



Epiphany of Christ News – January 2021

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Pastor Steve Crittenden



*Psalm 121: I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
from whence cometh my help! 2 My help
cometh from the Lord, who made heaven and
earth.*

From the Council President

Dear Friends in Christ

Indeed, one can almost picture our COVID salvation rolling down the hills in a vaccine delivery truck. We surely have cause to greet this New Year with optimism and a sense that our prayers have been heard. At the same time, we constantly pray for the quick recovery of those taken ill, and we join in the sorrow of grieving families and share anew our Savior's promises.

This year has been particularly hard financially for many families struggling to pay rent and purchase food. My wife, Eileen, and I have weathered this storm in fairly good shape. We have steady income from Social Security and our teacher's pension: in contrast to those who have lost their jobs. Before these rounds of federal stimulus

checks, we decided we would try to heed Jesus's admonition to remember the less fortunate. We've donated the majority of these checks to various charities. Since our congregation has long been noted for its amazing generosity, this gentle challenge is probably unnecessary. However, if it is financially reasonable, I would like to challenge you to prayerfully consider giving some portion of the stimulus check to the folk that are really in a tough situation. God bless and Happy New Year!

Your Servant in Christ, Roger Larsen



Pictures are of a donation of wheelchairs and a potty chair from Amy, daughter of Mary Lou Rocca. Amy hopes they will find a new home! Please leave a message on the church phone with your phone number and an exchange will be arranged.



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

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



Thanking Angels Amongst Us

Thank You! Since we've received a number of generous gifts, we've gone ahead and purchased the video cameras and other electronic equipment to broadcast our services live from the sanctuary. Pastor Steve is in the process of setting up the equipment. We're still trying to get faster internet service necessary for the broadcasts. As a congregation, you have been most generous, and it is truly appreciated. Your gifts make possible the efficient and effective spreading of our Lord's message of salvation. Announcements of in-person and broadcast services will be made in February.

Again, thank you!

Notes from the Church Secretary

NEWSLETTER & EMAIL LIST

If you would like to be added or removed from the mailing list for the newsletters and/or the email list, you can shoot me an email at angel@epiphanyofchristlutheran.org and I would be happy to add/remove you from either or both of these lists. Check with your friends from church as well. Perhaps they aren't receiving a newsletter and would like to be added to the list. In addition, if we're still sending the newsletter to your Summer address and you want it sent here in the valley to your Winter address, let us know! We just need to have an updated address

DONATION TAX STATEMENTS

Because of the large increase in federal standard deductions, most folk will not claim their church donations as a deduction. As we did last year, we will not automatically send out a donation statement. However, if you need a tax statement for state tax or other considerations, please contact Angel at the e-mail address above and be sure to include your **current** mail/e-mail address so we can mail/e-mail the statement to you.

Thank You!

A Prayer of Thanks for Our Pastor

Gracious Lord, you place your precious gospel in fragile jars of clay and send these, your representatives, to proclaim the Word and administer the sacraments in your kingdom. Thank you for Pastor Crittenden, whom you called to serve the members of Epiphany of Christ. Keep him faithful to the tasks of correcting, encouraging, rebuking, and training the saints in this place with your Holy Scriptures. Help us show appreciation for our pastor as we support him with prayers and encouragement, and regular attendance in the worship activities of the church.

Amen.

THE ANNUAL MEETING - MAYBE

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. The Council will make a final decision to hold the annual meeting on the last Sunday of February by Zoom, or to postpone the meeting until a later date in-person. The February newsletter will give the details.



Upcoming Missions in 2021:

January, Genesis Project, Fresh produce for salads, or monetary donation.

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), Mosquito Net (\$10), or monetary donation.