

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

200 11<sup>th</sup> Street E.

Lemmon, SD 57638

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

*Richard Kanzenbach*

*Pastor*

**EPIPHANY SUNDAY**

Katie Wiechmann, organist

January 5, 2025

***WELCOME!***

*“Jesus was the true light which gives light to every man coming into the world.”*

*--- John 1:9*

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

In the Book of Revelation those who stand righteous before God are identified as those who lived through days of evil on this earth, but have robes washed white in the blood of the Lamb. The blood of Jesus does not wash physical garments, but washes souls white, pure, spotless, and sinless before the Father in heaven. In the Lord's Supper each recipient is assured and comforted that this washing is his washing, that his sins are forgiven. By Jesus' miracle, each communicant shares in His very (His true) body and blood received in, with, and under the bread and the wine. Personal comfort abounds that by faith in the crucified Jesus, sins are forgiven and each is spotless before God!

**ORDER OF SERVICE:** Hymnal, page 15

**Hymn 125** The Old Year Now Hath Passed Away !

On page 17: **Th Kyrie** is read by the pastor.

**For the Gloria, Hymn 244** Glory Be to God the Father!

**OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 60:1-6** KJV Isaiah foresaw the day when the LORD in His mercy would take His sinful, downtrodden people back to their homeland. ---- In Christ all Christians 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 [shudder], 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 of 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!**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12** Gentile Wise Men (the Bible does not say three) came from the East to worship the young child Jesus, the promised King. They had followed a miraculous star. Some six hundred years earlier, the prophet Daniel, an exile among the Jews taken captive to Babylon, had also been one of the king of Babylon's wise men. He surely proclaimed the Truths and the Promises of God, regarding the coming Savior and King. The rising Star out of Judah and Israel (Genesis 40:8-12 and Numbers 24:15-19). Christ was Savior and King of Gentiles too! The Wise Men brought their gifts and their hearts to Him. Let us Gentiles likewise honor Him!

**NICENE CREED, p. 22**

**Hymn 131** The Star Proclaims the King Is Here!!

**SERMON: Acts 26:12-18, 22-23 — SEE IT NOW ?**

While thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus [from Jerusalem] with authority and commission from the chief priests, at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads"

So I said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me."

. . . Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come—that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles."

OFFERING and OFFERING PRAYER:

**PRAYERS**

**Hymn 126** As with Gladness Men of Old Did the Guiding Star Behold!

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*VISITORS, please note that our congregation does not practice “open” communion. Communion is an expression of oneness with the Lord and also oneness in faith and teaching with each other. Differences in Bible doctrine do separate. Therefore, we have a “close-knit” communion practice. Respectfully we ask that only members of St. Luke’s and sister CLC congregations come forward. Be assured, we are not judging your heart or your faith in Jesus. God knows the heart. For questions, please visit with the pastor. Thank you.*

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION:

**Distribution Hymn 315** I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table

Benediction

**Hymn 657** Beautiful Savior!

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**WORSHIP SCHEDULE:**

1/12 10:30 Worship 9:30 Bible Class and Sunday School  
1/19 10:30 Worship with HOLY COMMUNION 9:30 Bible Cl. and S.Sch.  
1/26 10:30 Worship 9:30 Bible Class and Sunday School  
12:00 Potluck Fellowship Meal—All invited.

**1:00 VOTERS ANNUAL MEETING**

**EPIPHANY FESTIVAL:** In the 200’s A.D., the eastern Christian churches, that is, those in Greece, Asia Minor (Turkey today), 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 for all the world. It pointed to early events in His life which displayed that He was true God, the Savior and Light of all--His birth, the visit of Gentile wise men, His baptism at age 30, and His miracles beginning with changing water into wine at Cana. -----“Western” Christian churches, basically Rome and those under Rome’s influence, would establish December 25 as the day for celebrating Christ’s birth. ----- We celebrate both.

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Luther Schoon. All tests and reports thus far are favorable. Heart valve surgery is scheduled for 1/15 in Bismarck.

**Church** 605-374-5692 **Parsonage** 605-374-5104 **Cell** 605-413-2292  
**E-mail** richardnkanzenbach@hotmail.com

