

# Make Church a Part of Your Life

## WEEKLY SERMONETTE

*"Jesus Is For Us"*

*By Pastor Rick Rostek, Immanuel Lutheran Church*

Webster's defines the word epiphany as "a moment of sudden intuitive understanding; flash of insight". The Church is currently in the season of Epiphany, which celebrates the manifestations of Christ as true God come to earth as Savior of the world.

The season begins with the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child. These Gentiles, bearing their gifts, followed the star to the home of Jesus. When they got there, they fell on their knees and worshipped Jesus, showing that the Christ had come not only for Jews, but for all people.

During the Epiphany season, we celebrate the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River. Though He had no sin, Jesus received a baptism of repentance and forgiveness to show that He joined with all humanity and was willing to serve as the perfect substitute and sacrifice for the sin of the world. As the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus, the voice of God the Father thundered from heaven, "You are my beloved Son. With You I am well pleased"

(Luke 3:22). Not only did Jesus reveal Himself to be humanity's substitute, the Father revealed that Jesus was indeed the very Son of God.

The Epiphany season

reveals Jesus as 1) having control over the natural order of the world by changing water into wine at the wedding at Cana; 2) the One who fulfills prophecy as He comes

into the synagogue and reads from the prophet Isaiah; and 3) the Ruler over the spiritual world as He drives out the demon from the man in Capernaum.

The Epiphany season ends on the Mount of Transfiguration as Jesus is miraculously transformed before the eyes of Peter, James, and John. Appearing with Jesus are Moses and Elijah, verifying that Jesus does indeed fulfill the law and the prophets. The majestic scene ends with the Father once again booming from heaven, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him" (Luke 9:35).

In all of these moments of sudden intuitive understanding, Jesus reveals Himself to be the only one who is chosen by God to be the forgiver of sins and Savior of the world. He would accomplish this task by dying on the cross as a perfect sacrifice for all sin, including yours. Believing that Jesus is your Savior, you have forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. May Jesus be revealed to you this Epiphany season.

### Squeaky Clean



**Bath time is quite an event - the water temperature has to be just right, all the toys lined up, soap, shampoo and towel ready. All this for the actual bath that doesn't take that long! But isn't it worth it? How sweet is a freshly bathed baby! As he becomes older, just as much care must be taken to keep not only his body clean, but his spirit as well. We can begin early to teach a child right from wrong. Psalm 24:3-4 says, "Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? ... He who has clean hands and a pure heart..." All of us, not just our children, need to learn God's instructions for living a clean life. Won't you worship together as a family this and every week?**

Sunday 1 Kings 8:54-66	Monday Ezra 9:1-15	Tuesday Nehemiah 1:1-11	Wednesday Nehemiah 8:1-18	Thursday Nehemiah 9:1-14	Friday Nehemiah 9:15-37	Saturday Esther 4:1-17
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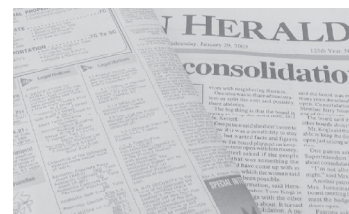
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