

# THE CHIMES

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
The Rev. Luther John Bajus, pastor

Norridge, Illinois  
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## ASSURANCE for 2011

The story is told of an aged Indian, who spent much of his later years begging for food, clothing and shelter. One thing that attracted the attention of most people was an old piece of string around his neck, with a small pouch attached.

One day some inquisitive people, who had befriended him, asked what the pouch contained. The aged Indian opened the pouch and withdrew from it an old tattered blood stained piece of paper. It was his discharge from the service in the Federal Army, a piece of paper which assured him that the government would care for him, support him, and provide a place for him to live as long as he lived.

Just unbelievable! Here was a man who had the assurance of government care attached around his neck. He was unaware of what was guaranteed to him.

There are many within the Church who will enter the new year unaware of the assurances God has given already in the waters of Baptism. Some are filled with fear and anxiety. Others are uncertain about their future. If they could only have just some assurance, some security for the future, they would be content. They need a word of assurance to lean on, depend on.

Yet, we Christians, do have assurances from our God. We need only remember and recall them. We have His assurances for this year of 2011, which stretches out before us, that our God will be with us to care and provide, love and forgive us- and that all will be well with us...no matter what the future brings.

We can rejoice that we are the children of God, baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Remember each day as you arise: I am baptized. I am a child of heavenly Father. All His promises and assurances are mine each new day in the New Year of 2011.

A Blessed New Year to You in Christ,

*Pastor*

### Our first loyalty

The beginning of a new year is a good time to consider our compelling — and sometimes competing — loyalties. Our first loyalty must always be to our loving Creator. "You shall have no other gods before me," says the first commandment (Exodus 20:3, NRSV). Although other loyalties are important (family, country, work), God is the top priority.

The brilliant Christian statesman Thomas More tried to serve King Henry VIII well. But when the tyrant king made unethical demands on More that conflicted with God's standards, More refused to obey.

The terrible consequence was More's beheading. In 1535, just before the sharp blade fell on his neck, More proclaimed, "The king's good servant, but God's first."

### The Sarum Primer prayer

God be in my head  
and in my understanding;  
God be in my eyes  
and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth  
and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart  
and in my thinking;  
God be at my end  
and at my departing.

### Spiritual nourishment

Someone, feeling spiritually unfed, wrote a letter to a newspaper, saying that after some 30 years of attending church, he couldn't remember one sermon. The letter writer said he'd probably wasted his time, and preachers were wasting theirs, as well.

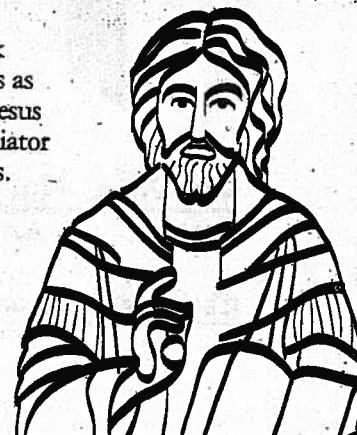
A few days later, someone else wrote a rebuttal. This writer said he'd been married for 30 years but couldn't recall the entire menu of any one of the thousands of meals his wife had fixed. Yet he knew those meals were nourishing and gave him strength to do his work. He also said that without eating those meals, his body would have been long dead. Without going to worship, he added, he'd be spiritually dead, too.

### Bible Quiz

A New Testament book says God designated Jesus as a "high priest" and that Jesus was the most perfect mediator between God and humans.

Choose the name of the book below:

- A. Romans
- B. Hebrews
- C. Matthew
- D. Revelation



Answer: B (See chapter 5:1-10 and chapter 9:11-15.)

[Image above: JESUS\_7655, JESUS\_7655C]

### Great possibilities

"Happily for us, the fundamental Christian message concerns not what we ought to do but what God has done and what God is willing to do. In fellowship with him and with others who are likewise trying to be like him, we can be lifted up above our native possibilities."

—Hugh Martin

### A changed life

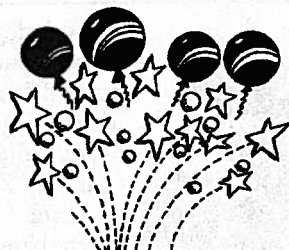
B.J. Thomas, the Grammy award-winning country singer, once had a \$3,000-a-week drug habit and was deeply in debt. He knew he was a troubled man. "I had low self-esteem," he said. "I was searching."

After barely surviving an overdose, Thomas returned home to discover his wife had become a Christian. After giving his life to Christ, Thomas felt incredible peace and quit using drugs cold turkey.

"My Christian faith sustained me," Thomas says. "There is security I feel in my Christian life. I've been bought and paid for, which comes from being a Christian. The Lord has his eye on me and a plan for my life."

Now 68, Thomas has been drug-free for more than three decades. The man known for singing "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head" is now experiencing showers of blessing (see Ezekiel 34:26).

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



J.	4	Nancy Webb
J.	5	Nella Ashley Iversen
J.	8	Virginia Mulik
J.	11	Patrick Brutto
J.	15	Jean Bajus
J.	19	Edith Constien
J.	23	Gregory M. Dymitrowicz
J.	24	Bess Cerny
J.	25	Dr. Jeffrey George
J.	27	Luba Pala
J.	28	Shirley Chesny

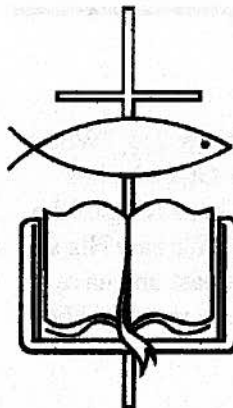
## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



J.	09	Richard & Carla Petersen
J.	15	Lee and Ronni Emrich

## JANUARY GREETERS

J. 01	Ushers
J. 03	Richard & Carla Petersen
J. 10	James and Amy Wood
J. 17	Dennis & Irene Katz
J. 24	Mary Fickenschier & Virginia Mulik
J. 31	Jean Larson & Gloria Malina
F.07	John & Eleanor Kachmarik
F.14	John & Mary Mark
F.21	Allen Arkuszewski & Robert Lange
F.28	David & Anne Peck



## NEWS

from

ZION

**Thank You:** The Rev. Arthur Constien assisted Pastor as liturgist and communing assistant at the Christmas Eve Worship - Service of Communion and Candlelight. His services to Zion are always very much appreciated.

## ACOLYTES

**JANUARY 2011**

J. 01	Cindy Wolford
J. 02	Alexis & Austin Johns
J. 09	Taylor Gizel & Logan Gizel
J. 16	Daniel Dymitrowicz & Jeffrey George
J. 23	Emilie Stoller & Victoria Velez
J. 30	Amanda & Paige Peterson

## **FEBRUARY**

**2011**

F. 06	Cindy Wolford
F. 13	Alexis Johns & Austin Johns
F. 20	Taylor & Logan Gizel
F. 27	Daniel Dymitrowicz & Jeffrey George

March 06 Emilie Stoller & Victoria Velez

**Mission Tree:** Thank you for supporting the mission of Tim and Michelle Miller and family thru the Mission Tree in the vestibule of our Church, in lieu of sending Christmas Cards.

The Millers are working through Lutheran Bible Translators in Chaing Mai, Thailand. Thank you for supporting the Lord's work in Thailand and we pray God's blessings on that work as carried on by the Millers.

Our sincere appreciation is expressed to Lucille Crummett and Sharlene Prien who took care of the Christmas Mission Tree this year.



**Matthew 2:2** "Where is the One who has been born King of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."

**Epiphany:** The Epiphany Season begins January 6<sup>th</sup>, and marks the appearance of the star to the Wise Men. Epiphany means "manifestation" or "appearance." We thank the Lord that He has revealed Himself as the Savior of both Jew and Gentile.

### **SUPER BOWL**

In the event you are interested, Super Bowl Sunday will be the first Sunday in February, February 06<sup>th</sup>.

### **Challenges**

2011 is our 101<sup>st</sup> Year. We do have personal and congregational challenges in this New Year.

These challenges can be of a spiritual nature, like reading the Bible, time for meditation and prayer, studying the Scriptures, praying for Zion, our members, our mission, our leaders, etc.

Our members do have a financial commitment to Zion and to any other aspect of the Church's mission and ministry, as God has blessed us.

#### **1 Corinthians 16:2**

"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income."

#### **2 Corinthians 9:7**

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

### **Reason for cheer**



A psychologist has determined that the Monday in the last full week of January is the most depressing day of the year. This year, "Blue Monday" falls on January 24.

Cliff Arnall calculated this date based on a combination of bad weather, Christmas debts, broken New Year's resolutions and the end of the holiday break. But no matter how bleak things seem — regardless of the time of year — Christians always have reason for hope. Thankfully, we can look beyond our earthly circumstances to the promise of new life with God forever.

As Martin Luther King Jr. said, "We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope."

[Image above: CHEER\_7653, CHEER\_7653C]

### **From humble beginnings**

In 1804, William, a 21-year-old from a poor family, decided to go to New York City to find a job. He told a neighbor his plans, saying he knew how to make soap and might work in a soap factory.

The neighbor said, "Just remember to be a good man, give your heart to Christ and pay the Lord all that belongs to him. Give a dime of every dollar you make, make an honest soap and you will be a happy and wealthy man."

Sure enough, William found a job making soap. Later, he became part owner and then sole owner of the business. His product line — and giving — expanded greatly. He gave many millions of dollars to the Lord's work throughout the world, far more than 10 percent of his wealth.

William Colgate died in 1857 at age 74, but his legacy and company, Colgate-Palmolive, still thrive.

- "Let us sing even when we do not feel like it, for in this way we give wings to heavy feet and turn weariness into strength."

—John Henry Jowett

- "The highest reward for a person's toil is not what they get for it, but what they become by it."

—John Ruskin

- "I am so made that worry and anxiety are sand in the machinery of life. Faith is the oil."

—E. Stanley Jones

## FAITHFUL HEARTS AND HANDS MEETING NOTES – DECEMBER 11, 2010

The meeting began with a Bible Study led by Nona Schipull on the topic "Christmas Presence", from the current issue of *The Lutheran Witness*. "When we were children, Christmas was about presents. Now that we are older, Christmas still might be about presents, but it is the giving that gives us joy. This is certainly our heavenly Father's perspective of Christmas. It gives God great joy to give to us, and His present at Christmas is His Christmas presence!"

Julie Stoller, Secretary, reviewed her minutes from our last meeting.

Sharron Schademann presented her Treasurer's Report.

The fall cleanup of the church on November 13, 2010 went well. Many hands made the work go quickly.

Nona has delivered gift cards to Lutheran Child and Family Services.

A contribution has been made for the LWML National Convention to be held in Pittsburgh, PA in 2013.

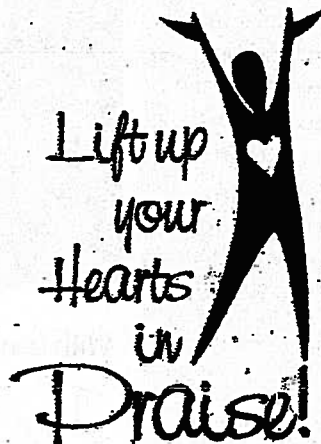
The Nativity Scene figures have been placed on the lawn near the front entrance of the church. Upon closer inspection, it was determined that some repairs will have to be made to the figures next summer.

A donation will be mailed to Community Lutheran Partners, Inc., in Wheeling, WV, a social ministry located in the heart of Appalachia.

Sharron reported on the events at the SELC LWML Western Zone Fall Rally held at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Crown Point, IN November 6, 2010. Sharron and Sharlene Prien attended the rally as representatives of Faithful Hearts and Hands.

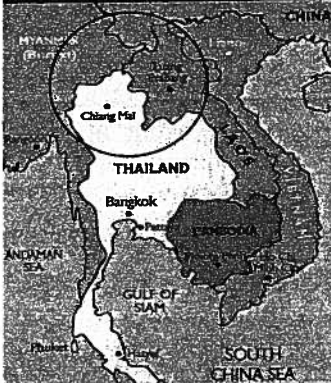
Julie informed us that three youngsters would be confirmed here at Zion at the end of May. She will look into securing stoles for them, which we will embellish.

The next meeting of Faithful Hearts and Hands will be held at Zion on Saturday, January 8, 2011 at 10:00 AM. We were pleased to have a guest at our meeting today and hope more of you will plan to attend our meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup>.



## Lutheran Bible Translators

November 2010



# Thank You!

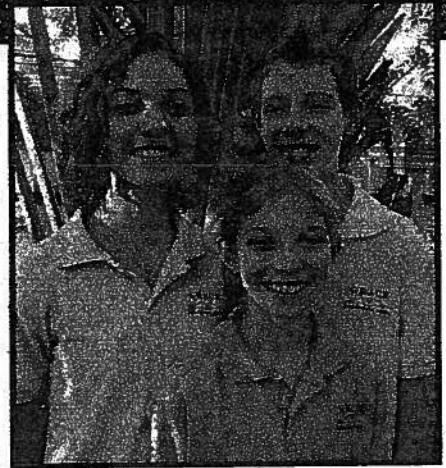
## You are a channel of blessing!

Dear Friends at Zion,

Hi from Chiang Mai!

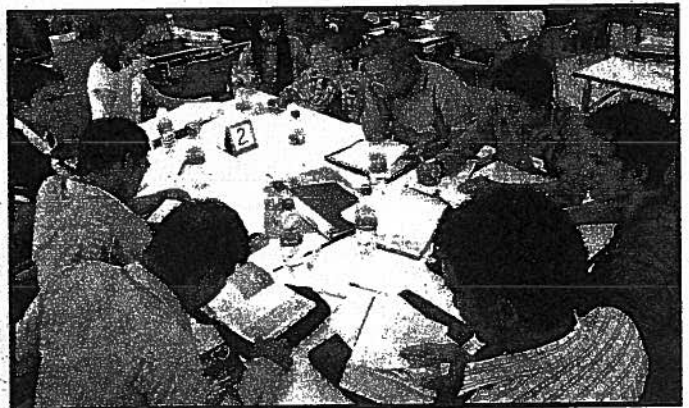
Two weeks ago we traveled with Lahu friends to a village to join with Lahu believers in a Thanksgiving celebration they called "Offering the First fruits" and "Eating the First Rice". (As you see from the picture we ate more than rice!) Harvest is in full swing in this region. Tim was asked to give a Thanksgiving message as part of the worship service and he shared from Psalm 107, a reminder through David of how we can confidently depend on God for all that we need. The 'chorus' in this psalm is "...give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love." We have a Father who keeps careful watch over our lives, and we can trust in his care.

You are part of God's provision for us in seeing him bring encouragement, new skills, and a deeper understanding of His powerful Word to people in Southeast Asia. We've received reports that 'Z' literacy teachers are using their new teaching materials successfully. Also, at the recent workshop on 'Developing Bible Studies' that Tim led, church leaders from six language groups created Bible study booklets and other materials to use in their communities and address pertinent issues in their lives. Thank you for your prayers and support for these things!



Your gifts also helped bring eight 'Z' friends to the *Culture Meets Scripture* workshop held in Chiang Mai in October. Several are evangelists serving churches in remote areas and three are in Bible School here in Chiang Mai. They were all quite excited about what they learned, and spent time planning for how they could share this with the wider 'Z' church. They also are thankful for your prayers for them!

~~~~~ THANK YOU!!!! ~~~~~



With love and appreciation for your partnership,

Tim & Michelle, Ellyn, Joel + Sarah



# ZION EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH



*JANUARY, 2011*

| Sunday                                                                                         | Monday    | Tuesday                              | Wednesday | Thursday                                | Friday                                  | Saturday                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                |           |                                      |           |                                         |                                         | <b>1</b><br>10:00 AM<br>Worship<br>11:00 AM<br>Fellowship                       |
| <b>2</b><br>9:00 AM Early<br>Communion<br>9:30 AM<br>Worship<br>10:35 AM S.S.<br>10:45 AM B.C. | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b>                             | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>                                | <b>7</b>                                | <b>8</b><br>9:30 AM Project<br>Hope<br>10:00 AM Faith-<br>ful Hearts &<br>Hands |
| <b>9</b><br>9:30 AM<br>Worship<br>10:35 AM S.S.<br>10:45 AM<br>Coffee &                        | <b>10</b> | <b>11</b>                            | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b>                               | <b>14</b>                               | <b>15</b><br>10:00 AM - 3:00<br>PM<br>Evangelism                                |
| Pastor on Vacation                                                                             |           |                                      |           |                                         |                                         |                                                                                 |
| <b>16</b><br>9:30 AM Commu-<br>nion Worship<br>10:45 AM B.C.                                   | <b>17</b> | <b>18</b><br>7:00 PM Coun-<br>cil Mt | <b>19</b> | <b>20</b><br>7:00 PM Choir<br>Rehearsal | <b>21</b><br>1:00 PM Choir<br>Rehearsal | <b>22</b>                                                                       |
| In Emergency, Call Rev Constien - 708.345.9254                                                 |           |                                      |           |                                         |                                         |                                                                                 |
| <b>23</b><br>9:30 AM<br>Worship<br>10:35 AM S.S.<br>10:45 AM B.C.                              | <b>24</b> | <b>25</b>                            | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b><br>7:00 PM Choir<br>Rehearsal | <b>28</b><br>1:00 PM Choir<br>Rehearsal | <b>29</b>                                                                       |
| <b>30</b><br>9:30 AM<br>Worship<br>10:35 AM S.S.<br>10:45 AM<br>Annua Mt                       | <b>31</b> |                                      |           |                                         |                                         |                                                                                 |

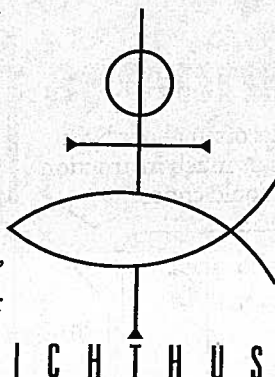
| December 10 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S           | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|             |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| 5           | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12          | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19          | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26          | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |

| February 11 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S           | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|             |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| 5           | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12          | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19          | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26          | 27 | 28 |    |    |    |    |

### + Christian Symbols +

#### Fish

The first letters in the Greek phrase "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior" spell ICHTHUS, or fish. Early Christians used the sign to convey their faith and avoid persecution. In the gospels, fish are part of several miracles. They also represent people who need to be "caught" for Christ. Today, a fish bumper sticker is a popular indicator of Christian faith.



[Image above: FISH\_7596, FISH\_7596C]

### Missing pronouns

You cannot pray the Lord's Prayer and even once say I.  
You cannot pray the Lord's Prayer and even once say my.

Nor can you pray the Lord's Prayer and not pray for one  
another,  
To ask God for "our" daily bread, you must include your  
brother.

For others are included ... in each and every plea,  
From the beginning to the end of it, it does not once  
say me.

### The gift of humor

Gifted pianist and comedian Victor Borge once said the shortest distance between two people is laughter. He was right. Laughter does indeed quickly break down barriers.

Collect a few stories that make you laugh and have them ready when an occasion calls for more intimacy.

For example: A woman and six children were walking toward a park. An elderly man who was also headed there stopped the woman and said with a smile, "My, what a nice group of children! Are they all yours ... or is this a picnic?"

The woman's response was immediate. "Yes! They're all my children, but it ain't no picnic!"

### Brand new

I am the new year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.

I am your next chance at the art of living. I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last 12 months.

All you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination. All the good you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all you hoped but did not will, all the faith you claimed but did not have — these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to him who said, "See, I am making all things new" (Revelation 21:5, NRSV).

—Author unknown

### What's important

On February 4, 1968, exactly two months before Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, he delivered his last sermon at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church. In it, he described his preferences for his own funeral. He didn't want people to mention his Nobel Peace Prize, his other awards or where he went to school; none of that was important, he said. Instead, he wanted his eulogist to say that King "tried to give his life serving others" and "tried to love somebody."

In that sermon, King also said "everybody can serve," regardless of background or educational level. The only requirements, he said, were "a heart full of grace" and "a soul generated by love."

### Determining God's will

Sometimes we're in a quandary about God's plan for our lives. For example, one young man felt led to enter the forestry service because God needs people to protect and care for his creation.

The man worked in a forest for six months and was fascinated by nature's beauty. But he was dreadfully lonely. Only as he worshiped with others on Sundays did he feel at ease. When the man enrolled in a seminary, he immediately found his comfort zone. Today he's a minister and loves serving God through the church.

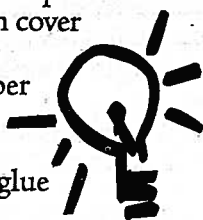
God's will is evident when we feel fulfilled and joyous in our vocation. That's what God desires for each of us as we serve him.

### LIGHT SWITCH COVER

Everyone who believes in God and lives for him is a child of light. Make this cover for your bedroom light switch to remind you to be a light for God.

#### What you need:

- An adult to help
- Light switch cover
- Screwdriver
- Colored paper
- Markers
- Scissors
- Decoupage glue
- Paintbrush
- Craft knife



#### What you do:

1. Remove the screws from the cover.
2. On the paper, draw small images related to light and write out "Live as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8, NIV).
3. Cut out the drawings and verse. Make sure they'll fit on the cover.
4. Paint the cover with a coat of decoupage glue, and then immediately place the drawings and verse on the cover.
5. Paint over them with another coat of glue. Let it dry.
6. Turn the cover over and use a craft knife to cut out the opening for the light switch.
7. Using a screwdriver, place your new light switch cover on your wall.



## From darkness to light

In the Bible, God speaks often about light and darkness. He gives us much instruction about which path we should choose.

|           |               |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1. Good   | Righteousness |
| 2. Death  | Children      |
| 3. Go     | Life          |
| 4. Evil   | Come          |
| 5. Adults | Bad           |

Match the opposites and then write the word in the right-hand column in the correct blanks to finish each verse.

"When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are \_\_\_\_\_, your body also is full of darkness." Luke 11:34, NIV  
(1)

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of \_\_\_\_\_." John 8:12, NIV  
(2)

"I have \_\_\_\_\_ into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." John 12:46, NIV  
(3)

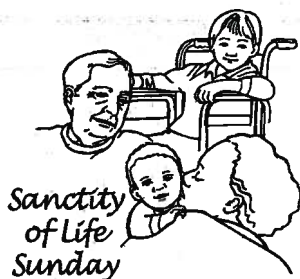
"For what do \_\_\_\_\_ and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?" 2 Corinthians 6:14, NIV  
(4)

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as \_\_\_\_\_ of light." Ephesians 5:8, NIV  
(5)

Answers: 1. bad, 2. life, 3. come, 4. righteousness, 5. children

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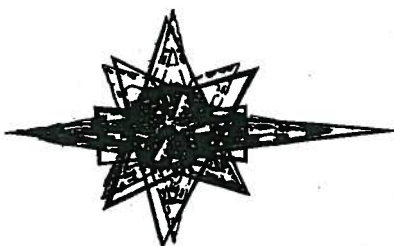


## BLESSINGS TO:



### Sunday Schedule

|                |   |            |
|----------------|---|------------|
| Worship        | - | 9:30 a.m.  |
| Sunday School  | - | 10:35 a.m. |
| Bible Class    | - | 10:45 a.m. |
| Pastor's Class | - | 10:45 a.m. |



## EPIPHANY

January sixth is the festival of the Epiphany. This festival has also been called the Christmas of the Gentiles, since it commemorates the revelation of the Christ-Child to the Wise Men from the East.

Just when the Wise Men arrived in Bethlehem is not known. It may have been a number of months after the birth of the Savior. Nor do we know how many Wise Men there were. Of course these are not vital matters. What is vital is that we recognize that Light which has come into the world - to Jew and Gentile alike - namely Jesus.

The Epistle for Epiphany is an Old Testament prophecy. "Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee." How appropriate that each year we hear this challenge while our hearts and homes are still basking in the afterglow of Christmas.

Our Light, indeed, has come. In the gross darkness which covers the world during the present days we once more see the Light - the Light from heaven, God's own Son. We can say with aged Simeon, "Mine eyes have seen Thy salvation... a Light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel."

But what are we to do about it, now that we have seen it? "Arise, shine!" says the Prophet. As individuals, as a congregation we are to arise. We are to awake from our sleep. We are to assume the stance of action. We are to shine - to show forth the praises and the radiance of Him who called us out of darkness into His light.

