

# Epiphany of our Lord

January 6, 2018



## Area Churches Together ACT Parish

### DeGraff/Murdock Area

Bethesda Lutheran  
Buffalo Lake Lutheran

### Pennock Area

Mamrelund Lutheran  
St. John's Lutheran

### Sunburg Area

Hope Lutheran  
Monson Lake Lutheran

# Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who shines in glory, clothes us in compassion, and bears gifts of mercy for all.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sins with confidence in God's promise of forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

Almighty God,

**We confess that we have turned from your gifts and chosen our own way. We have not made room for you in our hearts or in our world. We have lived in fear; we have not welcomed the stranger; we desire gifts that will not endure. Forgive us our sins, known and unknown, and open us to receive the peace of Jesus dwelling in and among us.**

**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn

ELW 301 Bright and Glorious is the Sky

## Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

**O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## First Reading

Ephesians 3:1-12

<sup>1</sup>This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you O Christ.**

## Sermon

### Hymn of the Day

ELW 302 As With Gladness Men of Old

### Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.\* On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### Prayers of Intercession

### Offering

## Offertory

**Let the vineyards be fruitful Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

## Words of Institution

*In the night in which he was betrayed...*

## Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## Holy Communion

*671, 677*

## Benediction

## Announcements

## Sending Hymn

ELW 310 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Pastoral Staff Contact Information**

**Pastor Daniel Croonquist**      **Pastor Michelle Kleene**  
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If you would like a pastoral visit please contact Pastor Dan or Pastor Michelle

## **Remember in Prayer**

Lisa Carlson, Elaine Sjelstad, Roland Froehlich, Kelly Rodenberg, Kris Baker, Allen Barrett, Caryl Henry,  
Mary Jane Stredde, Shelia Stredde, Alice Randt, The Family of Al Lesteberg & The family of Nancy Gafkjen

### **Monday, January 7**

9am – Hope’s Early Birds Quilting

### **Tuesday, January 8**

9:30am – Coffee & Conversation at Bethesda

1pm - Coffee & Conversation at Hope

7pm – Hope’s Twilights

### **Wednesday, January 9**

6:30-8pm – 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation at Hope

7pm – Hope’s choir practice

### **Thursday, January 10**

9:30am – Pastor’s Lakeland Conference meeting

11:30am – “Thursday Food & Fun” at Kerkhoven Civic Center for 55 year olds and older. A free will donation will be taken.

### **Monday, January 14**

9am – Hope’s Quilting

### **Tuesday, January 15**

9:30am – Coffee & Conversation at Bethesda

1pm - Coffee & Conversation at Hope

### **Wednesday, January 16**

10am – Miriam Manor Worship

10:30am – Hope’s staff meeting

7pm – Hope’s choir practice

### **Thursday, January 17**

5-7pm - W.O.W. “Women of Worship Outing” (formerly MOPS) at Bethesda

### **Saturday, January 19**

11am-1pm – Baby shower for Catherine & Adam Standfuss at Hope

### **Sunday, January 20**

Noon – Hope’s council

**Monday, January 21**

9am – Hope’s Quilting

**Tuesday, January 22**

9:30am – Coffee & Conversation at Bethesda

1pm - Coffee & Conversation at Hope

**Wednesday, January 23**

6:30-8pm – 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation at Hope

7pm – Hope’s choir practice

**Monday, January 28**

9am – Hope’s Quilting

**Tuesday, January 29**

9:30am – Coffee & Conversation at Bethesda

1pm - Coffee & Conversation at Hope

**Wednesday, January 30**

7pm – Hope’s choir practice