

January 2012

Family of God Lutheran Church

The Beacon



**"... the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."
Matthew 4:16**

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Pastoral Ponderings ...

Dear members and friends of Family of God,

Hard to imagine that we are in a new year already and that 2011 has come to a close. And in the church year, we already find ourselves coming into our third season of the new church year as we enter into the six-week season of Epiphany on January 6th. From the Greek word epiphania, meaning "manifestation" or "revelation", this is the time in the church year to celebrate the revelation of Christ as Light of the World.

The gospel writer's (Matthew) words of John the Baptist quoting from the prophet Isaiah, remind us that we are the people who sit in darkness, close to death. Yet, the appearance of light has dawned for us in the tiny baby born in Bethlehem.

So, who is this child that the magi traveled so far to meet? Who is this human baby born in a humble stable? Who is this man who has such a drawing power? During the season of Epiphany, Jesus is at the center of all the attention. "But isn't Jesus ALWAYS the center of attention?" you may ask. Ah, a pastor can dream, can't she? The truth is we all place other people and "things" at the center of our attention. We all sit in the darkness at times. Epiphany is the time to bring the Light of the World back into the heart of our lives, to focus the spotlight on Jesus.

As we pack away the Christmas decorations, we might leave aside a single candle or a strand of white lights to help us remember that the glory and dazzle of Christmas gives birth to the truth that this human baby is the Light of the World.

May the light of Christ fill every corner of your life,
Pastor Sonja Brucklacher

Church Office Hours:
Weekdays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Telephone: 218-773-1433

Pr. Sonja's Cell: 701-740-5123

Pastor Sonja Brucklacher
pastorsonja@familyofgodlutheran.org.

Office Manager: Shellie Lundebly
shellie@familyofgodlutheran.org.

Worship & Music: Julie Deziel
Web Design: Theresa Allard



January Birthdays

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Kendra Magenau	Jan. 3	Kelly Slominski	Jan. 18
Danny Messelt	Jan. 3	Lori Hofland	Jan. 20
Alicia Ziegler	Jan. 4	Ralph Messelt	Jan. 23
Judy Schneider	Jan. 6	Sherri Erickson	Jan. 25
Dale Carlson	Jan. 7	Randy Jenson Jr.	Jan. 27
Randall Jenson Sr.	Jan. 7	Tonja Schaffer	Jan. 27
Bill Holman	Jan. 14	Joshua Peterson	Jan. 29
Lindsay Delmore	Jan. 16	Robert Smette	Jan. 31

Confirmation Youth!
Mark your calendars!

The City-wide Confirmation event will be January 25th at the Chester Fritz beginning at 6:30 p.m. We will be bussing over together with Our Savior's! Watch for more information!



**Remember
in Prayer. .**

Steve & Tracy Magenau and family,
Dave Pankratz, Ellis Larson,
Gordon Carlson, Tim Magenau,
Gary Cariveau, Wyn Owen,
and Alice Delisle.



Worship Matters...

Thanks to all ...

Thanks goes to all who contributed their time and talent during the weeks of Advent and into the Christmas season to make it a special time in the life of the church. **A special thank you** to the Sunday School youth, Tracy Magenau and Julie Deziel for all the hard work that went into the delightful **Sunday School program** that was presented on December 18th.

Thanks also to the **Alleluia Choir** for all of their hard work and dedication that resulted in such a beautiful performance of “**Winter’s Grace**”, the Christmas Cantata. Thanks to Mike Deziel for such an amazing set. The winter meadow built in the Sanctuary was breath-taking. Thanks also to Todd Schumacher and Lyn Pankratz for their reading offerings and to Marla Carlson for all she did behind the scenes. Thanks to Shellie in the office for her help in making the programs and for tidying up the church. Thanks also to Pastor Sonja for setting up the reception which followed the Cantata. And thanks of course, goes to Julie Deziel for her vision, her energy and her dedication to the music ministry of Family of God. It was a beautiful and moving musical offering in the life of the church.

A Blessed New Year to all ...

There will be a New Year’s Day worship service this year, as January 1st falls on a Sunday. The congregation is invited and encouraged to come and give thanks for a new year full of promise. Worship that day will be Lessons and Carols and prayers geared towards bringing in the New Year with thanksgiving and praise! All are welcome!

Baptismal Remembrance Sunday

January 8th marks the Baptism of Our Lord Sunday and will be an opportunity to remember our own Baptisms that day. Hymns, scriptures, and the sermon will center around baptism and we might even be blessed to celebrate a baptism that day. One might even find oneself being sprinkled with baptismal water that day!

Mark your calendar...

Lent is right around the corner! On Wednesday, February 22nd, Family of God will be observing the beginning of the Lenten season with a 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday service that will include Communion and the Imposition of Ashes. And beginning the first week in Lent, all are invited to come at 6:00 p.m. for a Lenten meal prior to the service. A sign-up to provide the meal will be available at the beginning of February.



A Little of This and That ...

“Gather” Bible study ... (formally known as Lutheran Women Today study)

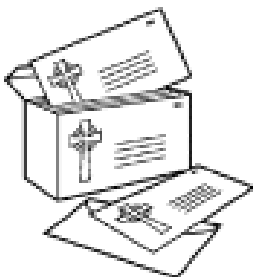
All women of the church are invited to the women’s January bible study. This month’s study out of “Gather” will be Session 5 of our year-long study: **“To Follow and to Serve: The Gospel of Mark”**. This month’s study will focus on **“Confessing Christ”** as we see the questions about Jesus’ identity becoming more pointed in these chapters of Mark’s Gospel. No longer seen only as teacher, preacher, and healer, Jesus’ messianic identity is progressively revealed to the disciples. All women of the church and beyond are invited to the study at **9:30 a.m. on 13th**. The coffee’s always on and there’s usually a goodie or two!

“The Greatest Story” Bible Study ...

We will be starting up our Tuesday night bible study, “The Greatest Story” again, on January 17th at 7:00 p.m. This study will be meeting each week and will cover a large portion of the Old Testament and New Testament. It is not too late to join this study. The cost is \$13.00 and includes a participant’s book. Contact Pastor Sonja for questions and to order a book.

The Fat Tuesday Spaghetti Feed is coming ...

Mark your calendars!! Our 2nd annual Fat Tuesday Spaghetti Feed will be Tuesday **night, February 21st from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.** Fat Tuesday is the night before Ash Wednesday - traditionally a time of cleaning out and getting ready for the six weeks of Lent. This is the Family of God fund raiser that funds the Worship and Music Coordinator position that we are so blessed to have Julie Deziel filling. We will need help in the planning and coordination of this.



Your 2012 Offering Envelopes have arrived. . .

Envelopes will be available to be picked up from your mailboxes in the Narthex on Sunday, January 1st. Thank you!

~ The Stewardship Team ~



January Sharing Your Gifts

Ushers

January 1 Dave & Lyn Pankratz
 January 8
 January 15 Trevor Grainger
 January 22 Bob & Barb Quamme
 January 29

Lector

January 1 Mark Holt
 January 8
 January 15 Bob Quamme
 January 22 Sue Clausen
 January 29 Mary Schaffer

Liturgy Assistant

January 1 Scott Erickson
 January 8 Mark Holt
 January 15 Barb Quamme
 January 22
 January 29 Mark Holt

Coffee Fellowship

January 1
 January 8 Punky & LouAnn Hanson
 January 15 Sheryl Cariveau
 January 22 Steve & Sue Clausen
 January 29 Mark & Marilyn Holt

Communion Assistants

January 1 No Communion
 January 8 Sherri Erickson & Alec Johnson
 January 15 Barb Quamme & Sheryl Cariveau
 January 22 Sue Clausen & Dave Pankratz
 January 29 Barb Quamme & Mary Schaffer

Acolyte

January 1
 January 8
 January 15
 January 22
 January 29

Altar Care

January 1 No Communion
 January 8 Sherri Erickson
 January 15
 January 22 Wendy Boushey
 January 29 Trevor Grainger

Custodian December

Week of Jan. 1-7
 Week of Jan. 8-14
 Week of Jan. 15-21 Dave & Lyn Pankratz
 Week of Jan. 22-28 Mary Schaffer
 Week of Jan. 29-Feb. 4 Marilyn Holt & Scott Erickson

Accompanist

January 1 Clavinova
 January 8 Julie Deziel
 January 15 Julie Deziel
 January 22 Julie Deziel
 January 29 Julie Deziel

Removal of snow on Sidewalk

January 1 Richard Schaffer
 January 8 Gavin Nelson
 January 15 Gavin Nelson
 January 22 Gavin Nelson
 January 29 Gavin Nelson



Council Minutes ...

Council Meeting December 18th, 2011 10:45 a.m.

Present: Richard Schaffer, Lyn Pankratz, Sheryl Cariveau, Steve Clausen, Scott Erickson, Tami Schumacher, Dave Pankratz, Sherri Erickson, Bob Quamme.

Absent: Chris Arnold, Melissa Ziegler, George Kelley

1. Pastor's Report

- A discussion on rides for people having problems getting to church or certain errands.
- Looking at the possibility of having a Parish Nurse at Family of God. Sue Clausen will help, but this type of program can't be done by just her. The cost of tuition for training for certification is a little costly.
- Pastor Sonja continues to work at Sharon Lutheran and Our Savior's and is enjoying the work. Her family needs the extra hours since FOG is not able to increase her time from 65% time to 75% time.
- Her pastoral hours in her report will be updated in January's Pastoral report .

2. Stewardship Report

- Bob would like to see a year-round Stewardship emphasis. It was noted that the Stewardship emphasis this year did not give hard-fast numbers on cash shortages etc. to the congregation. It was felt, however, that at the Annual Meeting, it should be made clear that Family of God is struggling to make ends meet. We had to borrow from savings to meet the budget and we need to increase pledges or members to have enough money to run this church.

3. Treasurer's Report

- Sherri Erickson reports that \$6,000 was taken from savings to meet expenses. She then reported on her progress in cleaning up accounts and making them clear and easy to follow. The annual meeting will be January 22 and a copy of last year's report are available to committees to use in writing this year's reports. We will have a potluck dinner prior to the Annual Meeting. The Council and Sherrie then prepared a budget for presentation at the Annual Meeting. It was noted that Pastor's salary runs until February ...Currently she is half time. It was felt that we will not be able to increase her hours to 3/4 time. Watch for the Annual Report for more information on the budget.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Schaffer, recorder for George Kelley



November Statistics

Average Attendance: 42

Income: \$4,667.68

Expenses: \$5,131.55

Deficit: \$463.87



January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 1st Sunday of Christmas 9:30 Worship 10:45 Coffee	2 Church Office Closed 7:00 a.m. Men's Group	3	4 No Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	5	6	7
8 Baptism of Our Lord 8:30 Alleluia Choir 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 10:45 Coffee 11:00 "un-deck" the halls	9 7:00 a.m. Men's Group	10	11 4:00 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	12	13 9:30 a.m. Gather Bible Study	14
15 2 Epiphany 8:30 Alleluia Choir 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 10:45 Coffee 10:45 Council Meeting	16 7:00 a.m. Men's Group	17 7:00 Bible Study	18 4:00 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	19	20	21
22 3 Epiphany 8:30 Alleluia Choir 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 10:45 Annual Meeting/ Potluck	23 7:00 a.m. Men's Group	24 7:00 Bible Study	25 6:30 p.m. City Wide Confirmation @ Chester Fritz 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	26	27	28
29 4 Epiphany 8:30 Alleluia Choir 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 10:45 Coffee	30 7:00 a.m. Men's Group 10:30 Care-givers Group	31 7:00 Bible Study				



Family of God Lutheran Church
327 5th Avenue SE
East Grand Forks, MN 56721

Phone: 218-773-1433

**Staff email: pastorsonja@familyofgodlutheran.org
shellie@familyofgodlutheran.org**

Come and worship with us!

Sunday Worship with communion 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Coffee/Fellowship 10:45 a.m.



***The Beacon* is now electronic!**
If you would like to begin receiving *The Beacon* by email,
just let the church office know!



Please mark your calendars ...



**The Family of God Annual Meeting/Potluck will be held on
January 22nd following worship.**

Prior to the meeting at 10:45 a.m., we will be having a good ol' fashioned potluck meal. Please bring a dish to share.

And if you have anything you would like to donate for our door prizes this year, just bring them to the church office.

We hope and pray the majority of members will attend the meeting this year, as it is crucial that we have a quorum.