

CONNECTIONS



FROM EAST TO WEST

BY REV. RYAN EDEN

“Now, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem.”

-Matthew 2:1

Whenever we think of January, we often think of the New Year. It’s a time of fresh beginnings, resolutions, and plans to improve ourselves or our lives. But, there is another holiday that often gets overlooked.

Epiphany, when the Magi come to visit Jesus after He is born. There is not much known about these Magi from the east who came to

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Jerusalem. We're not sure where exactly they came from, possibly Persia, Babylon, or Arabia. We don't know how many there were, just there were more than one and they brought three gifts.

We mostly know one thing for sure about them. God miraculously produced a star in the sky to bring them to Bethlehem to see the child, Jesus.

But we know one more thing about them that must not be overlooked. They were from the east. They were pagans. They were outside of Israel, and not members of God's chosen nation. This leads to the question, "Why would God bring them?"

The word, "epiphany," means "an appearance of manifestation, especially of a deity." In this event, Jesus is revealed for who He is, true God in human flesh. But, in bringing the Magi to Bethlehem, God also reveals who Jesus comes for. As the angel tells the shepherds, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

Jesus is the Lord who comes for all people, not just a select group. Not just a few. He comes for all, even pagan Magi from the east. He comes for you. That's why God brought this group to Bethlehem with the star. To show you that you do not need to fear, no matter who you are or what you have done, because Jesus comes to save you, because you are included in "all people."

ONE FOR ALL



"AND WALK IN THE WAY OF LOVE, JUST AS CHRIST LOVED US AND GAVE HIMSELF UP FOR US AS A FRAGRANT OFFERING AND SACRIFICE TO GOD."

EPHESIANS 5:2



BIRTHDAYS

- Jan.3 - Warren Rivette
- Jan. 4 - Jim Sonnenfeld
- Jan. 12 - LaVern Fritz
- Jan. 16 - Elaine Ball
- Jan. 19 - Lorie Rolbiecki
- Jan. 20 - Harriet Engler
- Jan. 21 - Violet Passow
- Jan. 25 - Samantha Flesch
- Jan. 27 - Grace Swanson
- Jan. 29 - Faith Fruechte
- Jan. 30 - Faith Passow



Happy New Year! We want to thank you for letting us sing for you in church during the Advent Service. We had lots of fun practicing in church every day and then finally performing for you all. We hope you had a wonderful holiday season. We also want to thank you for your donations to our 10 Days of Giving Barrel for Merchants Bank. It was overflowing with generosity. January will be a calmer month for us at preschool. We will have a guest speaker from Happy Dancing Turtle come to do some interactive activities and then we hope to get out on a field trip toward the end of the month. With the cold arriving so early we just pray for warm enough temperatures to play outside. Stay warm!

-Redeemer Lutheran Preschool Staff

"BUT AS FOR YOU, CONTINUE IN WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED AND HAVE FIRMLY BELIEVED, KNOWING FROM WHOM YOU LEARNED IT AND HOW FROM CHILDHOOD YOU HAVE BEEN ACQUAINTED WITH THE SACRED WRITINGS, WHICH ARE ABLE TO MAKE YOU WISE FOR SALVATION THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS."

- 2 TIMOTHY 3:14-15



Holiday Bake Sale



This years bake sale was a huge success! A vast assortment of goodies were brought in, and also plenty of Christmas decor. \$1848.70 was raised and all the baked goods were sold! Many thanks to everyone for their generous donations and talent.





Circle of Friends Financial Update

by Jean Neeck, President

We have had some inquiries as to what Circle does with its profits. Circle began in 1999 and in the early years, we collected mites and sent them to LWML and missions. We then started to make quilts and raffle them off for the dishwasher fund. We held garage sales, and later started the Fall Salad Luncheon and Bake Sale. When the commercial dishwasher was purchased in 2004, we started to contribute to church projects including:

- Purchased supplies and made Christmas
- Purchased supplies and made baby quilts for baptisms
- Had the stable made for the manger set
- Purchased the two artificial Christmas trees
- Purchased poinsettias
- Hired Kerry Schauland to make the bookcase for the hymnals
- Purchased card tables and the small serving table
- Purchased the 4 round tables for the fellowship hall
- Paid Kaehler Electric to install the ceiling fans in the fellowship hall
- Gave \$800 to the Guest Pastor fund
- Paid for 1/2 of the vacuum cleaner (other 1/2 paid by Preschool)
- Purchased a small greenhouse for the garden
- Gave \$1,000 to the Siding Fund
- Purchased Dell computer, printer, and ink for Pastor
- Paid for carpet and chair cleaning
- Purchased silk flowers for Easter
- Purchased a square of shingles for the Roofing Fund
- Contributed \$1,320 to the Parking Lot Fund
- Contributed \$1,466 to the Electric Door Fund
- Purchased 6 light-weight banquet tables for the fellowship hall
- Paid the balance on the purchase of 2 electric stoves; over a \$400 donation
- Paid the balance on blinds for the offices; over a \$200 donation
- Paid for painting the fellowship hall
- Purchased blinds for the fellowship hall and library
- Paid Scott Engler for making the music stand
- Purchased two large toilet tissue dispensers

- contributed \$500 to the purchase of a fire- safe filing cabinet for the office
- Gave all profits from the bake sale to the Baby Grand Piano Fund
- Paid for the balance of new office blinds; over a \$600 donation

We are now saving up for new refrigerators, as our current ones are the originals from the 80's.

Once again, thanks to everyone who contributed to our Annual Bake Sale with baked goods, decoration, setting up, and working at the bake sale. Our final amount was \$1,848.70. All of these projects would not have been possible without everyone's help.



"AND DO NOT FORGET
TO DO GOOD TO SHARE
WITH OTHERS, FOR
WITH SUCH SACRIFICES
GOD IS PLEASED."

- HEBREWS 13:16

RINLI FRUECHTE STARTS THE YEAR AS A U.S. CITIZEN



Rinli was born in South Africa. Her parents were farmers and she and her two brothers enjoyed that lifestyle. Life in South Africa was becoming more difficult and unsafe. The prominent issues were a widening gap between the rich and the poor, a high unemployment rate, rising crime and a poor state of the educational system. Farmers were being attacked daily. In a three-month period, 10 farmers died. The family decided to immigrate to the United States Thanksgiving 1999.

When arriving in the US, the family was issued green cards which is a permit allowing a foreign national to live and work permanently in the US. They could not vote until they were US citizens. Naturalization is the process by which U.S. citizenship is granted to a foreign national after fulfilling the requirements established by Congress in the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Rinli went through the process in 2019 and is now a US citizen. She was motivated because her passport was expiring, and it would be easier to get one in the US rather than in South Africa. She prepared by reviewing a study guide to prepare for an interview and a test. The test consisted of 10 questions and to pass 60% of the questions needed to be answered correctly. She answered the first six questions correctly and passed.



The day she went to the Capital to interview and take the test, she drove through a blizzard. She wanted to keep her appointment because rescheduling could take six months. The drive was treacherous; at times the visibility was zero. She was an hour late and thought she would have to stand in line. She was fortunate though because her interviewer thought her English would be good and she would be easy to interview and so met with her when she arrived.

There was a ceremony in St. Paul for the 1,200 new citizens. David, her husband could see her easily because she was the only blond in the crowd. During the ceremony, the Governor spoke, the new citizens took a pledge to be loyal US citizens, they sang the Star-Spangled Banner, recited the Pledge of Allegiance and left as proud citizens.

Congratulations Rinli!

TRIVIA

Can you answer these questions? Sample questions on the naturalization test.

What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

- a. Gave women the right to vote
- b. Freed slaves in most Southern States
- c. Gave the United States independence from Great Britain
- d. Ended WWI

Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States

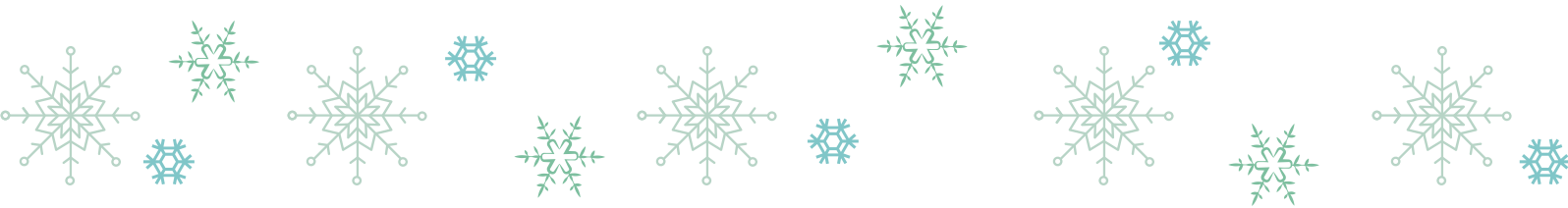
- a. Colorado
- b. Ohio
- c. Rio Grande
- d. Mississippi

What was one important thing Abraham Lincoln did

- a. Established the United Nations
- b. Declared war on Great Britain
- c. Purchased Alaska
- d. Saved (or preserved) the union

What is the “rule of law”

- a. Everyone must follow the law.
- b. All laws must be the same in every state
- c. Government does not have to follow the law
- d. Everyone but the President must follow the law



THANK YOU

David and Margaret Hohenstien would like to thank everyone for their continued prayers and support over the years. As of December 2019, David is cancer free!

The Visit of the Magi

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.
Matthew 2:11 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV).

Y W A Y L X P H C H H M Q D H
 K N N T Y I G R Q V O E G M B
 W I U A W C N N I R U W R Y R
 O V N R T E A C H E R S R O G
 R W Q G X T R V E K S A O M D
 S O M C H R I S T N M T E K E
 H R O V B G H V L M S H S O H
 I S T Y L O O U G I E E H C Q
 P H H U A D U O B L E B R Y J
 E I E Y Z V S E H N M A G I D
 D P R O N Y E T V A E G H L Q
 G B O R N H E E A S T R I B T
 T P B K F B G A V E R H W C E
 P M W I C I N E J Y C S T A R
 M M B Q D D L V M V T X L X Y

PRIESTS	MYRRH	BETHLEHEM	KING	CHRIST
GOD	CHILD	HOUSE	INCENSE	MARY
STAR	MAGI	TEACHERS	WORSHIP	MOTHER
WORSHIPED	EAST	SEARCH	BORN	HEROD



YOUTH IN CHURCH



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PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



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relationship with Jesus Christ by grace
through faith.

Phone: (507) 452 - 3828

Pastor Email: pastor@rlcwinona.com

Office: officeassistant@rlcwinona.com

Website: rlcwinona.com

Redeemer Church ...

Welcomes you to come praise His Love for Us!

Sunday at 9 am.

Communion is served on the 1st, 3rd and 4th
Sundays.

Office Hours:

Mon - Fri 10-1 pm

