

Dr. Martin Luther
Evangelical Lutheran
Church

February 2004



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The Church Door

The "Church Door" title is taken from the "Theses Door" of the Castle Church which has made Wittenberg so famous.

Just as the "Theses Door" was used as a bulletin board for notices in Luther's time, this newsletter can also be used by our members to communicate with each other and to our guests about church events. Published monthly it is available the last Sunday of the month.

Please contact Cindy Borreson (616.846.2477 or cborreson@charter.net) to insert articles for next month's newsletter.

The Church Door

From the Pastor

Friendship Sunday

DML will be hosting a Friendship Sunday on February 15th which promises to be an exciting day. We have asked the Western Michigan Teen Challenge Choir to join us for worship and the ladies of the Dorcas Circle will host a meal following.

Many of you are unaware of Teen Challenge. The Western Michigan Teen Challenge was founded in 1970 by Director, Phillip J. McClain to help troubled and hurting individuals. They have two facilities, one for Men on Pontaluna Road, and one for women on South Harvey. They average 125 students in the program year round and the average age of an individual in the program is 23. Over the years, the program has helped thousands of adults overcome their life controlling problems and become productive citizens in society. Teen Challenge has an amazing 86% success rate in reconstructing the lives of those who have completed the one-year program.

We have had very successful Friendship Sundays here at DML because our members have gotten involved in the program. With the Teen Challenge Choir being at our worship, it will be an excel-

lent time to invite any un-churched friends, but especially a young adult.

Ash Wednesday

Its hard to believe that Ash Wednesday will be on February 25th this year. We will have our traditional Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 P.M.

I am looking for something different for our Wednesday Evening Lent services this year. As you are probably aware, as a cost cutting measure, we will not be using the services of the organist for the evening services. The worship committee has been contemplating what Lent services will be this year that will be both worshipful and spiritually uplifting. If you have any ideas of a Lenten program please communicate your idea to the Worship Committee. Join us for our soup supper beginning March 3rd at 6:30 PM and Lent services at 7:15 PM. Let's make our Lenten journey together.

The Gospel of John

Recently I was able to take a few of our members to see a pre-showing of the Gospel of John at the Cinema Carousel. The film is long, some 3 hours in length, because it contains the entire Gospel of John.

I thought the film was well done, but it was interesting to experience the whole Gospel of John in one sitting. If you haven't read or listened to one of the gospels in one sitting, you might consider trying it. I think you will find God's word will speak to you in a different way.

New Members Class

Who is a new members class for? It is for anyone who wants to gain a basic understanding of what Lutherans believe. It is necessary for anyone who wants to become a member of DML and is not transferring from another Lutheran church. It is open to existing members who would like to support our new members and perhaps brush up on what they learned in confirmation class so long ago. There are now a few people who will be participating in the new members class which will begin in February. The time and day of the week is yet to be determined as I will try to pick a time that is most convenient for those involved. If you are interested in this class or know of someone who is, please let me know.

God's grace, mercy and peace to you,
Pastor Dennis

Church Council Minutes—January 12, 2004

Present: Cindy Borreson, Emogene Cotal, Gordon Eggleton, Betty Proksa, Pastor Stroh, Tom Whitehead, Jan Wolf

Excused: Beulah Justian

Absent: Gene Broge, Stephen Hellman

Devotions: Pastor led devotions with a reading from Hebrews.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the December Council meeting were not available and will be presented at the February meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Financial reports for December were presented by Cindy Borreson.

Balances

Checkbook	\$647.66
LB Money Market	\$2,334.04
Savings – Designated	\$6,419.38
Savings – Memorial	\$7,477.36
Savings – Reserve	\$4,443.74
Savings – Social Security	\$1,790.83
Total	\$23,113.01

Investments

LB Fund	\$32,590.53
LB Income Fund	\$43,340.52
Total	\$75,931.05

Cindy pointed out that the Thrivent statement for December had not arrived yet so the reports do not include the latest numbers for the Thrivent investments.

Pastor's Report: Pastor presented a written report and provided the following additional information:

- Confirmation classes frequently have only one student, so Pastor will try a self-study program, "Free to Be", with the class meeting just once a quarter or once a month.
- Pastor Michnay will be in the U. S. from 1/22-2/3/04.
- The Teen Challenge Choir will conduct most of the service on 2/15/04, except for Communion.
- Pastor identified the septic field pumping as an item needing fol-

lowing. Council members believe the septic tank was last pumped 4-5 years ago.

Committee Reports

Property: A list is posted on the bulletin board of the sexton's duties.

Diane Irwin had the faucet replaced in the bathroom for the preschool. LaVern Borreson installed hooks in the hallway between the nave and the kitchen for ladders and a high chair.

Evangelism: Friendship Sunday will be on 2/15/04 and will include the Teen Challenge Choir.

Finance: The current balance in the checking account is \$447.69 and all bills are paid. Cindy, Pastor, and Tom will meet with Diane Irwin to discuss developing a contract between the preschool and the church. The Finance Committee will meet with Kent Johnson to get his recommendations for the allocations of the church's investments.

Christian Education: The students plan to send Valentine cards to the sick and shut-ins. The students will also continue to do the artwork for the church bulletin covers.

Social Ministry: No report.

Stewardship: Emogene resigned from the Stewardship Committee and indicated that she wants to be on the Evangelism Committee. Another council member needs to be appointed to the Stewardship Committee.

Worship & Music: The committee met in December to plan the services for January and will meet on Monday, 1/19/04, to plan the services for February. Lent starts on Feb. 25th with Ash Wednesday.

Executive Committee/ Mutual Ministry: Will meet on Saturday, 1/24/04.

Special Committees

Dorcas Circle: Is planning the Friendship Dinner for Sunday,

2/15/04.

Eve Circle: A meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, 1/13/04.

Men's Club: Four men met on Saturday, 1/3/04, at Nino's and expressed interest in working on a Habitat for Humanity build again. This will be discussed further at the February meeting. Tom Whitehead and Ron Heiss have been invited by the Muskegon Rotary to represent DML at their Habitat Community Appreciation Luncheon on Thursday, 1/15/04. Rotary was the primary sponsor of the house that the Men's Club worked on in 2003. Youth Group: Stephen Hellman has expressed interest in leading the Youth Group.

Unfinished Business

- Inspection certificates have been received for the furnace.
- Diane Irwin wants to know whether the preschool can continue to use the church for next year. She will begin recruiting students in February.
- Cindy has worked on creating a report of people who have made contributions of record but it is not finished yet. She will provide that report at the February Council meeting.
- The annual salary for the sexton's job is \$2500. There is no candidate yet but Dave Justian has provided the name of a potential candidate. Gordon is to contact Dave to get the person's telephone number and then contact him.

New Business

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Whitehead, Secretary

Lessons & Hymns

February 1

4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Lessons

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

Hymns

Ent: 356—O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts
HD: 248—Dearest Jesus, At Your Word*
Comm: 212—Let Us Break Bread Together*
Close: 385—What Wondrous Love is This*

February 8

5th Sunday after the Epiphany

Lessons

Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

Hymns

Ent: 253—Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now
HD: 784—You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore*
Comm: 370—Blest Be the Tie That Binds
Close: 327—Rock of Ages*

February 15

6th Sunday after the Epiphany

Blue Book Service

Lessons

Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

Hymns

Ent: 554—This is My Father's World*
HD: 446—Whatever God Ordains is Right
Comm: 467—Eternal Father, Strong to Save
Close: 415—God of Grace, God of Glory*

February 22

Transfiguration Sunday

Lessons

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-36 [37-43]

Hymns

Ent: 754—Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*
HD: 752—Here I Am, Lord*
Comm: 731—Precious Lord, Take My Hand*
Close: 699—Shine, Jesus, Shine*

February 29

1st Sunday in Lent

Lessons

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

Hymns

Ent: 91—Savior When in Dust to You
HD: 341—Jesus, Still Lead On*
Comm: 93—Jesus, Refuge of the Weary
Close: 90—Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

- To LaVern Borreson for taking care of the trash in December and January.
- To everyone who signed up to handle Sexton duties during the vacancy.
- To the Dorcas Circle for their generous Christmas contribution to the Roof Fund.
- To Louie Boucher for continuing to help with the Sexton duties.

Worship Assistants

February 1

Deacon Bill Kitchka
Lector Jan Wolf
Acolyte Emily Johnson
Nursery _____
Ushers Mike Sellon
 Russ Tilden
Tellers Donna Whitehead
 Tom Whitehead
 Gordon Eggleton

February 8

Deacon Andrew Kitchka
Lector Lauren Stroh
Acolyte Matthew Kitchka
Nursery _____
Ushers Emily Kitchka
 Bill Kitchka
Tellers Cindy Borreson
 Randy Borreson
 Polly Eagle

February 15

Deacon Tom Whitehead
Lector Cindy Borreson
Acolyte Andrew Kitchka
Nursery _____
Ushers Emogene Cotal
 Jan Wolf
Tellers Irene Borreson
 LaVern Borreson
 Bill Kitchka

February 22

Deacon Cindy Borreson
Lector _____
Acolyte Jeffrey Stuthard
Nursery _____
Ushers John Moore
 Tom Proksa
Tellers Betty Proksa
 Tom Proksa
 John Moore

February 29

Deacon Rose Justian
Lector _____
Acolyte Jacob Ward
Nursery _____
Ushers _____
Tellers Emogene Cotal
 Jan Wolf
 Cindy Borreson

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS
If you are unable to fulfill your responsibility, please contact:

Deacons, Acolytes, & Tellers contact:
Cindy Borreson—616-846-2477

Lectors & Ushers contact:
Janet Wolf—(231) 739-7328

Nursery contact:
Jan Ward—(231) 739-7328

Our Father, who are in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and leave us not into temptation,
 but delivery us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen



Those in need of healing:

- Gene Broge
- Bea Eggleton
- Millie Fredrick
- Ann Hulka
- Patti McRoberts
(Paul & Ada Filka's daughter & Previous member)
- Floyd Nickisch
- Mary Panozzo
- Jeannette Roach
- Judy Slezak
(Irene Borreson's sister & previous member)
- Evelyn Stroh
(Pastor's Mother)



Do you have a loved one you would like included in the prayers or added to our prayer list? Please contact Cindy Borreson at 616-846-2477 or by email at cborreson@charter.net and she will see they are included.

What's Happening at Dr. Martin Luther?

Dorcas Circle

Meetings continue on the 1st Monday of each month at 10:00 am.

See Irene Borreson or Ann Hamil for information.

EVE Circle

Eve Circle meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

They will be working on Easter Cards at the next meeting.

Contact Betty Proksa if you have any questions.

MEN'S CLUB

Breakfast Meetings the 1st Saturday of each month.

Contact Russ Tilden or Tom Whitehead with questions.

Friendship Sunday

February 15, 2004

Teen Challenge will be with us and will lead the service
Dorcas Circle hosting dinner immediately following worship
Invite your un-churched friends to join you at worship

Watch for more details or talk with a member of the Evangelism Committee.

Lenten Services

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 25 at 7:15

Please join us as part of your faith journey during Lent.

Soup Supper

Beginning Wednesday, March 3rd at 6:45 pm.

A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board if you would like to volunteer to provide soup for one of the dinners.

New Member Classes

If you are interested in attending, please see Pastor Dennis.

Be watching for meeting information on New Member (and Old Member) classes.

From our Members...

Potato Chips

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with a bag of potato chips and a six-pack of root beer and started his journey.

When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old woman. She was sitting in the park, just staring at some pigeons. The boy sat down next to her and opened his suitcase.

He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the old lady looked hungry, so he offered her some chips. She gratefully accepted it and smiled at him.

Her smile was so pretty that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered her a root beer. Again, she smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word.

As twilight approached, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave; but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the old woman, and gave her a hug. She gave him her biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? She's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the old woman, also radiant with joy, returned to her

home. Her son was stunned by the look of peace on her face and he asked, "Mother, what did you do today that made you so happy?" She replied, "I ate potato chips in the park with God." However, before her son responded, she added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. Embrace all equally!

Have lunch with God.....bring chips.

Submitted by LaVern Borreson

Just Think...

New Years is not coming, it's here. The days are getting longer and your children are getting taller.

Spring is just around the corner and Easter is down the road a little farther.

Then we enjoy Summer and Fall and a Happy Birthday for all. Then lets not forget Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas to all.

I just don't know, is New Year's coming or going?

Well let's all have a Happy New Year anyway. Let's not worry about it; when it comes, it will go.

I.M. Zona

God's Boxes

I have in my hands two boxes,
Which God gave me to hold.
He said, "Put all your sorrows in the black box,
And all your joys in the gold."

I heeded His words, and in the two boxes,
Both my joys and sorrows I stored,
But though the gold became heavier each day,
The black was as light as before.

With curiosity, I opened the black,
I wanted to find out why,
And I saw, in the base of the box, a hole,
Which my sorrows had fallen out by.

I showed the hole to God, and mused,
"I wonder where my sorrows could be!"
He smiled a gentle smile and said,
"My child, they're all here with me."

I asked God, why He gave me the boxes,
Why the gold and the black with the hole?
"My child, the gold is for you to count your
blessings,
The black is for you to let go."

Submitted by Laurie Tilden

There was a church that had problems with outsiders parking in its parking lots, so they put up a sign:

**CHURCH CAR PARK - FOR
MEMBERS ONLY**

Trespassers will be baptized!

Submitted by Darlene Boucher

History of Valentine's Day

No holiday has borrowed more from the past than Valentine's Day. Historians don't agree on how the custom got started, but the most popular notion behind Valentine cards goes back to fertility rites in 5th-century Rome. During the February feast of Lupercalia, lovestruck maidens slipped romantic notes into a great urn. Young lads of the day drew out one of the notes and were then obligated to woo the maid during the coming year.

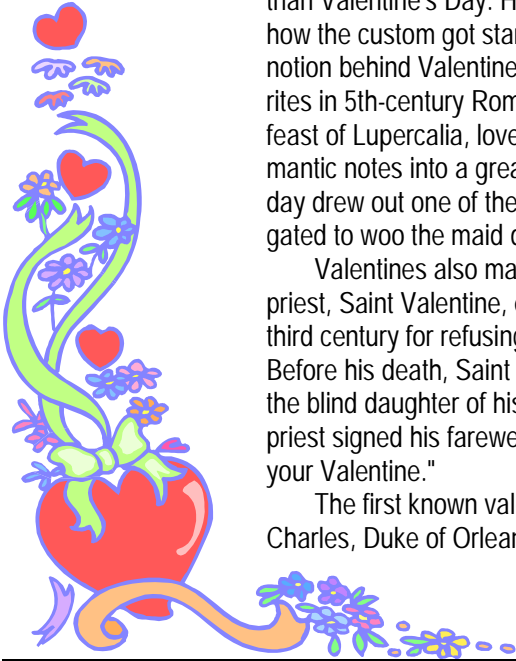
Valentines also may trace to a young Christian priest, Saint Valentine, executed by Romans in the third century for refusing to renounce Christianity. Before his death, Saint Valentine fell in love with the blind daughter of his jailer. In this story, the priest signed his farewell note to the girl, "From your Valentine."

The first known valentine was sent in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was

a prisoner in the Tower of London. It is now on display in the British Museum.

By 1815, the Penny Post brought the printed valentine within everyone's reach. But since payment was collected on delivery, a malicious practice sprang up. Some people began to send obnoxious valentines to people against whom they carried a grudge, adding insult to the injury of postage due. These "comic" valentines were popular throughout the 1800s.

Esther Howland sold the first American valentine in 1849. Her elaborate handmade valentines sold for as much as \$35, though most cost \$5 to \$10. In the 1860s a new novelty valentine arrived — the perfumed sachet. Bits of scented padding went into heavily decorated, embossed envelopes, which were often silvered, colored and ornamented, reflecting the ornate fashions of the era.



Word Search Puzzle—Transfiguration Sunday

Find words in a straight line in all directions

G G S B E C A M E A M E N U
 N N U E T I H W P E L I H W
 I I S E S O M P E H C I H W
 K L E S C J E R U S A L E M
 L Z J E A A E L M D A Y S B
 A Z O M R W F O I H C E A E
 T A H A B O U T S J H H Y R
 E D N J N N Y I E T A T I U
 S C S K T R L L O R N H N T
 E I O A O P S L N E G G G R
 H W I L M O C V W E E I S A
 T N G O R E T E P A D E E P
 I O C A P P E A R E D D K E
 W C F G N I Y A R P Q N U D
 A I U G N I K A E P S A L S

(Luke 9:28-31) Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. (29) And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. (30) Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. (31) They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. (NRSV) from www.geocities.com/lectionarypuzzles

Word List

ABOUT	MOSES
ACCOMPLISH	MOUNTAIN
AFTER	NOW
AND	NRSV
APPEARANCE	OF
APPEARED	PETER
BECAME	PRAYING
CHANGED	SAW
CLOTHES	SAYINGS
DAYS	SPEAKING
DAZZLING	SUDDENLY
DEPARTURE	TALKING
EIGHT	THESE
ELIJAH	THEY
FACE	TOOK
GLORY	TWO
HIM	UP
HIS	WENT
JAMES	WERE
JERUSALEM	WHICH
JESUS	WHILE
JOHN	WHITE
LUKE	WITH
MEN	

Annual Meeting Questions

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the Annual Meeting on January 18 due to a death in the family. Tom Whitehead was kind enough to pass on a few questions that were raised.

1. The roof loan balances appeared to be incorrect on page 10 of the Annual Report under Designated Breakdown.

- The amount in "Designated Breakdown" indicates the amount in the Savings account at Community Shores Bank. We have one savings account referred to as "Designated" and in that account I track a number of "special funds".
- The balance of the roof loan as of December 31, 2003 is \$12,802.31. I made a payment of \$914.98 on January 5, 2004 of which an extra \$449.50 was applied to the principal.

2. Stephen Hellman asked that we confirm the balance in Melissa's Memorial fund as he believed a report reviewed in the last Finance Committee meeting showed a larger amount. I have double-checked the reports I have and they all indicate \$1,175.00 for Melissa's Memorial Fund.

Other items:

- On September 10, 2001, DML secured a loan from Community Shores bank for \$30,000.00. The maturity date of this loan is September 10, 2006. See below for a listing of information on the loan.
- We should be very proud of ourselves that we have managed to pay over half of the principal on this loan.
- Let's keep up the **faithful giving!**

Loan Information

9/10/2001	\$30,000.00	Loan Amount
12/31/2003	\$12,802.31	Balance as of 12/31/03
1/5/2004	(\$380.72)	Payment towards balance
1/5/2004	<u>(\$449.50)</u>	Extra payment towards principal
1/5/2004	\$11,972.90	Balance due as of 1/5/2004
1/5/2004	<u>\$18,027.91</u>	Total paid against principal from September 2001 to January 2004

If at any time you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached by phone at 616-846-2477 or by email at cborreson@charter.net.

Your fellow servant in Christ,
Cindy Borreson
Treasurer

Dr. Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church

February 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Epiphany 4 Choir Practice 9 am Holy Eucharist 10 am BIBLE Club 11 am <i>Black History Month</i>	2 Groundhog Day <i>The Presentation of Our Lord</i>	3 Finance Com. 7 pm <i>Ansgar, Archbishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, 865</i>	4	5 Bible Study 2 pm <i>The Martyrs of Japan, 1597</i>	6	7 Men's Club 9 am
8 Epiphany 5 Choir Practice 9 am Holy Eucharist 10 am BIBLE Club 11 am Prayer Team 4 pm	9 Dorcas Circle 10 am Council Mtg. 6:30 pm	10 Parish Ed 6:30 pm Eve Circle 7 pm	11	12 Bible Study 2 pm Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Valentine's Day <i>Cyril, monk, 869; Methodius, bishop, 885; missionaries to the Slavs</i>
15 Epiphany 6 Friendship Sunday Choir Practice 9 am Holy Eucharist 10 am BIBLE Club 11 am Friendship Dinner	16 W & M Com. 7 pm Presidents Day	17	18 <i>Martin Luther, renewer of the Church, 1546</i>	19 Bible Study 2 pm	20 <i>Rasmus Jensen, the first Lutheran pastor in North America, 1620</i>	21
22 Transfiguration of Our Lord Choir Practice 9 am Holy Eucharist 10 am BIBLE Club 11 am Concert at Lake Harbor Church 3 pm Washington's Birthday	23 Evangelism Com. 7 pm <i>Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, 156</i>	24 St. Matthias, Apostle	25 Ash Wednesday Lenten Service 7 pm <i>Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, 1921</i>	26 Bible Study 2 pm	27	28 Mutual Ministry 9:00 am
29 Lent 1 Choir Practice 9 am Holy Eucharist 10 am BIBLE Club 11 am Leap Year	March 1 <i>George Herbert, priest, 1633</i>	March 2 <i>John Wesley, 1791; Charles Wesley, 1788: renewers of the Church</i>	March 3 Soup Supper 6:30 pm Lenten Service 7:15 pm	March 4 Bible Study 2 pm	March 5	March 6

**Dr. Martin Luther
Evangelical Lutheran Church**

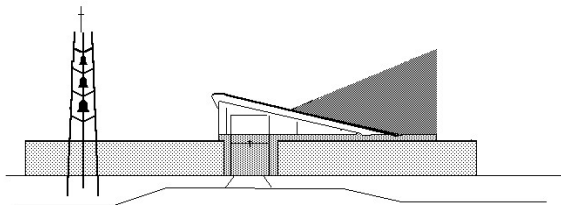
Evangelical Lutheran Church in
America

The Church Door

The Newsletter of Dr. Martin Luther
Evangelical Lutheran Church

February 2004

THE SEASON
of
EPIPHANY



Dr. Martin Luther Ev. Lutheran Church
1860 E. Hile Rd.
Muskegon, MI 49444

THE CHURCH DOOR
February 2004
The Season of Epiphany

