

# OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

## NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2021

### PASTOR'S LETTER

### EPIPHANY

#### A-HA!! THE EPIPHANY OF GOD'S BELOVED

Wise people still seek Jesus.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we have observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him..." Matthew 2: 1-3

And just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." Mark 1: 10-11

"Jesus says: Console yourself, you would not seek me, if you had not already found me."-Blaise Pascal

Epiphany is the "A-ha!" Season of the Church. Epiphany is the manifestation of Christ to the whole world, including the Gentiles – discovering Jesus as the son of God – in our scriptures represented by the Magi or "Wise men" (Matthew 2:1-12).

Epiphany also means a moment of sudden revelation or insight. If Epiphany were a cartoon, you would see light bulbs lighting up above heads when we "get it"– God's gift to humanity is the babe at Bethlehem.

Through our Baptism into Christ, we are named and claimed as God's own Beloved children, with whom God is well pleased to dwell: **God with us – Emmanuel.**

Worship texts during the Epiphany season all have an "A-ha!" moment – God revealed in the Christ, and believers coming to faith and a deeper appreciation of God with us through the incarnation. In the text above we see that the birth of Jesus was not always felt as "good news"– for example to those in power, such as King Herod – who saw Jesus as a threat to his throne and power.

We enter a time of new beginnings with a new year filled with promise and hope. This month of January, we will restart Our Redeemer's Sunday School, initiate first communion classes, continue with confirmation and invite folks for adult Bible Study both in person and online.

After the difficult and demanding year just ended, God's spirit invites us to open our eyes, our hearts and our minds to discover anew God's promise, new life in Christ and the hope, power and peace in the Holy Spirit.

Wise people still seek Jesus. Led by the light, let us enter this Epiphany season with the awareness and insight that God has already found us! A-ha!

Pastor Judith VanOsdol  
ORLC Interim Pastor

### SUNDAY SCHOOL START UP

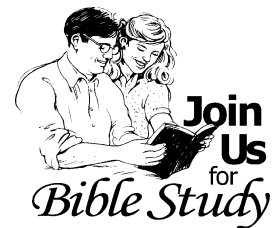
We are very excited to announce that Sunday School will be starting up beginning, **Sunday, January 24, 2021 at 9:30 am.** Information will be sent to all parents of Sunday School age children. We will follow NYS protocols for safe learning, with social distancing, wearing face masks, hand sanitizing and cleaning of the building. Look for more information coming soon!

### A STEWARDSHIP WORD

Please be good Stewards of all God's Blessings. Support God's church and mission in the world! Support your church! Support the working of the Lord at Our Redeemer! Many thanks!

### BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**  
Our next in person Bible Study will be Thursday Jan. 14, at 3:00 pm here at the church and we will gather together with Pastor Judith.



In January, ORLC Online Bible Study will move to Wednesday evenings at 5:30 pm to better accommodate folks who work outside the home. **Wednesdays 5:30–6:30 pm beginning January 13<sup>th</sup>.** For those who would like to join us through Zoom, please do so. We will send the invitation with a link in an email.

## 1<sup>ST</sup> HOLY COMMUNION

### For our 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Class

January 24<sup>th</sup> 10:30- 11:30— Orientation and First Class

January 31<sup>st</sup> 10:30- 11:30— Second Class

February 7<sup>th</sup> 10:30- 11:30— Third and final Class

First communion for the fifth-grade class will take place during worship on **Transfiguration Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>** during the 9:30 AM Worship Service at Our Redeemer.

### For our 4<sup>th</sup> grade Class

The First Communion instruction is a six-week course of preparation. These will take place during Lent, on the following Sundays, immediately following worship, at 10:30 AM, at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. Materials are provided.

February 28<sup>th</sup> 10:30- 11:30— Orientation and First Class

March 7<sup>th</sup> 10:30- 11:30— Second Class

March 14<sup>th</sup> 10:30- 11:30— Third Class

March 21<sup>st</sup> 10:30-11:30— Fourth Class

March 28<sup>th</sup> 10:30- 11:30— Fifth Class

Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday, **no class, homework to complete prior to Easter Worship at 9:30**

Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> – First Communion for Fourth Grade Class during Worship at 9:30—**class should arrive prior to 9 AM for a rehearsal and walk-through**

First communion for the fourth-grade class will take place during worship on **the Second Sunday of Easter, April 11<sup>th</sup>** during the 9:30 AM Worship Service at Our Redeemer.

## INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

**THE 2021 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL WILL BE INSTALLED SUNDAY, JANUARY 10<sup>th</sup>**. There will be a one-half day retreat on Saturday morning, January 23<sup>rd</sup> for ALL council members. They are:

President	Ann Dolega
Vice President	Kevin Steingruebner
Sec/Treasurer	Robin King
Christian Growth	Sheryl Palumbo
Evangelism	Elise Heins
Financial Management	Erich Mauer
Pastoral Care	Robert Kneer
Property	Craig Aarseth
Stewardship	<i>All Council Members</i>
Youth	Brad Kneer
Pastor	Pastor Judith VanOsdol

## MEMORIAL FUND

### KITCHEN FUND

In memory of **Paul Lundwall**

Given by: Jill & Bob Kneer  
Ann Dolega

In memory of **Henry Bramwell Sr.**

Given by: Marilyn Keating

In memory of **Louise Carlstrom**

Given by: Melodie Georghiou  
The Lieberman Family

In memory of **Thomas Macdonald**

Given by: Margaret Macdonald

## WEDDING



December 12, 2020  
Lindsay Miller & Jack Lincker

## BAPTISM



December 13, 2020




ELLA JEAN MCGILL  
Daughter of Kevin & Brittany  
McGill  
(nee Kennedy)  
Godchild of Jodie Gill and  
Christopher Gambino

## SCHOOL REGISTRATION

preschool registration



**OUR REDEEMER NURSERY  
SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE BEGINS  
January 11, 2021.** If you are  
interested in signing up, please  
call Caitlin at 516-781-7637 to  
schedule an appointment.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <i>Happy New Year!</i> <i>Office &amp; School Closed</i>	2
3 <i>Christmas II</i>  9:30 am Holy Communion	4  5:00 pm Faith Formation Meeting	5  5:00 pm Confirmation Teachers Meeting	6  8:30 am Work Crew 9-12, 1-4 Preschool Chapels 6:45 pm Confirmation	7  9-1 Preschool Chapels	8  	9
10 <i>Baptism of our Lord/Epiphany</i>  9:30 am Holy Communion/ Installation of Council	11  <i>Nursery School Registration Begins.....</i>	12	13  8:30 am Work Crew 5:30 pm Zoom Bible Study  6:45 pm Confirmation	14  3:00 pm In Person Bible Study  5:15 Zoom Sunday School Teachers Mtg.	15	16
17 <i>Epiphany 2</i> 9:30 am Holy Communion	18  <i>Office &amp; School Closed</i>  <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday</i>	19  7 pm Zoom School Board Meeting	20  8:30 am Work Crew 5:30 pm Zoom Bible Study  6:45 pm Confirmation	21  3:00 pm In Person Bible Study	22	23  9-12 noon Council Retreat at Church
24 <i>Epiphany 3</i> 9:30 am Holy Communion 10:30 am 1 <sup>st</sup> Communion class for 5 <sup>th</sup> graders	25   Winter Fun!	26  7:30 pm Church Council Meeting	27  8:30 am Work Crew 5:30 pm Zoom Bible Study  6:45 pm Confirmation	28  3:00 pm In Person Bible Study	29	30
31 <i>Epiphany 4</i> 9:30 am Holy Communion 10:30 am 1 <sup>st</sup> Communion class for 5 <sup>th</sup> graders						