

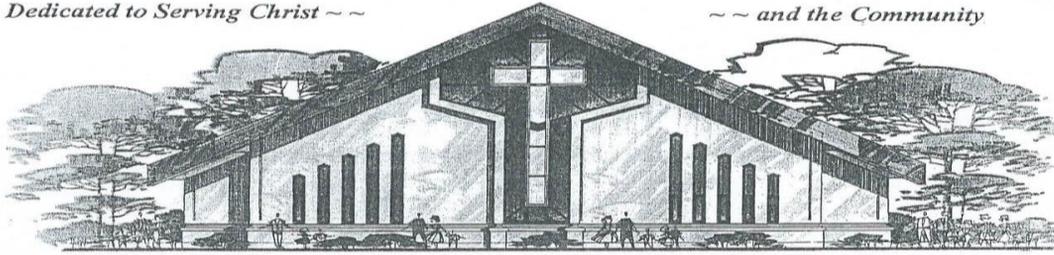
PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

4340 Six Mile Road
Racine, Wisconsin 53402

Dedicated to Serving Christ ~ ~

~ ~ and the Community



January 2018

NEWSLETTER

Those Wise Men

On January 6th, we begin a new season in the church year. It is the season of Epiphany. It is a word from the Greek, which means, "to make known or reveal." It was first observed in the church in the eastern part of the early Christian church as a feast commemorating Jesus' baptism. Later, in the 4th century A.D., it became a celebration of Christ being made known to the Gentiles, beginning with those Wise Men from the east who traveled to worship Jesus.

As a result, one of the Scripture readings that always occurs this time of year is the account of the Wise men coming to see Jesus. It is a passage that can come with many questions. Who were these men? Where did they come from exactly? When did they arrive to see Jesus? Was it in the early days of Jesus' life as the Nativity scenes depict or some time after? I seek to give you some answers to these questions because I have been asked through the years these kinds of questions. Therefore, here is some information about those Wise Men.

Who were they? The Greek tells us they were Magoi or Magi. It seems as though it was a term used at that time to cover a wide variety of people, such as astrologers, fortune-tellers, priests of a king's court who would give him council, and sorcerers or magicians. It is a term that originates from the region of present-day Iran. It was originally associated with one of the tribes of the Medes, a people who once lived in present day Iran, in which there was a priestly order from that tribe who became known as the Magi. The term must have been extended in its use because it is used in the Greek translation of the Old Testament to describe the magicians or wise men in service to King Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon mentioned in the Old Testament prophecy of Daniel, such as in Daniel 2:2. It is also a term used in Acts 13:6, 8 to describe this magician who challenges Saint Paul. Those magicians would use demonic spells and incantations. These men however were probably just learned men who studied many things, such as nature, medicine, mathematics, physics, astronomy, and religion. In that respect, they studied the stars, perhaps believing the stars would give them information about human events, hence the reason for their journey. The tradition of them being considered "kings" came about later in the church, not until the 6th century A.D.. Therefore, most commentators today do not consider them royal figures, such as in the song "We Three Kings." They were at best people who served in king's courts advising him on matters.

Where did they come from? The text simply tells us from the East. They probably came from Persia, attested to by early church fathers, but they also could have been descendants of the Magi still in the region from the days of Babylon. In fact, there is some speculation that these men were perhaps carrying on the order of Magi from the day of Daniel in Babylon, thus perhaps having some knowledge of the prophecies the Jews were clinging to in their hope for a future Messiah, such as in Numbers 24:17. They perhaps had some knowledge of some extra-biblical Jewish writings that existed where a star was seen as a symbol of the king or priest God promised to send. However, the fact that they ask Herod where the King of the Jews was to be born shows they must not have been aware of the prophecy in Micah about the future king being born in Bethlehem. By the details, we would consider them Gentiles, who perhaps had limited knowledge at best of how Israel was waiting for their Messiah and future King.

So why did they follow the star? The easy answer is it was God’s will. God knew they would follow that star and be the first Gentiles to worship Christ, thus showing that Jesus came not just for Jews but also for Gentiles.

When did they arrive? Our nativity scenes have the Magi visiting Jesus while he is still in the manger. However, this was probably not the case. It would have taken them some time between the first appearing of the star to the time they arrived at Bethlehem. They would have needed time to gather supplies, travel by animal perhaps several hundred miles, stop to see Herod in Jerusalem, and then be led by the star the rest of the way to Bethlehem. Some speculate that perhaps the star appeared at the Annunciation or the announcement to Mary of Jesus’ birth thus giving them time to arrive the night of Jesus’ birth. However, there are several reasons to question that hypothesis.

For one, Matthew 2:1 says, “now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem.” The verb is in the past tense thus seeming to indicate that after Jesus was already born, the wise men arrived at Jerusalem. Also, in Matthew 2:16, it tells us Herod’s decree that all the two year old boys and under in the vicinity of Bethlehem be killed was based off the information he received from the wise men as to the time of the star’s appearing. Now it could be that Herod overcompensates with the number in order to ensure the death of the Messiah, but it could indicate that Jesus was perhaps older than just a newborn when the Magi arrive. He was perhaps up to two years old when they arrived. Plus, in the Greek it tells us in v. 11, the wise men went into an *oikian* or a house to see the child. Therefore, they likely didn’t see Jesus in some stable or cave, but visited him where Joseph found a place in Bethlehem after the birth. So whether you asked for it or not, this is more than you probably wanted to know about these mysterious men of the Magi. In the end, the main thing to see in these men is God sending a message. The message that Jesus came for all people and that no obstacles of distance or time should be too big to keep us from worshipping our Lord and King Jesus Christ.

My prayer for you as the saints of Prince of Peace is that the Lord will grant you good health and well-being in this New Year and that you might be moved, like those Wise Men, to a worship of Christ that is willing to go to any lengths to honor Him. Amen.

Information on the Wise Men came from: “The Life of Christ” by Adam Fahling, “The Gospel According to Matthew” by Leon Morris, “The Interpretation of St. Matthew’s Gospel” by R.C.H. Lenski, “Christmas: the Real Story” by H.N. Wendt, “Matthew 1:1-11:1” a Concordia Commentary by Jeffrey A. Gibbs, and the Concordia Self-Study Bibles.

Pastor Chris

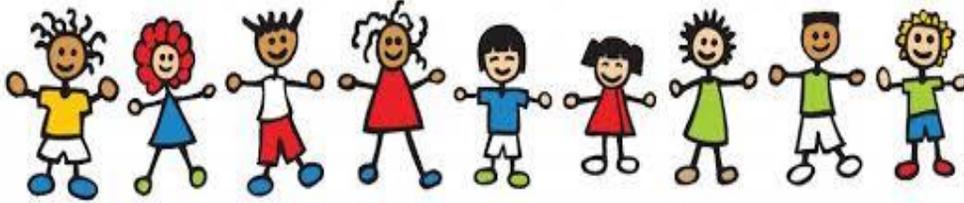
Our Worship & Our Gifts to the Lord

***“Observe my Sabbaths and have reverence for my sanctuary
I am the Lord.”***

Leviticus 19:30

	<u>Worshipped</u>		<u>Communed</u>		<u>Offerings</u>	
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Dec. 3	193	194	138	142	\$ 6371	\$ 8189
Dec. 10	194	133	135	100	4876	3435
Dec. 17	184	147	129	130	12065	4545
Dec. 24	151	135	100	69	7772	6907
Averages	180	152	125	110	\$ 7771	\$ 5769

Preschool & Child Care



National Lutheran Schools Week January 21st – 27th

Many thousands of children, teachers, congregation members and Lutheran school friends praise and thank God for the blessings of Lutheran schools. Prince of Peace is one of over 2,000 Lutheran schools, preschools and child care centers across our nation celebrating January 21st – 27th under the theme:

“It’s Still All About Jesus” Hebrews 13:8

Here is how Prince of Peace will be celebrating:

Monday, January 22nd

HAT DAY



Children should wear their favorite/silliest hat!

Tuesday, January 23rd

SLIPPER DAY



Time for comfy feet ...wear your slippers to school!

Wednesday, January 24th

STUFFED ANIMAL DAY



Bring 1 favorite stuffed animal to school and enjoy spending the school day with it.

Thursday, January 25th

SPORTS GEAR DAY



What’s your favorite team? Wear some of your favorite sports team gear!

Friday, January 26th

PENGUIN DAY



Dress like a penguin (in black and white) for a day filled with penguin activities.

ALL WEEK

SERVICE PROJECTS

Children will be making some special projects that will be taken to a local nursing home to help decorate.

Jesus Time

is a very special and important part of the day at our center. Each week a Bible story, it’s theme, and important Bible words are learned.

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it”
Proverbs 22:6

This & That

**Father’s Night: (4k) January 29th ,
(3K) January 30th.**

Riverbend Nature Center (4K)

Friday January 12th.

No School January 15th

**PS & CC Children sing at 9:00 am
service.**

**PS/CC Pancake Breakfast
Saturday March 3rd.**

•Don’t forget to like us on
Facebook!



Mark Your calendars for Friday January 26th for our next Family Game Night, 6:00 to 8:00 pm.
Please join us for fun and fellowship!
All are invited, bring a game, a snack to pass, and a friend or two.



Family Fun!!!

Please join us for an outdoor afternoon at “The Rock” Snow Park in Franklin WI on Sunday January 14th . Our Youth Group will meet immediately after Sunday School, with a pizza lunch to follow.

Everyone else, please meet here at Church at 12:30 pm.

Cost for this outing is \$14.00 per person.

If you are interested in attending, please see the sign-up sheet on the Welcome Center.

LWML MEETING



The ladies of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League will be meeting on Monday January 15th at 6:30 pm here at Prince of Peace.

All ladies of our congregation are invited to attend. It is a wonderful way to get to see what the LWML does, and to get involved in your church.

Congratulations to:

Joe and Pat Herron in Celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on January 6th.

God’s Blessing on this very special occasion, and hopes for many more to follow.

Men’s Bible Breakfast

Will be held on Saturday January 20th at 9 am.

All men of our congregation are invited for a bible study, Fellowship, and breakfast of course. Hope to see you there, And bring a friend.



Lutherans For Life

January 7 – Baptism of Our Lord

John's Baptism convicted every human being – “all the country of Judea” (Mark 1:5). No physical incapacities excused anyone. Jesus' Baptism consecrates every human being. God, in giving His Son, identifies with us at our weakest and embraces us at our worst. Even when we don't resemble anything our Maker intended, He doesn't call us “unwanted” or “better off dead.” Instead He declares, “You are my beloved [child]; with you I am well pleased” (Mark 1:11). In this newness of life (Romans 6:4), Christians can also welcome the least among us. *Prayer: Lord, construct Your kingdom of little ones like us. Amen.*

January 14 – Epiphany II

Can anything good come (John 1:46) from surprise pregnancy? How about from defending embryos? From chronic suffering? Incapacitated or unresponsive persons? Truly, truly! Jesus has bought these bodies and lives for God with His own blood (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). He has forever foreseen their purpose even despite our failures and pains. *Prayer: Lamb of God, let us come and see Your grace that we may go and show it. Amen.*

January 21 – Epiphany III

Many congregations observe this day as Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. Lutherans For Life has prepared a collection of free “Hope For Life” worship resources to help (www.lutheransforlife.org/store-life-sunday-2018), including a sermon on Jonah 3:1-5, 10 (God's love comes big enough to make every life matter). They can also make any Sunday a Life Sunday! *Prayer: King of Kings, lend us Your courage to speak truth and Your compassion to show love. Amen.*

January 28 – Epiphany IV

We testify to each life's preciousness with Christ's authority and effectiveness (Mark 1:22). He has redeemed even sinners by dying for all. He has defeated the devil himself by rising again. We need not retreat in the face of utter evils or hostile accusations. The Word of Life reclaims souls, changes hearts, and saves lives. *Prayer: Almighty Savior, work Your confidence and concern in us and through us. Amen.*

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day!	2	3 6:00 Confirmation 6:00 Pickle Ball 6:30 Women's Bible Study At Tracie Ratz's	4 5:30 Joint Bd Meetings	5	6 8 to 10:30 Stephen Ministry Training Class 10:00 Elder's Meeting Worship/Communion 4:00 pm
7 Worship/Communion 9:00 am Fellowship 10:00 a.m. Education Hour 10:15 11:00 Praise Service	8	9 Bible Study 11:00 am 6:30 Choir Practice 6:30 New Member Class 7:00 Divorce Care	10 6:00 Confirmation 6:00 Pickle Ball 6:30 Women's Bible Study At Tracie Ratz's	11	12	13 8 to 10:30 a.m. Stephen Ministry Training Class Worship/Communion 4:00 pm
14 Worship/Communion 9:00 am Fellowship 10:00 a.m. Education Hour 10:15 a.m. 12:30 Meet at POP for Tubing	15 6:00 Mom's Bible Study 6:30 LWML Meeting	16 Bible Study 11:00 am 6:30 Choir Practice 6:30 New Member Class 7:00 Divorce Care	17 6:00 Confirmation 6:00 Pickle Ball 6:30 Women's Bible Study At Tracie Ratz's	18	19	20 8 to 10:30 a.m. Stephen Ministry Training Class 9:00 Men's Bible Breakfast Worship/Communion 4:00 pm
21 Worship/Communion 9:00 am Fellowship 10:00 a.m. Family Education Hour 10:15 a.m.	22	23 Bible Study 11:00 am 6:30 Choir Practice 6:30 New Member Class 7:00 Divorce Care	24 6:00 Confirmation 6:00 Pickle Ball 6:30 Women's Bible Study At Tracie Ratz's	25 Stephen Ministry Mtg. 6:00 pm	26 6:00 to 8:00 Family Game Night	27 8 to 10:30 a.m. Stephen Ministry Training Class Worship/Communion 4:00 pm
28 Worship/Communion 9:00 am Fellowship 10:00 a.m. Family Education Hour 10:15 am	29	30 Bible Study 11:00 am 6:30 Choir Practice 6:30 New Member Class 7:00 Divorce Care	31			

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Rev. Christopher Lockie ~ Pastor

SW District-LCMS
Assoc. Member of RLHS

www.princeofpeaceracine.com

Church Secretary	Colleen Otto
Congregation Chairman	Ben Pulley
Congregation Vice Chairman	
HEAD Elder	Corey Brand

Director of Preschool and Child Care
Center

	Carla Abel
Preschool and Child Care Admin. Asst.	
	Julie Maiwald

Sunday School Superintendents

	Julie Pulley, Nicole Riemer
Music Directors	Dianne Luedtke, Barb Miller