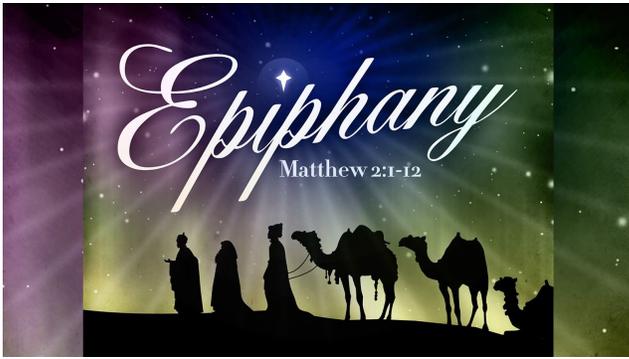


Balaton United Methodist Church January Newsletter



JANUARY 2020 – HAPPY NEW YEAR! – HAPPY EPIPHANY!

It is hard to believe that we have entered into a brand new decade isn't it? The year 2020 used to sound kind of all Science Fiction like, this futuristic sort of "Jetsons" like portrayal and now ... here we are! Still no George Jetson or even his dog Astro ... but the new year is upon us ... what are you asking God to reveal to you in the coming year?

That is what EPIPHANY is all about The "REVELATION" ... "LIGHT". The official definition is "the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi (WiseMen/Kings) in Matthew 2:1-12. Epiphany is one of my most favorite liturgical holidays (as you all know – ha!). I have been praying over what God might reveal to us in this coming year as a community of faith – Church/JAM/Self. I personally have been praying for more BOLDNESS In my proclamation (preaching), teaching, witness, faith. I have a sense of *urgency* for a variety of reasons ... but one of which has come about from the overwhelming response to our reading of the *Gospel of Luke* and the online reach! It was overwhelming! Which indicates to me the HUNGER folks have for God's Word, and to understand ... and so we must proclaim! And do so with Holy Boldness.

Consequently, I promised that I would guide us through *The Bible In One Year* because people wanted more after we had finished Luke ... and so January 1st we begin. Denise has included a printed version of each days texts, or if you follow on FaceBook they will be listed. Feel free to use your own translation if you are more comfortable with that. I'll do a video once a week to help us "unpack".

We will now be in the Gospel of Mark from now until Easter on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights at JAM. If you were able to watch my online introduction to the gospel, you heard me say that Mark is "darker". It is "matter of fact" ... it just dives right in and Jesus is now all grown up beginning his public ministry. One of the themes is that Jesus has come to bring this "Good News". We see the phrase "Son of God" used often, and the Resurrection account us "Short". We do see Jesus "Power and Authority" over opposing forces throughout. This is signature Mark. Our oldest gospel account. I hope you'll love learning along the way!

Something that I have been thinking about to write to you ... and as we step into a New Year ... and as we have just lost one of our Saints Betty Leversedge I think now is a good as time as any to encourage you (if you haven't already) to write down some thoughts that you have about "Final Things". It will be helpful for your loved ones when the time of your death comes.

If you need some guidance, I as your Pastor would be happy to sit down with you and talk about some arrangements. I don't make, or keep New Year's resolutions per-sea ... but I think New Years is a really good time to jot some things down and make some plans. Just as we work on our taxes ... they say two things are certain .. "Death and Taxes" It's good to plan for both!

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*Chose a Funeral Service – even better if you make some pre-arrangements with them. Better yet, let your family join you or at least let them know.

*Do you want to be cremated or full casket? Or both? Full casket for viewing with cremation later.

*Do you want a Visitation? Do you want to be viewed?

*Hymns/Songs/Soloists/CDs – Music

*Scriptures/Readings – Would you like a specific someone to read these?

*Lunch – having lunch? If so, what would you want?

*Are you a Veteran? If so ... do you want full military honors at the cemetery? Where are your discharge papers located? Your family will need them to apply for various benefits.

*Write your obituary – or at least dates/places that your kids might not know. Where were you baptized/confirmed?

*Let your family know where this information is so at the time of planning they aren't looking everywhere for such things.

*This isn't morbid. This is healthy. This is important in honoring your life and your family. Please begin some planning. Don't wait.

An update on Jim He had postponed his procedure on his legs (Angiogram with probable stents). His legs are looking better. He's had diabetic ulcers. He will reschedule the procedure soon. Thank you for your prayers, and patience over both of us. It is much appreciated.

Course of Study – I just uploaded the CREDO (Faith Statement) paper. All 17 pages! And now wait to be graded. Our instructor (Dr. Chun) is a perfectionist, so I pray for grace – smile. I will be heading to Kansas City (Monday January 7th-Thursday the 10th) Class is Tues/Wed. ... then, prayerfully, I'll be DONE! Graduation is July 16th 2020, and so I will go back to participate in that.

I will also be receiving my scapular at Annual Conference 2020 June 10-12 in SIOUX FALLS which would be great if ya'all wanted to come for that! I'll give more details as we get closer.

Well ... lots of stuff! I wanted to THANK YOU all for all the work you did during Advent in all kinds of various ways, helping with Betty's Service/Lunch, Putting up with me as I was under stress (smile – thank you for being patient when I wasn't), again ... I give God THANKS for all of you!

Forward We Go ... Following The LIGHT of CHRIST Together ...

Pastor Lori (PL)



JANUARY 2020 CALENDAR – PL

Thursday, January 2nd – PL in Springfield for Licensed Local Pastor Mentor Group 11am-1pm.

Sunday, January 5th – EPIPHANY - NO COMMUNION.



Monday, January 6th – Thursday January 9th – PL in Kansas City for class (Class is Tuesday-Wednesday).

Wednesday, January 8th – JAM Resumes at TRINITY. NO 5:30pm Worship. C+ @ UMC 7-8pm

Sunday, January 12th – COMMUNION at the Rail & CHURCH COUNCIL after worship.

Wednesday, January 15th-- JAM at TRINITY beginning with 5:30pm Worship.

Wednesday, January 22nd -- PL Hospice Meeting 9am-Noon/Slayton. JAM @ TRINITY beginning with 5:30pm Worship.

Wednesday, January 29th -- JAM @ TRINITY beginning with 5:30pm Worship.

Looking Ahead – Pastor Lori will be out of town Sunday afternoon February 2nd – Friday February 7th for the Board of Ordained Ministry Retreat.

LENT Begins Wednesday February 26th already.

JAM is at UMC this month.



UMW Communications

Greetings, Happy New Year!

Newsletter time again?? December was so busy and it sorta got away from us but we are meeting in January.

We (UMW) will have our Christmas party/meeting on January 2, at 1:30 at the Church, unfortunately we will have had our meeting by the time you read this article.

The first thing on our agenda is to extend our sincere sympathy to Crystal, Joel, Brayden and Braxden on the loss of Betty. We will really miss her! Betty was kind of the backbone of the UMW, so it may take us awhile to adjust. We love and miss you Betty!

Some of the things coming up for us will be UMW Sunday, flowers for shut ins and World Day of Prayer, etc. We'll keep you informed as to what we will be doing each month.

I'd like to wish everyone a great New Year!

June Terhark, Vice President



The One Year Bible - January Readings



*Here is an audio link if you are interested in following along that way (click on link): [One Year Bible - Audio](#)

January 1

Genesis 1:1-2:25
Matthew 1:1-2:12
Psalm 1:1-6
Proverbs 1:1-6

January 9

Genesis 20:1-22:24
Matthew 7:15-29
Psalm 9:1-12
Proverbs 2:16-22

January 17

Genesis 35:1-36:43
Matthew 12:1-21
Psalm 15:1-5
Proverbs 3:21-26

January 25

Genesis 50:1-Exodus 2:10
Matthew 16:13-17:9
Psalm 21:1-13
Proverbs 5:1-6

January 2

Genesis 3:1-4:26
Matthew 2:13-3:6
Psalm 2:1-12
Proverbs 1:7-9

January 10

Genesis 23:1-24:51
Matthew 8:1-17
Psalm 9:13-20
Proverbs 3:1-6

January 18

Genesis 37:1-38:30
Matthew 12:22-45
Psalm 16:1-11
Proverbs 3:27-32

January 26

Exodus 2:11-3:22
Matthew 17:10-27
Psalm 22:1-18
Proverbs 5:7-14

January 3

Genesis 5:1-7:24
Matthew 3:7-4:11
Psalm 3:1-8
Proverbs 1:10-19

January 11

Genesis 24:52-26:16
Matthew 8:18-34
Psalm 10:1-15
Proverbs 3:7-8

January 19

Genesis 39:1-41:16
Matthew 12:46-13:23
Psalm 17:1-15
Proverbs 3:33-35

January 27

Exodus 4:1-5:21
Matthew 18:1-20
Psalm 22:19-31
Proverbs 5:15-21

January 4

Genesis 8:1-10:32
Matthew 4:12-25
Psalm 4:1-8
Proverbs 1:20-23

January 12

Genesis 26:17-27:46
Matthew 9:1-17
Psalm 10:16-18
Proverbs 3:9-10

January 20

Genesis 41:17-42:17
Matthew 13:24-46
Psalm 18:1-15
Proverbs 4:1-6

January 28

Exodus 5:22-7:25
Matthew 18:21-19:12
Psalm 23:1-6
Proverbs 5:22-23

January 5

Genesis 11:1-13:4
Matthew 5:1-26
Psalm 5:1-12
Proverbs 1:24-28

January 13

Genesis 28:1-29:35
Matthew 9:18-38
Psalm 11:1-7
Proverbs 3:11-12

January 21

Genesis 42:18-43:34
Matthew 13:47-14:12
Psalm 18:16-36
Proverbs 4:7-10

January 29

Exodus 8:1-9:35
Matthew 19:13-30
Psalm 24:1-10
Proverbs 6:1-5

January 6

Genesis 13:5-15:21
Matthew 5:27-48
Psalm 6:1-10
Proverbs 1:29-33

January 14

Genesis 30:1-31:16
Matthew 10:1-23
Psalm 12:1-8
Proverbs 3:13-15

January 22

Genesis 44:1-45:28
Matthew 14:13-36
Psalm 18:37-50
Proverbs 4:11-13

January 30

Exodus 10:1-12:13
Matthew 20:1-28
Psalm 25:1-15
Proverbs 6:6-11

January 7

Genesis 16:1-18:15
Matthew 6:1-24
Psalm 7:1-17
Proverbs 2:1-5

January 15

Genesis 31:17-32:12
Matthew 10:24-11:6
Psalm 13:1-6
Proverbs 3:16-18

January 23

Genesis 46:1-47:31
Matthew 15:1-28
Psalm 19:1-14
Proverbs 4:14-19

January 31

Exodus 12:14-13:16
Matthew 20:29-21:22
Psalm 25:16-22
Proverbs 6:12-15

January 8

Genesis 18:16-19:38
Matthew 6:25-7:14
Psalm 8:1-9
Proverbs 2:6-15

January 16

Genesis 32:13-34:31
Matthew 11:7-30
Psalm 14:1-7
Proverbs 3:19-20

January 24

Genesis 48:1-49:33
Matthew 15:29-16:12
Psalm 20:1-9
Proverbs 4:20-27

Notes from the Board Chair:

Happy New Year to everyone we all hope 2020 will be better than 2019, we all have good and bad things that have happened last year. Now we have a brand new year do things better, and to be a better person.

I am so grateful for all of our ladies that were willing to help with Betty Leversedge's funeral. We had such a great group of ladies didn't need a lot of direction and just went ahead and did things. Thank you for making everything go so smoothly. Betty is going to be missed by her whole church family, she was such a giving person and always so grateful for anything you did for her.

I think I have gotten used to the longer nights with less daylight. The days are starting to get longer so there is a light at the end of the tunnel. We are grateful we didn't get all the snow that some places in South Dakota got we got more ice than snow. We lost power a couple of times but not for very long. Can't imagine the linemen out in the cold and wind, we don't realize how much we rely on electricity until we don't have it.

Prayers have been answered as Pastor Lori has completed her paper with time to spare. Now she can relax a little. Glad she got to spend some time at home with her family as the weather didn't cooperate for her last week. Now on to graduation.

There has been a lot of crude going around so make sure you take care of yourself and drink plenty of water it is so easy to do but a lot of us don't drink enough water. Staying hydrated is such an important part of our health.

Mike and I continue to go to basketball games that are at RTR fun to watch the girls play, although B-squad hasn't won all of their games they do pretty well. It is always fun to go and watch them sometimes it seems as if there is a cover on the basket, but they are still learning and developing their skills.

The Blue Christmas Service was awesome as usual as was the Christmas Eve service; it so beautiful to shut the lights off at church and see all the candles burning. Thanks Lori for all you do to prepare each and every service, we are so very lucky.

We had a little break from JAM and now we will be starting again in January at Trinity. Thanks to all who help us serve meals on Wednesday nights. Thanks to Denise for being such a great part in JAM again; we have missed you and are glad you are back on whatever level you want to be. Grateful to all our teachers and helpers that teach every week.

Just took my tree down so better finish cleaning up and then sit and relax before I go to bed. Again Happy New Year to everyone - hope it will be a great year.

Lois



J.A.M. Happenings

December has been a very busy month for J.A.M. We had an awesome fundraiser with the Kettle Corn. We took in \$3,094.00 of which we made \$1490.00. Sweet Madness Kettle Corn from Revere, MN said it was the largest fundraiser they have had. I am so proud of all the Jammers who sold and the parents who helped. Thank you to the crew that helped sort all the corn and get them bagged to be delivered.

Our Jammers, didn't stop there. They went on to put on a terrific Christmas Program on December 11 at Trinity. The preschool through 4th grade, acted out the nativity scene and three narrators did an awesome job telling the story. Then the fifth and sixth graders did a skit decorating the Christmas tree, with their mom. They talked about each symbol and what the meaning of it was. It was so awesome. The meaning of the holly was what was interesting for me. It symbolizes the crown of thorns and the drips of Jesus' blood that He shed for us. We gave each family a holly cookie cutter with the meaning of the holly written on a note that was attached to the cookie cutter. The kids all worked hard and they all did an awesome job. During the Christmas Program, at intermission time, we gave away money to TMB Fellowship of Christian Athletes \$100, to RTR Fellowship of Christian Athletes \$100, To Trinity Quilters \$200, to Lakeview Senior Housing Activity Department \$200, and Color Blind Glasses \$200, this was for glasses for people who are color blind and when they wear these glasses, they see color. (The story was about the little boy in Cottonwood who was color blind and the principal was also and had informed the family of the glasses.) These donations come from the "Pig Money" that the Jammers give at worship time on J.A.M. night.

Then the following week, we had our Christmas Party back at UMC. We started out with pizza from Balaton One Stop, for supper, they did a great job. Then preschool through fourth grade got to watch a movie called "The First Christmas, the Birth of Baby Jesus" by Superbook. Afterwards, they got to frost cut out cookies, and then they went home with a bag of treats. The fifth and sixth graders got to go out to Lakeview Senior Housing and play bingo with the residents. While some played, others frosted some more cut out cookies and then shared them with the residents. They came back afterwards and got a bag of treats also. The C+ class went to Trinity and played games, unwrapped saran wrapped balls and played Bible trivia. They all had a great time. Thank you to everyone who helped to make both nights a big success.

Now we are taking a break and will be back on January 8, 2020 at Trinity. Looking ahead, we want to do a Spaghetti dinner for another fundraiser and then we still have our Caesar Pizza sales to do too. We are looking for people to help with the Spaghetti dinner-we did confirm a date - Sunday, February 16th at the Community Center. Please talk to Denise or myself if you are interested in helping. We definitely need as much help as possible. If anyone has hamburger they would like to donate for the sauce, please let us know and thank you for your generosity.

I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year in 2020. I pray for blessings for all our families. Thank you for supporting J.A.M. This is our tenth year so we know that God and the Holy Spirit have been with us all the way and have made this program work so well. J.A.M. is definitely a

God thing. It's been a big success, thanks to all our Jammers, to the parents, the teachers, the Pastors and our heavenly Father. God Bless You All!

*Nancy Iversen, J.A.M. Coordinator,
along with Denise Hoek, who is my God send.*



A Note from Your Lay Leader

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2020 and to a new decade. On Dec 29th, the CBS News Sunday Morning show highlighted the main events of 2010-2019 and briefly covered the lives lost in 2019. As you look back over the last 10 years, I'll bet you have some highlights of things that have changed and of people you've lost in your life. Pastor Lori and I have often discussed the fine veil that separates heaven and earth. Always know your loved ones are safe and at peace in heaven. Their wish for you is to be PRESENT in this life as you embrace the gift of each new day. Life moves fast and things change fast but know this, the great love of the Father is constant, and He is ever present in our lives. Praise God! Pray blessings over each other, over Pastor Lori, over J.A.M. and over the future of churches everywhere. Be blessed and never forget how much the Father loves you.



Sue Skramstad

Coffee Servers:

January 5 - Betty Chandler

January 12 - Open

January 19 - UMW

January 26 - Lois and Stella



Stella and Lois
Dale and Julie Wieme

Readers: **Jan. 5** - Nellie; **Jan. 12** - Sam; **Jan. 19** - Keith; **Jan. 26** - June; **Feb. 2** - Nancy

Upcoming Events - be sure to mark on your calendars!



Baby Shower for Cody & Becca Christian (Chandler) - Saturday, February 8th in the Church Fellowship Hall - watch for more details!



J.A.M. Spaghetti Dinner - Sunday, February 16th at the Balaton Community Center.

Serving from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm



2020 Balaton United Methodist Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JAM @ Trinity for January			1 	2 PL in Springfield Licensed Local Pastor Mentor Group 11-1	3 Mya Smidt B-day	4 Jill Wreath B-day
5 9:00 Worship Epiphany-No Communion	6 PL in Kansas City for Class	7 PL in Kansas City for Class	8 PL in Kansas City for Class JAM-5:30 Traditional Worship 6 pm Meal 6:30 Worship 7-8 Sm Group Ellie Crumrine B-day	9 PL in Kansas for Class	10 Kelsey Lustfield B-day	11 Josh Kirk B-day
12 9:00 Worship Communion at the Rail Church Council after worship April Ray B-day	13 Darrell Crumrine B-day	14	15 JAM-5:30 Traditional Worship 6 pm Meal 6:30 Worship 7-8 Sm Group Mariah Jennings B-day	16	17 Stevie McMath B-day	18 
19 9:00 Worship	20	21 	22 PL Hospice Mtg 9-12 Slayton JAM-5:30 Traditional Worship 6 pm Meal 6:30 Worship 7-8 Sm Group	23	24	25
26 9:00 Worship	27 Dave Kirk & Jeff McMath B-days	28	29 JAM-5:30 Traditional Worship 6 pm Meal 6:30 Worship 7-8 Sm Group	30	31 Marvin Chandler B-day Mike & Colleen Wreath Anniv	



Banana Bars with Brown Butter Icing

Yield: 12 bars

Ingredients

- ¾ cup sugar
- ½ cup sour cream
- ¼ cup butter, softened
- 1 egg
- 1 cup (about 2) very ripe bananas, mashed
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 cup all purpose flour
- ½ tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. salt

Brown Butter Frosting:

- ¼ c. butter
- 2 c. powdered sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1½ tbsp. milk



Instructions

1. Heat oven to 375F. Line an 8x8 baking dish with parchment paper. (I overlap two pieces so the sides hang over the pan. It makes removing the bars easy as can be.)
2. In a large bowl, beat together sugar, sour cream, butter, and eggs until creamy.
3. Blend in bananas and vanilla extract.
4. Add flour, baking soda, salt, stir together until just combined. Spread batter evenly into pan.
5. Bake 20 to 25 minutes or until golden brown. Let cool slightly and then remove from pan using the parchment to lift.

Meanwhile, for frosting:

1. Place butter in a heatproof dish with a well-fit dish on top. Microwave butter for 4-5 minutes. You will hear it bubble and pop and afterwards it should be perfectly browned. Add powdered sugar, vanilla extract and milk. Whisk together until smooth and thick.
2. Spread the icing on the bars when they have cooled for about 10-15 minutes. The frosting goes on much easier when the bars are a little warm, it also creates an amazing soft, slightly-melty affect.

Balaton United Methodist Church

Lori VonHoltum, Pastor

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**Remember our Nursing Home Residents: Prairie View Senior Living-Tracy: Mert Holm
Avera Morningside Heights Care Center-Marshall: Neva Manguson
Remembering & praying for Brandon Swanson..... missing from his family since May 2008**