



# Epiphany of Christ News – late February 2021

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**Pastor Steve Crittenden**



*Therefore, the Lord waits to be gracious to you;  
he will rise up to show mercy to you.  
For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all  
those who wait for him.—Isaiah 30:18*

## **From the Church Council**

**Dear Friends in Christ**

Wow! How we have been waiting – waiting for a long, long year. Normally Lent is just 40 days, but we have just suffered the longest Lent ever. However, **HALLELUJAH**, the waiting time is almost over. We will begin in-person services on Easter Sunday with two services. We will still have to wear masks and social distance and probably omit hymn singing. We'll also need some help in ushering, cleaning between services, and setting up the distance seating: but what a joy it will be to finally come together and worship as a church family in the sanctuary.

We won't forget our Winter Visitors who may not have been able to return to the Valley of the Sun. We will continue on-line services in a slightly different format.

We think we have finally solved the problem of live-broadcasting our services. After three failed attempts with various internet providers, we think (with a little luck) we have finally found one that will be able to give us enough up-load speed. Again, we can't thank Pastor Steve enough for all of his work in getting the electronic structure for the broadcasts set up in the church.

If you were wondering, why this newsletter is so late, we can blame COVID. Our Council President/Editor, Church-Secretary, and Don Gimpel, our super volunteer maintenance chief, were all infected. Don had to be hospitalized. Thank goodness all are on the mend.

Final details about Easter Sunday Services will be found in next month's newsletter and will also be announced in the on-line services. Stay well and God bless!

**Your Servants in Christ, the Church Council**

## **March 14<sup>th</sup> Service**

There will be no on-Line Service on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Pastor will be on vacation.



**--REJOICE!--**

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

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.” Mark 8:35 (NRSV)

## **PRAYERS AND BLESSING:**

### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Almighty God, help us to remember that it is in giving that we receive and in caring for others that we experience the joy of following Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:** Dear God, as you satisfy us with this food and for all that blesses us this day, we give you thanks. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:** May the God who gives life to the dead and who calls into existence things that do not exist bless you with faith. (Romans 4:17b)

### Financial Review Committee

The Council is hoping that we can find 3 volunteers to review our financial statements for the last year. If interested call: Roger Larsen, Council President at:

402-936-4276 or 480-935-1491

### Women's Bible Study

**Tuesdays at 1:00 pm**

Meet in the church garden The Bible study follows the weekly lectionary and scripture readings. A copy of the study can be emailed to you ahead of time. All are welcome to join us in fellowship and study of God's word. Please bring your own Bible, lawn or folding chair, mask, beverage and plan to social distance as needed. A Mission project is planned for homeless women. For questions call: Pastor Elaine R. Silpala at 763-772-2675 or 480-671-2150



## The Promise

### **THE ANNUAL MEETING -Definitely (almost)**

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 has received permission from the Synod to either hold the meeting by Zoom or to postpone till a later date. Because a number of our congregants have not mastered Zoom or don't have the necessary computer set up, the Council has decided to postpone the meeting until a later date for in-person attendance. -- Thanks for your patience.

### Upcoming Missions in 2021:

**February:** [Hope Women's Center](#), gift cards in \$10 increments from Walmart, or monetary donation.

**March:** [ECLA](#), 1) Piglet (\$30), 2) Soap/Sanitation Supplies (\$25), 3) Mosquito Net (\$10), or monetary donation.

### Mission Report from Sandy Johnson

Thank You to everyone for their generosity! We collected \$404 for **Project Help**, \$320 for **Genesis**, and \$10 for **Hope Women's Center**.  
**What a blessing you are to those most needing a bit of charity. Again, Thank You!**



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