



Tree of Life Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, English District

The church that cares, our roots are strong

Newsletter

“You have ears; then listen to what the spirit says to the churches. Be victorious, and I will let you eat from the Tree of Life that stands in God’s Paradise.” Rev. 2:7



Epiphany

Most Nativity scenes, of course, include the Wise Men right there in the stable with the shepherds, but their journey took up to two years. That’s why the church calendar pushes their story to the first day after the Christmas season ends. Unfortunately, that just means their story is missed most years.

That’s too bad, because the Wise Men’s journey was a remarkable adventure in faith! It may seem reasonable to us that they would go to such lengths to see Jesus. He was the Son of God, after all. But they did not know that. They had only seen a special star that convinced them that a new King of the Jews had been born. Once they reached Jerusalem, they had to ask King Herod for further directions, because they did not know exactly where they were going or what they would find there.

What could have motivated them to leave home and pursue their journey for months on end? When the star finally stopped over a little house in Bethlehem, Matthew says they *“rejoiced with a very great joy.”* What did they see in this little child that made their hearts overflow?

The only possible explanation is that God graced them with faith to see beyond the realities in front of them to a greater possibility, to a profound promise that God had broken into this world in a new, unexpected way. That gift of faith drove them to persevere until they bowed before Jesus and gave him gifts fit for a king.

That is an important witness, because you and I are not so different from the Wise Men. We also are driven to seek Jesus and to rejoice in him only because God graces us with faith to see beyond the realities in front of us to a greater possibility, to the promise that what we see is not all that we get. There is more, so much more, a divine dimension to reality that was forever connected to our own in the birth of Jesus and granted to us by his death and resurrection.

This year, as we marvel at the faith and perseverance of the Wise Men, we can also marvel at the grace God grants us to believe in Christ Jesus and persevere in lives of faith. That’s why it is so great to be able to celebrate the Epiphany!

Faith Lutheran Church, Hutchinson MN

Worship Services

Sunday - 10:00 am
Communion Weekly

Location

Whispering Pines Park Recreation
Center
1700 Forest Drive
Inverness, FL 34453

Mailing Address

2659 E Gulf-to-Lake Hwy #410
Inverness, FL 34450

Phone #352-566-7592
(leave a message)

Guest Pastors

Pastor David Raetz

President

Ron Hansen

Vice President

Rich Grable

Treasurer

Sharon Hansen

Secretary

Karen Huscher

Trustees

Rich Grable

Elders

Bob Morris
Ron Fullerton

Christian Education

Kim Carrol
Kim Jackson

New Beginnings! Renewal! New Year!

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Psalm 51:10

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Revelation 21:4

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

Isaiah 43:18-19

Remember ye not for former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 65:17

For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

James 1:2-4

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete.



Reminder: Voters' Assembly meeting February 5th

September Snack List	Prayer Chain Requests	Elder Visits	Lectors
<p>1/1 No Snacks/Bible Study 1/8 Bev Morris 1/15 Ellen Lodgek 1/22 Karen Huscher 1/29 Arlene Messer 2/5 Kim Carroll</p>  <p>Alternate: Gladys Baker 203-0576</p> <p>Interested in bringing snacks? Contact Sue Grable 341-0074</p>	<p>A list of those in need of prayer can be found on table at church entryway.</p>  <p><i>First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people</i></p> <p>1 Timothy 2:1</p>	<p>Elders are willing to visit the sick and home bound with prayer. Will also bring the sacrament of Holy Communion to either the hospital or home bound upon request.</p>  <p>Contact: Ron Fullerton: 352-344-0905 Bob Morris: 352-628-6452</p>	<p>Lectors</p> <p>January Karen Huscher Psalm/Epistle Bob Morris Gospel</p> <p>February Kim Jackson Psalm/Epistle Rich Grable Gospel</p> <p>March Sue Grable Psalm/Epistle Bruce Thornton / Ron Fullerton Gospel</p>