

ST. LUKE'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH 10:30 a.m.

200 11th Street E.

Lemmon, SD 57638

We are affiliated with the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC).

Richard Kanzenbach

Pastor

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

Ruth Wiechmann, organist

January 15, 2023

WELCOME!

I am the Light of the world. He that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the Light of Life.” --- John 8:12 KJV

EPIPHANY FESTIVAL: *In the 200's A.D., the eastern Christian churches—Greece, Asia Minor (Turkey), and Syria—set aside **January 6** as the festival of Epiphany. The word “epiphany” means “to shine out, to make evident, to make manifest, to reveal.” Epiphany focused on Christ the LIGHT of salvation, who shines out for all the world. It pointed to early events in His life which displayed that He was true God and Savior of all; namely, His birth which was Good News of great joy for all people, the visit of the wise men who were not Jews but Gentiles, His baptism at age 30 when the Father spoke “This is My beloved Son,” His first miracles beginning with changing water into wine at Cana by which He manifested forth His glory. ----- “Western” Christian churches, basically Rome and those under Rome’s influence, later established December 25th as the day for celebrating Christ’s birth. ----- We celebrate both.*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

In the Lord’s Supper, Jesus bestows His mercy upon each soul in a very individual and personal way. “I have suffered, bled, and died for you. This My sacrifice is your salvation. Receive this bread and wine, this body and blood, your assurance that you are forgiven.”

ORDER OF SERVICE:

Supplement, page 12 with Holy Communion.

Hymn 129 Hail, Thou Source of Every Blessing!

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 60:1-6. Isaiah foresaw the day when the LORD in His mercy would take His downtrodden people of Judah back to their homeland. In Christ all Christians, downtrodden, are restored to the homeland of heaven!

P: Arise, shine; for thy light is come!

C: **And the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee!**

P: For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people;

C: **But the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee.**

P: And the Gentiles shall come to thy light,

C: And kings to the brightness of thy rising.

P: Lift up thine eyes round about, and see—

C: All they gather themselves together, they come to thee.

P: Thy sons shall come from far,

C: And thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side.

P: Then thou shalt see, and flow together,

C: And thine heart shall fear [tremble], and be enlarged;

P: Because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee,

C: The forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.

P: The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries [*camels with one hump*] of Midian and Ephah;

C: All they from Sheba shall come.

P: They shall bring gold and incense!

C: And they shall show forth the praises of the Lord!

PSALM 45, p. 32 My Heart Is Overflowing with a Good Theme!

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12 Gentile Wise Men from the East came to worship the young child Jesus—the promised King! They followed a miraculous star. How did they know of this Star and the Savior? Six hundred years earlier, the people of Judah were captive in Babylon. The prophet Daniel, one of the captives, became one of the Babylonian wise men or magi. Daniel surely was faithful in proclaiming the truths and promises of God. He surely shared with fellow magi the LORD's promise of the Savior and King of all people coming from Judah (Genesis 40:8-12); and the promise of the Star and the Ruler, rising out of Israel (Numbers 24:15-19). When wise men years later saw God's special star, they understood. They came to worship the newborn Savior and King. The Wise Men were non-Jews, that is Gentiles. Christ was their Savior and King too! The Bible does not say there were three, but it does say they brought three gifts of love from their hearts—gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Let us likewise give our hearts and treasures.

NICENE CREED: Supplement, page 5

Hymn 131 The Star Proclaims the King Is Here

SERMON: MATTHEW 4:12-17

THE LIGHT --- THIS WAY!

Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

*The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles—*

*The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,
And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death,
Light has dawned!*

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

OFFERING

PRAYER and Lord’s Prayer

Hymn 127 As with Gladness Men of Old Did the Guiding Star Behold!

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

***VISITORS**, please kindly note that our congregation does not practice “open” communion. Communion is an expression of oneness—certainly oneness with the Lord, but also oneness in faith and teaching with one another. Differences of Bible teaching do separate. In keeping with the unity enjoined by God, we practice a “close-knit” communion. We ask that only members of St. Luke’s and sister CLC congregations come forward. Be assured, we are not judging anyone’s heart or faith in Jesus. God alone knows the heart. For further questions, please speak with the pastor. Thank you.*

Distribution Hymn 304 An Awe-Full [Awesome] Mystery Is Here

Benediction

Hymn 343 vv. 1 & 7 How Lovely Shines the Morning Star!

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VOTERS MEETING: The quarterly voters meeting (covering Oct.-Dec.) will be held next Sunday, January 22, at 1:00 pm. The meeting will also be the Annual Meeting for the entire past year. Election of one councilman will take place. A potluck meal is scheduled for noon.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

01/22	Sun. 10:30	Worship	9:30	B.Class & S.Sch.
01/29	Sun. 10:30	Worship	9:30	B.Class & S.Sch.
02/05	Sun. 10:30	Worship with COMMUNION	9:30	B.Class & S.Sch.

CHURCH CLEANING: Thank you! January—John and Myrna Erhardt

IN OUR PRAYERS: Joseph Gorack has sent word that his Grandfather has also left this life confessing Jesus. May the Lord comfort and strengthen the family.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S RETREAT (Virtual): You're Invited! A women's event is planned for two hours on Saturday, January 28, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (Pacific Time), via Zoom. The event theme is: "Press Pause: Our God in All Seasons." The two hours will include speakers from CLC congregations in a panel session highlighting God's guiding hand across the seasons of life. Breakout groups will be included for discussion and sharing. **Register** at: <https://tinyurl.com/PressPause01282023> This is a free event. You can participate from home via Zoom or at church with Gethsemane participants. Not good with Zoom? Not to worry, help is available! Contact Tina Eichstadt (teichstadt@gmail.com, 651-398-2386) with questions. See you (virtually) there!

IN APPRECIATION: Janelle and I desire to convey our deep appreciation for all the wonderful support we have received since my cancer diagnosis. Many of our fellow Christians, known and unknown, have sent us cards, letters, emails, etc., with edifying reminders from Scripture and letting us know they are praying for us. These and the generous outpouring of financial support sent to us and to Grace Lutheran in Fridley, MN, have been absolutely incredible. We stand in awe at how the LORD uses our challenges to remind us what a gracious God He is in our lives, even as He moves hearts to such expressions full of Christian love. Our cup overflows! May the LORD be glorified during my treasured time of grace as I face what lies ahead according to His good pleasure. --- In Christ, Pastor John Hein (www.caringbridge.org/visit/pastorjohnhein)

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