

Announcements

- ◆ A warm welcome to all our visitors and guests, friends both old and new. We pray that God has blessed your time among us with His Word and Holy Spirit. We cordially invite you to join us this morning for coffee and other refreshments downstairs following the Divine Service; and we ask that you please sign the guest book at the back of the church.

- ◆ Deaconess Rhein is in Tanzania working on the Kenyan Hymnal Project with the translators there. She will be returning to South Bend this Friday. Please remember her in your prayers as she works, and as she is traveling to and fro. Thanks to Anna Horner for serving as our organist this morning.

- ◆ Following coffee & refreshments, our Family Bible Class will resume the study of the Old Testament Liturgy, continuing with God's Covenant with Israel at Mount Sinai. Parents and children, youth and adults are welcome.

Catechesis class for younger and beginning catechumens meets at the same time, as does Pastor Grobien's catechesis class for the older children.

Care for the younger children (under four years of age) is provided in the nursery downstairs, so parents and siblings can attend one of the classes.

- ◆ PARENTS AND CATECHUMENS, PLEASE NOTE: Wednesday Catechesis Class has resumed, as of this past week, beginning at the usual time (4:30 p.m.).

- ◆ The Emmaus Youth are asked to make a plan amongst themselves and with Pastor Stuckwisch, for taking down the Christmas decorations at some point this week: Perhaps on Wednesday, following Evening Prayer. Thanks!

- ◆ Pastor Grobien will be vested and available in the Emmaus Sanctuary this Friday (13 January) for Individual Confession and Absolution, from 4:30 until 5:30 p.m. This means of grace and forgiveness, by the authority of our dear Lord Jesus Christ, is freely offered to be freely received in repentant faith. Those who may have questions concerning this Christian practice are invited to visit with either of our pastors about it.

- ◆ Pastor and LaRena Stuckwisch and family express their sincere thanks to the members of Emmaus for the thoughtful cards and gifts received this season, and for all the loving support throughout the year. The family is grateful for the kindness and care of their brothers and sisters in Christ.

- ◆ The Altar flowers this morning have been provided by Eldon & Bernice Knepp to the glory of God, in honor of their daughter Beth's birthday.
- ◆ A new flower chart for the Year of Our Lord 2012 is now available on the bulletin board at the back of the church. You are welcome to sign up to provide flowers for the Lord's Altar to the glory of God, in memory of loved ones, or in honor of special people and events.
- ◆ COLLECTIONS FOR 1 JANUARY 2012: \$ 1,857.53
In order to meet our financial obligations and commitments, an average of \$1980 is needed each week.
- ◆ IN THE LORD'S SERVICE THIS MORNING:
(ELDER) Robert Rhein; (USHERS) Rick Saenz & Tobias Tribble;
(ACOLYTE) Nathan Jindra; (ORGANIST) Anna Horner; (CRUCIFER) Caleb Smith; (GREETERS) Dorothy Rummel & Marilyn Dulmatch.
- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574
- ◆ Rev. Gifford Grobien, Assistant Pastor Home Phone: (574) 231 – 9572

On the Church Year

“Epiphany now seems to be somewhat of an orphan as far as the Western church year is concerned, though at one time it was second only to Easter. To us it lies in the shadow of Christmas, though it is nonetheless the second great festival of the Christmas cycle, or in one of its older names, ‘Old Christmas.’

“Epiphany was of course at one time the Feast of the Nativity. According to the Egyptian calendar, which was 12 days behind the Julian one used at Rome, the winter solstice fell on January 6th, and the birth of Christ was tied in with the pagan festivals honoring the sun, exactly as was going to happen a century later with Christmas in the West. In Asia Minor and Egypt it originally recalled not merely the appearance of Christ in human flesh — His Nativity — but several other distinct events: His baptism in the Jordan and the wedding at Cana. . . .

“The story of the Wise Men must have been one of the most popular in the whole Bible, if we are to judge from second- and third- century mosaics, graffiti, and manuscripts. In art and legend these kings from the East made a colorful contrast to the drab shepherds and the humble manger. When the Muslims later

overran the Holy Land, destroying churches as they went, they are reported to have saved one in Bethlehem solely because they looked up and saw painted on the walls men who were dressed as Easterners, like them — the Wise Men.

“Already in the sixth century the Magi had come to be called ‘kings,’ though the expected term was Magi or Wise Men. Of the most ancient paintings, carvings, and statues, few show them with scepters, crowns, or royal robes until after the time of the crusades.

*“Augustine, Chrysostom, and other early writers mention the number of the Wise Men as 12. The Persian word **magi**, translated ‘wise men,’ really means ‘keepers of sacred things,’ ‘priests,’ ‘priest-scholars,’ or ‘astronomers.’ Later tradition sets their number at three. Melchior, the king of Arabia, a Semite, was supposedly 60 years old; Balthasar, king of Ethiopia, a negro, 40; Caspar, king of Tarsus, and Indo-European, 20. Their starting point was Babylon, according to the legends, and they made their way by camel up the fertile valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates, the standard route of the traders.*

“Only Matthew records the story of the Wise Men, and even he does not tell us half of what we should like to know. Oddly enough the pious legends that have grown up about them are now accepted as if on the same level with Scripture. Matthew’s account is more detailed concerning their visit to Herod than in any other part of the story. After following the star they arrived at the capital city of Jerusalem and naturally sought out Herod for the answer to their question: ‘Where is He that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and are come to worship Him.’

“Just when the Wise Men arrived at Bethlehem is not known. If the star appeared in the sky before Christ was born, they might have arrived on the night of his birth. If it first appeared on Christmas Eve, they could scarcely have arrived in less than two or three months. Herod, we know, decreed that the boys of Bethlehem up to the age of two were to be killed, and this may provide a clue to the time of their visit. Matthew says he did this ‘according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the Wise Men.’ Either he was playing the game unusually safe in killing so large an age group, or the Wise Men did not reach Bethlehem until a year or more after Christ’s birth.

“As the tale of the Wise Men grew, both in legend and song, their gifts took on symbolic meanings. Melchior is said to have brought the gold in a small casket or jewel box. Balthasar’s frankincense was thought to be in a censer or thurible, and Caspar’s myrrh in a gold-encrusted horn. The gold was to represent Christ the King; the frankincense, Christ the Priest; and the myrrh, Christ the Prophet.”

(From THE YEAR OF THE LORD, by Theodore J. Kleinhans, CPH 1967)

Walking with Our Savior this Week

TODAY	THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD	
	Divine Service of Communion	9:00 a.m.
	Coffee & Refreshments	10:30 a.m.
	Catechesis / Family Bible Class	10:45 a.m.
MONDAY	Vespers	7:00 p.m.
	Bible Class	7:30 p.m.
TUESDAY	Board of Elders	6:00 p.m.
	Emmaus Church Council	7:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	Catechesis Class	4:30 p.m.
	Evening Prayer	7:00 p.m.
THURSDAY	<i>Pastor's Family Day (but <u>do call</u> in cases of emergency)</i>	
FRIDAY	Individual Confession & Absolution	4:30—5:30
	<i>Deaconess Rhein returning home from Kenya</i>	
NEXT SUNDAY	Divine Service of Communion	9:00 a.m.
	<i>with the induction of new and returning officers</i>	
	Coffee & Refreshments	10:30 a.m.
	Voters' Meeting	10:45 a.m.

You may also want to keep in mind, in your observance of daily prayer at home:

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Second after the Epiphany:
1 Samuel 3:1–20; 1 Corinthians 6:12–20; and Saint John 1:43–51*