

# JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

# The Season of EPIPHANY

## WHOLE-HEARTEDLY SEEKING

Since we are the children of God, we live our lives in response to His GRACE, whole-heartedly seeking the Lord and worshiping Him.

Let's pray: "Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name."

(Psalm 86:11)

Let's do as the Wise Men did, seeking and worshiping Jesus and then giving Him gifts. The most obvious are the gold, incense, and myrrh. But didn't they give Him honor and worship. Didn't they give Him their time waiting and traveling. Didn't they give Him their obedience and themselves. **We too can give Him similar things: our worship, our service, our gratitude, our obedience, our lives.**

The season of Epiphany reminds us that God through Christ did something very remarkable. We are going to be looking at God's amazing love and all the ways it shows up in our lives and is lived out in our lives. Join us in our Sunday worship and grow your response to the unfathomable love that God has for you.

1 John 4:4

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome (the spirit of the antichrist), because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.



## WEEKLY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES SUNDAYS

8:30 am - a more traditional form

11:15 am - alternating between a more modern form and a traditional form

## JANUARY 2022

The Bible memory verse for January is a wonderful encouragement to live for our Savior and God because we are His rescued people.

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

2 Corinthians 7:1 (NIV)

**Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.**

**By God's grace, we belong to the family of God and serve the one and only true God,  
Who is the Sovereign Lord. He is the Lord of the church.**

## A HEALTHY CHURCH

What makes a healthy church – a healthy congregation? Think about that.

Some would describe a healthy Christian church (congregation) with descriptors like this:

- It runs smoothly . . . like a well-oiled organization.
- It has the right mix of responsibility, authority, and accountability.
- It has plenty of assets.

Some others might describe the healthy Christian church (congregation) with descriptors that are more relational, like this:

- People get along well.
- The church takes care of conflicts before they get too big.
- The people like being together.

Many of the descriptors used in the first two groups are nice, but I would like to describe a healthy Christian church (congregation) more spiritually, like this:

- The members firmly trust in the Triune God, the God who reveals Himself in the Bible.
- The members recognize their sinfulness and are remorseful that they sin against God.
- The members trust that God has provided eternal salvation for them through Jesus, Who died on the cross to rescue them from their path to eternal destruction in hell.
- The members trust Jesus as their "Savior" and believe that the Holy Spirit brought them into God's family.
- Because the members are remorseful for their sin and they believe Jesus' sacrifice for them saved them from eternal death and purchased eternal life for them, they want to seek God wholeheartedly, i.e., they want to worship Him, know Him more, and commune with Him. They want to serve Him with their lives, living in obedience to His commands, which they recognize as the best and blest way to live. And finally, they want to share their God and Savior with others through the gospel in actions and the gospel in words.

Truthfully, when we become more and more what God desires us to be individually, we will become more and more healthy together. As our souls are renewed in the likeness of God, we will be more and more healthy. When spiritual vitality is evident, love will be evident. People will love and respect one another. People will get along (even though they disagree on some things). People will disagree much more calmly and respectfully. When those things are happening, the congregation will run more smoothly and there will be plenty of assets, including the "things" which God has put into people's stewardship, e.g., people's capabilities, spiritual gifts, time, and materials.

Spiritual life is the foundation for all the other positive descriptors. And God has given us everything we need for spiritual life and vitality. God loves us dearly and so the Father sent the Son to rescue us and open the door to eternal life. God the Holy Spirit brought us to faith, by which we grasp the gift of salvation and other gifts God wants us to have. Ponder and use these words from 2 Peter 1: 1-3 (NIV) — "Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness." May we all continue to grow in spiritual health to be a healthy church.

*Pastor Jim Eggert*

Intentional Interim Pastor