

The Monthly Newsletter

Issue No. 25
January 2012

Gethsemane Lutheran Church
Davenport, Iowa

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Joint Epiphany Service

The members of St. Paul's, St. Peter's, Trinity, and Our Savior's have been invited to join us to celebrate the Festival of Epiphany, Friday night at 7, January 6. Please note that the next Joint Area WELS Service will be our Ascension service, May 17 at St. Paul's, Moline.



Lutheranism 101 Thursdays

This study starting January 5 examines Lutheran beliefs and heritage in a fresh way. If you are a lifelong Lutheran searching for more information or new to Lutheranism looking to understand what we believe, this book will be your guide. It is written in an easy-to-read conversational style with short articles, side-bar features, and some humor. Lutheranism 101 helps create a solid foundation of reference upon which a lifetime of sound teaching can be built. Explore the basics of Lutheran theology by digging into the history of Lutheranism and making connections between what Lutherans believe and what Lutherans do. What you'll learn about: God and His Son, Faith and Belief, Heaven and Hell, Church and Fellowship, Sin and Forgiveness, and much more! The suggested donation for this study is the cost of the book, which \$19.99.

Sundays in Romans

This course is for those who desire a thorough overview of Romans 1-8. It uses different teaching tools to help understand Paul's words. The study covers the following lessons: We Triumph in the Gospel; God's Wrath Triumphs Over All Who Suppress the Truth; Those Who Keep the Law Will Be Saved; No One Can Triumph by Keeping the Law; Grace Triumphs by Offering Christ's Righteousness Through Faith; Grace Triumphed in Abraham's and David's Lives; Salvation Is Sure Because Christ Died for All; Grace Triumphs in Christian Living; Grace Triumphs in Spite of the Sinful Nature; and Grace Triumphs Over Suffering.

Installation of New Officers

During the divine service on January 8, the elected and re-elected officers of Gethsemane will be installed into their two-year terms of service. Jim Berger was re-elected as our Congregation President. Joe Stilwell, Jeff Yets, and Mike Grunewald were re-elected to serve as our Adult Ministry, Worship, and Outreach Elders, respectively. Bill Mateski was elected to serve as our Care Elder. Paul Trier was re-elected to serve as our Financial Secretary. And Zach Shiels was elected to fill a one-year vacancy as our Church Secretary. Thank you to those who have served in the past and those who are currently serving for your work, time, and energy on our behalf!

New Great Titles Available from the Church Library

For children: The Real Story of the Flood
The Real Story of the Exodus
Johann S. Bach—Hero of the Faith
Katharina von Bora—Hero of the Faith
For seniors: Driven
For devotions: Prayers for People under Pressure
CD: Light Eternal (Branches Band)

Christmas Caroling... in July

Our Christmas caroling this December to the residents of the Lutheran Home and Silvercrest and some of our own members was warmly received by both the carolers and hearers. Twenty or so members of Gethsemane gave up part of their Saturday and sang about our Savior's birth. Pastor Boehringer would like to try and organize another caroling outing in the summer of 2012. Look for more information in the spring.

Christmas Appreciation!

Thank you to all those who sent cards and gifts to the called workers of Gethsemane. We appreciate your kind regards!

Readings in Translation

On the back of the service folder most Sundays you'll be able to read the lessons for the day in a rotation of different translations.

January 1 Commemorates the Circumcision and Name of Jesus

"The name 'Jesus' is food, light, medicine. You have this medicine for yourself, O my soul, and it lies concealed in the capsule of this word, which certainly is Jesus, the bringer of salvation."

—Quoted by Johann Gerhard in *On Christ* (CPH 2009) p. 12.

Already on the eighth day of Jesus' life, His destiny of atonement is revealed in His name and in its circumcision. At that moment, His blood is first shed and Jesus receives the name given to Him by the angel: "You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21). In the circumcision of Jesus, all people are circumcised once and for all, because He represents all humanity. In the Old Testament, for the believers who looked to God's promise to be fulfilled in the Messiah, the benefits of circumcision included the forgiveness of sins, justification, and incorporation into the people of God. In the New Testament, St. Paul speaks of its counterpart, Holy Baptism, as a "circumcision made without hands" and as "the circumcision of Christ" (Col. 2:11).

We pray: Lord God, You made Your beloved Son, our Savior, subject to the Law and caused Him to shed His blood on our behalf. Grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit that our hearts may be made pure from all sins; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
—Source: *The Treasury of Daily Prayer*, p. 1078.

Synod News: Exploring Options for our Church Body's Headquarters

A Synodical Council task force is exploring all options in addressing the recent setback in plans to relocate the synod's administration building.

Here is a brief review of the situation. Earlier this year, the synod reached an agreement with a developer to sell the current administration building on Mayfair Road in Milwaukee, Wis., for \$2.82 million. The sale was to be finalized in January of 2012, but the developer had until Nov. 4 to perform "due diligence" in making arrangements for rezoning and financing. When the offer was accepted, the Synodical Council authorized the purchase of a newer building in Pewaukee, Wis., for \$2.85 million. The building was a perfect fit for our office needs, and we received an exceptional price on the property. That purchase was finalized last summer and tentative plans were made to move to the new building in December.

At the end of the due diligence period, the developer who had agreed to purchase the current building withdrew from the purchase agreement after concluding his planned project for the site was not financially feasible. This resulted in the synod now owning two buildings.

A task force was appointed by the Synodical Council to explore all options available to remedy this situation. Those options include renewed efforts to work with the city and interested developers to sell the Mayfair Road building. In addition, the task force will also be considering the possible sale of the Pewaukee property.

Obviously, it is not desirable for the synod to be holding two properties. However, we do have reserves that allow us to hold the two properties for a time without using any mission offerings to pay for this. The task force will consider all options carefully in an effort to arrive at a recommended course of action that will best serve the needs of the synod in the long term. The full Synodical Council will make any final decision.

Serving in Christ,
Mark Schroeder

Sunday Divine Service 9 am
Sunday Bible Study 10:15 am

January 2012

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|---|--|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 <i>Twelfth Night</i> | 6 | 7 |
| <i>Christmastide: The 12 Days of Christmas</i> | | | | | | <i>The Festival of Epiphany</i> |
| <i>The Circumcision and the Name of Jesus</i> | | <i>Gary Everett</i> | <i>Chloe & Mary Boehringer</i> | Lutheranism 101 7 pm | Special Service 7 pm | |
| 8 <i>The Baptism of Jesus</i> Installation of New Officers <i>Kristen Grunewald</i> <i>Nathan Hatfield</i> | 9 Church Council 7:30 pm | 10 <i>Joe Stilwell</i> | 11 | 12 Lutheranism 101 7 pm | 13 | 14 |
| 15 <i>The Second Sunday of Epiphany</i> | 16 | 17 <i>Robert & Nadine Lothridge</i> | 18 | 19 Lutheranism 101 7 pm | 20 | 21 |
| 22 <i>The Third Sunday of Epiphany</i> Voters Meeting <i>Randy & Paula West</i> | 23 | 24 <i>Taylor Wells</i> | 25 | 26 <i>Andrea Grunewald</i> Lutheranism 101 7 pm | 27 | 28 |
| 29 <i>Transfiguration Sunday</i> <i>Sarah Boehringer</i> | 30 <i>Tom Pettis</i> | 31 | Worship Servants for January Altar Care: Karyn Yets Elder: Jeff Yets Usher Captain: Scott Pettis Ushers: Mike Pettis, Jim Clark, Paul Trier | | | |

Worship Servants

The 2012 schedule for altar care, elders, and ushers for each month has been posted upstairs.

Holiday Un-decorating and Cleaning Schedule

We haven't decided when to take down our Christmas decorations, but when a time and date is determined, we'll let you know in the bulletin and through email. We are also working up a new weekly cleaning schedule because of changes in our membership. Since we are a relatively small church family, years ago we decided to divide the work of cleaning the church building between ourselves as a way in which to carry out our calling as members of the Gethsemane family and to be good managers of the money that Christ has entrusted to us.

Church Council & Voters Meetings

The council (the combined members of the Elders and Executive Boards) will meet Monday, January 9 at 7:30. The voters will meet Sunday, January 22.

Long Range Planning Committee

The committee will meet on Tuesday, January 17.