

BLESSED SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2022
SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2022

“A MINISTER ADMINISTERS”

Text: Ephesians 3:2, 7 “Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you... I became a servant of this Gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his power.”

INTRODUCTION – Paul was made a minister of the Gospel. As such, he dispenses the Gospel, that is, he administers it, he gives it away. We are all ministers and dispensers of God’s grace through the working of God’s power. God’s power is at work, it does not cease to be active, it is a restless power for the salvation of all people. Epiphany is the time to focus of this ongoing revealing of God’s grace to the people.

1 – Epiphany means “showing around.”

2 – God has been showing himself and his power around all along.

3 – At Christmas God gives his son to the world.

4 – At Epiphany the wisemen give him gifts.

5 – “Administration of grace” first to Paul, now to us!

6 – Our “administration” of God’s goods.

7 – Epiphany is like a gift basket: light, love, forgiveness, hope.

CONCLUSION – As we assume our work as administrators of God’s gifts to world, let us make every effort to be good and thorough in what we do. Let us not skip any countries, or towns, or people. Let us distribute intelligently the gifts entrusted to our administration. The world needs God’s gifts. We have them in store. Let us be diligent knowing that in the Lord our work will not be in vain. Amen.

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)

WORSHIP SERVICE AND BIBLE STUDY INFORMATION

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY at 9:15am in the Fellowship Hall for a study on the book of Psalms. Please note that on January 23rd, class will meet in Oswald Hall. There will be no class on January 30th.

TUESDAY LADIES' BIBLE STUDY at 9am in the Fellowship Hall for a study on Gifts, Chosen for You.

TUESDAY ZOOM BIBLE STUDY at 7pm. Please contact DCE Jaime Greene at jaimelynn581@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY will study the book of 2nd Timothy and Titus. Class meets in the Library at 7pm.

THURSDAY MORNING at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall for a study on the book of John.

WOMEN'S HOME BIBLE STUDY on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 6:30pm. Please contact Diane Gihring, Kathy Herbst, or the church office for more information.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY meets on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays in January at 8:30am to study the book of Ephesians.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on Sunday, January 23rd due to National Lutheran Schools Week celebrations, and on January 30th due to Pastor's Retirement Celebration.

CHARITABLE INFORMATION

FIRST QUARTER SPECIAL MISSIONS: We begin a new year of Special Missions, by supporting the publication of two devotion books. The first is "Recipes of Love" and is for families with school-aged children. The second is called "Get Up and Walk". It contains devotions for children that are sick—especially those undergoing extensive medical treatments. Both will be published in Portuguese, by Concordia Publishing House of Porto Alegre, Brazil. You may support the Special Mission by signing up on the bulletin board, or by using one of the envelopes in the pews.

CHURCH INFORMATION

WELCOME JOHN!: We welcome as an addition to our staff as a part-time care taker of our buildings and grounds at Blessed Savior, John Kamperschroer! He is an energetic young man and will certainly serve the Lord and us as he grows into his new occupation. Welcome John, and may the Lord guide you in this new phase of your life!

DECORATION TAKEDOWN: As the Christmas and Epiphany season ends, it's time to take down our Christmas decorations until next year. We would love your help in packing everything away on Sunday, January 9th at 11:30am.

LAY READERS NEEDED: As a Lay Reader, you would serve within the Worship Service by reading the Old Testament and Epistles lessons. Lessons are provided to you beforehand, and the schedule is flexible. If you are interested in serving, please contact the Church Office, or Carla Herried.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES RESUME: After a brief hiatus during the month of December, in-person Confirmation Classes will resume on January 12th and 26th for all 6th-8th graders.

YOUNG AT HEART: All members, ages 65 and older, are invited to a movie and pizza party on Thursday, January 20th at 11am in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend.

SAVE THE DATE: After 38 years in ministry, Pastor Sander is set to retire at the end of January. Please join us in celebrating his ministry, and as we say "see you soon" to him and Joan after the Thursday night Worship Service on January 27th and between services on January 30th. In lieu of gifts, Pastor has asked that we contribute to the Special Mission Offering. You may do so by giving a gift in the special envelopes marked "A Gift in Honor of Pastor Sander's Retirement", or by stopping by the church office.

POINSETTIA PLANTS: Thank you to everyone who purchased poinsettias for the Lord's Altar! If you would like to take your plant home, you may do so at your earliest convenience.

ALTAR FLOWERS, BULLETINS, AND SPECIAL MISSIONS: If you are interested in sponsoring Altar Flower, Bulletins, and/or Special Missions, please see the Bulletin Board for the 2022 sign-up sheet.

SCRIP: Thank you to everyone who purchased SCRIP gift cards throughout 2021! Because of you, we sold \$40,000 worth of cards and raised \$1,400 for education programs at Blessed Savior! This is an ongoing program for us, and you can continue to purchase gift cards at the table in the hallway, or by using the Order Form.

BLESSED SAVIOR BITS: Each Friday we send out an email that contains an easy way to access all our YouTube postings for the week. Going forward, this email will also serve as a general update from Blessed Savior, with important updates and reminders. If you do not already receive this email and would like to, please contact the church office, and provide us with your email address.

PRESCHOOL OPEN ENROLLMENT: Preschool will start open enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year on Monday, January 24th. Families with children ages two through preschool age are encouraged to check out the many programs we offer. Spots fill up quickly, so if you know anyone that is interested, please tell them to see Jennifer Leinss. Feel free to share this information with anyone you know looking for a Christian preschool for their family! Please see Jennifer Leinss or email at jleinss82@gmail.com with any questions.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSIONS

We pray for those undergoing medical treatment:
 Adeline Judy Karen Karena Kay Laverne Nancy Bruce Fran

We pray the Lord to watch over those who are serving in the military.

Altar Flowers are sponsored by

Bulletins are sponsored by

Special Missions are sponsored by

WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR January 7th-January 16th

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| FRI | 6:00pm | Craft Night |
| SAT | 8:30am | Men's Bible Study |
| | 9:00am | Handbell Rehearsal |
| SUN | 8:00am | Worship and Communion |
| | 9:15am | Education Hour |
| | 10:30am | Worship and Communion |
| | 11:30am | Decoration Takedown |
| | 6:00pm | Youth Group |
| MON | SCRIP Orders Due | |
| TUES | 9:00am | Ladies Bible Study |
| | 6:30pm | Elders Meeting |
| | 6:30pm | Women's Home Bible Study |
| | 7:00pm | Zoom Bible Study |
| WED | 9:00am | Quilters |
| | 7:00pm | Bible Study |
| | 7:00pm | Confirmation |
| THUR | 9:30am | Bible Study |
| | 7:00pm | Worship |
| SAT | 9:00am | Handbell Rehearsal |
| SUN | 8:00am | Worship |
| | 9:15am | Education Hour |
| | 10:30am | Worship |

Christmas Eve: 330 Christmas Day: 72 12/26: 99

New Year's Eve: 38 1/2: 86

Offerings for 12/26: \$30,915 Offerings for 1/2: \$9,118 Needed Weekly: Not Available at Publication