

TIDINGS

IRVING PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
3938 W. BELLE PLAINE AVE. • CHICAGO, IL 60618-1997

Vol. 33, No. 1

January 2006



IPLC

Inviting in God's Name
Proclaiming the Gospel
Living in Fellowship
Caring for others

FROM THE PASTOR

After the warm glow of the Christmas season we now are deep in winter, the season of cold weather and snow. For some it is the time to pay the bills of Christmas. For others, it is a time "between", between Christmas and springtime (or Spring training), a time to be endured. For others, it is sometimes a season of "let down" and depression. This year during these weeks, some important steps will be taken in the Call process for a new Pastor.

For the church, however, it is Epiphany season, the season of light, the season of the manifestation of Jesus as Savior of the world. Thus, Epiphany is often thought of as a season of mission. We hear the words of Isaiah written to a dispirited people, "Arise, shine, your light has come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you." In his baptism, Jesus is commissioned for his ministry with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus calls disciples to "follow me". He goes around teaching and healing. Finally, at his Transfiguration, Jesus is shown to the chosen disciples as the "Beloved Son" of God.

I am thinking about us. What will this season be for us? What might it be? Will it be a season of light and hope? Will it be a time of witness and ministry in Jesus' name as disciples of Jesus? Will it be a time when we affirm our baptismal identity as beloved children of God? I trust that it will be.

To that end we are encouraged to gather week by week in worship where in Word and sacrament the risen Christ continues to manifest himself to us and to empower and encourage our faith and ministry. I hope you will be joining with the rest of us each week here in worship.

Prayer for Epiphany season:

Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, present in thy holy Word;
Grace to imitate thee now and be pure as pure art thou;
That we might become like thee at thy great epiphany,
And may praise thee, ever blest, God in flesh made manifest.

LBW, #90

Pastor Stone

HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

Last month, we took a closer look at the stained-glass windows on the north side of the sanctuary. Today, we'll head south and focus on the windows above the baptismal alcove and the windows near the acolyte seats.

Again we'll use the descriptions from a 1943 publication that marked IPLC's 40th anniversary:

The window above the baptismal alcove features "the cross on Calvary's hill presenting the truth that Christ died, and the crown of glory, symbolizing the conquering Christ over sin and death, and the glory of the resurrection."

This is the description of the windows near the acolyte seats:

from the Mid-week Coordinator

"**Home for the Holidays**" at Midweek with **Faith** was a musical worship service, filled with family, friends, food and the presence of spiritual fellowship. We are grateful for those that made it out to help us celebrate the true "**Reason for the Season**". During a time when Christians find themselves justifying phrases such as "In God we trust", or "Christmas Tree" **versus** "Holiday Tree", it is important to know that "**A child was born unto us**", and that child was the baby **Jesus**.

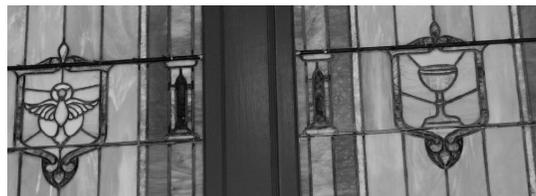
As we approach the new year, let us remember to honor "**Him**" and "Love thy Neighbor". Midweek, along with our regular Sunday services provides opportunities for us as Christians to continue to grow, nurture and extend the Gospel, not just among ourselves, but especially to those seeking to find "**Him**". We pray that the very existence of Irving Park Lutheran church and all services provided, represent Christ's work. As we go about our daily chores and busy schedules, speak a kind word to a friend or family member; smile as you walk down the street; offer to open the door to the person in front or behind you; but most of all, thank God for sending His Son to save us.

We look forward to meeting and greeting you in the new year and encourage you to keep in mind;

Much Prayer, Much POWER!



The Cross and the Crown.



The Dove Over the Bread and the Chalice.

"We have the sacrament of the altar, the first one representing the chalice in which the wine is placed for communion, and the other the spiritualized wafer, the dove over the bread. The Lord's Supper is a spiritual feast and must be spiritually discerned."

And, for this month's bonus reminder, we'll look at the changes to the altar, pulpit, font and baptismal alcove, as described in the April 2, 1978, restoration program:

"The altar was originally cast in scagliola, as were the pulpit and font. Scagliola was a mixture of gypsum plaster, lending itself to marbling, but requiring specialized skills not readily available for restoration. Through the years, air pollution, the abrasion of cleaning, and accidental breakage had caused severe deterioration. All ornamental details were carefully removed, recast in epoxy, decorated and replaced. The table on the altar was replaced with Italian marble. The pulpit was lowered and returned to its original location.

"The font was returned to its original location, below the eternal life windows, and enclosed by a rail and credence table, harmonizing with the altar rail. A dove sculptured in leaded glass hangs above the font, symbolizing the descent of the Holy Spirit."

—Ralph Greenslade

THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM PRESENTS "STEWARDSHIP 2006"

The stewardship committee announces some changes in regards to our solicitation for your pledges. In the past you received correspondence from us on the anniversary of your membership. We have decided to change that to a fiscal year calendar. This January we will celebrate stewardship Sunday. This is the day that the congregation will turn in pledge cards. In an effort to promote this process, the counsel members will bring their pledges forward the Sunday before. If you have pledged recently, you do not need to fill out another card. Please begin to prayerfully consider how you will contribute next year to the ministry of our church with your time, talents and treasure. Remember, pledges are confidential.

Why do we give the church our time, talents and treasure? It is a thankful response to what the Lord has done for us. It is also an act of worship to support the ministry of our church to help us grow in our faith and to reach out to our community.

We look forward to continuing the ministry of IPLC in 2006.
Thank you,

Fred Glure
David Hall
Nancy Hall
Eleanor Kepp
Bill Sherlock
Holly Van Essen

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to Gordon Johnson for designing and building the beautiful new free standing altar. It has and will continue to enhance Worship in the Sanctuary.

Thanks Gord.

WORSHIP MATTERS

Epiphany - We begin to see who Jesus really is.

The liturgical season of the church year following Christmas is the season of Epiphany.

Epiphany is a Christian festival celebrated on Jan 6. Traditionally, in the Western Church, the story of the Magi is told on this day. The visit by these foreigners to the child Jesus is intended to tell us that the Christ is savior for ALL people, and not only the people of Israel.

In the season of Epiphany (which lasts until Ash Wednesday) lessons are read which highlight the divinity of Jesus: his baptism, his first miracle, the Transfiguration. It is a season of light filled with moments when we begin to see who Jesus really is, and perhaps moments when we glimpse the importance of Jesus in our own lives.

The Epiphany season bridges Christ's incarnation and his passion. The term epiphany means "to show" or "to make known" or even "to reveal." In Western churches, it remembers the coming of the Wise Men bringing gifts to visit the Christ child, who by so doing "reveals" Jesus to the world as Lord and King.

Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus as the Christ, the Savior of the

World, particularly in such events as the miracles. As with most aspects of the Christian liturgical calendar, Epiphany has theological significance as a teaching tool in the church. The Wise Men or Magi who brought gifts to the infant Jesus were the first Gentiles to acknowledge Jesus as "King" and so were the first to "show" or "reveal" Jesus to a wider world as the incarnate Christ. This act of worship by the Magi, which corresponded to Simeon's blessing that this child, Jesus, would be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" (Luke 2:32), was one of the first indications that Jesus came for all people, of all nations, of all races, and that the work of God in the world would not be limited to only a few.

Our worship service includes the Gloria in Excelsis as the Hymn of Praise, and the Nunc Dimittis - as the post Communion canticle during this season. This canticle, from Luke 2:29-32, is Simeon's song when the infant Jesus was presented at the temple.

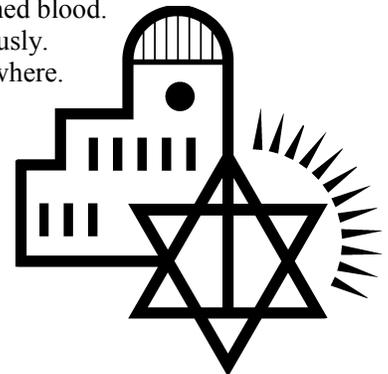
Information obtained from "Women for Faith and Family, St. Louis, MO; Grace & Glory Lutheran Church, Prospect, KY; and "The Season of Epiphany" by Dennis Bratcher

Bible quiz

King David wanted to build a glorious temple for worshiping God and for housing the ark of the covenant. God, however, did not permit him to build it. Instead, God chose Solomon, David's son, to head up the building program. Why wasn't David allowed the honor of building the temple?

- A. David was getting too old to supervise such an undertaking.
- B. David had been a warrior and had shed blood.
- C. David had stopped taking God seriously.
- D. David's attention was required elsewhere.

The answer is in 1 Chronicles 28:3.



Answer: B

FROM THE DESK OF NORMAN CLEARFIELD MINISTRY PROJECT COORDINATOR

Cornerstone Ministries

For the last few months, I have been working informally with six other churches in the Irving Park neighborhood on putting together a strategy to help homeless people and other people in need who come to our churches looking for assistance. On January 4th at 1:00 p.m. at IPLC, we will be having our first official meeting to talk about formally launching this ministry. We have also established the Cornerstone Ministry Fund at IPLC for collecting and distributing contributions for this ministry work. Please contact me at the IPLC office for more information or if you are interested in volunteering to work with this ministry. Look for more details in the February Tidings.

Furniture Ministry

Sometimes God leads us in unexpected ways. While in the process of collecting furniture for our refugee apartment at 4112 North Harding, I discovered several things: there is a lot of furniture out there waiting to be donated, and there are lots of organizations and people who need that furniture. I am in the early stages of developing this ministry and forming partnerships with other non-profit organizations interested in this work. If you have furniture that you would like to donate for the ministry work of our church, please contact Norm at the church office. I have been scheduling furniture pick-ups about once every 3-4 weeks.

To the I.P.L.C. Family,

Thank you for all the kindness shown to us during the recent illness of our mother. Your prayers for healing and strength and guidance, cards, words of comfort and generous gifts made our walk with her, on her final journey home to our Heavenly Father, easier.

The Family of Carol Iverson

Tax Letters Available

During the next two weeks I will be sending out tax receipt letters to people who have donated household items and furniture to our ministry work during 2005. To request a letter please contact Norm at the church office or send me an e-mail at nclearfield@ameritech.net.

I look forward to continuing our ministry journeys together in 2006. Best wishes to everyone for a healthy, happy new year.

Peace, Normanm

Three Kings Day

January 6 marks the day of Epiphany, the arrival of the three kings or wise men. The three kings were the Gentiles who "came from afar" to offer gifts to the Christ child. The meaning of the event is that Jesus came as Lord not only for Jews, but for Gentiles as well. Christ is the Savior of the world — the whole world.

Three Kings Day — or Dia de los Reyes in Spanish — is celebrated in many places around the world on January 6. Last year in Phoenix alone, more than 25,000 Latinos and others celebrated Three Kings Day. During the festivities, there are parades with camels bearing the "kings," toys are given to children, food is shared and folk dancers perform. Many women bake bread with a miniature plastic Jesus inside each loaf. The person who ends up with the figurine is obliged to host a party for others on February 2, Candlemas Day.



FINE ARTS JANUARY 29, 2005

Pianist Mark Valenti will present the next concert in The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee's 2005-2006 Performing Arts Series. The performance will be Sunday, January 29th at 2:00 P.M. at the Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding. There is no admission ticket price for the event though a free will offering is taken to help defray expenses. An informal reception with Mr. Valenti follows the concert.

Mark Valenti received his Master of Music from Northwestern University, Bachelor of Music from the Philadelphia Musical Academy and has studied with such notable teachers as Benjamin Whitten, Zoltan Koscis and Mary Sauer. In addition to giving solo recitals in cities through out the U. S., Mr. Valenti has performed in France, Belgium, Hungary and Luxembourg as well as for former First Lady Barbara Bush. Mr. Valenti has performed in recital live on WFMT classical radio and appeared on television with Joe Sudler's Swing Machine and singer/actor Christopher Durham.

This year's concert series is presented in the memory of Virginia McBroom Sekenske who was a faithful supporter of the Fine Arts committee. Mrs. Sekenske's involvement in the Irving Park community spanned many years and included being one of the founding members of the

Irving Park Historical Society. Music was an enormous part of her life, both as a performer and as a listener. It is in her honor that a scholarship for area high school musicians has been established and will awarded at the concluding concert in April.



JANUARY 2006

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH

- 1 Numbers 6:22-27, Psalm 8
Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:15-21
- 2 Leviticus 12:1-8
- 3 Exodus 13:11-16
- 4 Matthew 12:46-50
- 5 Isaiah 49:5-15
- 6 Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 722:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12
- 7 Psalm 145:1-13
- 8 Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11
- 9 Genesis 17:1-14, 23-27
- 10 Exodus 30:22-38
- 11 John 1:29-34
- 12 Isaiah 41:14-20
- 13 Acts 22:2-16
- 14 Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36
- 15 1 Samuel 3:1-20, Psalm 129:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51
- 16 1 Samuel 9:27—10:8
- 17 1 Samuel 15:10-31
- 18 Luke 18:15-17
- 19 Genesis 16:1-14
- 20 2 Corinthians 6:14—7:1
- 21 Psalm 86
- 22 Jonah 3:1-5, 10, Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20
- 23 Genesis 12:1-9
- 24 Genesis 45:25—46:7
- 25 Mark 3:13-19
- 26 Proverbs 8:1-21
- 27 1 Corinthians 7:17-24
- 28 Psalm 46
- 29 Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28
- 30 Numbers 22:1-21
- 31 Numbers 22:22-38

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Marie & Lloyd DaMask - January 23, 1954

YOUTH BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

Ellen Anderson—1.12.92

Gavin Brodersen—1.18.98

Alan Johnson—1.18.98

Joshua Van Essen—1.21.01

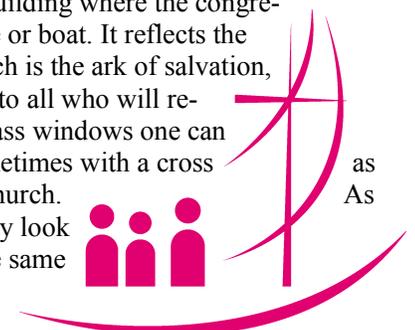
Ayla Benson—1.30.94

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Katharine Johnson
- 3 John G. Johnson
- 4 Scott Propst
- 5 Daniel Anderson, Kris Swanson
- 6 Leslies Raygor
- 9 Dorothy Coopers
- 10 Rich Wielock
- 14 Jose Beltran
- 15 Victoria Swanson
- 16 Heather Smith Grattan, Catherine Tognazzi
- 21 Lloyd DaMask
- 23 Nils Clausen
- 24 Joey Crook
- 25 Gabriel Barry
- 26 Eric Hjelmgren
- 27 Loretta Cwiertnia
- 28 Frieda Lee Stevenson
- 29 George Tognazzi

All in the same boat

The portion of the church building where the congregation sits is called the nave or boat. It reflects the understanding that the church is the ark of salvation, offering life in Jesus Christ to all who will receive it. Often in stained-glass windows one can find a picture of a boat, sometimes with a cross the mast to symbolize the church. you sit in worship on Sunday look around you. We're all in the same boat!



JANUARY 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 Worship	2 Office Closed	3	4 10:00 Staff 1:00 Corner Stone Ministry Meeting 4:30 ICCIP 7:00 Bells 8:00 Chancel	5 7:00 Midweek	6 7:00 Volleyball 8:00 Alkies Only	7 10:00 Confirmation 10:30 Basketball 12:00 Boys Basketball
8 9:00 Chapel Sunday School, Adult Studies 10:30 Worship 11:30 Executive	9 7:00 Scouts 7:30 Council	10 7:00 Scouts	11 4:30 ICCIP 7:00 Bells, Girl Scouts, Steward- ship 8:00 Chancel	12 7:00 Midweek	13 7:00 Volleyball 8:00 Alkies Only	14 10:30 Basketball 12:00 Boys Basketball
15 9:00 Chapel Sunday School, Adult Studies 10:30 Worship	16 7:00 Scouts 7:30 Miriam Cir- cle	17 7:00 Scouts	18 4:30 ICCIP 7:00 Bells, Girl Scouts 8:00 Chancel	19 7:00 Midweek	20 7:00 Volleyball 8:00 Alkies Only	21 10:00 Confirma- tion 10:30 Basketball 12:00 Boys Basketball
22 9:00 Chapel Sunday School, Adult Studies 10:30 Worship	23 7:00 Scouts, Prop- erty 7:30 Worship	24 7:00 Scouts 7:30 Learning	25 4:30 ICCIP 7:00 Bells, Girl Scouts 8:00 Chancel	26 6:00 Potluck 7:00 Midweek	27 7:00 Volleyball 8:00 Alkies Only	28 10:30 Basketball 12:00 Boys Basketball
29 9:00 Chapel Sunday School, Adult Studies 10:30 Worship 2:00 Fine Arts	30 7:00 Scouts	31 7:00 Scouts				

Please Check weekly bulletin for updates.

TIDINGS

JANUARY 2006, VOLUME XXXIII, No. 1

Visit our Website: <http://www.iplc.org>

Rev. Paul Stone, Interim Pastor
E-mail: pastorstone@ameritech.net

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday

9:00 Chapel, Sunday School and
Adult Studies
10:30 Holy Communion

Thursday

7:00 pm Midweek Worship

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Bruce Anderson	Roger Bingaman
Phil Bole	Dwan Buetow
Alison Freels	Sue Geisler
Elmer Haneberg	Sharon Iverson
Eleanor Kepp	Larry Lundquist
Noel Nape	Richard A. Plambeck
Bill Sherlock	Lynette Schroeter
Isaac Sporrang	Lee Stein
Holly Van Essen	

COUNCIL PERSON EMERITUS

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Gordon Johnson
Richard Wielock

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Mid-week Worship Coordinator
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Bill Gordon

Director—Interfaith Children's Choir of
Irving Park
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TIDINGS

