

Living Faith @



January 6th is the day of Epiphany. Epiphany is a day and a season of the Church year. On



the day of Epiphany we celebrate the Magi visiting Jesus. Epiphany means manifestation and revelation. Epiphany symbols and images include: light, incense, and gift giving. The season of Epiphany begins on January 6th and will last until Ash Wednesday on February 26th. Epiphany is a time to bring gifts to Jesus, whose face we see in all God's people. Many opportunities are available to serve others as a volunteer. You may even want to show kindness by focusing on Random Acts of Kindness you can do each day.

This information is prepared for you by the **Northeastern Iowa Synod-Home Life**



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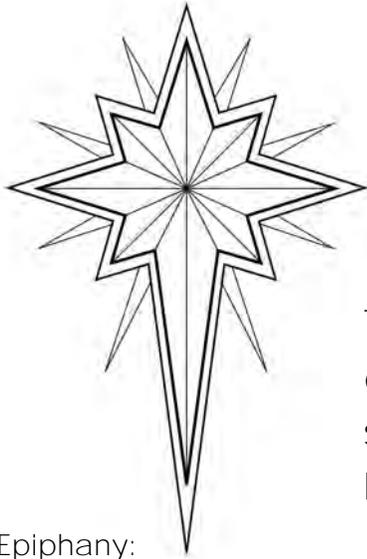
Dear Faith-Shapers,

Epiphany is a season that has been my season for writing and sending my cards of Christmas greetings. I guess it's my way of celebrating a time for giving - to friends and family.

The last few years has included allowing the grandchildren the opportunity to move the nativity figures around. It's been a surprise to see where the parents end up in comparison with the sheep, cows, and donkey. There have been times that only the baby Jesus & the manger actually end up inside the creche — which included the story that Jesus is the most important part so ...

I guess they knew what they were doing! January brings a new year with new ideas and opportunities. Baptism offers us a new beginning daily. On January 12th, we will celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord. We will remember Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River. This gives us the occasion to remember and celebrate our own baptism on that day and everyday ~ remembering that God has named us and claimed us as God's beloved children.

Sue Cira, Student Pastor TEEM



The month of January provides these two events to discuss within your family or congregation. Here are some activities you can participate in to assist with learning.

For Epiphany:

1. Save a Christmas present to open on Epiphany. Remember the gifts the wise men gave to Jesus.
2. Place the wise men in your nativity. Make a small crown for baby Jesus. Read Matthew 2:1-12.
3. 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.
4. Save a Christmas present to open on Epiphany. Remember the gifts the wise men gave to Jesus.

For Baptism:

1. Celebrate baptismal birthdays by sending a card, a small gift, or a phone call on the anniversary of the baptism day to remind children of their baptism. Have them think about special memories of the day. Write or draw pictures of those memories and over time, the story will become a cherished story. Include the pictures in a booklet to look at and add to each year.
2. Host a Baptism Reunion in your congregation. Invite anyone baptized during the past year to come forward for a blessing and have a time of baptismal remembrance during the worship service.
3. When you take a bath or a shower or when you wash your hands before meal time, trace the sign of the cross on your forehead and say out loud to yourself, "I am God's beloved child. I have the promise that I am saved and have eternal life, both in soul and body."