

# Living Faith



Dear Faith Shapers,

Epiphany is a season I love. We have some special Epiphany traditions that my kids look forward to each year. My kids have moved our nativity pieces all over the house during Advent- baby Jesus arrived on Christmas and now the wise men have traveled from the very eastern corner of our house to see Jesus. So much fun! We also love to save a present to open on Epiphany. I always wrap it in star wrapping paper and the kids get so excited when they see it. That evening we have a special dinner and use the fancy dishes. I hope your family has or will start an Epiphany tradition! January contains another holiday that we celebrate: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. This newsletter has some great activities you can use at home or at church. Martin Luther King, Jr. is one of my heroes and I enjoy sharing that with my kids. We can learn so much from his example. Be sure to read his book, Strength to Love. It is a collection of his sermons. So inspiring and transformative!

May God give us open hearts and generous hands.

Lisa Kammerer  
Associate in Ministry



The day of Epiphany is January 6th. Epiphany means manifestation and revelation. The day of Epiphany is when we celebrate the Wise Men visiting Jesus. The season of Epiphany lasts from Jan. 6th until Ash Wednesday. Here are some ways to celebrate Epiphany.



1. Place the wise men in your nativity. Make a small crown for baby Jesus.

Read Matthew 2:1-12.

2. Leave your Christmas tree up and decorate with stars. Light and stars are Epiphany images.
3. Save a Christmas present to open on Epiphany. Remember the gifts the wise men gave to Jesus.
4. Make a special meal. Let your meal be fit for kings!
5. Make a three kings cake. Bake a cake in a Bundt pan and include a bean in the batter. Whoever gets the bean gets a special surprise. Decorate the cake to look like a crown.



6. Make pomander balls or cinnamon star ornaments and remember the sweet smelling frankincense and myrrh brought by the wise men.



This information is prepared for you by the Northeastern Iowa Synod-Home Life Network for use by families and local congregations.

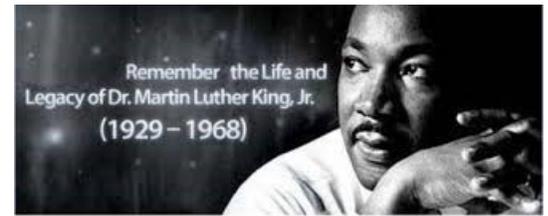
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# Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

## Monday, January 19th, 2015



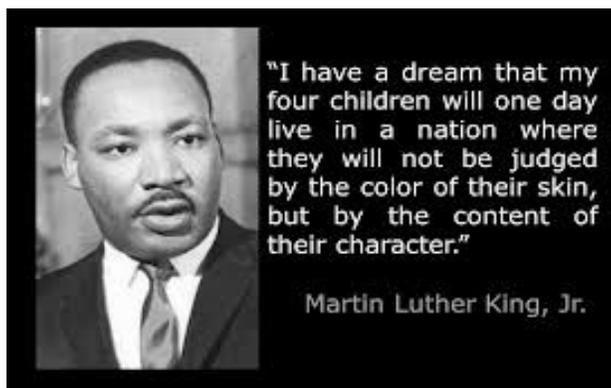
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day honors a man of peace.

Martin Luther King Jr. was a minister who worked for equality of all people, especially African Americans. He preached desegregation and equal rights. Through peaceful marches, speeches, and sermons, King changed laws and people's perspective of civil rights. In 1964, the Civil Rights Act was passed. Also in 1968, King was awarded the Nobel Peace prize for leading the black struggle for equality through nonviolent means.

Here are some activities to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

### I Have A Dream

Read Martin Luther King, Jr.'s I have a dream speech. Ask children what their dreams for equality are. Ask what they think God's dream for equality would be. Help children make a poster with their answers. Next, brainstorm places they go during the week. Discuss ways we can make Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of equality a reality in each of these places. Some ideas could be: not judging others, working for peace, working together cooperatively, standing up for others, etc. Ask the children to do at least one of those ideas this week.



**"WE SHALL  
OVERCOME"**

"We shall overcome" was a phrase commonly used during the marches of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s day. Discuss what Jesus overcame for us: sin, the grave, the world. Then talk about what we can overcome with the help of God: prejudices, bad habits, temptations, etc. Read these "overcome" scriptures together.

\* John 16:33      \* Romans 12:21

\*1 John 2:13      \*1 John 5:3-5

\* Revelation 2:7      \*Revelation 3:5

\*Revelation 3:21      \*Revelation 21:7

Ask God to help us see our prejudices and to overcome them by seeing all people as beloved children of God. Thank God for the life and ministry of Martin Luther King, Jr.