

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Issue 02 February, 2020 928-535-9575 2750 Mogollon Drive, Overgaard, AZ 85933

www.faithlutheranovergaard.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES – 10:30 am Solid Bible-Based Preaching & Teaching



Epiphany is the season of the church which begins on January 6; the day the church celebrates the revelation of baby Jesus to the Wise Men. They were from the people and culture that is presently called Iran. The word “Epiphany” means “revealing” or “bringing to light”. This church season explores various aspects of who Jesus was “revealed” to be; Christ, Son of God, Prince of Peace, Redeemer, Lord, Great High Priest, Savior, Judge, King, Good Shepherd ... and Lamb.

Epiphany always reveals Jesus through words; words of God, and words of man. Today we will look especially at how one man prepared people for Jesus to be revealed to them and how he, himself, revealed Jesus.

John the Baptist was an extraordinary man. He was dedicated at conception as a Nazirite (one who would spend his entire life in service to God, forsaking wine and all strong drink, and never cutting his hair). Driven by the Holy Spirit even before he was born, we see John emerge from the wilderness 30 years after his birth wearing a cloak of camel hair and a leather belt (the rough garb of a prophet), eating honey and locust, and calling the people of Israel to turn away from their sin and allow God to forgive them.

The call to turn away from sin (repent) and receive forgiveness from God has never been something that people particularly like to listen to. We actually LIKE our sins (which generally elicits a negative disposition toward those who point them out to us).

Epiphany – “Behold the Lamb of God”

One of the amazing things about John is that he was extremely popular. People heard his words, even though they were sometimes very harsh, and, even so, flocked to him to be baptized into a life of repentance and dependence upon God. His words were God’s very words, overflowing with power and truth to change lives

John never accused without the offer of hope for redemption. If you turn away from sin it becomes possible to receive the gracious gift of forgiveness from God and membership in His Kingdom. But how? How is this even possible? This is where John’s greatest epiphany proclamation soars to unimaginable heights.

One day, while John was baptizing people into repentance and the forgiveness of sins in the Jordan River, Jesus showed up.

“I’m here for you to baptize me.”

John, knowing who this was, Jesus His Lord, God in the Flesh, Holy and without sin, was confused. “Lord, YOU should baptize ME.” As if to say, “I am the one who is a sinner, not YOU. What do YOU need to repent of?”

“It is necessary to fulfill all righteousness.” Jesus replied. It was necessary for Jesus to be baptized into our sins in order to put them to death in his body (something only he as fully God and fully man could do). It HAD to be done if forgiveness for sin was to be accomplished.

So John baptized Jesus. And when Jesus came up out of the water John saw God the Holy Spirit light upon Jesus in the form of a dove. He also heard God the Father speak *His* great epiphany, “You (Jesus) are my beloved Son. With you I am will pleased.”

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MONTHLY MEETINGS & EVENTS



Feb 07 – **Women's Bible Study 2:30**
Feb 14 – **Women's Bible Study 2:30**
Feb 12 – Pastor in Phoenix for Circuit
Feb 17 – Elders Meeting 9:00am
- Women's Ministry 1:30pm
Feb 20 - Overgaard Ministerium
Feb 21 – **Women's Bible Study 2:30**
Feb 23 – Potluck after Morning Service
Feb 25 – Council Meeting
Feb 28 – **Women's Bible Study 2:30**

Choir Practice Wednesdays - 4:00 PM



Women's Ministry

**Open to ALL women who attend
Faith Lutheran Church!**

- Christmas Party was discussed
- Thank you cards from Sem Students read.
- Voted to donate to the Golden Mustangs
- VBS budget was set at \$500.00
- Rummage Sale May 29-30. Mary R and Bobbi Z will chair the event.
- Next meeting February 17, 2020



Birthdays

Feb 2 Tom Mills

Feb 22 Paul Voigtman

Feb 24 Lin Rose

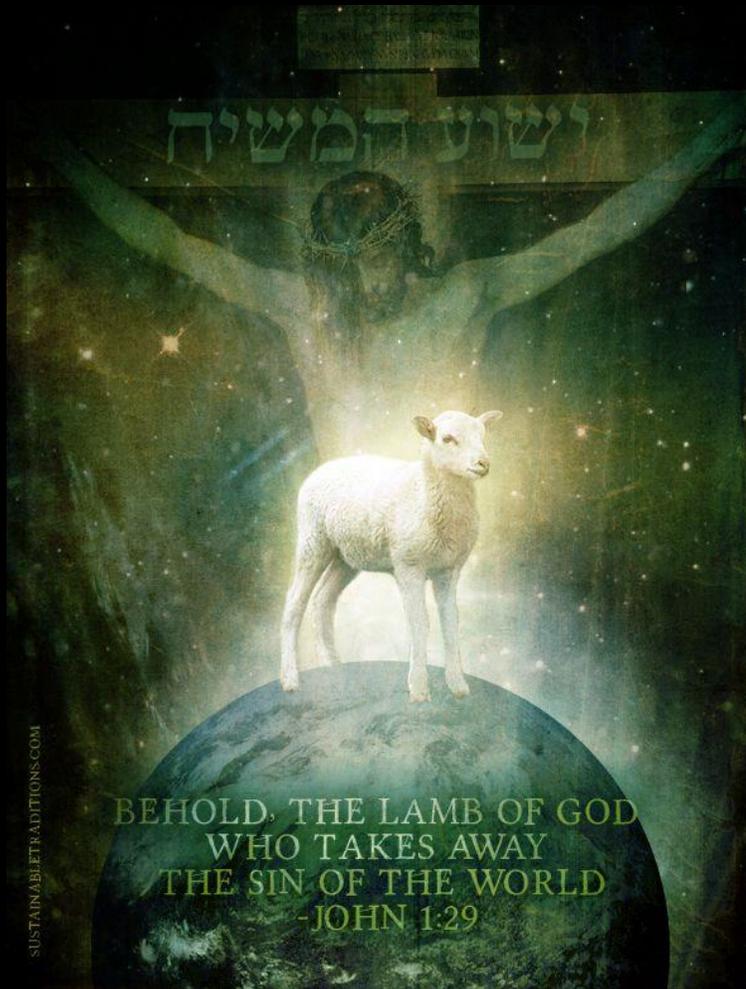
Anniversaries

Feb 10 Bill & Karen Cassels

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE



- Met January 27, 2020
- Treasurer reports we have started running in our "winter red" now.
- Election Committee has begun working up a slate of Candidates.
- Discussed community need for "Women's Discussion/Support Group". -Need a facilitator. Referred to "re-Vitality" Outreach Committee.
- Next meeting February 25.



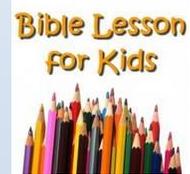
Pastor's Office Hours

Mondays - 10am - 4pm In the Office
Tuesdays - 10am - 12pm In the Office
Wednesdays - Visitation Day
Thursdays - 10am - 12 pm In the Office

Call for appointment -
928-535-9575 or 323-717-4390
revnwirtz@yahoo.com,
or just drop in, or call anytime

BIBLE STUDY

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sundays - 9 am

Sundays - 9 am: James

*Sundays - 12:00 pm:
Youth Confirmation*

Thursdays - 9 am: 1 Samuel

*Fridays - 2:30pm:
Women's Bible Study*

*Sermons can be listened to on the
website.*

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Some forty-odd days after that, John saw Jesus coming toward him again. John turned to his followers and announced his greatest epiphany. He pointed to Jesus and said, "**Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!**" ~ John 1:29

With that one statement John uttered the most important and greatest words of his life. He revealed exactly who Jesus is. First, He is someone that *it is necessary* for us to see/ behold/ take notice of/ listen to. Next He is THE sacrificial Lamb. Not A lamb; THE Lamb that it was necessary to sacrifice.

The Jews were a millennial and a half entrenched in the sacrificial system whereby, once a year a lamb was slaughtered at the festival of Passover to remember how it was necessary to slaughter a lamb and put its blood on their doorposts so that the angel of death would "pass over" the people when he saw the blood of the lamb on the night when he killed the first born of all who were in Egypt. Similarly, at the feast of atonement another lamb was slaughtered every year to die in their place so that they themselves would not receive the sentence of death for their sins.

But every year, year after year, decade after decade, century after century they had to come back and offer another sacrifice ... because every day, day after day, month after month, year after year they kept sinning ... and they had to offer up a new sacrifice to cover up their new sins.

The problem was that each animal sacrificed was insufficient to really pay for the people's sins. Another problem was that the priests offering up the sacrifices were themselves unholy and full of sin, and thus unworthy to offer up the sacrifice.

John's epiphany announcement was the glorious solution! THIS sacrifice, THIS Lamb was not a created lamb nor even a created human, He was the uncreated, eternally begotten Son of God Himself. As a man totally holy and without sin, His sacrifice WOULD be sufficient to pay for ALL the sins of every human who ever lived or would live! And as also the priest offering the sacrifice; He was fully God and fully holy; worthy to offer a once, and FOR ALL sacrifice to cover ALL sin. Even yours and mine. John's greatest epiphany statement revealed Jesus as the greatest and perfect sacrificial Lamb who has come to take away all the sin of the whole world!

His great message to us?

"Turn away from your sin and look toward The Lamb. Don't hold onto your sin and perish. Let the Lamb take it away. Let the Lamb pay for it, because no matter what YOU do, you'll NEVER be able to pay for it. Receive God's gracious gift of forgiveness for EVERYTHING you have ever done or will ever do wrong. It's His loving GIFT to you. You can't earn it. You can't pay for it. But the Lamb has earned it for you. He wants to give it to you. He DIED to give it to you. Eternal Life with God through His Lamb, Jesus."

"For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." ~ Revelation 7:17