

The Church Door

From Our Pastor

We just finished in December making preparations (in the season of Advent) and then welcoming the light that was coming into the world as we celebrated the birth of Jesus (in the season of Christmas). At DML we used dramas during our worship services on the four Sundays of Advent to help us prepare. The material was excellent and the acting superb! Thanks to all who participated and enhanced our worship experience. We continued the drama experience as we "Journeyed to Bethlehem" during our Christmas Eve Candle-light Service. It was a great evening. Thanks to all who worked behind the scenes and in the scenes to help flesh out our worship experience.

Now we move into the season of Epiphany, as the mission of Jesus to the gentiles is announced. The Wise Men or Magi who brought gifts to the infant Jesus were the first Gentiles to acknowledge Jesus as "King" and so were the first to "show" or "reveal" Jesus to a wider world as the incarnate Christ. This act of worship by the Magi, which corresponded to Simeon's blessing that this child Jesus would be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" (Luke 2:32), was one of the first indications that Jesus came for all people, of all nations, of all races, and that the work of God in the world would not be limited to only a few.

We use the word "epiphany" to refer to a realization or comprehension of the essence or meaning of something. I hope that we are comprehending that a church is not dependent upon any one person, but that it is truly a community of believers working together to carry out the mis-

sion that our Lord has given us, that of spreading the good news of the salvation brought to all people through Jesus the Christ.

As we wonder what the year 2007 might have in store for us, I want to take this opportunity to thank all the dedicated fellow workers in the kingdom who have been called to serve at DML. Your hard work is greatly appreciated! Thanks to those who put the letters on the church sign, who set up the communion table, who do the bulletin and newsletter, who serve on committees, who plunge toilets, who stain wood, who empty trash, who send cards, who welcome strangers, who visit the sick and shut-in, who count money, who give money, who

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" (Isaiah 6:8). Thanks to all who have heard the call and responded. May God bless our mutual ministry at DML in 2007 and beyond as we strive to carry the message of the Epiphany to the world.

*God's blessings,
Pastor Dennis*



New Year's Blessings

Church Council Meeting—December 11, 2006

President Tom Whitehead called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Pastor led devotions from the 5th Chapter of 1 Thessalonians.

PRESENT: Cindy Borreson, LaVern Borreson, Randy Borreson, Emogene Cotal, Polly Eagle, Pastor Stroh, Russ Tilden, Tom Whitehead, Jan Wolf,

ABSENT: Brian Doane

VISITOR: Jeff Ward (2007 member)

2007 Election Business

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President – Tom Whitehead

Vice-President – Russ Tilden

Treasurer – Cindy Borreson

Secretary – Randy Borreson

COMMITTEES

- **Property** – Randy Borreson & Brian Doane
- **Evangelism** – Emogene Cotal
- **Finance** – Cindy Borreson
- **Parish Ed** – Russ Tilden
- **Soc Ministry** – Polly Eagle
- **Stewardship** – Jeff Ward
- **Worship & Music** – Jan Wolf

Installation will be held on Sunday, December 17 during worship

Meeting Night – it was agreed that Council meetings will be held the 3rd Monday of the month due to conflicts for a few of the members on the 2nd Monday of the month.

Regular Council Business

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of the November 13, 2006 regular Council meeting were presented in printed form.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's Report as of November 30, 2006 was presented in printed form.

Pastor's Report: A written report was submitted.

- Two (2) hospital visits

- Meetings – Stony Lake Conference, W&M Committee, Dorcas Circle, Property, Education, Men's Club, Put up Christmas Tree, Thrivent Board Meeting, mediation
- Advent skits & Christmas Eve planning is well underway.

Committee Reports

Property:

1. Installed windows by front door today! Rose Justian got the old glass from the front windows.
2. Will be taking final look at everything before final payment.
3. Erickson Electric took care of parking lot lights.

Evangelism: Did not meet. Immanuel Baby pantry will carry on until January.

Finance: Did not meet

Parish Education: Meeting held on December 5. Materials have been received; different format than the 1st quarter; new opening and closing using tea lights. Concern expressed about "fire". Pastor suggested battery operated tea-lights, which are carried at Menards. Christmas Eve skit – need to get more volunteers. Plan to meet after service on Sunday, December 10 to match up costumes and hand out reading parts; again after service on December 17 to run through skit with all volunteers; and a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 23 from 10 to 12. Skits will be during the first part of the Christmas Eve service. Men's Club will bring in pizza lunch for dress rehearsal.

Social Ministry: Nancy Kitchka will find families for Christmas Baskets.

Stewardship: LaVern wants to make sure others on the committee are recognized – Lauren Johnson, Donna Whitehead, Tom Whitehead, Mike Sellon, Ray VanderStelt, plus those that helped with the presenta-

tions. Cindy will put this in the next newsletter.

Worship & Music: Met in November and planned December

Executive Committee/ Mutual Ministry: No meeting in November, we will meet in December.

Special Committees

Dorcas Circle: Annual Christmas Dinner at Red Lobster and took collection for missionaries. Check for \$200 was issued from bazaar.

Eve Circle: \$200 from bazaar was put into their fund.

Men's Club: Met in December and will meet on January 6, 2007. There will be 2 Lutheran Habitat homes built this year in addition to the already planned Habitat homes. These 2 homes will be Thrivent sponsored homes.

Petitions and Communications

Marcia Kitchka asked to use the Fellowship Hall on December 21 (same as last year) and they will clean-up afterwards.

Unfinished Business

Advent Dinner – There was \$6 left over after supplies were purchased for the Advent Dinner. It was placed in the basket at the dinner.

New Business

Louie will be gone for next 3 weeks (December 18 to January 10). Garbage will need to be taken out. During this time, we will take the garbage out every other week.

Adjourned at 8:10 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Borreson
Council Secretary/Treasurer

Financial Information—November 30, 2005

<u>ASSETS</u>	
<u>Cash & Bank Accounts</u>	
Funds for General Operations	
Checkbook	\$2,210.91
Cash Account	\$0.00
Savings – Reserve	\$2,952.90
Total Funds for General Operations	\$5,163.81
Funds for Special Purposes	
Savings—Designated	
Building Fund	\$9,185.46
Special Projects	\$3,109.23
Hellman Fund	\$0.00
Evangelism	\$69.00
Eve Circle	\$799.72
Kitchen Fund	\$620.87
Men's Club	\$342.51
Youth Group	\$285.39
Total Savings—Designated	\$14,412.18
Savings – Memorial	\$9,792.36
Savings – Taxes	\$2,374.39
Total Funds for Special Purposes	\$26,578.93
Total Cash and Bank Accounts	\$31,742.74
Investments—Designated for Housing Allowance	
LB Money Market—Cash	\$4,250.78
LB Fund	\$25,154.79
LB Income Fund	\$35,601.54
Total Investments	\$65,007.11
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	<u>\$96,749.85</u>

<u>LIABILITIES</u>	
Windows Loan	\$19,257.54
WH—Federal Tax Liability	\$1,983.83
WH—State Tax Liability	\$194.33
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>	<u>\$21,435.70</u>

Summary Information for November

Average Attendance for October = 69

Offering Needed to
meet 2004 Budget \$8,555.60

Amount Received toward Budget \$7,147.00



**ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**
 Sunday, January 21 following worship
 The purpose of this meeting to:

- Accept Committee Reports
- Receive Financial Reports

As a member of DML it is your privilege and responsibility to attend this meeting. Please plan to be there.

Worship Assistants

Hymns & Lessons

January 7—The Baptism of Our Lord

Deacon Jeff Ward
Lector Emily Johnson
Acolyte Emily Johnson
Nursery See Nursery Door
Ushers Mike Sellon & Russ Tilden
Tellers Tom & Donna Whitehead
Gordon Eggleton

Lessons
Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Hymns
#82—As with Gladness Men of Old
#693—Baptized in Water
#83—From God the Father, Virgin-Born
#646—We Three Kings of Orient Are

January 14—2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

Deacon Tom Whitehead
Lector Donna Whitehead
Acolyte Nate Johnson
Nursery See Nursery Door
Ushers Brad & Ray Johnson
Tellers LaVern & Irene Borreson
Randy Borreson

Lessons
Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

Hymns
#90—Songs of Thankfulness and Praise
#439—What a Friend We Have in Jesus
#370—Blest Be the Tie That Binds
#259—Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

January 21—3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Deacon Cindy Borreson
Lector Becky Stroh
Acolyte Matthew Kitchka
Nursery See Nursery Door
Ushers John Moore & Tom Proksa
Tellers Tom & Betty Proksa
John Moore & Tom Whitehead

Lessons
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

Hymns
#799—When Long Before Time
#783—Seek Ye First the Kingdom of
God
#706—Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup
#795—Oh, Sing to the Lord

January 28—4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Deacon Rose Justian
Lector John Moore
Acolyte Becky Stroh
Nursery See Nursery Door
Ushers Emogene Cotal & Jan Wolf
Tellers Randy & Cindy Borreson
Polly Eagle

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

Hymns
#551—Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
#508—Come Down, O Love Divine
#126—Where Charity and Love Prevail
#721—Go, My Children, with My Blessing



Dorcas Circle

The Annual Christmas Luncheon was held on December 4th at Red Lobster.

Gifts were given to Pastor Stroh and the Church.

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

See Irene Borreson or Ann Hamil for information

MEN'S CLUB

Breakfast Meeting
Saturday, January 6,
9:00 am at Mickey's.

Contact Russ Tilden
at
616-798-1032 with
questions.

EVE Circle

Eve Circle's meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm.

They hope to see some new faces joining them.
Contact Betty Proksa if you have any questions.



A sign-up sheet for 2007 has been put on the bulletin board. Please select a special Sunday to honor or remember a loved one. The cost is \$25.00 and you will be billed directly by Muskegon Floral for the flowers.

Thank you!!

There are so many people to thank for being a part of the Christmas Eve Service; especially the BIBLE Club, the DML Choir, DML volunteers and friends. Your efforts are greatly appreciated and we hope you enjoyed being a part of this wonderful experience.

Participants

Narrator..... Pastor Dennis
Onlookers..... Dave & Rose Justian
Mary..... Lauren Johnson
Joseph..... Brad Johnson
Donkey..... Emily Johnson
Weary Traveler..... John Moore
Child Traveler..... Nate Johnson
Shepherd Family..... Reed Snyder
..... Jack & Dawn Snyder
Angels..... Jessica McCarl
..... Samantha McCarl
Sheep..... Lillie Whepley
..... Becky Stroh

Wise Men..... Russ Tilden
..... Cameron McCarl
..... Ben Stroh
..... Zack Proksa
Response Speakers..... Jan Wolf
..... Amanda & Dusty Shunta
..... Emogene Cotal
..... Donna Whitehead
..... Nancy Johnson
Soloist..... Tom Whitehead
Impresarios..... Russ & Laurie Tilden

Thank you to Lauren Stroh for organizing the program and making the costumes.

Calendar Observances—January 2006

January 1, 2006

Name of Jesus

The observance of the octave (eighth day) of Christmas has roots in the sixth century. Until the recent past, Lutheran calendars called this day "The Circumcision and Name of Jesus." The emphasis on circumcision is the older emphasis. Every Jewish boy was circumcised and formally named on the eighth day of his life. Already in his youth, Jesus bears the mark of a covenant that he makes new through the shedding of his blood, now and on the cross. That covenant, like Jesus' name, is a gift that marks the children of God. Baptized into Christ, the church begins a new year in Jesus' name.

Monday, January 2

Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church (1808–1872)

Loehe was a pastor in nineteenth-century Germany. From the small town of Neuendettelsau, he sent pastors to North America, Australia, New Guinea, Brazil, and the Ukraine. His work for a clear confessional basis within the Bavarian church sometimes led to conflict with the ecclesiastical bureaucracy. Loehe's chief concern was that a parish finds its life in the eucharist, and from that source evangelism and social ministries would flow. Many Lutheran congregations in Michigan, Ohio, and Iowa were either founded or influenced by missionaries sent by Loehe. The chapel at Wartburg Theological Seminary is named in his honor.

Loehe's vision to see the eucharist at the center of parish life can lead us on to think about ways that the incarnate presence of Christ in holy communion sends us out on a life of ministry and mission.

Sunday, January 15

Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr (1929–1968)

Martin Luther King Jr. is remembered as an American prophet of justice among races and nations, a Christian whose faith undergirded his advocacy of vigorous yet nonviolent action for racial equality. A pastor of churches in Montgomery, Alabama, and Atlanta, Georgia, his witness was taken to the streets in such other places as Birmingham, Alabama, where he was arrested and jailed while protesting against segregation. He preached nonviolence and demanded that love be returned for hate. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, he was killed by an assassin on April 4, 1968. Though most commemorations are held on the date of the person's death, many churches hold commemorations near Dr. King's birth date of January 15, in conjunction with the American civil holiday honoring him. An alternate date for the commemoration would be his death date, April 4.

Congregations may choose to remember King by singing "We shall overcome" (TFF 213) or "Holy God, you raise up prophets" (TFF 299).

Tuesday, January 17

Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church (251–356)

Antony was born in Qemen-al-Arous, Upper Egypt, and was one of the earliest Egyptian desert fathers. Born to Christian parents from whom he inherited a large estate, he took personally Jesus' message to sell all that you have, give to the poor, and follow Christ. After making arrangements to provide for the care of his sister, he gave away his inheritance and became a hermit. Later, he became the head of a

group of monks that lived in a cluster of huts and devoted themselves to communal prayer, worship, and manual labor under Antony's direction. The money they earned from their work was distributed as alms. Antony and his monks also preached and counseled those who sought them out.

Antony and the desert fathers serve as a reminder that certain times and circumstances call Christians to stand apart from the surrounding culture and renounce the world in service to Christ.

Tuesday, January 17
Pachomius, renewer of the church (c. 290–346)

Another of the desert fathers, Pachomius (puh-kome-ee-us) was born in Egypt about 290. He became a Christian during his service as a soldier. In 320 he went to live as a hermit in Upper Egypt, where other hermits lived nearby. Pachomius organized them into a religious community in which the members prayed together and held their goods in common. His rule for monasteries influenced both Eastern and Western monasticism through the Rule of Basil and the Rule of Benedict, respectively.

The Egyptian (Coptic) church may be unfamiliar to many Western Christians. Use the commemoration of Pachomius to teach about the Egyptian church at parish gatherings this week.

Wednesday, January 18
Confession of Peter

Beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is framed by two commemorations, the Confession of Peter (a relatively recent addition to the calendar) and the older Conversion of Paul. Both are remembered

together on June 29, but these two days give us an opportunity to focus on key events in each of their lives. Today we remember that Peter was led by God's grace to acknowledge Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16:16).

This confession is the common confession that unites us with Peter and with all Christians of every time and place. During these weeks of Epiphany, with their emphasis on mission, consider an ecumenical worship service with neighboring congregations to embody the unity we share in our confession of Christ, a unity granted us in our one baptism, a unity we yearn to embody more fully. The hymn "We all are one in mission" (WOV 755) could be sung at this service.

Saturday, January 21

Agnes, martyr (c. 291–c. 304)

Agnes was a girl of about thirteen living in Rome who had chosen a life of service to Christ as a virgin, despite the Roman emperor Diocletian's ruling that had outlawed all Christian activity. The details of her martyrdom are not clear, but she gave witness to her faith and was put to death as a result, most likely by the sword. Since her death, the church has honored her as one of the chief martyrs of her time.

Wednesday, January 25 **Conversion of Paul**

End of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Today the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity comes to an end. The church remembers how a man of Tarsus named Saul, a former persecutor of the early Christian church, was led by God's grace to become one of its chief preachers. The risen Christ appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus and called him to proclaim the gospel. The narratives describing Paul's conversion in the Acts of the Apostles, Gala-

tians, and 1 Corinthians inspire this commemoration, which was first celebrated among the Christians of Gaul.

The entire Week of Prayer for Christian Unity gives us a chance to consider our calling in light of Paul's words in Galatians that all are one in Christ. The hymn "Bind us together" (WOV 748) can be used to pray that Christ will continue to hold us in our baptismal unity.

Thursday, January 26 **Timothy, Titus, and Silas,** **missionaries**

On the two days following the celebration of the Conversion of Paul, his companions are remembered. Timothy, Titus, and Silas were missionary coworkers with Paul. Timothy accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey and was commissioned by Paul to go to Ephesus, where he served as bishop and overseer of the church. Titus was a traveling companion of Paul, accompanied him on the trip to the council of Jerusalem, and became the first bishop of Crete. Silas traveled with Paul through Asia Minor and Greece and was imprisoned with him at Philippi, where they were delivered by an earthquake.

This festival invites the church to remember Christian leaders, bishops, pastors, and teachers--both men and women--who have been influential in the lives of individual members as gospel signs of the light of Epiphany.

Friday, January 27 **Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe,** **witnesses to the faith**

On this day the church remembers three women who were companions in Paul's ministry. Lydia was Paul's first convert at Philippi in Macedonia. She was a merchant of purple-dyed goods, and because purple dye was extremely expensive, it is likely that Lydia was a woman of some wealth.

Lydia and her household were baptized by Paul and for a time her home was a base for Paul's missionary work. Dorcas is remembered for her charitable works, particularly making clothing for needy widows. Phoebe was a diakonos, a deaconess in the church at Cenchreae, near Corinth. Paul praises her as one who, through her service, looked after many people.

Today provides an opportunity for congregations to reflect on the ministry of women, ordained and lay, wealthy and poor, who have given of themselves in service to the church and to the ministry of the gospel in their congregations.

Saturday, January 28 **Thomas Aquinas,** **teacher (c. 1225–1274)**

Thomas Aquinas was a brilliant and creative theologian of the thirteenth century. He was first and foremost a student of the Bible and profoundly concerned with the theological formation of the church's ordained ministers. As a member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), he worked to correlate scripture with the philosophy of Aristotle, which was having a renaissance in Aquinas's day. Some students of Aristotle's philosophy found in it an alternative to Christianity. But Aquinas immersed himself in the thought of Aristotle and worked to explain Christian beliefs in the philosophical culture of the day. The contemporary worship cultural studies done by the Lutheran World Federation resonate with Aquinas's method.

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What does it matter
how I pray, so long
as my prayers are
answered?
Sitting Bull

Remember our friends and family members in the Military

God of Compassion, we pray for military
personnel offered for the sake of others
and separated from family and loved ones.
Care for them; meet their needs.

Grant them courage, compassion, strength,
and all they need for the living of these days.

Sustain them through their every trial.

Remind them of the humanity they share
Even with those who are called "the enemy";
Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen

Sgt. Kenneth Hawkins (*Tom and Betty Proksa's nephew*)
United States Army—Serving in Iraq

Private Lynzie Heiss (*Ron Heiss's daughter*)
United States Army—Stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington

LCPL Corey Judson (*Virginia Kolarik's grandson*)
United States Marine Corp—Serving in the US

SSgt. Kevin Sellon (*Mike and Carol Sellon's son*)
United States Army—Serving in the US

TSgt. Harvey Wagenmaker (*Tom and Betty Proksa's nephew*)
United States Air Force—Stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma

Sgt. Matt Young (*friend of Nancy and Jim Gibson*)
United States Army--Serving in Iraq

Specialist Robert Borreson (*Randy and Cindy Borreson's son*)
United States Army Reserves

If you'd like to add a name to this list, please contact
Cindy Borreson.



Those in need of healing:

Dorothy Anderson

Beryl Connelly

Millie Fredrick

Clif Hellman

Stephen Hellman

Tom Hulka

Ray Johnson

Sandra Johnson

Emily Kitchka

Andrew Lussky

Maxine Pedersen

Vicki Peterson

Nancy Rizzo

Paul Suchovsky

Theresa Zhart

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

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.

January 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 NO Finance Committee <i>Johan Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, pastor, 1872</i>	3 7 pm Property Committee	4	5 <i>Kaj Munk, martyr, 1944</i>	6 9 am Men's Club Breakfast @ Mickey's
7 Baptism of Our Lord NO Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am BIBLE Club	8 10 am Dorcas Circle	9 6:30 Eve Circle	10	11	12	13 <i>George Fox, renewer of society, 1691</i>
14 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany NO Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am BIBLE Club <i>Elvind Josef Berggrav, Bishop of</i>	15 6:30 pm Congregation Council <i>Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr</i>	16	17 <i>Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday observed</i>	18 6:30 pm Stewardship Committee THE CONFESSION OF ST. PETER	19 <i>Henry, bishop, missionary martyr, 1156</i>	20 10 am Worship & Music Committee
21 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am BIBLE Club Annual Congregational	22 6:30 pm Evangelism Committee	23	24	25 THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL	26 <i>Timothy, Titus, and Silas</i>	27 9 am Mutual Ministry Committee @ Mickey's <i>Lydia, Dorcas, and</i>
28 4th Sunday after the Epiphany 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am BIBLE Club	29	30	31			

Dr. Martin Luther
Evangelical Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America

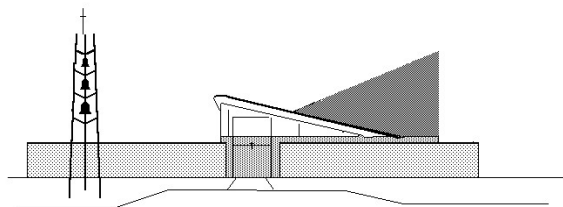


THE SEASON OF
EPIPHANY

The Church Door

The Newsletter of Dr. Martin Luther
Evangelical Lutheran Church

January 2007



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