

- Our mission is to invite people to know Jesus Christ so that we may all share God's love.

## LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MAHOMET

410 East Andover, Mahomet, IL 61853  
Church Phone: 586-4786; Fax: 586-5618  
www.lcofm.org

# JANUARY, 2013

From the Desk of Pastor Emil Blobaum

### EPIPHANY



Epiphany, the festival celebrating the manifestation of Christ to the world, is always on January 6, coinciding with the winter solstice in the eastern part of the Mediterranean world. This year (2013) Epiphany is on the first Sunday in January. The gospel reading for this day is Matthew 2:1-12, recalling the visit of the magi. The number of magi is not known; the fact of the three gifts (Matthew 2:11) may account for the idea of three magi. They may have been sages who specialized in astronomy, perhaps Zoroastrian priests from Persia (present-day Iran). That they were Gentiles, not Jews, is why the Epiphany festival celebrates the revelation of Jesus as the Christ to the whole world. According to Matthew's account of the gospel, the magi (or wisemen) followed a bright star in the east to Bethlehem where Jesus had been born.

**“On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.”**

Gold is well known as a precious metal with many uses along with the making of jewelry. Gold would be a gift fit for a king. Frankincense and myrrh are prized for their alluring fragrance. Frankincense is a milky white resin extracted from a species of tree of the genus *Boswellia* which thrive in arid, cool areas of the Arabian Peninsula, East Africa and India. Myrrh is a reddish resin that comes from species of the genus *Commiphora*, which are native to northeast Africa and adjacent areas of the Arabian Peninsula.

The processes for extracting the sap of *Boswellia* and *Commiphora* are essentially identical. Harvesters make a longitudinal cut in the tree's trunk, which pierces gum resin reservoirs located within the bark. The sap slowly oozes from the cut and drips down the tree, forming tear-shaped droplets that are left to harden on the side of tree. These beads are collected after two weeks. People in East Africa and the Arabian Peninsula have produced frankincense and myrrh for some 5,000 years. For much of this time, these aromatic resins were the region's most important commodity, with a trade network that reached across Africa, Asia and Europe. Frankincense and myrrh were desired for personal, religious and medicinal use. In a time before daily bathing, people would use the sweet smoke from the resins to make themselves smell better. These substances were also widely used in religious ceremonies of anointing and preparation for burials. Egyptians used them in the preparation of human mummies.

Clearly, frankincense and myrrh were widely available when the Magi visited the baby Jesus and would have been considered practical gifts with many uses. Frankincense, which was often burned, symbolized prayer rising to the heavens like smoke, while myrrh, which was often used for burials, symbolized death. Accordingly, a mixture of wine and myrrh would be offered to Jesus during his crucifixion.

The Epiphany season (January 6 to the Transfiguration of Our Lord, this year February 10, the Sunday before Ash Wednesday), serves the church year by bridging Christ's incarnation and his passion. It celebrates the revelation of Jesus as the Christ, the Savior of the World, particularly in such events as the miracles.

## Announcements

**Simply Giving:** As you consider your gifts to LCM, please think about Simply Giving. This process makes your contribution automatic on a weekly, monthly, or bi-monthly basis from your bank account. Your regular contribution provides a consistent source of funds to support LCM programs. Thrivent pays all expenses for this program and you don't have to be a Thrivent member to take advantage of this opportunity. Simply Giving enrollment forms are available in the Narthex and enrollment is easy. If you have questions about the program, please contact Financial Secretary, Sharon Yeakel at 586-5925.

**Outdoor Sign:** If you have suggestions for messages please contact Jacob. [ekhoffja@gmail.com](mailto:ekhoffja@gmail.com) or text or call 217-493-5914.

**Prayer Chain:** To add a request to the prayer chain, please contact Linda Vogel at [lin-dasv101@gmail.com](mailto:lin-dasv101@gmail.com) or 217-590-0093. The prayer list is published in the Weekly E-mail newsletter and posted on the quad board. Guidelines for inclusion on this list, including privacy considerations, are published above the list. This is a public list, but information about individuals on the list must be considered confidential. *Please ask permission of the person before placing them on the list.*

**MSHS Sports:** Basketball Dinners are on Thursday evenings 4:30-6:30 through March 28, 2013; Football Dinners are on Thursday evenings 4:30-6:30 August 23, 2013 – November 2013

**Thank You to the LCM Congregation:** I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, visits and support during my recent surgeries over the past two months. Having this support has made the healing process for Marty and I much easier. God was certainly with me through all of my latest trials. Thank you again from the bottom of my heart.  
In God's Peace *Linda Vogel*



**Chili Cook Off:** There was a great turn out for the chili cook-off with 12 delicious entries. Congratulations to Karen Kibler who won first place, Stephanie and Zach Schnepfer who won second place and Theresa Edmonds who won third place.

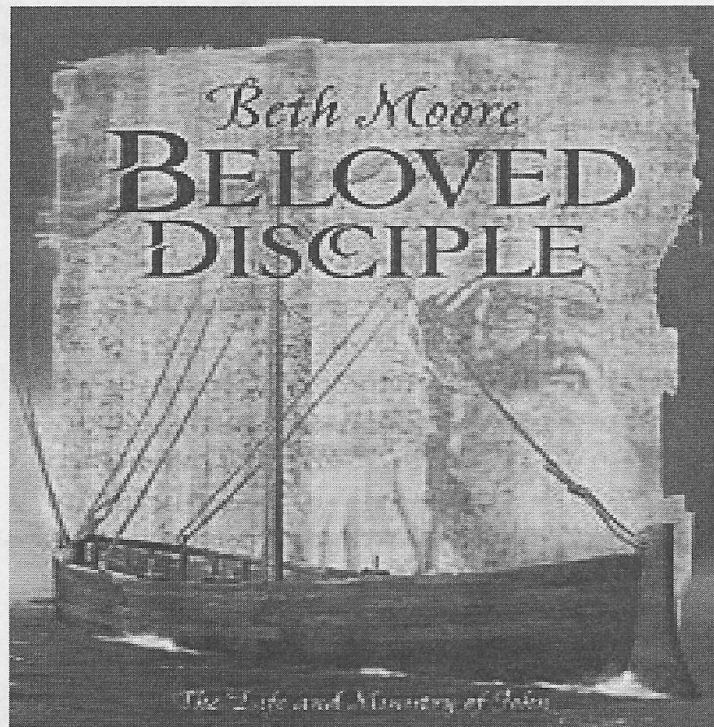
**Crisis Nursery:** Our church has an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children who have experienced trauma and are in danger of abuse and neglect. The Crisis Nursery provides a safe environment for children birth to 6 years old. They rely heavily on volunteers and have a difficult time finding people to cover shifts on Saturdays from 4-8 pm. I would like to create a team of 4-6 people who would be willing to share coverage on an ongoing basis. Each team member would agree to cover 1 shift a month. If someone is unable to fulfill their commitment, another team would fill in for them. As a team, our church could provide a reliable team of volunteers. Volunteers must be 18 years old and pass a health and background check. Training is provided. If interested, please contact Brenda Lindsey [htslindsey@mchsi.com](mailto:htslindsey@mchsi.com) or call 586-3463.

**Restoration Urban Ministries:** Residents need donations of laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, and towels. The church will collect donations during the month of January. Any questions, contact Brenda Lindsey at 217-586-3463.

Upcoming Events

Small Group Bible Study:

Beloved Disciple: The Life and Ministry of John



**Jesus commanded us to love one another  
New Small Group**

**Lutheran Church of Mahomet**

**Thursdays 6:30-8 pm**

**10 weeks**

**Begins January 10, 2013**

**Member book \$15**

To register contact Brenda Lindsey [htslindsey@mchsi.com](mailto:htslindsey@mchsi.com) or call (217) 586 3463

Upcoming Events—Continued



**46<sup>th</sup> Annual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast:** Join us for the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Thomas Pancake and Sausage Breakfast on Sunday, January 20, 2013, serving from 7:00 AM to 12:30 PM at St. Thomas School, 311 E. Madison In Philo. All-you-can-eat pancakes, our own whole-hog sausage, and coffee/juice/milk. Exciting raffles and lots of family fun. Mark your calendars now! Suggested donation \$7.00/adult; \$4.00 Child; Children 5 and under free.

**LOGOS Staff Meeting and Dinner:** Will meet January 2, 2013 at 6:00 PM

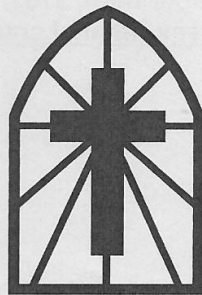


**Confirmation Class Ice Skating:** Will be held January 2, 2013.



**Suite Inspirations:** Will meet Thursday, January 3 and Thursday, January 10 at 6:30 PM.

**Conference Epiphany Dinner:** LCM is privileged to host our Conference of ELCA churches for Epiphany Dinner on January 6th. This year it is the Lutheran Church of Mahomet's turn to sponsor this dinner. We need 6 persons willing to serve and cleanup for the dinner. Please contact Dia at 840-9846 if you can help. The East Central/Southern ELCA Synod consists of: St. Matthews Lutheran, Urbana, Grace Lutheran, Champaign, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Champaign, St. Andrews, University of Illinois Campus Ministry, Christ Lutheran, Monticello, Grace Lutheran, Rankin, St. John Lutheran, Shelbyville, St. Paul Lutheran, Shelbyville, Bethel Lutheran, Danville, First Lutheran, Decatur, Holy Cross Lutheran, Decatur and the Lutheran Church of Mahomet.



DECEMBER COUNCIL NOTES  
Submitted by Sherri Reifsteck, Church Council Secretary

One of the priorities of the present council is to keep the members of The Lutheran Church of Mahomet more easily and better informed of actions taken and matters discussed at council meetings in a more timely manner. For more detailed information as to the council meetings, you are welcome to take a copy of the minutes from the quad board after they are approved and posted. Minutes from the November 19, 2012, meeting have been approved and posted.

At the December 17, 2012, regular meeting of council, the following motions were made and passed:

- To approve the proposed 2013 budget.
- To designate the Advent offerings to the LCM Pastor's Emergency Fund.

Other matters discussed or decided at the November 20 meeting were as follows:

The building and grounds committee should get bids for repair of the roof because of the leak in the fellowship hall.

There will be one 9:00 service on Easter Sunday followed by Easter breakfast.

A new Sunday school curriculum will be starting, and training will be offered for teachers.

Having Sunday school begin at 10:30 in 2013 to allow people time for fellowship between the end of service and the beginning of Sunday school and so youth and adults would both finish Sunday school at 11:15.

A First Communion class will be scheduled in January.

Our church will be hosting the January 6 dinner for the East Central Conference.

Barb DeReus is leaving the position as parish nurse, and recognition of Barb's service to the congregation is being scheduled.

Designated funds are being identified, and ways to use memorial funds were discussed.

Budget recommendations were presented.

Being able to use some type of consistent evaluation for employee reviews was discussed.

The membership update and the Time and Talent sheets are being worked on with the assistance of Scott Kingry and Marty and Linda Vogel.

A more formal follow-up program for visitors is being worked on by Evangelism Chairman Pete Farm and President Bill Moehring.

Planning a council retreat.

The possibility of being able to broadcast information by email and by voice mail through the internet.

Members of the congregation are welcome to attend any council meeting. The meetings are held at 7:00pm on the third Monday of every month. If a member wishes to present an issue to the council for consideration at a meeting, a request should be made to the president, the church council secretary, or the church office by the Thursday prior to the meeting so that the item can be placed on the agenda. The next council meeting is January 21, 2013, at 7:00pm.



### Stewardship Notes – January 2013

**Welcome to 2013!** This year promises LCM abundant opportunities for hope as we discover the exciting ways God will work in our lives and congregation. Here are a couple of excerpts to inspire your thoughts and actions as you begin the new year.

**God has entrusted us with a most precious commodity** – hope for the future. In the words of apostle Paul, “ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13). Paul appeals to his listeners to exercise the natural response of recipients and trustees of such hope – a compulsion to share it with others! *(from the NIV Stewardship Study Bible, p.563)*

**How will the Lord use your life this year?** This month? This day? Is there one thing you can do to make life better for someone else? Can you warm the home of an elderly friend? Chill out so a teenager can open up to your love? Knock on the door of a lonely single mom? Invite a seven-year-old for lemonade? The possibilities are endless. God expects us to use our brains and figure out what we can do to make a difference. Find out where He’s working and join his crew. *(from Barbara Johnson in God Always Has a Plan B.)*

Let’s continue to be good stewards of our resources and talents within and outside our congregation! Have a Blessed and Happy New Year!

In God’s Peace,  
Cindy Erickson  
Stewardship chair  
Erickson.cindy@gmail.com



#### **Barb DeReus Retiring as Parish Nurse**

It was with much sadness that we received notice from Barb DeReus, that as of the month of December, 2012, she is retiring as our Parish Nurse. She has served as a Parish Nurse for fourteen years in the congregations of which she has been a member including five years with us at The Lutheran Church of Mahomet.

The Ministry of the Parish Nurse has been a blessing to the congregation. Barb has touched the lives of many in our community of faith through her outreach to others because of her love for Christ. We thank her for all that she has done and especially for her faithful ministry to the body of Christ over these five years here at The Lutheran Church of Mahomet.

There is much involved in the Parish Nurse ministry. Barb is helping us in the transition through her giving us a complete "Job Description" for this ministry. This will be very helpful to the Church Council and the next person who serves as the Parish Nurse in our congregation.

In the words of Scripture we say to Barb, **"Well done thou good and faithful servant.."**

### **You Need to Worship God each Week!**

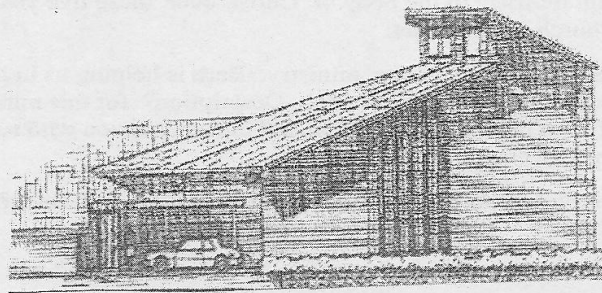
Your being present at worship each Sunday is not a luxury but a necessity. Suppose the members of your family simply did not show up for meals or other family events. What would you do or think?

What does God think when members of His family do not show up for worship, which is also a family gathering?

Scripture tells us, **“Do not neglect to meet together as is the habit of some, but encourage one another..”** We encourage you to make it a point to come and worship God each Sunday.

The Third Commandment speaks very clearly and tells us – **“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”** Martin Luther asks the question concerning this commandment, **“What does this mean for us? He writes in the catechism, “We are to fear and love God so that we do not neglect his Word and the preaching of it, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.”**

God is looking forward to seeing you in His house each Sunday in the year of 2013, to worship and praise Him!





# We Can Trust Him—



# ALL THE WAY

An elderly farmer had vowed that he would never ride in an airplane. Air travel was "for the birds" was his whimsical philosophy.

One day an emergency arose, and he found it necessary to take a plane to a distant city. When he arrived, eager relatives plied him with endless questions. How did he enjoy his first experience in the air?

"Oh, it was all right," he reckoned. "But I'll tell you ONE thing!" he continued, in obstinate self-justification. "I never let my full weight down on that there seat!"

Fearful lest the mighty jet was not powerful enough to carry his entire weight to his intended destination, he had sat in a tensed position, trying to share his portion of the burden!

We may smile at the humor of the picture, and yet isn't that a picture of most of us — in our journey through life? Sitting in a tensed position, insisting on carrying our share of the burden, lest the good Lord find it impossible to bring us safely to our journey's end?

We know that He has invited us to cast *all* our cares on Him (1 Peter 5:7), but in our human foolishness we insist on clinging to some of our "cares" and struggling

with them ourselves! Illness, financial difficulties, an uncertain future, approaching old age — one or two of these burdens we insist on carrying by ourselves, as if the good Lord weren't quite able to fulfill His promise of carrying "all" for us.

We know that underneath are the everlasting arms (Deut. 33:27), but somehow we doubt that those arms are fully adequate to the task. We must add our strength to theirs! And so, like the old man on the plane, we never quite let our full weight down. We are never quite sure that the omnipotent arms of our God will bring us safely through.

Let us be done with sharing our burdens with the Almighty, as if they were to be carried 90 percent by Him and 10 percent by us. Let us place them wholly in His arms. He has promised to carry not only us — but our burdens, too.

We who have learned to know a loving God through Jesus Christ our Lord can pray at the dawn of each new day:

*I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;  
Never let me fall.  
I am trusting Thee forever  
And for all. Amen.*

## The Lutheran Church of Mahomet

410 E. Andover Drive, Mahomet, IL 61853 -- 217-586-4786 -- www.lcofm.org

### OFFICERS

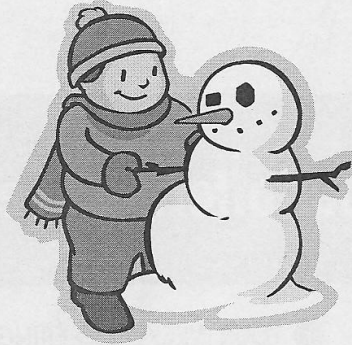
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Vice President	Chris Edmonds	milkman8471@gmail.com	C: 217-202-7962
Secretary	Sherri Reifsteck	mrsr1974@mchsi.com	C: 217-898-2268 H: 217-586-2268
Treasurer	Stephen DeReus	steved@bao.com	C: 217-417-2652
Financial Secretary	Sharon Yeakel	sbyeakel@gmail.com	C: 217-840-5725 H: 217-586-5725

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Congregational Life	Sheila Kingry	kingry@mchsi.com	C: 217-714-3695 H: 217-586-7406
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Evangelism	Pete Farm	petertfarm@yahoo.com	C: 217-202-1199
Music and Worship	Kelly Strode	kstrode@yahoo.com	C: 217-898-0101 H: 217-586-6365
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Stewardship	Cindy Erickson	erickson.cindy@gmail.com	H: 217-586-3142 C: 217-649-0851
Youth Education and Activities	Alicia Ekhoﬀ	aekhoﬀ@hotmail.com	C: 217-649-8472

### PASTORS, S.A.M., CHURCH STAFF & OTHER KEY CONTACTS

Pastor (Interim)	Vic Baderschneider	vicandmarianb@gmail.com; 1209 Sunny Acres Rd, Mahomet 61853	H: 217-586-2615 no cell
Pastor (Interim)	Emil Blobaum	ecblobaum@aol.com; 2156 CR 2100 N, St. Joseph, IL 61873	H: 217-694-4102 C: 217-621-5286
Synodical Authorized Minister (S.A.M.)	Dia Nuesmeyer	aglowinhim2009@gotmail.com	C: 217-840-9846 H: 217-586-5683
Office Manager	Randa Plotner	lcmoffice@lcofm.org; Hours: 8 am to 1 pm—Tues—Fri.	O: 217-586-4786 C: 217-649-9006
Director of Worship, Music & Arts Ministries & LOGOS Ministry	Kat Downs	musikat00@hotmail.com	C: 217-552-2608
Volunteer Coordinator	Scott Kingry	sdkingry@gmail.com	C: 217-714-4445 H: 217-586-7406
Prayer Chain and Administrative Assistance	Linda & Marty Vogel	lindasv101@gmail.com mar-tyrv101@gmail.com	C: 217-841-4704 H: 217-590-0093
Technology—Website	Larry Gibson	lpgibson.gcs@gmail.com	C: 217-493-1547
Accountant	Mary Tollakson	smkbtoll@mchsi.com	C: 217-898-2323
Custodian	Travis Ray	thewordshaker@hotmail.com	C: 217-714-4350
Call Committee Chair	Susie Johnston	johnstsu@champaignschools.org	C: 217-898-6134



## YOUTH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

**Youth Sundays** give our youngest members opportunities to share talents with the church, and learn more about Worship through serving as Greeters, Ushers, Celebration Leaders & Scripture Readers.

**2013 Youth Sundays** will be March 3, June 2, Sept 1, Dec 1; signup sheets will be posted on the Youth Announcement Board (soon to be located outside the church office) 1 month before each Youth Sunday.

**K-5<sup>th</sup> Youth Group** will also meet at the church at 3pm each Youth Sunday for Games, Crafts, Snacks & Movies. Sign up will also be posted on the Youth Announcement Board.

**Youth Sunday School** Sunday School will resume on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

**A HUGE Thank you** to the Youth Sunday School teachers' K- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Patti & John Sapp, Jolie Carsten, Pam Sadler, Pam Atwood & Alicia Ekhoﬀ 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Pastors Blobaum & Baderschneider

**High School Small Group** will start in January, more information to come

**Junior High Sunday School** meets at 10:30am in the Youth Room with Pastors Blobaum & Baderschneider. This is a supplement to Confirmation.

**K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School** starts at 10:30 am with Songs with Kat in the first double classroom. Group's BUZZ Hands On curriculum is new & includes take home 'gadgets' so kids can share what they learned with their family

**Confirmation Class**: The Confirmation boys went to Camp Wartburg in Waterloo, IL in October; a Confirmation Girls retreat is planned for late-Winter or early-Spring...more information will follow

**LOGOS Volunteers Needed**: We need 2-3 Door Greeters to sign kids in; this is a GREAT way to get to know the kids and requires only 1 hour of your time each Wednesday – dinner is included! A 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher: please talk with Kat Downs if you are willing to help, she is the current teacher and we need her time and talents elsewhere LOGOS resumes on January 9<sup>th</sup>

# Where your offering goes



## TOGETHER WE FUND THE FOLLOWING MINISTRIES:

- 70 new congregations, 50 percent in multicultural, ethnic communities or among people living in poverty
- 26 ELCA colleges and universities
- 8 ELCA seminaries
- Over 180 campus ministries, with cooperating congregations in campus ministries at an additional 400 campuses nationwide
- Partnerships with The Lutheran World Federation, World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches in Christ
- 240 missionaries serving in 40 countries, including 57 young adult volunteers
- Advocacy work with the United Nations and the federal government

**Thank you!**

Together we do God's work in ways that no individual, congregation or synod can do alone.