



# Epiphany of Christ News – December 2020

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**Pastor Steve Crittenden**



*As we light the candles on this wreath,  
wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your  
light, empower us to live honorably, and  
guide us along your path of peace.*

## **From the Church Council**

**Dear Friends in Christ,**

We are still struggling with the decision as to when to resume in-person services. The council shares your yearning for a return to the normal life of the church. Thankfully, vaccines seem to be coming in the near future and we can see the light at the end of this very long tunnel. In anticipation of the return to some sort of normalcy, the council has authorized the purchase of cameras and other electronic equipment to allow our services to be broadcast from the sanctuary. These live-time broadcasts will allow us to have limited in-person services while still providing services to the house bound because of COVID concerns. The council thanks Pastor

Steve for his expertise and his willingness to shepherd the council in this new effort. We sincerely hope the anticipated expenditure of \$3,000 and the increased costs of getting significantly improved internet connections will allow Epiphany to continue serving our beloved congregation. (By the way, if there is some generous soul - or souls - who would like to help us finance this endeavor, it would be much appreciated.) We continue to remember you in our prayers and wish you a blessed Christmas season and a New Year full of light - the light of Christ's loving care. God Bless!

**Your Servants in Christ, the Council**

## **THE ANNUAL MEETING**

Our constitution requires an annual meeting in January or February. As this time frame seems to fall in the time of greatest COVID danger -- the time before the arrival of effective vaccines -- the Council is contemplating postponing the Annual Meeting or trying to do it by Zoom (is that possible?). In any case, the Council will continue using this year's budget within the boundaries of our current funds. We'll keep you up-to-date when we receive more direction from the Synod.

## **IN MEMORIAM**

Please keep Jan Andersen, our Council Treasurer, Past President and stalwart of Epiphany, in your prayers. Her son, Kevin, who had been living with her, died from Covid-19 after spending more than two weeks on a ventilator. Kevin is now a part of that great cloud of witnesses.

***God's purpose for our church is to invite all to worship and grow through study, fellowship and mission.***

## A Crazy Quilt Charity Fund Raiser



Carolyn Lewis, our intrepid sewer and quilter, would like to make a "Crazy" quilt with the left-over scraps using pictures of people wearing masks. What an unique way to commemorate this crazy and momentous year -- 2020. When the "Crazy" quilt is completed, there will be a raffle to raise money for our charities, charities that are really in great need. If you would send a selfie of yourself in your mask to, [thelandlou@gmail.com](mailto:thelandlou@gmail.com) we'll begin the process.

**Are you 70 1/2 or older?? Do you have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA)?? Would you like to pay less income tax?? ----- If so, please keep reading!!**

The recently passed tax law raises the standard deduction to \$12,400 for single filers and \$24,800 for married couples. This means a lot of our members, who used to itemize their tax deductions for charitable donations, will now be taking the standard deduction in 2020. In effect, losing the deductibility of any of their contributions over a total of \$300 – the new limit on charitable donations for most folk.

If you want your donations to be totally deductible, you may want to consider what's commonly referred to as a "Charitable Rollover". A Charitable Rollover allows you to give **directly** from your IRA without having to pay taxes on that distribution. In effect, you can now get **both** the standard deduction **and** an additional deduction for your rollover church donations **and** not pay taxes. A triple win. Because we're in the Jesus business, not the tax business, please consult your tax advisor before doing a Charitable Rollover. We just want to make sure you're aware of this opportunity.

Thank you for your gifts, no matter how you give.

### **Mission Needs:**

**December: Project Help:** Gift cards or contributions for preteens/teens

Dear Faith Family:

You have clearly taken to heart the need for continued support of the ministry of Epiphany of Christ Lutheran. The Council is extremely and truly grateful. We've enclosed envelopes for December donations as we continue to worship on-line.

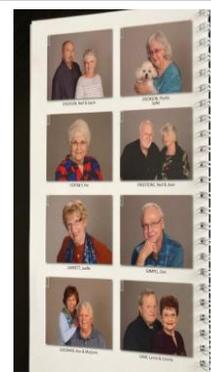
*Romans 15:13 "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

### **Join the on-line Christmas Eve service**

Christmas Eve worship, which will include readings and special music from 8 familiar faces and voices, will premiere as an event at 4 PM, Christmas Eve. That is the usual time for our early Christmas Eve service, so we can watch it together. Then it will also be available for viewing at any time.

### **The Long Awaited Church Directory has arrived**

**You can pick up your copy of the directory in the church entry hall from 10 am to 12 noon Wednesday and Sunday. Be sure to sign the registry. Thank You for your patience.**



Longing to join together as church family in sharing the gifts of Holy Communion

### **Welcome Back!**

As Autumn days grow shorter and temperatures drop, we know Winter draws nigh. Winter Visitors are contemplating the journey to warmer climes and we're anticipating their arrival with joy! **Travel safely!**