

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

201 S. Washington St. Unity, WI 54488



2024

January 7th

Worship 8:00 (Noisy Offering)

Sunday School 9:00

January 9th - Council Meeting 6:30

January 14th

Worship 8:00

January 21st

Potluck 11:00; **Worship 12:00 Noon**; annual meeting following

January 28th

Worship - 8:00

Pastor Teri Hanson - 715-650-1786 christfirstpastor@gmail.com

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Take a deep breath. We made it. We're officially on the other side of Advent, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

For some, mid November and into December was a flurry of activity, and at a couple of points I was asked by someone if everything that happens is supposed to teach us something. I am not sure that we can answer that question "cosmically", but it seems to me that God CAN teach us something through most anything that happens. But, I am not sure everything happens - SO THAT - God can teach us something.

Over the years I have come to understand about "holding things loosely".

I know that I can keep a pretty firm hold on the things that matter to me, and when there are unfilled expectations, or things that get canceled, or when people go their own way and do their own thing, we experience grief and / or disappointment.

It is during these times that I have noticed how God CAN and DOES continue to speak to me creating space to receive something new. In this space, God helps me hold loosely to those things in my life where I might need to loosen my grip. As we hold our expectations loosely, we might discover that even if things don't go as planned, the unexpected can bring a new joy, and sometimes a necessary and life giving shift.

Heading into 2024, I think about Mary and Elizabeth, Joseph, shepherds, the magi, even the Innkeeper, and everyone who had to let go of their grip on ancient expectations in order to receive something brand new. Something unexpected, the infant Messiah.

HAPPY NEW YEAR
2024!



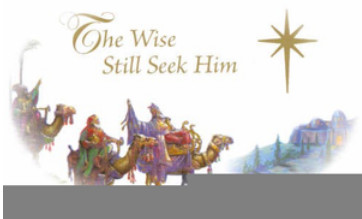
Worship Time Change

- **January 21st** - Worship will be at 12:00 noon with the annual congregational meeting following. This is to allow Pastor Teri to attend the meeting.
- There will be a potluck lunch before worship on the 21st beginning at 11:00.

IN LOVING
Memory

A gift was given by Larry Westberg and family in memory of his parents, Orville and Clara Westberg, and by Ron & Sue Karsten in memory of Sara Strunk.

A church member, Sara Strunk, passed away on November 28th. Please keep her family in your prayers.



Epiphany Season

(St. Jude League)

Epiphany (or Theophany, as it is known in the Eastern Rite Catholic Church), also known as Three Kings'

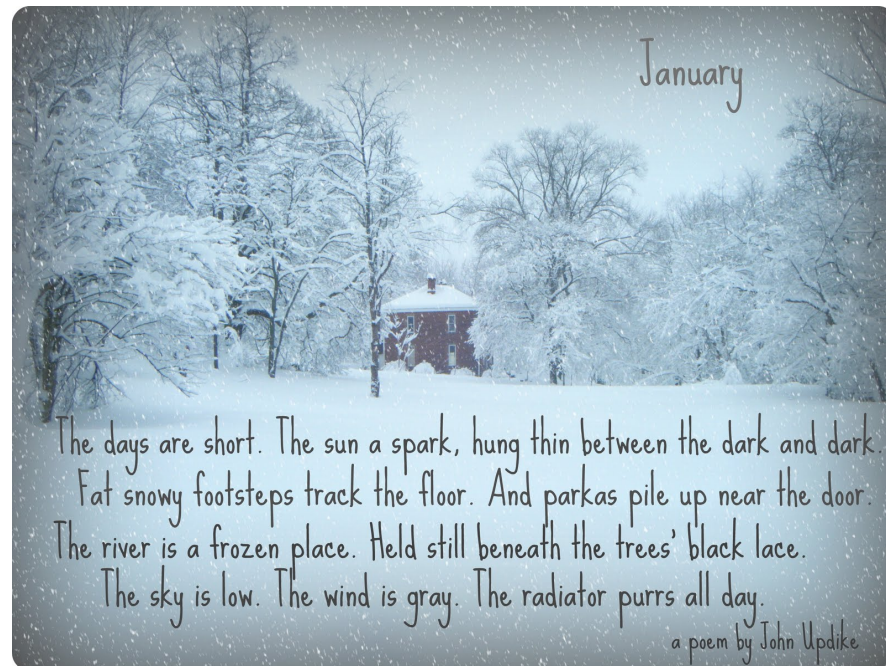
Day, is a Christian feast day that celebrates the revelation of God in His Son as human in Jesus Christ. The word *epiphany* comes from the Greek word meaning "manifestation." The feast also commemorates the visit of the Magi to the Christ child, and thus Jesus' physical manifestation to the Gentiles.

Typically celebrated on January 6, or the closest Sunday to that date, the feast of Epiphany allows us to truly comprehend what it means that God has brought His only Son into our world. The Wise Men - Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar - were the first people outside of the stable to come and pay homage to Jesus. These unlikely royal visitors showered Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, herbs typically used for burial, possibly foreshadowing Jesus' destiny.

The Magi were taking a huge risk in following the star to Bethlehem, but they trusted that God was leading them to something far greater than they could know. This is such a powerful example of how we as Christians should live our lives. Trusting that God knows what is best for us and that His plan, no matter how unattainable things might seem on the journey, will lead us to where we need to be. We should also have the strength to see Jesus in our lives in unexpected ways, and when we do, worship and adore Him.

As the Epiphany star lights our way, you and I are reminded of God's guiding, renewing, steadfast, and surprising presence in our world. May we challenge ourselves to ease up on our grip and relax into the mystery of our faith and trust that God continues to speak and guide us in mind, body and spirit.

In Christ,
Pastor Teri



For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

“What’s Cooking?”

(if you have a favorite recipe, please share.)



Fruit Pizza

(submitted by Patsy Schuh in blue church cookbook)

First layer: 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. flour $\frac{1}{2}$ c. powdered sugar $\frac{3}{4}$ c. butter

Second layer: 8 oz. cream cheese $\frac{1}{2}$ c. sugar 1 tsp. vanilla

Third layer: Assorted fruit

Fourth layer: 2 T. cornstarch 1 c. fruit juice (apple works)
 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. sugar 2 tsp. lemon juice

Mix ingredients for the first layer. Spread on a greased pizza pan or cookie sheet. Bake for 10 minutes or until golden brown at 350 degrees.

Mix ingredients for the second layer. Spread over the cooled crust.

For the third layer, cut up the desired fruit and place on the frosting layer.

Mix ingredients for the fourth layer in a small saucepan and heat to boiling stirring occasionally. Cool and spread over fruit.

January Worship Assistants:

	Lay reader	Ushers	Comm. Asst.
Jan. 7	Kelsey Wussow	Raatz Family	Al Raatz
Jan. 14	Sara Uhlig	Raatz Family	Al Raatz
Jan. 21	Al Raatz	Raatz Family	Al Raatz
Jan. 28	Lisa Lynn	Raatz Family	Al Raatz

Money Counters

Jan. 7	Al Raatz & Jared Klimmer
Jan. 14	Sara Uhlig & Cindy Hardrath
Jan. 21	Naomi Carey & Susan Karsten
Jan. 28	Patsy Schuh & Pat Klimmer

In February.....those in charge.....

Altar Guild - Barb Soback

Lay Readers - Teri Raatz

Ushers & Comm. Assistant - TBD

More people are needed to work on Wednesdays when the food pantry is open. Please talk to Cindy Hardrath.



More money counters are also needed. It's on a four week rotation. If interested, please talk to Pat Klimmer.



January Birthdays

5 - Kiara Klimmer
6 - Barb Justman
8 - Pat Suckow
9 - Emily Loertscher
22 - Doug Newman
25 - Jerry Chubb
29 - Susan Karsten

Thank You!

.....to all those who donated towards the purchase of a poinsettia to decorate our church for Christmas.

.....to Kelsey Wussow for the cute and special Children's Christmas Program.

.....to Pastor Teri for all you do.



Swiss Vegetable Medley

(submitted by Esther Carlson in blue church cookbook)



1 bag frozen broccoli, carrots & cauliflower combination, thawed and drained.

1 (10 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz.) cream of mushroom soup

1 c. shredded Swiss cheese

$\frac{1}{3}$ c. sour cream

$\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. black pepper

1 can French fried onions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine vegetables, soup, $\frac{1}{2}$ c. cheese, sour cream, pepper, and $\frac{1}{2}$ can French fried onions. Put in greased casserole and bake, covered, for 30 minutes. Uncover, sprinkle with remaining onions, and bake an additional 5 minutes.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

All reports for the annual congregational meeting are needed by Sunday, January 14th. The reports can be dropped off at church before then or sent to Pat Klimmer via email or texting (with a link). Any questions, contact Pat (715-659-2331 or pcklimmer@gmail.com).

What's Going on in Our Church?

This month the spotlight is on the **noisy offering**. The first Sunday of each month we have a noisy offering at the beginning of worship. We have special pails that were painted by Karen Brown. We pass these pails around at the beginning of the service on the first Sunday of each month collecting change to hopefully make a lot of "noise." Paper offerings are always accepted too. The money collected is used to help families in the community with needs. It may be medical needs or maybe a fire or other tragedy. Usually money or gift cards are given. If you know of anyone in the community struggling, please contact Pat Klimmer or anyone at church so we may be of assistance.

December Council Meeting Summary of Main Points:

- Food Pantry Update: We are getting more and more new families signing up and going through our food much faster. If anyone knows of organizations that help food pantries, please provide the information to Cindy Hardrath.
- Date for Annual Meeting: **Sunday, January 21st** – potluck at 11AM, service at noon (abbreviated), followed by the Annual Meeting.
No 8AM service on January 21st!!!

January

January,
Now is here –
A fine new start,
For a whole new year.

The snow comes down
In the dark of night.
When we awake,
The world is white.

In January
When there's snow,
We get our sleds,
And away we go!



Food Pantry Notice

Trinity's food pantry has been very busy lately. We are getting more families visiting than we have ever had. If you are able to help out with donations, here is a list of items that we use the most: pancake mix & syrup, peanut butter, rice, potatoes, any kind of pasta, canned fruits & vegetables, and canned tuna or chicken. Other foods are also welcome. We are grateful for all items that are donated. While you are doing your own shopping, maybe pick up a couple of items for the pantry also. Thanks for your consideration.

