



St. Paul's  
Evangelical Lutheran Church



## The Disciple's Connection

February 2022

### Worship Services

Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 9:30am

### Sunday Bible Study

Adult 8:30am & 10:45am

Children 10:45am

### Staff

Paul D. Sundbom, Pastor

Marlyss Sekki, Director of Music

Peggy McDonnell, Admin Assistant

### Church Office

250 Bowhall Road

Painesville, OH 44077

(440)354-3000

[www.splcpainesville.org](http://www.splcpainesville.org)

[office@splcpainesville.org](mailto:office@splcpainesville.org)

### St. Paul's Preschool

Amy Marizek, Director

[preschool@splcpainesville.org](mailto:preschool@splcpainesville.org)

[www.stpaulspainesville.com](http://www.stpaulspainesville.com)

## God in Flesh Made Manifest



The season of Epiphany gives us a chance to focus on how God became flesh in the person of Jesus. The Gospel readings in particular give us the opportunity to look at the miracles, signs, and wonders Jesus did while on Earth. He makes it pretty clear that He is who He said He was. The 2<sup>nd</sup> person of the Trinity, the only begotten Son of the Father, in the flesh. He is the Word that became flesh and dwelt among us.

It is made known to the world that Jesus is God in the flesh. It is shown by His words and works, what He said and what He did. Words and actions rightly belong together, for Jesus became flesh and dwelled among us. He is the Word on the flesh, the walking, talking enactment of the Word

It's no different for us. We're called not just to believe in God in our hearts, but also to trust him in words & actions. James wrote *"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves"* [James 1:22], and again, *"What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... So also, faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead"* [James 2:14, 17–18, 26].

Our faith is lived out in words & actions for our neighbor, the next person you meet, every person not yourself. The revealing, the Epiphany of Jesus creates in us a revealing, an epiphany of our faith in our works of obedience to God who commanded them. By this, our faith is shown to the world. Faith is a divine work. It changes us and makes us new creations. Faith is a living & active thing. It is impossible for it not to constantly do things. Faith doesn't ask you if there are any good things to do. It answers "Yes" even before the question arises. Faith is a living, daring, confidence in God's grace, something so sure & certain that one would stake their life it a thousand times over. This confidence in God's grace makes one joyful & bold in dealing with God and the people He has made. This is the work of the Holy Spirit in faith. The Spirit makes the believer ready & glad to do good to all, to serve all, and to give all praise and glory to God.



## **GOD IN FLESH MADE MANIFEST** continued

So, it's truly impossible to separate works from faith. May our prayer be that our faith would remain active by God's power in the Word through the working of the Holy Spirit. May our faith be shown to the world by what we do in faith. Serve our neighbor—in church, in the family, and society—with the works of faith of faith in time, talents, and treasures

Serving you in Christ

*Pastor Sundborn*

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## Epiphany: the 'Other' Christmas

By John Bombaro

Epiphany is Christmas 2.0. Its conspicuous place following the nativity narrative in Matthew's Gospel presents it as the "other Christmas," the "Christmas of the Gentiles." At the first Christmas we find a swaddled baby in a manger visited by shepherds from the fields summoned by angels. In the "other Christmas," we find a toddler at His mother's feet in a house visited by Magi, Wise Men from the East guided by a star. The first Christmas was announced to Israel, the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham; the second Christmas was for the world, the nations, the Gentiles, the fulfillment of God's promise to Adam.

"Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising," God said (Isaiah 60:3).



## An epiphany

The Greek word *epiphany* means "appearing," and in ancient times it was used usually about the appearing of a god or a great king. Some ancient kings thought they were gods. To underscore his divine prowess, Antiochus IV, an ancient Syrian king, took the name Epiphanes after he defeated the Egyptians. But the Maccabean Revolt in Jerusalem exposed his all-too-human vulnerabilities and mortality.



## **EPIPHANY: THE 'OTHER' CHRISTMAS** continued

The Magi had come from the east to Jerusalem guided by a star. They were probably Persian court astrologers, stargazers, who looked to the stars for signs, portents and information. The Magi saw what appeared to be a star announcing the birth of a mighty king. While the shepherds of Bethlehem heard the birth announcement from an angel and a heavenly choir, the Persians were given the birth announcement in their own language, so to speak, and in this way anticipate Pentecost and the reversal of Babel's alienation.

### The great reversal

There's an interesting reversal here. Centuries before, the Judeans had gone into exile in the East, into Babylon. And now the East comes to Judah — stargazers seeking the infant king whose birth star they had seen. They go to Herod's Jerusalem palace — obviously the right place to inquire about a royal birth in Judah. Herod was the king so the star probably signaled the birth of his son, right?

Wrong. The Wise Men encountered man's king; the star pointed to God's King. The kings of men live in palaces, in capital cities, in grandeur. God's King lives in a humble house, in an unremarkable village, in poverty and humility. Man's king believes he is a god. God's King becomes man. Man's king exercises his power to control those under him. God's King exercises His power in weakness to save those in His kingdom, a kingdom made up of believing hearts.

In the second Christmas — the Christmas of the Gentiles — we are reminded of God's not-our-thoughts, not-our-ways hidden way. His is not the way of power and might, not the way of politics and palaces, but the way of poverty, meekness, lowliness and strength exercised in weakness; the way where throne and cross merge into one.

The star brought the Magi to Jerusalem and Herod's court, but it was the prophetic Scriptures that got them to Bethlehem. "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?" (Matt. 2:2). Herod's councilors had to look that one up. Herod gathered all the priests and religious scholars and Torah lawyers together and asked them where the King was to be born. And they unrolled the scroll of the Book of the Twelve (Shorter) Prophets to find the answer. And there it was in the prophet Micah: In little Bethlehem, regarded as the "least of all the rulers of Judah" (see Micah 5:2).

### Not our ways

*Bethlehem.* The name means "house of bread." It was King David's birthplace and mother Rachel's burial place. A little afterthought-of-a-town outside of Jerusalem where the real power was. But again, God chooses the lowly and the meek to shame the powerful and the wise; His ways are not our ways nor His thoughts our thoughts; His ways and thoughts subvert man's ways with an undertow that drags the high and mighty from their thrones and humbles the proud in their conceit. "O little town of Bethlehem." O little House of Bread. Bethlehem, Judah's breadbox where the living Bread from heaven came to be born of His Virgin Mother.



## **EPIPHANY: THE 'OTHER' CHRISTMAS** *continued*

So, off the Magi go to Bethlehem, urged on by Herod who wants to kill this threat to his throne, and the star appears again in the sky — a heavenly GPS — giving them great joy because how else would they know where to go? And it guided them to the very house where the Child was. No more manger-crib for this little One; now He is staying with relatives (evidently) in a house. These Persians come up the drive and ring the doorbell — and you can just imagine the amazed look on Mary's face when she sees all their camels parked on the front lawn, even though Isaiah had spoken of it centuries before: "A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord" (Isaiah 60:6).

## Worship and offering

Even more unusual, these strangers from the east immediately bow down with their foreheads pressed against the ground as soon as they see the Child. And they come with gifts. Gold and frankincense and myrrh. They are costly gifts; the finest things they had, and they offer them to this humble little Child; and they worship Him as God, for God He is.

Ancient kings thought they were gods. But this little King is God in the flesh, the eternal Son, the Savior, the Son of David. What the Wise Men saw was a little Child, perhaps a year or so old, playing at His Virgin Mother's feet. But they believed the prophetic Word and the sign of the star, and through the eyes of faith they saw and worshiped the King of kings and offered Him their gifts.

So, the outsiders are now the insiders. Those who stood on the outside of Israel, are now in the presence of Israel's eternal and greatest King, the promised Son of David. This is that great mystery of which the apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians, how the Gentiles are now fellow heirs with Israel of the promise of salvation in Christ. The first Christmas was for the Jews, the circumcised, the Israelites, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. But this "other" Christmas is for the Gentiles, those who were once not God's people, but who now, by the grace of God in Christ have become the people of God. Epiphany is Christmas for you and all who are afar off.

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*Photo: LCMS Communications/Erik M. Lunsford*

### About The Author

The Rev. Dr. John Bombaro serves as a missionary based in Riga, Latvia, and the assistant regional director for the Eurasia region of LCMS International Mission.

Bombaro, John, (2022, January 5). Epiphany: the Other Christmas. The Lutheran Witness. <https://witness.lcms.org/2022/epiphany-the-other-christmas/>



## Life Quotes for February

**February 6** "Say, 'Congratulations and thanks be to God!' Pregnancy is never a sin, and motherhood, even amid afflictions, is always a blessing. Our Lord has honored her with this holy vocation. She and her baby belong to Him from this time forth and forevermore!" *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

**February 13** "The Church can become a place of belonging for everyone. As much as a person feels invisible in their loneliness, the church has a place for them. Your Church can be a place where each person finds they are indispensable to the body of Christ." *Mona Fuerstenau – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

**February 20** "Jesus Christ has made every human life indispensable." *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

**February 27** "There's so much work to be done, so many lives to protect. The unborn, the mentally ill, the hungry, the broken, and many others still need to hear about our hope in Christ and the love He has for us, and it's our duty to bring it to them." *Katie Reid, 2021 Y4Life intern – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)



## Announcements



The Lenten Season will soon be upon us. Join us on Wednesdays for our midweek Lenten services starting Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022 for the series:

### “Witnesses to Christ—People from His Passion”

This series paints a portrait of Jesus through the eyes of those whose interactions with Jesus lead us to meditate on His Passion. Our life in Christ will be strengthened as we hear the witnesses of those who were present as part of Jesus’ journey to the cross. We’ll meet villains, Barabbas & Pontius Pilate. We’ll meet sinners, Peter, Mary Magdalene, Judas, as well as others. All weekday special services begin at 7:00 p.m., unless noted otherwise

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## St. Paul’s Midweek Lenten Schedule

**Ash Wednesday: March 2<sup>nd</sup>** – John the Baptist, Pastor Sundbom – Communion celebrated

**Midweek 1: March 9<sup>th</sup>** – Mary, the sister of Lazarus & Martha, Pastor Jonathon Schroeder, St. John Geneva

**Midweek 2: March 16<sup>th</sup>** – Barabbas, Pastor Kurt Ziemann, Zion Painesville

**Midweek 3: March 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Pontius Pilate, Pastor Sundbom

**Midweek 4: March 30<sup>th</sup>** – Peter, Pastor Kevin Guynn, Faith Mentor

**Midweek 5: April 6<sup>th</sup>** – Malchus, Pastor Freddy Davison, Lighted Cross Ashtabula

**Maundy Thursday: April 14<sup>th</sup>** – Judas Iscariot, Pastor Sundbom – Communion celebrated

**Good Friday: April 15<sup>th</sup>** – John, the Gospel Writer, Pastor Sundbom

**Easter Vigil: April 16<sup>th</sup>** – Worship Service with Communion 6:00 p.m.

**Easter Sunday: April 17<sup>th</sup>** – Mary Magdalene, Pastor Sundbom – Communion celebrated



## LWML Prayer Service

The Northeast Zone of the LWML Ohio District will hold its Prayer Service on February 26 at Grace Lutheran Church in Thompson. Registration begins at 9:30 am with the service starting at 10:00 am. There will be a mite collection and registrants are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for Grace's food pantry. The cost is \$6.00. A sign-up sheet is on the Friendship Circle board. Please register by February 20 if you plan to attend. Carpooling will be available (leaving church at 9:10 am). Snow date is March 5.

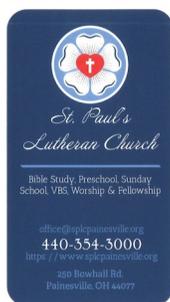
## Prayer Quilts

Don't forget to let JoEllen Graziadei or Kristi McConnell know when you have a friend, neighbor or family member that is in need of encouragement and prayers. We can send a prayer quilt to them with a card and an invitation to church. In these troubled times, it's more important than ever to tell people God loves them and we are here for them.



## RESTAURANT MINISTRY

***If you have begun to venture back out to local eateries, please help St. Paul's reach out to members of our community.*** Grab a supply of St. Paul's business cards from the basket on the Welcome Center Table near the nursery door. When eating out, write a note of thanks to your waiter/waitress on the back of the card and leave it with their tip. Help us plant the seed ... and let the Holy Spirit do the rest!



## Are You Feeding Your Mite Box?

Please remember to feed your mite box or use the donate button at <http://lwmlohio.org> to continue to support the mission work of the LWML. Just follow the directions on the page remembering to list St. Paul's, Painesville as your church and Northeast as your zone.





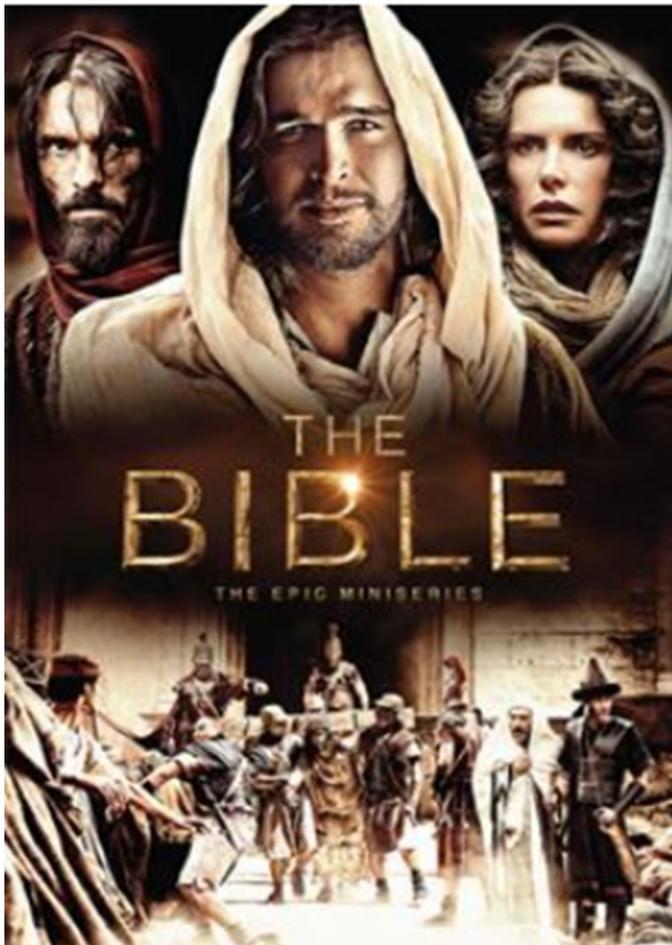
February 2022

**St. Paul's invites you to ...**  
**Movie Matinee –**  
**“The Bible: 10 Episode Epic Miniseries”**

Sundays Feb. 6, Feb 20, Mar. 6, Mar. 20, and Apr. 3 at 2 p.m.

Two Episodes per showing

Free Admission



**Miniseries Description:**

From Executive Producers Roma Downey and Mark Burnett comes The Bible — an epic 10-part miniseries retelling stories from the Scriptures for a whole new generation. Breathtaking in scope and scale, The Bible features powerful performances, exotic locales and dazzling visual effects that breathe spectacular life into the dramatic tales of faith and courage from Genesis through Revelation. This historic television event is sure to entertain and inspire the whole family.

A **concession stand** will serve snacks and drinks.

**Bring your family and friends to  
see this docudrama miniseries!!!**



## From the Preschool

### PRESCHOOL



### Registration

### 2022-2023 Preschool Registration

Registration for St. Paul's Preschool 2022-2023 school year will be opening soon. If you are interested in your child attending St. Paul's Preschool in the fall please pick up a registration form which are located at the back of the sanctuary next to the double doors. Registration for current preschool families will begin on February 7th with open registration beginning February 23rd. Once open registration begins classes will be filled as registration forms are received. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Marizek at 440-354-3000. If you know someone who has a preschool aged child please pass a registration form on to them.

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## Altar Flowers



A great way to remember any occasion is with Altar Flowers. The Altar Flower Chart is located in between the two sets of double doors leading to the kitchen. Just sign up next to the appropriate weekend. Clearly print the occasion being remembered, who the flowers are for and who they're from. Altar flowers are \$40.00. Place the monies in an envelope labeled "Altar Flowers" with the weekend date and put the envelope in the collection plate.





## February Birthdays

Allie Szoradi	1st	Jonah Shaw	18th
JoEllen Graziadei	1st	Roxanne Walton	19th
Michelle Lindrose	4th	Ken Chaffe	24th
Danielle Kiel	7th	Billie Lelle	26th
Heidi Bennington	12th	Joe Wojkowski	26th
Charlotte Hines	14th	Carl Graziadei	28th
Jeffrey Kiel	15th	Jared Sundbom	28th



## February Anniversaries

Eric & Pam West	41 years on Feb 07
Bob & Peggy McDonnell	33 years on Feb 25





## Those Who Serve February 2022

### ELDERS:

6:00 P	Saturday	Aaron Lindrose
9:30 A	Sunday	Craig McConnell

### LECTORS:

02-05-22	6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
02-06-22	9:30 A	Sunday	Terry Wakelee
02-12-22	6:00 P	Saturday	Dale Kerver
02-13-22	9:30 A	Sunday	Jack Lelle
02-19-22	6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
02-20-22	9:30 A	Sunday	Craig McConnell
02-26-22	6:00 P	Saturday	Dale Kerver
02-27-22	9:30 A	Sunday	Ken Chaffe

### COUNTERS:

Jenn Drake

### GREETERS:

6:00 P	Saturday
9:30 A	Sunday



SIGN UP IN FEBRUARY TO WAVE YOUR  
GREETING TO YOUR FELLOW DISCIPLES.

Sign-up sheet located on the double  
doors at the back of the Sanctuary.

# February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
American Heart Month Black History Month		1 Chinese New Year 7 pm Choir Practice	2  6:30 pm Council Meeting	3 7 pm Virtual Bible Study 8 pm Confirmation Class	4	5	
6	7	8 7 pm Choir Practice	9 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	10 6pm Outreach Meeting 7 pm Virtual Bible Study 8 pm Confirmation Class	11	12 	
13  Super Bowl Sunday	14 	15 7 pm Choir Practice	16 6:30 pm Elder's Meeting	17 Random Acts of Kindness Day	18	19	
20	21 	22 7 pm Choir Practice	23 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	24 7 pm Virtual Bible Study 8 pm Confirmation Class	25	26  10 am Northeast Zone of the LWML Ohio District Prayer Service	
27 	28	 <b>COMMUNION SERVICE</b>		<b>WORSHIP SCHEDULE</b> Saturdays - 6:00pm Sundays - 9:30am Sunday School - 10:45am Adult Bible Study—8:30am & 10:45am		Bulletin Announcements Due Wednesdays  <b>February Birthstone Amethyst</b>	Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:00am-2:00pm  <b>February Flower Violet</b>