



Offering envelopes for 2021 have been received by the church and are ready for you.

We are trying to keep costs down, so instead of mailing them, we would appreciate it if you could pick them up at an in-person worship service, at a drive up communion, or come by the church during open office hours (9am-1pm, Tues-Wed-Thurs). And if you don't want to enter the building, just call the office during open office hours and your envelopes will be delivered to you in the comfort of your car! Plus that helps Janet get her steps in!

This Sunday, January 10th, we will have a drive up communion beginning at 12pm.

Please bring your own bread and wine or juice.

It's Baptism of Our Lord Sunday, so we will commemorate our baptisms.

See you there!



As we do every week, check out our YouTube channel: Pastor Patricia Hughes; or on our website: [www.holycrosslutheran-salem.org](http://www.holycrosslutheran-salem.org); or on our Facebook page: HolyCrossLutheran-Salem.

All 5 worship moments will also be posted in the same three places, as they are every week.

Our devotionals, “Christ in Our Home”, are finally available for the first quarter of 2021. Please pick up a copy at our drive up communion, or make arrangements to pick one up in the office.

An **Epiphany** is an “Aha!” moment. ... Often, an epiphany begins with a small, everyday occurrence or experience that becomes a “portal” toward a more important insight.

In the New Testament, Epiphany celebrates the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus and his family, bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. But there story begins with what would have been for them an everyday occurrence.

Traditionally the Magi are thought to be astrologers. So it would have been an everyday occurrence for them to study the night sky. But on one particular night they see a new and much brighter star, the star of Bethlehem. Somehow the star leads them to Jerusalem where they meet with King Herod (the so-called “great”).

Herod knows nothing of “a child to be born king of the Jews.” But he is certainly interested. Who is this new born rival? His scribes find an obscure prophecy that points them to Bethlehem. On arrival the Magi bestow their gifts upon the holy family and set off for home by “another way,” having been warned of Herod’s evil intent to assassinate the potential arrival king, even though he is only an infant.

The Gospel readings for Sundays after Epiphany bring to our remembrance the stories where by God provided “aha moments” so that we might recognize the man Jesus as our Emmanuel, the one in whom God is with us. The Sundays after Epiphany call forth our praises and thanksgivings to God for his provision and renewal in the year past, and the promise of God’s steadfast love the year ahead. God’s ways are often beyond our understanding, yet he lifts up the weak and stoops to save his people. The Gospel of Mark, which will be our focus throughout the Sundays after Epiphany, shows us unmistakably how Jesus came as God among us “God among us,” asserting God’s sovereign over brokenness disease and death.

Thanks to Pastor Joe Hughes for letting us “borrow” this!



We ARE having in-person Bible Study at noon on Thursday, January 7th. If you don't feel well, please stay home and join us at 5:00pm on January 7th on Zoom at:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84055018008?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84055018008?pwd=SIJHN0lkcWhlUVF3aWE4MkEzV1BRdz09)

[pwd=SIJHN0lkcWhlUVF3aWE4MkEzV1BRdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84055018008?pwd=SIJHN0lkcWhlUVF3aWE4MkEzV1BRdz09)

We will be studying Mark 1:4-11.