



As the Jordan Flows
A Newsletter for Jordan Family and Friends

From the Interim Pastor...

January, 2017

EPIPHANY – THE SEASON OF REVELATION

Epiphany is a season of revelation – the revelation of who this infant Jewish boy is all about. Even in his infancy, he is perceived with fear, as a threat to those who rule. Each week of Epiphany, we learn something new about Jesus, the grown to adulthood Jesus.

John the Baptist tells us there is something unique about this one called Jesus. The writer of the Gospel of John tells us the startling, and almost incomprehensible news that Jesus is from the very beginning, even from the beginning of creation. We see the kinds of people this Jesus, God's Son, chooses to have as his intimate followers – not the high and the mighty but the common and the ordinary – people who earn their living as fishermen.

Suddenly the spotlight is focused not so much on who Jesus is, but what Jesus does, and says. Jesus becomes teacher, and confronts us with the Sermon on the Mount, beginning with the Beatitudes that paint a picture of the Kingdom of God and how the actions of God's Kingdom are diametrically opposed to the actions and activities of the kingdom of this world primarily influenced by the evil one.

Jesus goes on then to tell us that those who follow him are salt, not the salt of preservation of the old, but the salt of purification. We are reminded that as a follower of Jesus, we are to be a light that shines into the darkness that permeates the hearts and minds of all humans. The epiphany season comes to a conclusion with Jesus teaching about anger, marriage and divorce. Next, Jesus makes it very clear that getting revenge against someone who has wronged us is not the Kingdom of God way. The final week of Epiphany has Jesus instruct his followers on the far reaching impact of love in human relationships.

The season of Epiphany is about revelation. Yes, it is about revelation, the revelation of who Jesus is and what Jesus does. But, if we pay close attention, it is also about the revelation of who we are and what we do or do not do.

Epiphany is all about having our perceptions and perspectives changed. Epiphany is about seeing things in a new way. When one has an encounter with the holy, ordinary this world reality, ordinary this world ways of thinking, and ordinary this world ways of acting, are transformed into new ways of thinking and acting, new ways of thinking and acting that are in line with God's Kingdom.

Epiphany would have us change our perceptions and perspectives from being swept along with the influence of the kingdom of this world: the nastiness, the anger, the bitterness, the demonizing and the distrust that seems to permeate our society these days, and which, unfortunately, infiltrate even the mission and ministry of the church.

Epiphany would have those who are in Christ change our perspective and perceptions by focusing on the principles of God's Kingdom: forgiveness, grace, love, compassion, peace, gentleness and faith.

If we are to change the climate of the church, there are two things that are essential: one is to look into our own thoughts, words and actions, to determine to what extent I have engaged in the perspectives and perceptions of this world, rather than, the perspective and perceptions of God's Kingdom, and the second essential thing is to see Jesus in every person with whom we relate and interact.

May this Epiphany Season of the church year be one of revelation and transformation for each one of us who call ourselves by the name of Jesus.

In Christ,

CHURCH COUNCIL

Officers

Bill Hendricks

President.....610-435-1283

Julie Boscia

VicePresident..610-398-2859

Darrell Correll

Treasurer.....610-435-8210

Shirley Schleicher

Secretary.....610-395-4461

Members

Jason Barnett

Ken Gross

Dave Mancke

Kevin Murphy

Keely Schofield

Terrie Weidman

John Weremedic

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

January

Second Sunday of Christmas (1/1)

9:15 – Service of Lessons & Carols

Baptism of Our Lord (1/8)

8:00 - ELW Worship Service

10:30 – ELW Worship Service w/comm.
Church Council Installation (both services)

Second Sunday after Epiphany (1/15)

8:00 – ELW Worship Service w/comm.

10:30 – ELW Worship Service.

Third Sunday after Epiphany (1/22)

8:00 – ELW Worship Service

10:30 – ELW Worship Service w/comm.

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany (1/29)

8:00 – ELW Worship Service w/comm.

10:30 – ELW Worship Service

Jordan Lutheran Church

Office Hrs. M-F, 9:00-4:00

CONTACT INFO

5103 Snowdrift Road

Orefield PA 18069

Phone: 610-395-5912

Fax: 610-395-2423

jordanlutheran@verizon.net

pastorjordanlutheran@verizon.net

www.jordanlutheran.org

STAFF

Interim Pastor: Rev. Guy R. Grube

Visitation Pastor: Rev. Jerel Gade

Administrator: Monica Unangst

Christian Ed.: Jamie Edelman

Asst Organist: Janice Kistler

Bell Choir: Greg Grove

Inc/Exp Coord: Marlene Peters

Canon Choir: Janice Kistler

Cherub Choir: Marlene Peters

Sexton: Ann Kline

DEADLINES

Newsletter – 15th of the month
prior to publication

Bulletin – 10 a.m. Thursdays

HOSPITAL CODE 256

*Don't forget – just one service at 9:15
on December 25th and January 1st.*



Christmas Eve Services

All are Candlelight Services with Holy Communion

6:00-Family

9:00-Traditional

The following parishioners recently volunteered their time and talents to enhance our Sunday worship services:

Altar Guild

Jane Suhocki
Kathy Leonard, Irene Johnson

Lectors

Andrea Russell, Ulla Martz, Tammy Klotz, Ken Gross, Ava Collins, Andrew Collins, Bill Weber, Louise Stettler

Ushers

Sonny & Lucille Laudenslager, Kevin & Judy Murphy, Stettler Family, Jensen Family, DiMaggio Family

Bell Tollers

Rich Boyer, Chris Boscia, Sandie Hamil, Bruce Stettler, Bill Lutterschmidt, Mike Wertman, Dan Stark, Bruce Stettler

Acolytes

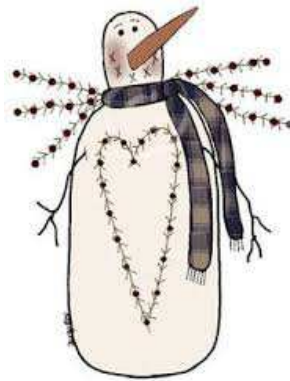
Taylor Shortell, Josh Heller, Erin Klotz, Dominick DiMaggio, Andrew Collins

Communion Assistants

Jennifer Seidel, Ken Gross, Donna Stark, Shirley Schleicher

“I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're doing something.”

-Neil Gaiman



Bell Toller Schedule for January

Jan. 1st
9:15 – Mike Wertman

Jan. 8th
8:00 – Rich Boyer
10:30 – Bruce Stettler

Jan. 15th
8:00 – Rich Albright
10:30 – Chris Boscia

Jan. 22nd
8:00 – Dan Stark
10:30 – Mike Wertman

Jan. 29th
8:00 – Rich Boyer
10:30 – Bruce Stettler

Shut in of the Month for January

Grace Haas
4653 Terrace Road
Orefield PA 18069

Please send a card or note to let her know her Jordan family is thinking of her!

Thank You

Thank you to all the members of our Jordan family who reached out to us after the death of Chris's mother. Your kind words, cards and prayers brought us much comfort during this difficult time. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Julie, Chris, Alex, Michael & Callie Boscia

I want to extend my sincere thanks to all who supported this year's Angel Tree. Your generosity provided gifts for 75 foster children – the most we have supported in my 9 years as coordinator of this ministry. I hope Jordan will continue to support this cause and share the joy of Christmas with the children at Diakon each year.

Julie Boscia

2017 SPONSORSHIPS

Altar Flowers: 1/1, 22, 29; 2/5, 12, 19, 26; 3/5, 12, 19, 26

Bulletins: (2 weekly) : Call for available dates

East Penn Press Ad: Call for available months

HOW TO RESERVE YOUR SPONSORSHIPS: Contact Donna Hahn at 610-395-0613 or dhahn16@gmail.com with your choice of date(s) and sponsorships(s). Altar flowers are \$40. No need to order flowers – they will be provided weekly by our contracted florist. Checks may be made payable to JELC and either mailed or dropped in the offering plate.

SPONSORSHIP POLICY: Flowers and other sponsorships may be reserved no earlier than one year from the chosen date. If you wish to reserve the same weekend for the following year, you may do so the day after the current year's sponsorship. No dates will be held; the first request for a date (within the one year limit) will be taken regardless of the previous year's sponsor.

Second Congregational Meeting

To be scheduled in March
Watch for more info

Annual reports will be reviewed
and other congregational
business conducted.

Annual Cemetery Lotholders Meeting January 22nd

15 minutes following the conclusion
of the 10:30 a.m. service
in Classroom 8 (across from pastor's office)
Anyone with questions or wanting
information is welcome to attend.



Some Reminders

2016 Contributions: Any contributions you wish to be credited to 2016 must be in the church office **by the end of the day on Friday, December 30th**. The last deposit must be made before noon on Saturday, December 31st. Contributions received in 2016 cannot be credited to 2017, nor can contributions received in 2017 be credited to 2016.

Annual Reports: Please watch for information on the upcoming Second Congregational Meeting sometime in the month of March. Annual Reports will be distributed a week prior to the meeting. All groups are encouraged to submit a report to gain a better overview of all activities at Jordan.

Winter Weather Cancellations: In the event that church services must be cancelled due to inclement weather, you can keep informed by: (1) calling the church office to hear a recorded message regarding the status of the services, or (2) listen to these radio stations - 99.9 The Hawk, or WAEB-FM 790, or (3) watch WFMZ TV or check their website, or (4) check www.waeb.com (Operation Snowflake), or (5) check the Jordan Facebook page.

The Church office will be closed Dec. 26, & 27 and Jan. 2.

Treasurer's Report for November 2016

	Month	YTD
<u>Income</u>		
Operating Income	\$20,502.93	304,127.80
Benevolence	1,628.00	17,885.00
Property	6,447.70	36,067.46
Debt Reduction	-----	-----
Total Income	\$28,578.63	\$358,080.26
<u>Expenses</u>		
Administration	\$ 1,921.58	\$ 18,096.15
Ministries	2,701.27	16,637.36
Payroll	15,248.84	173,098.41
Property	6,052.28	74,966.58
Benevolence	2,366.67	27,420.37
Total Expenses	\$28,290.64	\$313,218.87
Surplus/(Deficit) \$	287.99	\$ 44,861.39

Council Highlights, December 2016

- An opportunity to donate to Bear Creek Camp will be provided in January
- It was decided to present the staff salaries as one total in future budgets rather than each position (with the exception of the pastor)
- \$250 from Thrivent grant for God's Work Our Hands will be given to St. Stephen's after school program
- Work is beginning on internet wiring throughout building



Jordan Evangelical Lutheran Church



MAKE A CALL ~ PAY A VISIT ~ SEND A CARD ~ SAY A PRAYER

LutherCrest: Jean Lee

Kirkland Village: Jane Koch

Manor Care: Peg Smith

Saucon Valley Manor: Elizabeth Fritch

St. John's Specialty Care Ctr., Mars PA: Sharla Kistler

Fellowship Manor: Florence Roth, Lucie Laudenslager

At home: Grace Haas, Russell Bear, John Hemmis, Olive Wood, Mary Ann Rau, Richard & Norma Grammes, Donald Werley, Warren Gressley, LaVonne Gingerich

Please keep these people in your prayers: Olive Wood, Ann Heller, LaVonne Gingerich



January Birthdays

- 1: Shirley Hamm, Beverly Ruppert
- 2: Aaron Wertman, Nicholas Wertman, Jean Wisler
- 3: Vicki Christianson, Gene Hahn, Christopher Hamil, Todd Heller
- 4: Sandra Hamil
- 5: Delbert Koch
- 6: Kyle Christianson, Linda Hendricks, Lyndsey McGrevy
- 7: Karen Hahn, Shirley Moyer, Mark Peters, Gavin Russell,
- 8: Bonnie Albright
- 9: Louise Stettler, Michael Stoudt
- 10: Joan Dubois, Tyler Keinert, Lori Shortell, Donna Talley
- 11: Laura Yarnall
- 12: Kenneth Brown
- 13: Christopher Boscia, Stephen Laudenslager
- 14: Kevin Branch, Aubrey Filipovits, Kaleb Stofflet, Alyssia Wechsler
- 15: Marie Mikols
- 16: Ulla Martz, Sawyer Martz-Shelton, Catherine Morgan, Taylor Shortell
- 17: Jon Klinefelter, Edith Walters
- 18: John Hivizdak, Harrison Rakos, Luke Serensits
- 19: Russell Bear, Russell Dalrymple
- 20: Grace-Anne Martz-Shelton, Donald Miller
- 22: Michael Fay, Jane Koch*, Paul Schenck
- 23: Barbara Gibbs, Charle Groeller, Bruce Stettler
- 24: Kristy Gehman, Grace Haas, Holly Laudenslager, Priscilla Nagy
- 25: Joseph Flemish
- 26: April Shiber
- 27: James Brezack, Mark Jensen, Scott Kocher
- 28: John Richebacher
- 29: Garrett Jones, Jillian Miller, Clinton Trumbauer
- 31: Justin Grim, Kelly Kulp

*shut-ins



January Anniversaries

- January 4, 1958: Jean & Carl Roth
- January 30, 1972: Chris & Robert Heilman
- January 29, 1977: Irene & Harry Rock
- January 1, 2001: Lori & Ken Fioravanti
- January 15, 2006: Carina & Tom Epting

Our Jordan Family,

Thanks so much for the lovely flowers. They brightened my days and reminded me that my Jordan family is praying for me!

Gratefully.

Carla Richebacher



**Celebrate & Connect
Contemporary Service**

Coming January 28 - **Celebrate and Connect** worship returns Saturday evening at 4:30!

The Confirmation & Sr. High Classes will present the message "**Gen Y 10 Cm&mnts**"

All ages are welcome for this Lutheran refresher! Support our youth and update your confirmation studies.