

January 2019

St. Paul's Epistle

Church Council Minutes ~ December 6, 2018

Those Present: Pastor Quast, Richard Christie, Leonard Morrison, Ken Leerssen, Steve Rutkowsky, Tony Lucek and Sally Batdorf

Chairman Richard Christie called the meeting to order. The opening devotion was given by Pastor Quast on the topic of: "I Have Become All Things". The minutes and treasurer's reports were reviewed and approved.

Briefs: 1) The Christmas worship schedule was reviewed. 2) The official nominating ballots for President, First Vice President and Regional Vice President of the LCMS have been sent. 3) The budget committee is meeting December 16th. 4) Sunday School Christmas program is being held December 16th. 5) The parsonage rental value will remain the same for 2019. 6) There will be a poster displayed for donations of pies for the Community Christmas Dinner. 7) Our Xerox copier lease is up in March 2019 and a new leased copier from Marco Technology in Bemidji will be replacing it. 8) A tentative date for the joint parish meeting for 2019 is January 21st at 4 p.m.

There were no membership changes.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by ~ Sally Batdorf, Secretary

**INSTALLATION OF CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS WILL TAKE PLACE DURING WORSHIP
ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 6th.**



Annual Meeting and Potluck

Sunday, January 20, 2019 following worship

Please have all annual reports turned into the church office by Wednesday, January 16th.

A sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board for the potluck.

Resolutions for the New Year



- * **START EACH DAY WITH GOD.** This is not easy. It means heeding the alarm clock instead of sleeping in. It means getting out of that warm bed, reading His word for cleansing and instruction and praying to God as you commit your day to Him. Resolve: To keep your daily rendezvous with the Lord.
- * **ORGANIZE EACH DAY THE NIGHT BEFORE.** Don't be disorganized. Set out, in order of their priority, the things that need to be done. This will enable you to do the necessary rather than the urgent. Resolve: To be more organized.
- * **EXERCISE EACH DAY.** The older each of us get the harder it is to keep the fat off and the body in shape. Let us be good stewards of our bodies God has given us and keep them toned. Our minds as well as our bodies will function better when we are physically fit. Resolve: to get in shape and stay in shape.
- * **PRAISE GOD—EVEN WHEN YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE IT.** We were created to praise God. Every moment of every day be thankful of God's love. Relax in His promises and in everything give thanks. Resolve: to praise God at all times.

From the LCMS.org Website.....

QUESTION: Could you explain Epiphany? Also, when was the Circumcision of the Lord?

ANSWER: Epiphany is from a Greek word meaning to "reveal" or "make manifest." The season of Epiphany is our time to focus on the revelation of "who" Jesus is: both true God and man.

On the Festival of Epiphany, Jan. 6, we hear the reading of the visit of the wise men (Matt. 2:1-12). In that event, these foreigners bowed down in acknowledgment that this infant was indeed the Christ, the Son of God. The Sunday after Epiphany we hear the story of the Baptism of Jesus (Matt. 3:13-17). Here, God the Father confirms this man standing in the water is His beloved Son. The following Sunday we hear the story of the changing of water into wine at Cana (John 2:1-11). Through this event, Jesus revealed his glory and his disciples put their faith in him.

According to Jewish law, all males were circumcised on the eighth day — one week after their birth. We don't know the actual birth date of Jesus so we don't know the day of His circumcision either.

But since we have set aside a date for observing His birth, Dec. 25, we then set aside Jan. 1 (eight days later) as the date for the naming and circumcision of Jesus (Luke 2:21). The significance of this day is that our Savior began His long ministry of submitting Himself to the Law in our place.

Also, this was the first shedding of His blood, and points, in a small way, to the ultimate shedding of His blood on the cross.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU TO...



Everyone who helps out around church in big and small ways. From helping put on the Cookie Walk (A huge project!), to the Altar Guild for the beautiful decorations year round, to those who sponsor altar flowers, maintenance on the church building and grounds, usher duties, helping with music, everyone who helps with potlucks and special meals, etc. IT IS ALL APPRECIATED!!

Those Serving Our Church ~ January, February and March 2019

January ~ Altar: Kristen Wold and Catherine Crawford

Greeters: January 6~ Tony & Sue Lucek 13th~ Ralph Christie 20th~ Tim Anderson 27th~ Ray and Erlene Gorder

February ~ Greeters: February 3rd~ George & Jeanette Aitchison 10th~ Dave and Catherine Crawford 17th ~ Richard and Roberta Christie 24th ~ Roger and Leanna Hasbargen

March ~ Greeters: March 3rd~ Josh & Shelley Koenig 10th~ Jean Houska 17th ~ Kyle and Jeanmarie Morrison 24th ~Steve Rutkowsky 31st ~ Jenica Whitbeck



Greetings from Sunday School!

The Christmas program was a great success. Thank you to the children for working so hard and singing so loud, and to the parents/guardians for letting us spend time with your little ones!

Sunday School classes will resume January 13th at 9:30 a.m. We are planning on a pancake breakfast in February to raise funds to send for mission projects. We will let the congregation know the date.

There is a new sign up sheet for teachers, and the lesson sheets are available in the office. If you are interested in helping out with Sunday School, just talk to Pastor Quast.

January Birthdays

Happy birthday to these members of our church family celebrating their January birthdays!

January 1: Monica (Hasbargen) Cash

26th: Leona Larson & Rose Leerssen

2nd: Audrey Winger

28th: Dorlyn Desens

3rd: Diane Kelly

31st: Julia Quast

4th: Phyllis Kennedy

8th: Asher Hart

17th: Courtney Kelly

21st: Meredith Kittleson

22nd: Jenica Whitbeck

24th: Liz Hams



From Pastor Quast....

Beloved in Christ, we have managed to come through the Christmas season, once again, relatively unscathed. We have enjoyed food and fellowship with family, friends, and coworkers. We have celebrated the birth of our Savior, Jesus, in the holy church, gathered together with the communion of saints. We have, hopefully, been able to enjoy some time of rest and relaxation amid the holiday hustle and bustle.

Now, as January approaches, we move from the 12 days of Christmas into the lesser known (and less appreciated) season of Epiphany. January 6th marks the Epiphany of our Lord. But what does this mean? Epiphany is a word meaning "light" or "revelation" or "understanding." We often use it after finally understanding something—"I have had an epiphany!"

This is true of the church's use of the word. The season of Epiphany marks the revelation of the Savior, by God, to the Gentile world. Jesus was born among the Jews. His birth that we just celebrated was proclaimed by angels to Jewish shepherds. Now, in Epiphany, we rejoice and celebrate the fact that Jesus did not come for Jews only, but for all people—including non-Jewish people like you and me.

The Biblical text that most clearly depicts this startling event is a familiar one, but one which we tend to associate with Christmas—the visit of the Wise Men to the baby Jesus. The light of the Christmas star guided these ancient wanderers to the place where Jesus was now living with Mary and Joseph. This did not happen on the same night as Jesus' birth. Rather, it is widely believed that the wise men came some weeks, or even months, after the birth. For the wise men do not find Jesus in a stable, but in a house. "When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way." (Matthew 2:10-12)

Once again, look at the response that the presence of Jesus brings to people—great joy! This Savior from sin, death, and the devil is for all people—of every land—of every tribe, language, and people. Jesus' blood shed on the cross is for the forgiveness and healing of the nations—not just you and me. He came to deliver and save the whole world that was trapped in the darkness of sin and death—and by the light of His mercy set the people free.

So Epiphany is a celebration of Christmas to the Gentiles! It is a season of joy and thanksgiving as we see Jesus manifest His glory among the people—all people. And this is a message that is still relevant and important today. The world is awash with people who do not know the Lord—who walk in darkness and sin and death—even as they enjoy living their lives. It is our joyful responsibility to open their eyes by the light of the Gospel to the truth of who Jesus is and what He has done for them. Join me in sharing the love of God in Christ to the people in our community—that they may see the Lord—and rejoice! Thanks be to God in Christ Jesus. Amen.

**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.**

Matthew 2.9

