Night”*

Christmas lights may be coming down, but the Light of the world still shines for all to see. We receive this light as we celebrate The Epiphany of Our Lord. Today we hear how the mysterious Wise Men from the East are led by the Lord to follow the star of wonder to the everlasting, eternal Light. Jesus shines the brightness of heaven into the darkness of their hearts, and they respond with gifts of honor and praise. Jesus does the same for you today as you receive His Word and share in His body and blood. Dispelling the darkness of sin, He covers you with the light of His presence and invites you, as He did the Wise Men, to respond to Him in honor and praise.

**ORDER OF SERVICE:** *Divine Service, Setting 1, page 151*

**OPENING HYMN** “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” (LSB 394)

**CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION** page 151

**SHARING OF THE PEACE** (Please greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “*Peace be with you,*” as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.) [Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3]

**INTROIT** (*We read the introit responsively*) *Psalm 45:6–8a; antiphon: Psalm 45:17*

Pastor: I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;

**People: therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.**

Pastor: Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;

**People: you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.**

Pastor: Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;

**People: your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.**

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Pastor: I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;

**People: therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.**

**KYRIE** page 153

**HYMN OF PRAISE “Gloria in Excelsis”** page 154

**SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY** page 156

**ALL: O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only Begotten Son to the nations. Lead us, who follow Your Son by faith, to rejoice in the brightness of Your eternal kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

+ **OLD TESTAMENT READING**—*Isaiah 60:1–6* (Nations shall come to the light of the Lord.)

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup>For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. <sup>3</sup>And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the rightness of your rising. <sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. <sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

**GRADUAL** (*Read responsively*) *Psalms 117:1–2a; 96:8*

Pastor: Praise the LORD, all nations!

**People: Extol him, all peoples!**

Pastor: For great is his steadfast love toward us,

**People: and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.**

Pastor: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

**People: bring an offering, and come into his courts!**

+ **EPISTLE READING**—*Ephesians 3:1–12* (Hidden for ages, the mystery of the Gospel is now revealed.)

<sup>1</sup>For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— <sup>2</sup>assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup>When you read this, you can

perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup>which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

**ALLELUIA & VERSE** “*Alleluia. Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. Alleluia.*” (*Matthew 2:2b*)

+ **GOSPEL READING**—*Matthew 2:1–12* (The Wise Men follow the star and come to worship Jesus.)

<sup>1</sup>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” <sup>9</sup>After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they

offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

**THE APOSTLES' CREED** page 159

**CATECHISM** page 325

Martin Luther's Small Catechism: Sacrament of Holy Baptism: What is Baptism? Which is that Word of God? What benefits does Baptism give? Which are these words and promises of God?

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** "Come to the Brightness!"

**HYMN OF THE DAY** "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" (LSB 395)

**SERMON** "Arise & Shine" (Isaiah 60.1-6)

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*Each petition of the prayers ends by the pastor saying: "Lord, in Your mercy" and the congregation responding: "Hear our prayer"*

**OFFERINGS & OFFERTORY** page 159-160

**LORD'S PRAYER** page 162

**CONCLUDING COLLECT**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Wise Men of old. Guide us also to Him, the Light of the world, and lead us to respond in worship and praise; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**BENEDICTION** page 166

**CLOSING HYMN** "As with Gladness Men of Old" (LSB 397)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God!!!**

+ + +

**Attendance in Worship Last Sunday: 45**

**Church Information—**

**Pastor's E-mail:** [jtaggatz@yahoo.com](mailto:jtaggatz@yahoo.com)

**Pastor's Cell Phone:** 715-467-1231

**Pastor Taggatz on Twitter:** @jtaggatz

**Pastor Taggatz's Blog:** [www.thewordendures.blogspot.com](http://www.thewordendures.blogspot.com)

**Church Body's Website:** [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org)

**Church Website:** [www.christlutheranwestbloomfield.com](http://www.christlutheranwestbloomfield.com)

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

**Officiant:** Pastor John M. Taggatz

**Organist:** Chris Cutts

**Elder:** Dan Strey

**Ushers/ Greeters:** Tom & Diane Hartzke & Aron Robbert family

**Altar Guild:** Karen Tesch

**Acolyte:** Davianna Lund

**REMINDER! Pastor's Office Hours for Christ & Calvary**

**Monday (Christ) 9:30 am-1pm**

**Tuesday (Christ) 10:15 am-1pm**

**Wednesday (Calvary) 9:30am -1pm**

**Thursday (Calvary): 9am - 1pm**

**Friday (Pastor's Day Off)**

**Visitations: Monday through Thursday afternoons**

**For Appointments, Call Calvary or Christ Office or Pastor's Cell Phone.**

**For an Emergency, Call Pastor Taggatz: 715-467-1231.**

**Our Prayer List:** Samuel Cartwright, Pleasance Robbert's father; Sherry Blomberg; Shirley Rohan; Bob & Bev Buchholtz; Vickie Schwan, Mrs. Petrea McMahon's mother; Dave Timm, Ryan Timm's father; Pastor Mark Meier (recovering from heart surgery); Darin Triplett (cancer), son-in-law of Elvis Behm.

**In the Military:** Kaitlin Young, Fort Campbell, KY.

**Our Shut Ins:** Doris Buchholtz, Louis Hartzke, Mary Grambsch, Doris Behm, Lisa Liepert, Stanley Behm, and Elvis Behm.

**Immediately following worship at Christ Lutheran TODAY we need some help in taking down the Christmas decorations in the Church sanctuary, any and all help would be greatly appreciated!!!**

**CALLING ALL USHERS FOR CELC--**We are in need of ushers here at Christ Lutheran for 2018. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you would like to help out. If interested, please contact Bryan Brazil at: 920-867-3646.

**In the case of inclement weather please check with WDUX radio 92.7 FM to see if our congregation's worship service has been cancelled.**

**Church Announcements Deadline:** The deadline for getting church announcements into the bulletin for Christ and Calvary is on Wednesdays by 9am.

**THIS WEEK AT CHRIST**

<p><b>Sunday – January 7<sup>th</sup> COMMUNION</b>  <b>8:30 AM</b> Worship Service  <b>9:45 AM</b> Adult Bible Class  <b>5:00 PM</b> Elder's Meeting</p>
<p><b>Monday – January 8<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>3:30 – 5:00 PM</b> Boys &amp; girls basketball practice, just girls until 5:15  <b>6:00 PM</b> PTG Meeting  <b>6:30 PM</b> Worship Team Meeting</p>
<p><b>Tuesday – January 9<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>8:30 AM</b> Chapel  <b>4:30 PM</b> Away A &amp; B girls basketball game vs. St. Paul Manawa  <b>5:30 PM</b> Away A &amp; B boys basketball game vs. St. Paul Manawa</p>
<p><b>Wednesday – January 10<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>3:30 – 5:00 PM</b> Boys &amp; girls basketball practice, just boys until 5:15  <b>6:00 – 7:00 PM</b> Public School Confirmation Class</p>
<p><b>Thursday – January 11<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>10:00 AM</b> Adult Bible Study @ Calvary  <b>4:30 PM</b> Away 4-8 grade girls basketball game vs. New Hope Neenah  <b>5:30 PM</b> Away 4-8 grade boys basketball game vs. Hew Hope Neenah</p>
<p><b>Friday – January 12<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Pastor's Day Off</b></p>
<p><b>Sunday – January 14<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>8:30 AM</b> Worship Service  <b>9:45 AM</b> Adult Bible Class</p>

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BIBLE STUDY?** Pastor John is leading Bible Study on Thursdays at Calvary Lutheran Waupaca at 10:00am. Come join us as we study God's Word together! We are currently studying Focus on the Family's "The Truth Project."

**"The Challenges of Islam"** is the topic of the Adult Bible Study which is held at 9:45 AM on Sundays here at Christ Lutheran. This study is part of the Lutheran Hour Ministries Bible Study topics. Please sign up for this study in the narthex so we can make copies of the study for you.

**SCRIP AT CELC**—SCRIP is being sold following the 8:30am service in the church basement. Thank you for your ongoing support.

**2018 offering envelopes are in your mailboxes. Please note some numbers have changed so please write your name on your envelopes to avoid any confusion.**

**Would you like to read through the entire Bible chronologically in the New Year?** If so, we have a schedule at Christ Lutheran to read through the Bible available for you on the table in the Narthex. If you would like a digital copy you can email Lydia Wacker at: [lwackerlwml@gmail.com](mailto:lwackerlwml@gmail.com)

**THE LUTHERAN HOUR**—"Breaking News!" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer. Epiphany calls us to believe that the Light has come into the world. A New Year's message about confidence, if you'll believe it! (Isaiah 60:1-6 ("Arise, shine, for your light has come."))

**The Congregation at Prayer Sunday January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018, The Epiphany of our Lord (observed)**

**Catechism:** Sacrament of Holy Baptism: What is Baptism? Which is that Word of God? What benefits does Baptism give? Which are these words and promises of God?

**Verse of the week:** John 3:5-6, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."*

**Psalm of the week:** Psalm 85

**Hymn of the week:** (LSB 406) "To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord" (stanzas 1 and 4)

**Bible Stories for the Week:**

Sunday— The Baptism of Our Lord—Matthew 3:13-17

Monday— The Baptism of Our Lord—Matthew 3:1-6, 13-17

Tuesday— Behold the Lamb of God—John 1:19-34

Wednesday— Nicodemus Comes to Jesus by Night—John 3:1-16

Thursday— The Woman at the Well—John 4:1-30, 39-42

Friday— The Pool of Bethesda—John 5:1-15

**Stewardship Minute**— Because of what Jesus has done for us, we are redeemed people with infinite value. Our inherent value does not come from who we are, but from Whose we are. *"Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of My hands"* (Isaiah 49:16a). God pours out His love upon us as a father pours out love upon his children. Although each person responds differently to the love that God gives, God's love is consistent and unwavering. Christians are people who believe that our lives are good gifts from God. We live our lives in response to God's marvelous love shown on the cross.

**LORD, IN THIS NEW YEAR, HELP US TO BE BETTER STEWARDS OF THE TIME THAT YOU GIVE US.**

“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil”  
(Ephesians 5:15-16).



“Our happiness, therefore, does not depend on a new year or a changed situation, but upon the Lord and our changed relationship, our deepened growth, in Him and in terms of His will for us ... ‘Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you’ (Matthew 6:33 KJV).” *R. J. Rushdoony, philosopher, historian, and theologian – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)* Hurting from abortion? Word of Hope can help. [www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org); 888-217-8679

**New Martin Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation for 2017 through Concordia Publishing House is still available for you to check out in our church’s Narthex.** There’s a sign-up sheet if you would like to purchase the New Catechism. Please sign up for the catechism through Concordia Publishing House by the end of the month and bring your payment in as well. Please make checks payable to: Christ or Calvary Lutheran Church.

**Get ahead of the winter blues! Join your sisters in Christ on Jan. 19 & 20, 2018 at the Holiday Inn in Fond du Lac for the LWML South Wisconsin District Winter Getaway!** 1 Peter 3:15, "*but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...*" Words to think about when we watch secular movies, especially with our unchurched friends and neighbors. Keynote speaker Rev. Randy Raasch will lead us in the theme "**Finding Faith in Films**" at the 2018 Winter Getaway on Jan. 19 & 20 at the Holiday Inn in Fond du Lac. Watch *The Green Mile* before you come or on Friday night with popcorn provided! Additionally, there will be fun servant events and opportunities to re-connect with your LWML SWD sisters. For more details and registration forms, go to [lwml-swd.org](http://lwml-swd.org) and click on events/retreats.