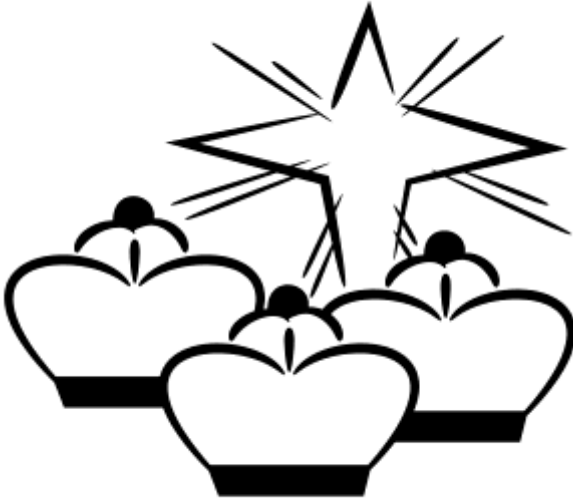


# January Newsletter 2017



## The Season of Epiphany

**Ebenezer Lutheran Church – Port Hudson**

**The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod**

9100 Highway YY Leslie, Missouri

Parsonage 573-459-6432

Church 573-459-6431

Rev. William F. Zastrow, Pastor

Mary Sprick, Secretary

[ebenezerlutheran@hotmail.com](mailto:ebenezerlutheran@hotmail.com)

[ebenezerlutheranchurch.wordpress.com](http://ebenezerlutheranchurch.wordpress.com)

## **From the Pastor's Desk:**

### **The One Constant in our Lives**

*"The people were divided about Jesus" John 7:43*

Some things never change. One could almost argue that this is a contradiction. As one looks over the course of time, many changes have taken place. Change also seems to take place more and more rapidly. Some say it is because a person gets older. Some conclude it is just the way things are. Most tend to agree on one point. Too much change isn't a good thing.

It seems nothing is untouched by change, even perceptions about Jesus. Just talk to someone about him, or listen to their conversations. Opinions will vary and these will reveal a number of changes that have taken place. It seems as if people are not content until they change Jesus into something of their own liking.

There is a great danger in this kind of thinking. When I change Jesus into something I want, he no longer remains what I really need. This is where I need to strip away my illusions, my perceptions, and my personal interpretations, and I need to focus on the real Jesus.

Jesus is the one whom God the Father promised to send. He is the Christ, the one set apart to obediently accomplish the Father's will. He is the Savior, the one who removes the curse of sin's condemnation. He is the Redeemer, the one who pays the price to secure freedom from Satan's domination. He is the Good Shepherd, the one who knows his sheep and personally cares for them.

The real Jesus is the one I desperately need. I need an obedient Christ because of my lack of obedience. I need a powerful Savior because I am powerless. I need a faithful Redeemer because I am spiritually bankrupt. I need a loving Shepherd because I am lost and straying. I need Jesus to be the very one God the Father sent for me.

There will be many changes in our lives in 2017. In a time of rapid and non-stop change, it is good to know one thing will never change. It is the love and faithfulness of my Savior, the real Jesus.

### **Season of Epiphany**

***Day of Epiphany*** (January 6, 2017) followed by 4-9 weeks of thanks for Christ's revelation to the world, including the *Baptism of Our Lord*. Epiphany was known in the earliest Christian centuries as the *Feast of the Manifestation*, the *Theophany*, and even as the *Feast of Light*. Second only to Easter in importance, Epiphany was observed in the Eastern Church from the second or third century, A.D. It is celebrated the *fact* that God became man more than Jesus' birth *date*. Later the Western Church's observance of Christmas overshadowed Epiphany, the "Old Christmas." Early Christians in the East may have set the date of Epiphany to replace a popular festival, just as Roman Christians may have chosen a date for Christmas that replaced a pagan festival. In the eastern church, Epiphany became the day to receive new members through Baptism. They were called *illuminandi*-those who were about to be enlightened by Christ, the Light of the World. The Epiphany season celebrates Christ's incarnation for all people of the world. They, like most of us, are not the chosen, Jewish people. But they long, nevertheless, for God to set the world right. Epiphany celebrates the discovery that Someone *has* come, sent by God, to bring righteousness into our world and to reveal the unimaginable depth of God's love. The magi

discovered that revelation in a baby lying in a humble manger. John heard that revelation in a voice at Jesus' baptism. And a merry wedding party at Cana experienced that revelation as a special gift of wine. In Protestant churches this season extends from January 6<sup>th</sup> up through Transfiguration Sunday (February 26<sup>th</sup>), the climactic conclusion of this part of the Church Year!

### **Holy Habits for Hope-Full Health** **Monthly Hints for 2017**

- January:** Forgive and forget – a great way to start the new year.
- February:** Smile and laugh – the Lord loves you.
- March:** Volunteer as you serve and celebrate.
- April:** Get enough Z-Z-Zs. Rest is refreshing.
- May:** Listen to music, and sing out loud, too.
- June:** Worship and meditate regularly.
- July:** Break a sweat! Jog, walk, skip...just keep moving.
- August:** Count your blessings. They surround us.
- September:** Make new friends, remembering what a Friend we have.
- October:** Put some pep in your step, in words and actions.
- November:** Repeat over and over to yourself: “I am blessed! I am blessed!”
- December:** Continue reading the Bible as you celebrate God's gift of aging throughout 2017.

### **Lutheran Witness Subscriptions**

**It's time to renew your subscription (or purchase a new subscription) to “The Lutheran Witness”. The new year**

begins with the April, 2017 issue. The cost of each subscription is \$15.96. Checks are to be made out to Ebenezer. The opportunity to sign up will only last through January 25<sup>th</sup>. Please let Mary Sprick know by January 25<sup>th</sup> if you'd like to subscribe to The Lutheran Witness. There is an envelope included in the box of your contribution envelopes.

### **Some Important Dates to Keep in Mind**

**The Ebenezer Church Officers' Meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

**The Ebenezer Voters' Meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017. Your input and opinions are very important!**

### **Information from "With God's Little Ones"**

Our Ebenezer Mission Society sends contributions to "With God's Little Ones" every year. Here is some information as to what contributions are used for as we have received this information from Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Schaser.

"We appreciate your financial support, allowing us to serve vulnerable ones in three international locations. Your gifts have helped Malagasy families put food on their tables and students grow vegetables for their school lunches. In the mountains of northern Luzon, men and women have gained basic skills in tailoring, carpentry, and electrical work. You've helped women grow, roast, grind, and market their own coffee. You've given critical support to teachers and students in Cambodia, and you've enabled us to provide quick response to emergencies and medical needs."

To make a donation by mail, you can make a check out to *With God's Little Ones* and mail it to:

With God's Little Ones  
428 Julian Place  
St. Louis, MO 63122

**January Birthdays**

Heidi Koch	1-2
Jeff Hohlt	1-2
Esther Hoemann	1-3
Andrew Inman	1-4
Joyce Svancara	1-4
Corey Adams	1-5
Judy Wettling	1-5
Owen Joseph Ward	1-5
Tonya Reynolds	1-7
Peggy Helling	1-11
Elizabeth Scheer	1-11
Wanda Gilbert	1-12
Ryker Lee Kasmann	1-13
Justine Huellinghoff	1-14
Carson Donatti	1-17
Dennis Brune	1-18
Marilyn Bade	1-19
Ricky Bunge	1-19
Sue Kassebaum	1-21
Robert Daniel Bunge	1-23
Ryan Kassebaum	1-23
Jane Redhage	1-24
Dana Kasmann	1-24
Mark Kassebaum	1-26
Lyla June Koch	1-26
Trista Kormeier	1-27
Ron Wettling	1-29
Claire Scheer	1-29
Shanna Kassebaum	1-30
Trent Kormeier	1-30
Cynthia Scheer	1-30

We wish all of you  
a very “Happy  
Birthday” and a  
“Happy Anniversary”

May you have a  
Blessed Year”!

**January Wedding Anniversaries**

Gilbert & Esther Voelker 1-11  
Todd & Nancy Satre 1-17

**Usher Schedule for January, 2017**

1: Mark Kassebaum  
2: Cody Adams  
3: Adam Brune  
4: Joe Kassebaum  
5: Craig Monzyk  
Alternate: Tyler Gardner  
Head Usher: Marvin Kassebaum

**Bell Ringer Schedule for January**

**January 8** Cody Adams  
**January 15** Trent Huellinghoff  
**January 22** Corey Adams  
**January 29** Jeff Hohlt

**Altar Guild for January**

Mary Sprick

**Monthly Treasurer’s Summary  
November 2016**

Beginning checking balance	\$17,033.03
Receipts	\$18,283.04
Disbursements	\$15,784.40
Ending checking balance	\$19,531.67
LCEF savings balance	\$30,393.87
Thrivent FPDA balance	\$21,028.67
Pledged to Missouri District for year	\$4,800.00
Paid to Missouri District this year-to-date	\$4,400.00
Year-to-date income less expenses	-\$8,314.18

## THURSDAY CLASSES RESUME

**Beginning on Thursday, January 12, at 10:00 AM** Pastor will resume his classes for all members of the congregation. This class will be based on the old **THIS IS THE LIFE** television show. With a gift from our Ladies Aid we were able to purchase these programs through the Lutheran Laymen's League. Pastor will have a Bible study and discussion on the program and have a time for a hymn sing of familiar Lutheran hymns.

Check out these nine episodes of *This is the Life*. Watch stars like Jack Nicholson, Leonard Nimoy, Angie Dickinson, and Lawrence Hilton-Jacobs cut their teeth on their craft-long before they hit the "big time."

These nine classic **This is the Life** episodes have been selected from among dozens produced by Lutheran Television Productions, during the 50s, 60s, 70s, and 80s. Viewers will find the subjects and story lines aren't the stuff of sitcoms or even family-oriented shows that always went for the *happy ending*. Here are stories of faith-healing gone awry; a married couple's loss of their daughter; a pastor whose legalism was driving his members away; the bitter animosity of a father against his daughter's suitor; and more. In the end, each episode has one thing in common: God reigns through every event in our lives, and it is by faith in His Son-following and honoring Him-that our lives find their fullest meaning.



# January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> New Year's day Sunday School 9:00 Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:00	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Elders 7:00 PM	<b>4</b> Confirmation 6:30 PM	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Epiphany Circuit Service at Zion Owensville 6:00 PM	<b>7</b> Worship with Holy Communion 3:00 PM
<b>8</b> Sunday School 9:00 Worship 10:00	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Adult Confirmation 6:30 PM	<b>11</b> Confirmation 6:30 PM	<b>12</b> Bible Study 10:00 AM	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Worship 3:00 PM
<b>15</b> Sunday School 9:00 Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:00	<b>16</b> M L King Day	<b>17</b> Pastors' Conference at St. Paul, Union. Adult Confirmation 6:30 PM	<b>18</b> Confirmation 6:30 PM	<b>19</b> Bible Study 10:00 AM Officers Meeting 7:00 PM	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Worship with Holy Communion 3:00 PM  Cub Scouts
<b>22</b> Sunday School 9:00 Worship 10:00 Pastor Preaching at Drake & Freedom Guest Preacher here Rev. F Baue	<b>23</b> Voters' Meeting 7:30 PM	<b>24</b> Adult Confirmation 6:30 PM	<b>25</b> Confirmation 6:30 PM	<b>26</b> Bible Study 10:00 AM	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Worship 3:00 PM
<b>29</b> Sunday School 9:00 Worship 10:00	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Adult Confirmation 6:30 PM				