

And when they had
opened their
treasures, they
presented gifts to
Him: gold,
frankincense,
and myrrh.

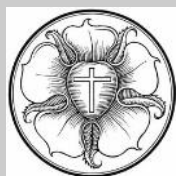
ST. MATTHEW 2: 11

FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL
FOR THE EPIPHANY
OF OUR LORD



Inside This Issue

Three Mysteries of the Epiphany	2
The Heavenly Year	4
Announcements	6
Young People of Immanuel	6
Council of Deacons Report	7
Parish Membership	7
Schedule of Divine Liturgies	8



Esprit

Volume 48, Issues 1-2

January/February 2021

That You Might Share Your Joy With Me

by Pastor Sutton

COME here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair?
It is the Christ Child lying there.

Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery
That You might share Your joy with me.

Ah, Lord, though You created all,
How weak You are, so poor and small,
That You should choose to lay Your head
Where lowly cattle lately fed!

Ah, dearest Jesus, Holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The words above are from Luther's immortal Christmas hymn, "From Heaven Above To Earth I Come." We sing this hymn at the midnight Divine Service on Christmas Eve. Jesus came to earth, born of the Virgin Mary, in the humble cattle stall, laid in a manger. Jesus shares in our human, earthly misery, so that He might share His divine, heavenly joy with us.

Having ransomed us from sin and death and the power of the devil, today He comes to us sharing that heavenly joy in the means of grace, in the Gospel preached, taught, in Baptism's blessed waters, and in Christ's resurrection meal of His own Body and Blood.


In these means, Jesus prepares our hearts to be the place where He dwells - that "quiet chamber set apart" for receiving the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation He has won for us, set apart for reflecting His love to our neighbors who need that love so dearly.





Continued on page 3

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

IELCTH.org

 ielcth

 @ielcth

 @ielc_th

645 Poplar Street
Terre Haute, IN 47807-4203

Phone: 812.232.4972

Fax: 812.234.3935

Rev. Jacob R. Sutton, *Pastor*
pastor@ielcth.org

Rev. Gary W. Schultz, *Kantor*
kantor@ielcth.org

Rev. Philip G. Meyer,
Pastor Emeritus

Sem. Brendan G. Harris, *Vicar*
vicar@ielcth.org

Stacy Gibbens,
Administrative Assistant
stacy.gibbens@ielcth.org

Esprit is the informational and educational newsletter of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Esprit de corps indicates a sense of union and of common interests and responsibilities, as developed among a group. Our community of Immanuel is centered in the Lord Jesus Christ as He comes to us in the Holy Scriptures and the Sacraments.

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church is an historic and centrally located parish—called, gathered, and strengthened by Christ's Word and Sacraments—confessional in doctrine, evangelical in orientation, orthodox in liturgy, cosmopolitan in membership; serving the Terre Haute community and the students of Indiana State University and Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, and reaching out to the nations since 1858 as a parish of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Three Mysteries of the Epiphany

by Kantor Schultz



WE are making our way through the celebration of the Twelve Days of Christmas. The Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated next on Wednesday, January 6 (Divine Service at 7pm.) There are three different themes (called “mysteries”) historically associated with Epiphany and its season:

- ✧ The first is the visit of the Magi, commemorated on January 6, where Jesus is revealed as the divine Son of God. All the kings of the nations worship the King of all Creation (St. Matthew 2.1-12).
- ✧ The second is the Baptism of Our Lord, commemorated on January 13. Jesus is baptized by John the Baptizer in the Jordan River. In this great event, the true God and true Man, Jesus Christ, takes our sins upon Himself. In our Baptism, His righteousness is placed on us and our sins are buried with Him (St. Matthew 3.13-17).
- ✧ The third is the first miracle of Jesus, the changing of water into wine at the wedding at Cana, commemorated on the Second Sunday after the Epiphany. “This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in Him” (St. John 2.1-11).



Several times in this season we will sing the beautiful and memorable hymn, “The Star Proclaims the King is Here” (399). This is organized around the Three Mysteries of the Epiphany. Stanza 2 tells of the visit of the Magi; stanza 3 of the Baptism of Our Lord; and stanza 4 of the Wedding at Cana.

This hymn is part of a longer hymn by Coelius Sedulius in the fifth century called “Paeon Alphabeticus de Christo,” a hymn written according to the letters of the alphabet, numbering twenty-three stanzas. The translation is by John Mason Neale (1818-1866). Part of Sedulius’ hymn is also translated as the Christmas hymn “Now Praise We Christ, the Holy One,” (*The Lutheran Hymnal* 104), which we have also sung at Divine Service recently. “Now Praise We Christ” is based on Luther’s German translation of Sedulius’ Latin text.

As we sing these treasures of the Church, we are reminded of the great heritage of the Christian faith with which we are connected through these beautiful words and music. ✧

Continued from page 1 Thank you, members of Immanuel, for reflecting the love of Jesus Christ to your neighbors in this past year 2020. God has seen fit to place upon us more cross bearing than normal. The Lord tenderly is calling us to repentance and greater trust in Him. We remember that through all our trials, God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. All things are working for the good of those who love God.



Despite all that we have faced in this year, God has granted you generous hearts that have supported the work of the Gospel here in this place. This includes the support of our vicarage program, and each vicar's pastoral formation here at Immanuel. This is something very important that our parish does for the sake of the Church at large. To God be the glory!

Thank you as well for all of the prayers, support, and encouragement during this year 2020 for my family and me. We are truly blessed to be part of the church family here at Immanuel. Karie and I are most thankful for all of the love and encouragement you give to our three sons, as I know you freely give to all of the children God has blessed us with in our midst.

In the New Year 2021, to find that joy of the Christ Child that He came from heaven to share with you, continue to regularly receive the forgiveness of sins given in the Divine Service in Word and Sacrament, now more than ever. They are vital, irreplaceable, as God gives them for your good, to strengthen and preserve you to eternal life. In Christ and His gifts given and received will true joy from heaven be found.

Continue to love, support, pray for, and encourage all of your fellow Christians in these trying times, that all would keep looking in faith to Jesus for their sufficiency and comfort. Gladly keep on rolling up your sleeves to do the work needed as we are called upon to further the saving Gospel that rings out from this congregation to our neighbors in Terre Haute, Indiana, Illinois, and all points around. Even if you cannot see the fruit of your prayers and labors, rest assured, God is at work doing great good in His Kingdom through you.

The Shepherds who came to see the Christ Child, responded, according to Luther's hymn, in this way:

My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:

Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.

By His grace, God grant us a glad New Year,
and lips unsilenced, blessed to keep on singing
with joyful tongue the great good news of the
Lord Jesus Christ, to His glory and for the
blessing of all the earth.

A glad and joyous New Year 2021 to you all!

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Jacob Sutton ✠

Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord

Tuesday, February 2
Divine Service 7pm

The Heavenly Year by Vicar Harris

THE year 2020 is not likely to go down as a crowd favorite. However, as Christians, we do not march through the year as those without hope, but we vigilantly gather to keep our feasts and to receive the Word and Sacrament.

It is years like this past one when we need this more than ever. One thing we can probably all agree on is that Christmas time is the most beloved and exciting time of the year, even in 2020. Whether Christian or not, there are few people in our culture who do not eagerly anticipate the advent of the Christmas season for some reason or another, even if it only be for a break off from work.

Christmas in the Church Year was not originally the biggest holiday, but it has since hands down surpassed all others in celebration and festivity. This may be in part due to the fact that in the old English, Anglo-Saxon, culture, the new year actually began on December 25 (in Anglo-Saxon, it was originally called Yule, hence the term Yuletide). And so with Christmas being set on this date, and the English founding fathers bringing this culture to America, the year naturally turns around this holiday.

The modern Church Year, however, begins with Advent, which looks forward to Christmas. This season is determined by St. Andrew's Day on November 30. Whichever Sunday is closest to this day becomes the first Sunday of Advent.

Exactly a week after Christmas, we have the New Year in our modern Gregorian calendar. But New Year's Day is not only a simple turning of a page, but is also a holiday associated with Christmas. Many major

holidays in the Church Year have something called an octave, that is, a secondary celebration of a major holiday.

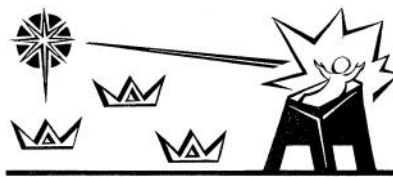
An octave is eight days according to the Jewish calendar (hence the "oct"), and for the Jews a day began at sundown, and so an octave day happens seven days after a holiday on modern calendars. New Year's Day is the octave day of Christmas, as it always falls a week later, and in the Church we celebrate this as the Circumcision of Our Lord.



You might be wondering, "But why would I want to celebrate such a thing on my New Year's Day?" and that would be a valid question. The answer lies in what circumcision signifies for us. Yes, the ancient Hebrews literally practiced circumcision. Although it is no doubt painful, the Lord in His wisdom established this covenant with His people. However, with the circumcision of Jesus, men no longer have to undergo this procedure as He underwent it for us and established a new covenant by His Blood. This old covenant has been superseded by our Baptism into the Name of Jesus and the circumcision of the Christian heart in faith. On the eighth day, Hebrew boys also officially received their names, and so this is also a celebration of when Jesus was first called by His blessed name, which means "Yahweh Saves."

Christmas traditionally continues for twelve days until January 5. On January 6, the next

major season of the Church Year begins with the Epiphany of Our Lord (although Christmas trees may be left up until February 2, which is known as Candlemas, when Jesus is presented in the temple). With Epiphany, we celebrate the making known of Jesus' birth and His kingship over both Jews and Gentiles, especially in light of the three wise men who come to worship Him. These three kings are traditionally named Balthazar, Caspar, and Melchior, and they were Gentiles from various regions throughout the world, with some people claiming they were from as far away as Arabia, Ethiopia, or even China.



In the early days of the Church, Epiphany was the start of the Church Year. Its celebration is even older than Christmas. Epiphany also has an octave day, and that is the celebration of the Baptism of Our Lord on January 13. This festival is parallel to Christmas and the Circumcision, and much of the same significance of the Circumcision is also found in Jesus' Baptism. Here, the Father and the Holy Spirit witness to the Son before John the Baptizer and all the world at the Jordan, and thus Jesus begins His ministry which will culminate in His death and resurrection.

This year, there will be two Sundays in the Epiphany season. On the third Sunday after Epiphany, this year falling on January 24, is celebrated in the Lutheran Church as the Transfiguration. The Transfiguration was originally celebrated on August 6 in the medieval church, which is still when it is celebrated by the Roman Catholic Church. Lutheran tradition in America moves this celebration to the end of the Epiphany season.

This ties in nicely with Epiphany and the Baptism of Our Lord, because it also demonstrates Jesus' divine power and His unity with the Trinity. It also doubles to be a foreshadowing of Easter and the glory that Jesus will take up then, and it is fitting that we receive this day to strengthen us before entering the Septuagesima and Lent seasons in anticipation of Easter.

However you may feel about our past year, let us continue to zealously celebrate the coming festivities of the Church Year with joy and song. Although you might be scratching off calendar days, looking forward to something or another, let the

Church Year serve as your oasis from the business of the work and school years.

Through these annual celebrations, we step into a parallel, timeless year. In the Church, we step into heaven, which has come down to earth for us in the form of our Savior, and we receive strength from His Word and Sacrament so that we may go out into the world, even though our earthly days may seem to drroll on. He is with us, in ages past and ages to come, now and forever:

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as in a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home!

(LSB 733, stanzas 5 and 6) ✠

Lutheran Ladies Lunch Bunch

ALL ladies are welcome to come for fellowship and socialization. We will be meeting on Thursday, January 21 at 11:30am in the Parish Center. Please bring your own lunch and drink. ✘

2021 Contribution Envelopes

PLEASE pick up your 2021 Contribution Envelopes in the Narthex by January 17. If you cannot pick them up Sunday morning, you may stop by the Parish Office Tuesday through Friday from 9am-noon. Please e-mail Stacy.Gibbens@ielcth.org with any questions. Thank you. ✘

Pro-Life Billboard Campaign

WABASH Valley Right to Life is sponsoring their annual pro-life billboard campaign, where positive life messages will be posted around Terre Haute in January and February. We would like to raise \$375 to sponsor a billboard this year. If you would like to contribute, please do so before January 6, marking your donation "Right to Life." Please call the church office with any questions or e-mail Stacy.Gibbens@ielcth.org. ✘

Electronic Giving—GivePlus Mobile App

NO Checks? No Problem! Electronic giving is now available at Immanuel with the GivePlus mobile app. Simply download the app and set up a one time or recurring gift. Simple and secure giving electronically with your mobile device. ✘



Young People of Immanuel
The YPI gathered on Saturday, December 5 to make cards to send to our homebound members and to exchange gifts.



Council of Deacons Report

by Richard Monday

THE December 5 meeting opened with prayer led by Pastor Sutton. All deacons, congregational assembly president Kris Bilyeu, Vicar Harris, and Pastor were present by Zoom meeting.

Pastor Sutton reported on the Saturday children's catechesis class, adult catechesis that is ongoing, on incoming transfers of new families to the parish, on the plans for the upcoming wedding on December 30, and the need to cancel Tuesday Divine Service on December 29 to accommodate the rehearsal. Pastor also reported that four children were baptized in November.

The Council proceeded to Board Reports: Education: The library project has been proceeding steadily and will begin again during January.

- ✘ Finance: John Schulz reported that Immanuel has a positive cash balance on hand due to generous giving, and discussed the budget to be presented to the Congregational Assembly.
- ✘ Property and Grounds: Drain tiles have been repaired outside the Nave. Some water damage has occurred due to some

window failures in the Parish Center. Kleptz is sending two contractors out to examine the damaged windows and prepare bids for their repair. Richard Bucy and Rick Todd are going to install the new gates to close off the access to the air conditioners next Saturday. Richard Bucy mentioned there were some minor electrical problems and a faulty garbage disposal at the Vicarage that he will attend to as time permits. Plans are in progress to finish the shelter as weather permits.

- ✘ Outreach/Fellowship: Will be holding a Zoom meeting to finalize Advent and Christmas plans.
- ✘ Worship Support: Kris Wineinger has agreed to serve as a Deacon, and will take Rick Todd's place as Deacon for Worship Support. Pastor Sutton reported on the steady Divine Service attendance on Sundays and Tuesdays.

The next regular meeting of the Council of Deacons is Saturday, January 9, at 7am. Other communicant members who wish to meet with the Council of Deacons to discuss special concerns, needs, or requests should make arrangements with the Chairman of the Council of Deacons prior to a scheduled meeting. ✘

Immanuel Parish Membership

Baptism:	November 8	Ryder Wayne Stewart-Barrett Remi Rayanne Curtis, grandchildren of Susan Barrett, great-grandchildren of Harvey & Barbara Milner
	November 22	Andrew James Wiesneth Madelynn Rae Wiesneth, children of James & Becky Wiesneth

DIVINE SERVICE is celebrated every Sunday at 10:30am; every Tuesday at 6pm; and on Feast Days as announced.

DIVINE OFFICE: LAUDS (MORNING PRAYER) and **VESPERS** (EVENING PRAYER) are prayed as announced in the weekly *Parish News*.

PRIVATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION is offered the fourth Thursday of the month from 5-6pm (January 28; February 25), or anytime by appointment.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE STUDY are Sunday at 9am.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT BIBLE STUDY with dinner is Sunday at 5pm in the Parish Center.

ADULT CHOIR rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7-8:30pm, and Sundays from 9:45-10:20am in the east end of the Parish Center.

"WORSHIP ANEW," produced by Lutheran Media Ministries of Fort Wayne and supported by Immanuel's special gift collection, airs every Sunday morning on WTWO at 8am.

COFFEE BREAK BIBLE STUDY is Wednesday at 8:30am.

ESPRIT DEADLINE for March/April is Monday, February 15. Volunteers are needed to help with the mailing. Watch the *Parish News* for the date.

Schedule of Divine Liturgies for January and February

January 3	Second Sunday after Christmas, 10:30am	Divine Service
January 6	Epiphany of Our Lord, 7pm	Divine Service
January 10	First Sunday after Epiphany, 10:30am	Divine Service
January 12	Tuesday of Epiphany I, 6pm	Divine Service
January 17	Second Sunday after Epiphany	Divine Service
January 19	Tuesday of Epiphany II, 6pm	Divine Service
January 24	Transfiguration of Our Lord, 10:30am	Divine Service
January 26	Tuesday of Epiphany III, 6pm	Divine Service
January 31	Septuagesima, 10:30am	Divine Service
February 2	(Tues) Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord, 7pm	Divine Service
February 7	Sexagesima, 10:30am	Divine Service
February 9	Tuesday of Sexagesima, 6pm	Divine Service
February 14	Quinquagesima, 10:30am	Divine Service
February 16	Tuesday of Quinquagesima, 6pm	Divine Service
February 17	Ash Wednesday, 7pm	Divine Service
February 21	Invocavit – First Sunday in Lent, 10:30am	Divine Service
February 23	Tuesday of Lent I, 6pm	Divine Service
February 24	Wednesday of Lent I, 7pm	Vespers
February 28	Reminiscere – Second Sunday in Lent, 10:30am	Divine Service