

# CHRISTIAN LIFE NOTES

Oregon District LWML Volume 63 February 2022



## Happy Epiphany!

Are you thinking that it is a little late to be thinking of Epiphany? After all, we celebrate Epiphany on January 6. It is the 12<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas. It is when we celebrate the coming of the Gentile wise men bringing their gifts to Jesus where He is revealed to them.

But in the liturgical calendar of the church year, Epiphany isn't just a day. It is the beginning of a season. We are in the Sundays after Epiphany. The word *epiphany* means *appearance* or *show forth*, a *manifestation*. In fact, the dictionary defines it: "in many Christian churches, a festival held January 6, commemorating both the revealing of Jesus as the Christ to the Gentiles in the persons of the Magi and the baptism of Jesus." So light is a major theme of the season.

Christmas is the celebration of the incarnation of our Savior. He came as a baby. Small. Incognito. Recognized only by his family and a few shepherds. However, more and more during the season of Epiphany, we see Jesus become increasingly visible. He is baptized and begins his ministry with his disciples. He changes water into wine at a wedding celebration. He teaches and preaches, creating a following of believers and of those who eventually want to kill him. All of the way through His Transfiguration, which we will celebrate on February 27 this year, the light of Jesus continues to grow brighter.

I have been reading through the hymns designated for the Epiphany season in the Lutheran Service Book for part of my morning devotions. They tell the story of this revealing of Christ to us as we, like the Magi continue to seek Him.

Notice the theme of light in hymn #411:

1. *I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.*

*Refrain: In Him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

2. *I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus. Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, And show me the way to the Father. Refrain.*

3. *I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.*

*When we have run with patience the race, We shall know the joy of Jesus.  
Refrain.*

As we move toward our observance of Lent and the celebration of Easter, may the light of Jesus continue to grow in our hearts and our minds as we continue follow Him.



The Christian Life Committee