

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

## LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MAHOMET

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# JANUARY 2014

### EPIPHANY IS A SEASON OF LIGHT

Epiphany is a part of the church year that deals with the Glory of God manifested in Jesus. The season begins with the Wise Men coming to worship the newborn King. (Really Jesus is almost two when the Wise Men come to Bethlehem.) The season ends with the worship experience on the mount of Transfiguration. When people see Jesus as God's Son, they instinctively fall down to worship him as Lord.

The name "Epiphany" means "manifestation." The light manifests itself in the darkness, God reveals himself in Jesus, and the glory of God is seen in Jesus. The Epiphany season extends from six to nine Sundays. The number of weeks observed for Epiphany depends upon the date of Easter and the beginning date of the Lenten cycle.

Epiphany is a season of light, the light that shines in the darkness and reveals the path of our journey. The symbol for this period is the Epiphany Star. The light burns so bright that all may see the truth and the way which God reveals to us.

Epiphany is the time for emphasis upon evangelism, the telling of the Good News, the spreading of the light of Christ into a dark world. Christ is the light and Christians need to reflect that light in the world. We are light-bearers.

Epiphany, celebrated on January 6, falls on the last day of the Twelve Days of Christmas. It is a time when the Western Christians observe the visitation of the Magi, and Eastern Christians observe the baptism of Jesus, both as the manifestation of the Son of God. Yet the Star of Bethlehem was not the only indication of the coming of the Christ. Scriptures foretold of One who was to come, whose redemptive destiny had been written in the stars long before the Magi ever made their journey.



*the star which they had observed at its rising went ahead of them*

**"Revitalizing Your Congregation:"** Participants in the Webinar which met at our church during April 2013 have been meeting this fall to organize Small Groups as a priority in our revitalization efforts. Other members are invited to join this group and/or volunteer to lead one of several groups to be formed. Groups may include Bible study groups, Dinner groups, Book discussion, Prayer Groups, Crafts and Service projects. The "Kickoff" for this initiative is **February 9, 2014** during the Sunday Fellowship Hour. For more information or to volunteer to lead a group, contact: Cindy Erickson, [erickson.cindy@gmail.com](mailto:erickson.cindy@gmail.com), Ph. 586-3142 or Gene and Margaret Rinkel, [gkrinkel21@msn.com](mailto:gkrinkel21@msn.com), Ph. 586-2117.



Pancake and Sausage Breakfast at St. Thomas in Philo: Join us for the 47th Annual St. Thomas Pancake and Sausage Breakfast on Sunday, January 19th, serving from 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM in at St. Thomas School, 311 E. Madison St., Philo, IL. All-you-can eat pancakes, our own whole hog sausage, and coffee/juice/milk. Exciting raffles and lots of family fun.





## Stewardship Notes

**LCM Resource Books** (Directories) will be available this month!! They will be in the narthex sometime in mid-January for you to pick up. Any directories remaining after our Annual Congregational meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup> will be mailed out. It's been a long wait and your patience is appreciated!

**Small Group ministries** will be launching in February. There will be a special info session during Fellowship on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Every member is invited to join and/or lead a group!! Be on the lookout for details, and plan to get involved!

**Lessons from Noah's Ark.** As we start the New Year, here are some practical "take-aways" from Noah's experiences. I got this from my mother and consider it good advice....and good for a chuckle!

### Noah's Ark

*Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark:*

*ONE:* Don't miss the boat.

*TWO:* Remember that we are all in the same boat.

*THREE:* Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

*FOUR:* Stay fit. When you are 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

*FIVE:* Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

*SIX:* Build your future on high ground.

*SEVEN:* For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

*EIGHT:* Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

*NINE:* When you are stressed, float awhile.

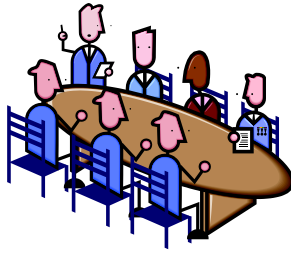
*TEN:* Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

*ELEVEN:* No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's a rainbow waiting.

(Author unknown)

Happy New Year!

Cindy Erickson  
Stewardship  
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## 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 12, 2013, meeting have been approved and posted.

At the December 9, 2013, meeting, the following motions were made and passed:

1. The church membership information be put on the website behind the wall
2. The Advent offering be designated to the Parish Nurse Program

Matters discussed or decided at the December 9, 2013, meeting were as follows:

1. Keeping the proposed 2014 budget in line with anticipated giving
2. Having a kickoff for small groups on February 9 with there being 4 or 5 small group alternatives available
3. Having a designated person working from the Congregational Life Committee to organize meals for members needing assistance
4. To have the council meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month for January and February
5. The need for a youth chairperson and possibly changing the job description for the position
6. Publishing Sunday attendance totals and giving reports on a regular basis
7. Purchasing new hymnals from designated giving (not general fund offerings) and begin using them for hymns

Members of the congregation are welcome to attend any council meeting. 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 Monday, January 13, 2014, at 7:00pm.



### Thank You for Volunteering

A special thank you for the following who volunteered their time and talents for our Church the month of December

- Greeters:** Youth, Sharon Yeakel, Shannon Cheek Family, Charlotte Hitchins and Judy Ferdinandsen.
- Ushers:** Youth, Bill Studley Family, Rolf Vogen Family, Pete Farm Family and Cory Mitchell Family.
- Scripture Readers:** Sheila Kingry, John Bottorff and Pam Atwood.
- Communion Assistants:** Barb LeGrant, Marty Vogel, Karen Reifsteck, Dave Robberstad, Laura Zick-Bottorff, Jon LeGrant and Mark Reifsteck
- Assisting Ministers:** Alex Paul and Kendyl Cummins
- Celebration Leader:** Marty Vogel.
- Sunday Shepherds:** Margaret Rinkel, Kelly Strode, Sharon Yeakel, Laura-Zick Bottorff and Sherri Reifsteck.
- Acolytes:** Seth Buchanan, Kylie Fuoss, Gretchen Scheele, Chatman Edmonds and Zach Schnepfer.
- Fellowship Hosts:** Congregational Life Committee, Kibler Family, Reifsteck Family, Yeakel Family, Stephanie Middendorf, Bottorff Family, and Robberstad Family.
- Breadmaker:** Alicia Ekhoﬀ.
- Alter Guild:** Elsbeth Hixon and Nancy Rosenbery.
- Offering Counters:** Stewart and Alicia Ekhoﬀ, Dan and Cindy Erickson, Sherri Reifsteck, Sharon Yeakel, Susie Johnston, Scott Kingry, Chris and Theresa Edmonds, David Alderks and Jon and Barb LeGrant.
- Martin and Linda Vogel  
Volunteer Coordinators



## THANK YOU TO THE MADRIGALS

On December 1<sup>st</sup> the MSHS Madrigals once again enhanced our Hanging of the Greens worship service with their presence and voices. The members of the madrigals that we wish to recognize and say thank you to are: Lady Katie Badger, Lady Jordanne Bollman, Lady Elizabeth Eichstedt, Lady Natalie Fulk, Lord Cole Johnson, Lady Lauren Longfellow, Lord Andrew Maitlen (Set III Director), Lady Braidy Megeff (Queen and Set II Director), Lord Griffin Megeff, Lord Barghav Sivaguru, Lord Alex Smith, Lord Andrew Smith (Set I Director), Lady Molly Smith, Lord Anthony Stevens, Lady Marissa Vogelsang, Lady Anika Vogen, Lord Seth Waibel (King), Wench Lily Newton,



THANK YOU!!!

Thank you to the following for purchasing the red, white and pink Poinsettias that brightened our Sanctuary during the Christmas season:

Tim and Brenda Lindsey  
Bill and Pat Moehring  
Gene and Margaret Rinkel  
Bill and Ruth Studley  
Jon and Barb LeGrant  
Stewart and Alicia Ekhooff  
Rob and Karla Washburn

Nancy Rosenbery  
Tim and Fran Koller  
Nancy Boma  
Pastor and Marian Baderschneider  
Mark and Denise Dalton  
Rich and Pam Atwood  
Dan and Cindy Erickson