

BLESSED SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2019

An outline of today's sermon

"STEWARDS OF GOD'S GRACE"

Text: Ephesians 3:2, 8, 9 "Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given me... to preach to the gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ... and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery which for ages past was kept hidden."

INTRODUCTION – Just as we cannot remain indifferent to the Incarnation of God, so there is also a marked effect when the Gospel is preached and taught to the peoples of the earth. It brings God's light to the sin-darkened hearts and lives of the peoples. Paul speaks of our function as Christians as "dispensers" of the mysteries of God, and "administrators" of God's grace. You and I may think of ourselves as distributors of God's gifts. This Bible passage could not fit the theme of Epiphany any better!

- 1 – Epiphany is "showing around" – literally!**
- 2 – Administrators (economists) work for the owner.**
- 3 – The "economy" of God's household.**
- 4 – Ministers are smaller than those they serve!**
- 5 – Universal Priesthood: all believers are priests.**
- 6 – Priests are born – pastors are made.**
- 7 – Both, however, have the same function: God's economists.**
- 8 – We have God's goods to give away to all terrestrials.**

CONCLUSION – You and I are given the privilege to proclaim to the world the love of God in Christ. We do so better when we see ourselves as "dispensers" (an intelligent distribution system) of God's grace and love. When we distribute the Gospel, then people are saved as the Holy Spirit enables them to believe! As we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord, let us pledge our cooperation with all the saints at Blessed Savior and carry out with joy our new assignments for 2019! May this year be blessed for many men, women and children around the globe!

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

The Lord God Is Manifested in the Incarnate Son

The Feast of the Epiphany centers in the visit of the Magi from the East. In that respect, it is a “Thirteenth Day” of Christmas; yet, it also marks the beginning of a new liturgical season. While Christmas has focused on the incarnation of our Lord — that is, on God becoming flesh — the season of Epiphany emphasizes the manifestation or self-revelation of God in that same flesh of Christ. The Lord Himself has entered our darkness and rises upon us with the brightness of His true light (Is. 60:1–2). He does so chiefly by His Word of the Gospel, which He causes to be preached within His Church on earth — not only to the Jews but also to Gentiles (Eph. 3:8–10). As the Magi were guided by the promises of Holy Scripture to find and worship the Christ Child with His mother in the house (Matt. 2:5–11), so does He call disciples from all nations by the preaching of His Word to find and worship Him within His Church (Is. 60:3–6). With gold, they confess His royalty; with incense, His deity; and with myrrh, His priestly sacrifice (Matt. 2:11).

SERVICE AND SCHEDULE INFORMATION

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY led by Pastor Sander will start a new video series of eight sessions with Dr. Paul Maier - “Jesus, Legend or Lord?” on February 3. Until then, we will continue to read the Book of Acts.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY Join us for a new Bible Study on Sunday mornings that explores the theories of evolution and how God's creation and salvation are linked in the person of Jesus Christ. We will meet in the library beginning January 6.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY is led by Pastor Sander at 6:30AM in the Fellowship Hall. Any early risers are welcome!

TUESDAY LADIES BIBLE STUDY meets every Tuesday at 9:15am in the Fellowship Hall and is focusing on the book “Altogether Beautiful-A Study of Song of Songs”. All ladies are welcome to join us! If you have small children at home, you are more than welcome to bring them along!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY We will not meet during the month of December as we focus on Advent and Christmas. Classes will begin again on Wednesday, January 9th. We will be studying 1st & 2nd Corinthians. All are invited to attend as we read and discuss Holy Scriptures and applications for our daily life. The class meets from 7:00PM until 8:00PM each Wednesday.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY Pastor Sander leads this Bible Study on the *Old Testament* at 9:30AM in the Fellowship Hall, currently studying the book of *Psalms*. Everyone is welcome.

CHARITABLE INFORMATION

OUR SPECIAL MISSIONS for the first quarter is Concordia Publishing-Brazil. Our gifts will go for the publication of a book by John Kleinig: “Grace Upon Grace.” If you’d like to read this book in English, speak to Pastor Sander.

DONATE YOUR DEVOTIONALS After you have finished reading your Advent devotionals, please consider donating them to our military members. Your booklets can be placed in the military collection bin in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

CHURCH INFORMATION

A GRANDPARENT'S LEGACY Whether you've been a grandparent for 2 weeks or 20 years, sharing your faith and faith story with your grandchildren is a wonderful privilege! Join us on Saturday, January 12 and 19 from 11am-2pm as we explore how to share our faith and create a lasting legacy we can give to our grandchildren. Lunch is provided both days. Please sign up on the bulletin board, or call Jaime Greene in the church office at (262) 786-6465 ext. 21.

YOUNG @ HEART Please join us in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 am on Thursday, January 17. We will watch "I Can Only Imagine", a movie about a Christian songwriter. Those of us who have already seen it can hardly wait to see it again. After the movie we will enjoy pizza together. We hope to see all of you on January 17. Please put your name on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board so we know how much pizza to order.

BUTTONS We are looking for green, white and clear buttons for a project that we'll be doing in March as a church family. If you have any green (any shade!), white or clear buttons that we can use, please place them in the vase that is sitting on the table by the windows in the Narthex. Thank you! And be sure to watch the bulletin for information on our 5th Sunday Family Day that we'll have at the end of March!

PASSIONATE BELIEVERS CONFERENCE The South Wisconsin District Passionate Believers Conference will be held at Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church in Hartland on Saturday, January 29. If you are interested in registering, or would like information on the breakout sessions, please contact Jaime Greene.

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES New offering envelopes for 2019 have been placed in your mailbox. Envelopes for families with three or more boxes have been placed on the table in the Narthex. Please be sure to only use your 2018 envelopes throughout the month of December and begin using the new envelopes in January.

RADIO CHURCH SERVICES

SUN 6:30AM—WTMJ (AM 620) LUTHERAN HOUR &

SUN 7:00AM—WJYI (AM 1340) LUTHERAN RADIO