



The Shepherd's Staff

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Well, Christmas and New Year's has come and gone. The presents have been torn open, stomachs are full, and families have gone back home. It seems that the celebrations have ended for a period of time until we get to Easter and do some of these things all over again. But, we have forgotten something....Epiphany. Epiphany is also a time of celebration for the season of Epiphany reveals a number of things to us.

The Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ is one of the oldest Christian feasts, though, throughout the centuries, it has celebrated a variety of things. *Epiphany* comes from a Greek verb meaning "to reveal," and all of the various events celebrated by the Feast of the Epiphany are revelations of Christ to man.

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Epiphany originally celebrated four different events, in the following order of importance: the Baptism of the Lord; Christ's first miracle, the changing of water into wine at the wedding in Cana; and the visitation of the Wise Men or Magi. Each of these is a revelation of God to man: At Christ's Baptism, the Holy Spirit descends and the voice of God the Father is heard, declaring that Jesus is His Son; at the wedding in Cana, the miracle reveals Christ's divinity, and at the visitation of the Magi, Christ's divinity is revealed to the Gentiles—the other nations of the earth.

So yes, Christmas has come and gone for another year but don't let the joy of Christmas leave you, instead let the season of Epiphany enhance your Christmas Joy in knowing that it is because of Christmas that these events of our Lord and their meanings are revealed to you as part of your salvation and of course let us not forget the whole reason we have Christmas and that is to follow our Lord to the Cross where we see our salvation accomplished for us through our Lord's sacrifice.

A Blessed Epiphany

Pastor Thackery



**NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE
AND OFFICIAL ACTS**

	5 pm	9 am	Total
Nov 1-2	42	98	140
Nov 8-9	23	108	131
Nov 15-16	31	96	127
Nov 22-23	47	112	159
Nov 29-30	0	0	0
Communion			310

Transfers/Releases:

Sarah Sperr transfer in from St. Paul Garner, IA
Ken and Carmi Herr affirmation of Faith
Official Acts: None

LWML NOTES

The LWML Board meeting will be
Tuesday, January 6th at 6:30 pm.



Mary's Circle-?
Dorcas Circle 1/8 at 3:00pm
Hannah's Circle 1/13 6:45pm

Flower Chart for 2026

The new flower chart is up in the entryway. Be
sure to sign up if you would like to provide flowers
on a special date.

Voter's Meeting

Sunday, January 25th at 11:30am

Mark your Calendar! The annual Endowment Com-
mittee Chili Feed and Talent Show will be held on
Sunday, February 15th. Food will be served from 4:00
to 6:00 pm and the Talent Show will follow. There is a
sign-up sheet at the back of the church for the Talent
Show. You do not have to sign up to eat. There will be
plenty. A free will offering will be taken at the event.
The Endowment Committee appreciates your support.



Newsworthy Notes

Thank you

Thank you to all who donated to the Elder's Advent quilt.
We have a great start to our Swaddling Clothes Ministry.



Joy Group

Join us January 20th for a served meal
at 11:30am. Be sure to sign up in the
narthex.

Pizza and Game night

Friday, January 9th
5:30pm

Be sure to join us for pizza and game night.
We will be enjoying homemade pizzas and playing
Trivia. Invite a friend or neighbor!

Be sure to sign up in the Narthex so we get
enough supplies.



**C.I.A.
Meeting**

Sunday, January 4th
12:30pm-2:30pm
Lunch will be provided

TEXT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ALERTS

Please make sure you are signed up to get text
alerts from the church.

To sign up, text the word **JOIN** to **515-417-3174**.
You will get a link texted back to you. Click that
link to enter your information to get signed up.
Pastor uses this to communicate to everyone of-
ten. Please get signed up so you don't miss out on
important church related infor-
mation/cancellations/etc.

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*Times and dates are subject to change				1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2	3 5 pm-Divine Worship/HC
4 9 am-Divine wor- ship/HC 12:30-2:30pm CIA Meeting	5 12 pm-LL Preschool	6 8:15 am- LL Preschool 9 am-Sewing 12 pm-LL Preschool 6:30pm-LWML Board Meeting	7 12 pm-LL Pre- school 5:15 pm-CC Clas- ses 6pm-Family sing- ers 6:00pm Board of Ed 7pm-Shepherd Ringers	8 7 am-Men's Bible Study 8:15 am- LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool 3pm-Dorcas Circle	9 8:15 am-LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool 5:30pm-Pizza & Game night	10 5 pm-Divine Worship/HC
11 9 am-Divine wor- ship/HC 10:30 am-SS/Adult Bible Study	12 12 pm-LL Preschool	13 8:15 am- LL Preschool 9 am-Sewing 12 pm-LL Preschool 1:30 pm-Fr. Haven Comm. 6:30pm-Kingsmen 6:45pm Hannah's Circle	14 12 pm-LL Preschool 5:15 pm-CC Clas- ses 6pm-Family Sing- ers 7pm-Shep Ring- ers	15 7 am-Men's Bible Study 8:15 am- LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool	16 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9:00am-Bible Study at Ardys Mae 12 pm-LL Preschool	17 5 pm-Divine Worship/HC
18 9 am-Divine wor- ship/HC 10:30 am-SS/Adult Bible Study	19 12 pm-LL Preschool	20 8:15 am- LL Preschool 9 am-Sewing 10:30am-Memorial 11:30am-Joy Group 12 pm-LL Preschool 5:30 pm-Endowment 6:30 pm-Trustees 7:00 pm-Council	21 10:30 am- Lamplighters 12 pm-LL Preschool 5:15 pm-CC Clas- ses 6pm-Family Sing- ers 7pm-Shep Ring- ers	22 7 am-Men's Bible Study 8:15 am- LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool	23	24 5 pm-Divine Worship
25 9 am-Divine wor- ship 10:30 am-SS/Adult Bible Study 11:30am-Voter's Meeting	26 12 pm-LL Preschool	27 8:15 am- LL Preschool 9 am-Sewing 12 pm-LL Preschool 6:30pm-Elders	28 12 pm-LL Preschool 5:15 pm-CC Classes 6pm-Family Singers 7pm-Shep Ringers	29 7 am-Men's Bible Study 8:15 am- LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool	30	31

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Check us out on Facebook
Good Shepherd Fort Dodge



“And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new. Also, He said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true’ (Revelation 21:5).

In January there is a great deal of “new” talk. Parties are held to ring in the “new” year. “New” year’s resolutions are made to set a “new” course of life in the “new” year. There is date forgetfulness as checks and other forms are filled out without using the “new” year on the dateline.

We use all this “new” talk because there is very often so much wrong with the old in us. We think back to the “new” resolutions from the previous year that only lasted a few weeks. That “new” person did not shed any pounds and instead, picked up a few. The “new” habits of going to the gym were soon replaced by even more time on the couch binging on Netflix. The “new” person who does not lose their temper, use sarcasm as a lethal weapon and spend more money than necessary, but who worships, prays and serves the Lord and the neighbor, never seemed to stick around. We need “new” talk because the Old Adam is alive and well within every one of us.

But this promise of “new” is a matter of stewardship. It is the Lord Himself who makes the promise of all things being new. These words recorded by St. John are not pious wishes or hopeless promises. They do what they say. YOU, that one baptized into Jesus’ death and resurrection, are NEW! These words are indeed trustworthy and true. This “new” comes to you in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It comes free of charge, even without our prayer.

This stewardship of “new” is not a vague, someday kind of stewardship either. You are NEW now! Forgiven. Reborn from above. The old is gone, nailed to Calvary’s cross and buried and rotting in a tomb that was only borrowed by Jesus for His resurrection rest. The Gospel is what makes us NEW every morning. Remembering your baptism, you are new. Confessing your sins and receiving absolution makes you new. Hearing the Gospel filling your ears makes you new. Feasting on Christ’s body and blood in the Holy Supper makes you new.

These mercies, totally undeserved as they are, are entrusted to us to steward TODAY even as we long for the Last Day. But we know how often we fail in this stewardship. We hoard God’s creation as if it belongs to us. We belittle and devalue our neighbor because they look or sound or act in a way that we do not like. We seek to make the Holy Word of God softer and more palatable for those, or even ourselves, who refuse to confess sin as sin and repent. We value our comfort over truth, our reputation over faithfulness and our treasure over making sure that people get to hear of the Jesus who has done so much for the world and us.

We, as stewards of the Gospel, need to be made new every day. This is exactly what the Lord does. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel last year, so He gives us a new year. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel yesterday, and He gives us a new day. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel in the last few minutes, and yet in mercy our newness comes with each tick of the clock! Because that is how the Lord works.

As we see this working of all new things in us, it then calls us to be stewards of this newness to the world. This starts right in our own homes. It radiates out to our neighbors. It beams out from our congregations. This newness is teamed at the circuit, district and Synod levels all to shine the newness of the Gospel to those who need it.

Your new talk starts in the newness of the Gospel. Steward this treasure in this new year and this new day. It starts with a new you in Jesus. This is indeed trustworthy and true.