



THE LIGHT

Milwaukie Lutheran Church

January 2011

Volume 54, Issue 1

A Word from Pastor Janelle

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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.



(Matthew 2:9-11)

The text above is part of the Gospel reading for the Epiphany of our Lord which the church recognizes each year on January 6th. Since most years it doesn't fall on a Sunday it often gets overlooked in our holiday celebrations, or more often it gets included in our celebration of Christmas so that it kind of gets overshadowed by the celebration of the birth of Jesus – as if the Magi showed up right after the shepherds and were just more character actors in the whole Nativity scene. But when we read Matthew's story carefully we see that they arrived sometime after the birth because Mary and Jesus are now in a house rather than a stable. They had stopped to talk to Herod first and he sent them out to find the child. Then after they arrived at the place where the star stopped, and after they had paid him homage and given their gifts, they realized that Herod wanted to harm him and so they warned Mary and Joseph to take Jesus to Egypt where he would be safe. The Magi didn't just join the crowd of those who recognized that this was a special child – they literally saved the life of the Savior.

Merriam Webster's dictionary says that the word Epiphany means: "a sudden striking understanding of something." Certainly that's what happened to the Magi when they stood before the child and his Mother. They knew that this was a special child and they knew that he was in danger from Herod, who was jealous of this potential rival for the crown. In this story it is clear that the wise men who came from far away and were not Jewish understood the significance of the incarnation better than the current king of the Jews.

This year we have nine weeks between Epiphany Day and the beginning of Lent. During this time we will follow Jesus' ministry from his baptism in the Jordan to the revealing of his glory on the Mount of Transfiguration just before he enters Jerusalem for the last time. In the weeks between we will read Matthew's story of how Jesus is revealed to his disciples and the world as Savior and Lord through his teaching and public ministry – and hopefully we will have our own epiphanies of who Jesus is in our own lives.

We are beginning a New Year – may it be a year of many epiphanies for us as we faithfully live out our calling as the Body of Christ here at Milwaukie Lutheran Church.

Happy New Year!

Pastor Janelle

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JANUARY CALENDAR

January 24, noon—
deadline for Ministry
Team Annual Reports
for publication.

January 23, 10 a.m.—
Budget Forum

January 30, 9:30 a.m.
ONE SERVICE. with
Bi-annual Congrega-
tional Meeting to follow.

Bi-Annual Congregational Meeting

Members of Milwaukie Lutheran Church are invited to the Bi-annual Congregational Meeting on January 30. The Meeting follows the single worship service that begins at 9:30 a.m. As is our custom, the council will provide fried chicken and everyone is invited to bring a side dish or dessert to share— We will be voting on the proposed 2011 budget and will be receiving the annual reports of the ministry here at MLC.

Please Note: A Budget Forum will be held the Sunday prior to the meeting (January 23) during the education hour beginning at 10 a.m.

Youth Mission Trip Partners—Thank You

Thank you to those of you who have been able to partner with the Youth in our goal to reach Belize. Purchasing shares helps support travel and other expenses, plus offers to no-risk benefits. Your single \$10 Share entitles you to an invitation to a special post trip dinner and a group photo along with a thank you note from the group. So far, we've sold over 30 shares. If you are able to purchase 10 or more shares we will pick up a special gift for you while in Belize. You can buy as many shares as you like. The trip will be Sunday, July 10th – Saturday, July 16th. We will be doing construction work, running kids programs, and attending/leading church services. This should be an incredible trip for the youth. So, please consider “investing” in our youth. They are well worth it. We also ask as a shareholder that you become a prayer partner with one of the youth or adults attending the trip.

Brian Brown

Director of Youth and Family Ministry
Milwaukie Lutheran Church

Events

The Lutheran Choral Association will be presenting at “Christmas Concert” on January 9 at 3 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church, 2201 N. Rosa Parks Way (Portland Blvd.)

Women's and Men's Dinner Out for January will be at Sweet Tomatoes Restaurant on Sunnybrook (near Costco). The date is January 17 and the time is 5:30 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Global Mission Event

Saturday, February 5, 2011 (9AM – 3PM, lunch provided)
Emmaus Lutheran Church, 1250 West 18th Ave., Eugene, OR 97402 (541-344-1150)

Social Justice, Immigration Reform, and the Reign of God

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (Matt. 25:35)

Featured Speaker: Pastor Kim Erno

Director of the ELCA Mexico Immersion Program

The Lutheran Center, Mexico City

The event will include a presentation and workshops by Pr. Erno, along with drama and panel discussion, worship and global music.

Other possible workshops: Synod partnerships with the Lutheran churches in Poland and Nicaragua, ELCA missions in Tanzania and Ethiopia, changing approaches to mission, fair trade, advocacy, attitudes toward Islam and Muslims, and others.

More information to come soon!

~Obliged~

Sincere thanks to all who prayed for my granddaughter, Celeste Wilson, after her accident. Thankfully, she is doing well and back at school again at Linfield.

God bless you and thanks again for your inquiries and prayers.

Sincerely, Barbara Fairbanks



Health Ministry Team

We are happy that everyone enjoyed our luncheon and the musical entertainment provided by Maya and Owen. Many people commented on the program and would have loved to have heard much more.

Stroke Risks

You may be at a high risk of stroke if:

- You have high blood pressure
- You have heart disease
- You have diabetes
- You smoke cigarettes
- You are overweight/physically inactive
- You have irregular heartbeats

Signs of a Stroke

Think FAST -call 911 at any sign of a stroke
F-Face- Face look uneven? Ask the person to smile.

A-Arm-One arm numb or hanging down?

Ask the person to raise both arms.

S-Speech- Slurred or mixed up speech? Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence.

T-Time- Call 9-1-1 Now! If you notice any of these signs, don't wait. Call 9-1-1 now. All ambulance personnel are trained to deal with stroke patients. Do not attempt to drive yourself to the hospital.

The health ministry team wishes each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

~Patty Shilling

PRAYERS

We remember in our prayers this day:

Marta, Grace, April, Helen, Earl, Trudy, Barbara, Marilyn, Myra, Dick, Marian, Mitchell, Vi, Palmer, Teena, children in crisis, Marilyn, Audrey, Dorothy, Karen, Norma, David, Todd, Ernie, Leo, Sarah and Peter and family, Maureen, Troy, Faith, Darlene, Stan, Doris, Bill, Val and Logan.

The Grieving: Gale and Vonnie Lennon, on the death of Gale's brother, Darrell; Mat and Linda Millenbach, on the death of Mat's mom, Margaret Morris; Sharon Funston, Larry, Jeri, Alex and Bailey Funston, Steve, Alice, Jeremy and Danielle Funston, on the death of husband, father, and grandfather, Roger.

The President of the United States and our elected officials, the people and the governments of Iraq, Palestine, Israel, Afghanistan, Liberia, Sudan and all other countries torn apart by strife; all people around the world in military service for their country. The people of Haiti, the people in the Gulf states; the country of Pakistan.

We pray for those serving Christ around the world: Marian Hungerford-Cameroun; Pastor Steven Ray - China, Dr. Richard Young - Guyana

February Newsletter Deadline

January 18 at noon. Please submit news items to editor@milwaukielutheran.org or place in the "mailbox" next to Sheryl Ann's office.

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Church Staff

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We're part of the ELCA



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.