



Volume 2021 Issue 1

Living Word Lutheran Church
Worship address: 2570 Northern Avenue
Mailing address 3880 Stockton Hill Rd. 103-300
Kingman, Arizona

January Devotion- The Season of Epiphany

Epiphany is one of the oldest seasons in the Christian Church Year, second only to the Easter season. This season of lights emphasizes Jesus' manifestation (or Epiphany) as God and man. The earliest Christians called the feast of the Epiphany the Theophany ("revelation of God"). When the Gentile Magi come to worship Jesus, they show that everyone now has access to God. Now all people, Jew and Gentile, can come to God's temple to worship because Jesus is the new temple: God in the flesh. The season of Epiphany may include as many as 9 Sundays, depending on the date of Easter.

The season is marked at its beginning and at its end by two important feasts of Christ. Like Christmas, the Epiphany of Our Lord, the Baptism of Our

Lord, and the Transfiguration of Our Lord are the feast days of Jesus. The altar color for feast days is white, the color of divinity, purity and joy. The Sundays after the Epiphany focus on the growth of Jesus' ministry, and the altar color green is used to symbolize that growth.

The Epiphany of Our Lord (1/6/2021) marks the celebration of the visit of the Magi.

Baptism of Our Lord The first Sunday after the Epiphany (1/10/2021) we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord. The Father had sent Jesus to bear the sins of the world. Jesus steps down into baptismal waters so that He can soak up the sins of the world: He is baptized into our sins so that our Baptism might be into His death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins.



Feast of the Transfiguration is celebrated on the last Sunday in the Epiphany season (2/14/2021). It is a significant and uniquely Lutheran contribution to the Christian calendar. We commemorate the moment on the Mount of Transfiguration when three of Jesus' disciples glimpsed their Lord in diving splendor, seeing Him as the center of the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah). Jesus proclaimed to His disciples then and now, that He was the long-awaited one who had come to die for the sins of the world and be raised again in glory.

Transfiguration Sunday is the last Sunday before Lent. Because we give up singing *Alleluia* during Lent, we say farewell to *Alleluia* on this Sunday.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (2/17/2021)

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"...magi from the East arrived in Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.'" Matthew 2:1-2



January Scriptures

1/3 Ephesians 1:3-14, Psalm 147: 12-20, John 1: 1-18
 1/10 Acts 19:1-7, Psalm 29, Mark 1:4-11
 1/17 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18, John 1: 43-51
 1/24 1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Psalm 62:5-12, Mark 1:14-20
 1/31 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Psalm 111, Mark 1: 21-28

Prayer Requests

For continuing comfort and healing
 Carolyn Krick, Lelanie Exbom, Donna Kowalske, Pat Bingham, Vern Parsons, Char and Dale Matheny, Barbara McCord, Carol Wostal, Nick Nichols, Ken Bourlier, Andrew Johnson, Mary Geihlsler



If you know of someone who should be included in the monthly ongoing prayer list, or you yourself would like to be included, please contact Pastor Michael (509-710-3283).



“It was the best of times; it was the worst of times....”

Where is THAT in the Bible?? As we all know, that is one of the more familiar Dickens quotes, but it does call to mind our current situation. In any other year these would be the “best of times”; shopping, gift giving and receiving, family gatherings, full churches and, of course, that always rousing New Year’s Eve celebration. Instead, it feels like the “worst of times”. I don’t need to rehearse the litany of difficulties that surround us now. Rather, I would call us to remember our text from last Sunday: “But in the *fullness of time*, God sent His Son....” Galatians 4:4. Best of times? Worst of times? Actually, it’s all GOD’s time. He is our Heavenly Father and as His children maybe its just a good time to let Him be in charge and for us to renew, for this New Year, our complete trust and faith in Him – day by day, event by event, even minute by minute. Let’s *live* in GOD’s gracious time.

Pastor Michael

January Special Worship Events

- Jan. 3** Pastor Dan Storvick worships with us
- Jan. 10** Baptism of Our Lord
- Jan. 16** Sanctity of Life Walk
- Jan. 17** Worship honors Sanctity of Human Life
- Jan. 24** Transfiguration of Our Lord
- Jan. 31** Annual Congregation Meeting following Worship

SAVE THE DATE!

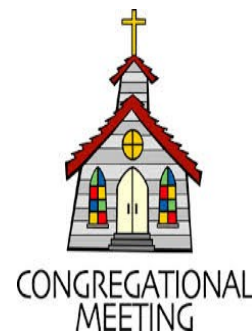
January 31, 2021

Plan to join us after worship on January 31, the last Sunday of January

Although the agenda is not finalized yet, we know the following items will be discussed:

- ◆ Review annual reports from 2020
- ◆ Elect Council officers
- ◆ Approve a budget for 2021
- ◆ Review and approve changes to Living Word Constitution
- ◆ Discuss potential affiliation with AFLC

Your presence is needed! Help us plan our future!



WOW IN ACTION!

National Sanctity of Human Life

Although due to COVID, WOW did not have a regular meeting in December, the group was actively planning a special event in January! The following communication was sent to all KEMA churches encouraging participation:

The women's group (W.O.W.) from Living Word Lutheran Church is working with Teresa Reaume, the Director of the Kingman Advice & Aid Pregnancy Center, to organize a Sanctity of Life Walk on Saturday, January 16th, for the annual

observance of the Roe v. Wade decision. You may recall this group also held a Sanctity of Life event at Metcalfe Park and walk in June, 2019, which many of you were so good as to participate in and your churches supported .

As a part of this observance, the group is also asking the Kingman Evangelical Ministerial Association members to consider including a portion of the sanctity of life in the worship service of the churches on Sunday, January 17th, perhaps as a part of prayers, the message or church announcements as each pastor sees fit. Please also encourage your

church family to participate in the Walk on January 16th.

See flyer on pg. 5 for more information!



Dear Small Group Hosts and Members,

Christmas Eve's candlelight service was a perfect sharing of the joy of Christ's birth. I hope you had a joyous Christmas Eve and Christmas Day filled with the spirit of the Christ Child, plenty of hugs, laughter, light-hearted conversation, and good food.

As you know, the pandemic is still active. Ken Bourlier, who hosts the Wednesday morning men's group,

is hospitalized and continues to be in our prayers. Let's also pray he's the last person we know who comes down with this nasty virus.

With the social aspects of church temporarily set aside, the reason we gather hasn't changed. Small Group hosts and members are encouraged to use this as an opportunity, as individuals, to deepen their relationship with Christ.

We need to continue delaying our Small Group meetings while the pandemic is still a concern. However, if a Small Group decides to meet anyway, please be sure to let me know.

God bless you for being in a Small Group; and yes, I'm looking forward to our lives returning to normal soon.

While we're waiting for that to happen, pray for 2021 to be everyone's very best year ever. If you have questions about anything pertaining to leading your Small Group, please reach out to Pastor Michael or myself.

God bless you now and always,

Pat Toth

Small Group Coordinator

January Celebrations

- Jan. 14 Dale Matheny
- Jan. 16 Eva Hofflund
- Jan. 23 Carol Wostal



No January Anniversaries

Living Word Council Minutes-Meeting Summary 11/4/2020

Pastor Michael Birnbaum, Pastor Assistant Eileen Pressler, President Ken Bourlier, Vice-President Bob Pressler, & Secretary Sharon Peterson, Excused: Mission Coordinator Rosie Freeman

Meeting opened with prayer. October minutes approved.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Michael Birnbaum (full report attached) Suggest all council members review last years budget for suggestions/ concerns for next years budget Would like to have the 1st budget meeting the week of Nov 30th. Discussion on AFLC and plans to have President Rev. Lyndon Korhonen worship with us on Dec. 13th. Plans are in the works for confirmation class with the youths who had 1st Communion.

Pastor Assistant: Eileen Pressler (full report attached) Compensated Pastors Sundays off: 1/19/20, 2/16/20, 6/14/20, 7/26/20 & 11/22/20. Brandon Scroggins will lead our worship on 11/22. Advent begins on 11/29. Mid-week Advent services will be only at 6:30 PM this year. “Prepare

Ye’ is the theme and devotion booklets have been ordered. Thanksgiving Dinner will be after worship 11/22. Currently working on statements of giving for Jan-Oct 2020. Planning on passing out numbered envelopes during Advent.

President Report: Ken Bourlier Plans on working with the men on what is needed when having to move chairs, tables.

Vice President-Financial Report: Bob Pressler (full report attached) New internet has been installed (Suddenlink). Building lease has been signed. WOW has paid for the 2 new flags (American & Christian Flags). Council reviewed and approved all reports.

Mission Coordinator: Rosie Freeman Excused: No report

Old Business: Media Team – suggestion on having a meeting with Brandon Scroggins on what he does at his congregation. Will contact him and see if we can meet. Affiliation Committee Report – Committee consisted

of Pam Burgett, Brian Burgett, Beverly Valentine & Eileen Pressler. Reviewed their research and recommendation, Council approved pursuing AFLC.

New Business: 501C3 – Eileen attended a Webinar. By definition we are a charitable organization. Most churches are already considered 501C3. To have 501C3 paperwork we would need to become a corporation. There would be a lot of cost and time involved- Eileen feels that we do not need to pursue being 501c3. Council Agreed.

Next meeting December 3, 2020 at 1:30 pm Meeting was closed with Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Peterson, Secretary



SUPPLIES NEEDED!!

The next time paper towels are on sale, consider picking up an extra package and bringing it to church with you!

Help us restock our supply!

Even though we have limited our fellowship activities due to COVID , we have accumulated some extra kitchen items (bowls, storage containers, etc!)

If you’ve been looking for a favorite item and can’t find it, it might be at church! Check it out!!



“From the first heartbeat to the last.”

Matthew 25:40 ⁴⁰ And the King shall answer and say unto them,
Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the
least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.



Sanctity of Life Walk

Saturday, January 16th, 2021

A gathering to seek God’s guidance, blessings and hand on the Sanctity of Life from the first heartbeat to the last throughout the world, our nation and in our community.

Sign-in: 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Kingman City Offices, NE corner of 4th & Oak Street

Walk begins at 10:30 a.m.

The route for the walk will begin at the Kingman City office complex on the corner of 4th & Oak, proceed down 4th Street to Beale Street, continuing on the northern side of Beale Street to Locomotive Park and ending with a walk around the perimeter of Locomotive Park.

Participants:

- ◆ Are encouraged to bring signs **supporting sanctity of life.**
 - ◆ Masks are encouraged.
 - ◆ Please respect social distancing of others.
 - ◆ Observe all traffic lights and rules. Safety first.
 - ◆ Don’t forget comfortable shoes, a hat, and water bottle.
 - ◆ If we have protestors, smile and pray; don’t engage.
- ◆ If possible, please wear the color green, representing life and happiness.

January 17, **2021** Many people are unaware of the true impact abortion has had on our nation and our community. **Sanctity of Human Life Sunday** is observed each year on a **Sunday** close to the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. It is a day that we observe with believers across the nation whose hearts are grieved by the tragedy of abortion.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Teresa Reaume (AAPC) 928-692-1301 or Donna Pederson (Living Word Lutheran Church.) 928-753-5762



Living Word Lutheran Church



Worship-2570 Northern Ave.
Mail-3880 Stockton Hill Road 103-300
Kingman, Arizona 86409
Phone: 928-753-5952

We're on the web!

www.livingwordkingman.com

Facebook Living Word

Vision Statement

Our vision is to be a welcoming, scripturally based community intentionally serving Christ through missions.

Mission Statement

Living and growing in faith together as a spirit filled church with the

Word of God as our foundation and reaching out through missions showing the

Love of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to

Create a hunger in others to embrace the Word of God, salvation through Jesus Christ and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

