



The Christmas Star appears

"We saw the king of the Jews' star when it rose and have come to worship him." Matt. 2:2

Last month, the two largest planets in our solar system, Jupiter and Saturn, aligned to create what is often called the Christmas Star or the Star of Bethlehem.



The guiding light that has not been seen for nearly 800 years caused quite a stir as star gazers – astronomers, historians, theologians and such - flocked outdoors to get a glimpse of the cosmic phenomenon. Social media captured the "Star" over Bethlehem, Devil's Tower, even Sturgis.

And critics drew parallels to that time, some 2023 years ago, when the wise men followed the star to Bethlehem.

The parallels included challenging times, dark times, evil cast out by the light of the world. Needless to say, those who ventured out into the darkness, were enlightened, and awed by the grandeur of God's creation.

The "Star" will be in the limelight again Jan. 6, as Epiphany stories and celebrations highlight the big reveal of the birth of Jesus. Around the world people will pay homage to "Three Kings Day," named after the Magi, who brought baby Jesus gifts. They proclaimed the infant IS the Son of God!

It is an "epiphany!"

The manifestation of Jesus Christ is recorded in Matthew 2.

"When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh."

Let us rejoice in the glory of Jesus Christ.
God bless you today and every day in 2021.

Pastor Kris

1061 Sherman St., Sturgis, SD 57785

Office (605)347-2713 or gracelutheran@rushmore.com

Pastor Kris Garlick (605)695-4074 or glcpastor01@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS PHOTOS
Pages 2-3

FROM THE OFFICE
Pages 4-5

NEW WINDOW
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
Page 6

SD SYNOD
Page 7

BIBLE STUDY
Page 8

ANNUAL MEETING &
CAMP REGISTRATION
Page 9

ANNIVERSARYS &
BIRTHDAYS
Page 10



The Christmas Star
Dec. 21, 2020

Christmas Joy 2020



*and...
Peace*



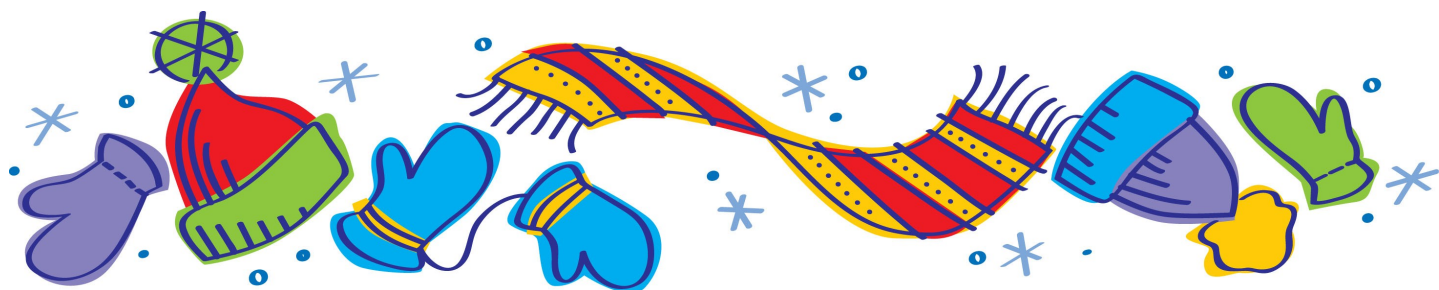
Beginning January 1

If you would like one printed or emailed,
please stop in or give Keri a call at 347-2713.

9 AM SUNDAY WORSHIP RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS

The radio broadcast calendar for 2021 is posted on the bulletin board in the entryway of the church. You are invited to place your name on the date you wish to sponsor. You may also call the office 347-2713 to reserve a date. The cost per broadcast is \$65. Partial sponsorships are invited and encouraged.

Jan 3 - Norma Tesch, in loving memory of her husband David Tesch.
 Jan 10 - Ramona Scherer, in loving memory of Deanna Mattox and David Mattox.
 Jan 17 - Herb & Constance Cleveland, in honor of their children and grandchildren.
 Jan 24 - In honor of Ruth Mechling's 90th birthday, love her children and grandchildren
 Jan 31 - Herb & Constance Cleveland, in honor of their 3 great-grandchildren.



January 3

Sirach 24:1-12
 Psalm Wisdom of
 Solomon 10:15-21
 Ephesians 1:3-14
 John 1:[1-9]10-18



January 24

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
 Psalm 62:5-12
 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
 Mark 1:14-20

January 10

Genesis 1:1-5
 Psalm 29
 Acts 19:1-7
 Mark 1:4-11

January 17

1 Samuel 3:1-10[11-20]
 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
 John 1:43-51

January 31

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
 Psalm 111
 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
 Mark 1:21-28



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Jim Bradeen, Sue Whitford, Cindy Milek, Jerry Ross, Verna DeKraai, Shania Larive, The Julie and Cody King family, Dennis Johnson, Judy Schott, Melody Jensen, Katie Neiderwerder, Audrey Printz, Dorothy Bostrom, Piper Swenby, Vernon Ross and the family of Marty Phelan.

On-going prayers: Randy Carlson, Art Weitschat, Bob York, Lorman Lange, Dode Lee, Gary Meyer, Kristi Fladager, Sharon Rank, Dale Kreutz, Nancy Finck, Corky Walters, Marjorie Jutting, Chian Ritten, Clayton Casteel, Larry Gabriel, Sandra Keiter, Al Smith, Ethan Dschaak, Sondra York, Gregor McFarland, Vivian Herbst, Lenore Hines, Candy Bordewyk, Marjorie Lyons, Serenity Dennard, Beverly Hemmah, our homebound members and those serving in the military. *(Notify the office of changes)*

2020 YEAR END

OFFERINGS

\$165,896.91

EXPENSES

\$183,336.40

BUDGET

\$224,340.00



DECEMBER ATTENDANCE

Sundays

Dec 6 - 27

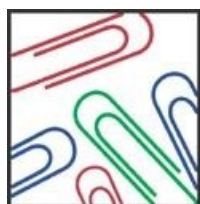
Dec 13 - 37

Dec 20 - 29

Dec 24 - Online Only

350 Candle kits/740 Video views

Dec 27 - 25



FROM THE
CHURCH
OFFICE

Deadline to submit items for the February newsletter is *Monday, January 25*

Please send your Newsletter items to Keri at gracelutheran@rushmore.com.

Let us send you an email with a link to our newsletter when it's posted to our website.

If you are interested, please send your email address to the office at:

gracelutheran@rushmore.com or call Keri at 347-2713.

Did you know... Our website contains the weekly worship bulletins, monthly newsletter, sermon broadcast, monthly calendar, Council and Committee minutes, and much more. For a printed copy, see the info rack at the entrance of the church.

Check it out at: www.sturgisglc.org.

See special events on Facebook.



Has your address or phone number changed?

Please let Keri know at 347-2713 or e-mail us at gracelutheran@rushmore.com.

Red Bucket Ministry **Food for the Poor**

Please make a gift to help purchase a home in a third world country for a family in need.

Leave a donation in the Red Bucket.
4th Quarter 2020 Mission garnered \$41 for Outlaw Ranch.



Offering Information

Send your offering to PO Box 577,
Sturgis, SD 57785,
or drop off at the church in the
Cross box outside the Office

To Use Venmo:

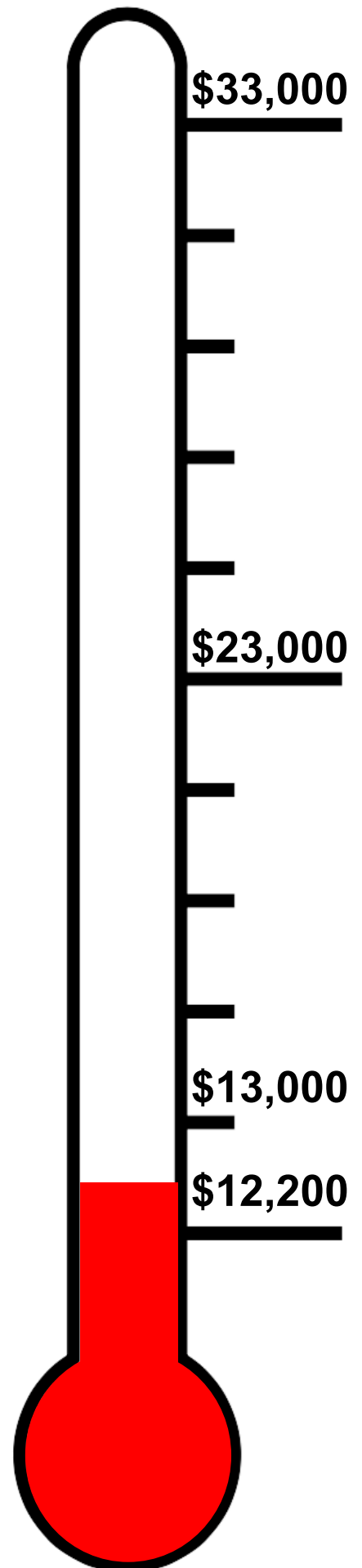
1. Scan the QR code with your smartphone.
2. Login or setup your account (first time only).
3. Make your gift.



Let the light shine in, not the hot and cold air . . .

**The Church Parish house is in need
of new windows.**

Please donate today.





South Dakota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

From the Bishop's Desk

Siblings in Christ,

Have you ever heard of SAM? No, not your nephew and not the one from Dr. Seuss, but the one from the ELCA and the SD Synod. If you haven't, I would like to invite you to tune in to my little tale about SAM.

SAM is actually an abbreviation for "Synod Authorized Minister". What's that? And why do we need that? How do you become a SAM? Those are all good questions. A SAM or Synod Authorized Minister is a lay person (at times a deacon, I can share about deacons in another month) that has been authorized by the office of Bishop to lead a ministry site and preside over the sacraments, Baptism and Holy Communion, in case all venues for finding a pastor have been exhausted.

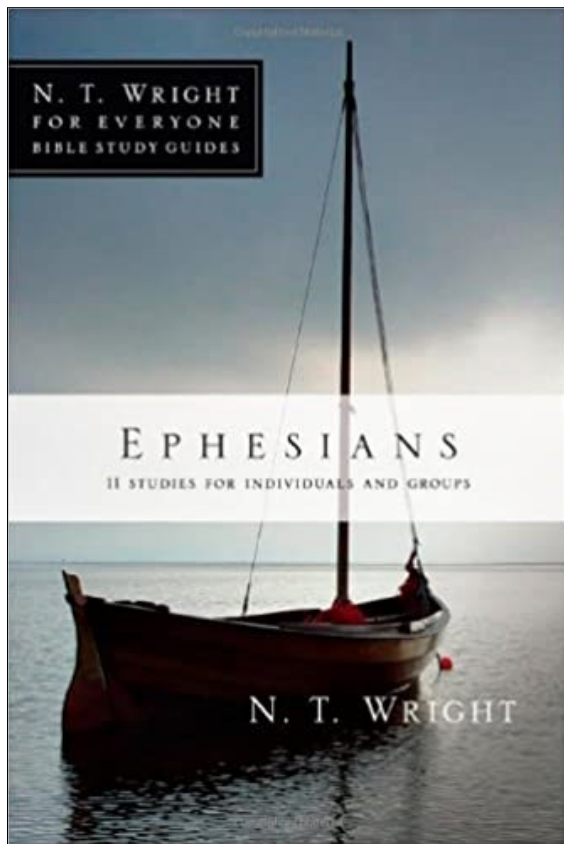
A SAM displays gifts for ministry in Word and Sacrament. This individual has discerned and later decided to pursue a Masters of Divinity Degree through an accredited institution, which will eventually lead to ordination into word and sacrament ministry in the ELCA. Or, the office of Bishop has learned about a gifted lay person that would be available when all venues of finding a rostered minister have been exhausted and is willing to serve in a ministry context until a rostered minister has been called. In that case, this individual has no interest in pursuing a Master of Divinity degree, but makes a commitment to participate in the Region 3 (ND, MN & SD) Lay Academy, which offers a wide variety of classes that will help to lead a congregation, preach the Word of God and care for God's people in a congregational or parish setting. In short, a SAM is a tool in the Bishop's toolkit that he or she can utilize to fulfill the Bishop's call to be the pastor to the congregations in the synod.

And as pastor, Bishop or Parish Pastor, our call is to care for the people and congregations we are entrusted with. SAMs are a care extension of the Bishop, who cannot shepherd all vacant ministry sites themselves. SAMs are held to the same standards and expectations as rostered ministers, pastors and deacons. The SD Synod and ELCA has high standards for its leaders to protect those who we are called to care for in all of life's circumstances. There are regular evaluations by mentors and paperwork is filled out and filed, expectations for continuing education and personal conduct are laid out clearly before a person is synod authorized. Each SAM is under the direct supervision of the office of Bishop and will be evaluated annually. If your ministry site is served by a SAM, please know, you have a person serving you when the Bishop cannot personally serve you while vacant.

This is the Bishop's way of saying: "I see you; I hear you and I care; therefore, I provide you with a gifted steward on my behalf." Secondly know that just because you are currently vacant and are served by a SAM, doesn't mean that the synod office will cease searching for a suitable rostered leader to serve you. Our constitution reminds us that the goal is that each congregation of a synod is served by a rostered minister.

If you should have other questions or would like to know more about SAM, please, reach out and we can have a conversation.

Journeying with you in Christ,
Bishop Constanze



How about a walk through Ephesians – living life more fully!

Author NT Wright writes:

In Ephesians, throughout its worship, prayers and instructions for living, Paul can't contain his joy and amazement at the larger story of God's plan to save us in Jesus the Messiah. These eleven studies will help us see the significance of our role in God's grand narrative, and encourage us to live more fully as people who are lavishly loved by God.

Bible Studies beginning 3rd week of January (attentively Jan. 19) ... Various times and days.

RSVP to Pastor Kris glcpastor01@gmail.com to reserve your space by Friday Jan. 8th. Cost of book is approx. \$12.



Persons who are worshipping with us at home and online — Pre-packaged Holy Communion kits are available for pick up at the church office during regular business hours.



Funerals & Committals

December 8 - Arlie Mullins



Please tune-in to KBHB 810 AM Radio at 9 am Sunday's. If you prefer to live stream – the link is: www.kbhbradio.com. Access previous sermons at: www.sturgisglc.org/sermons



Winter is coming, and Sunday morning transportation returns. Need a ride to church on Sunday morning? Call the church office 347-2713 by 2 pm on Friday to reserve a ride.



A Projectionist is needed for the first Sunday of the month. If interested please call the church office at 347-2713.



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday January 10

Immediately following the service.

Annual reports will be emailed to all persons who receive the GLC newsletter electronically. Copies can also be downloaded and printed from our website at: www.sturgisglc.org. If you would like a hard copy prior to the meeting please stop in the office & pick one up.

HYGIENE BAGS FOR THE HOMELESS

**Lutheran Social Services has issued a call for
50 hygiene bags per month for persons experiencing homelessness**

Here how you can help — Donate items that are in need:

tooth brushes	shampoo	Chapstick
tooth paste	soap	Band-Aids
warm socks	deodorant	lotion
combs	hand sanitizer	hand warmers

In addition, sewers are needed to make draw string bags
(nothing reflective, blue or red gang colors).

*All items can be placed in the shopping cart at the entryway of the church.
Thank you for your generosity.*

Return to Camp!! At Lutherans Outdoors in 2021!

It is with great excitement the staff of Lutherans Outdoors of SD welcomes you to once again hear the sounds of campers playing games, swimming in a lake, paddling on the water, sharing in a Bible study, chatting during a meal, and singing at a campfire.

We are busy putting together the final program schedule for the summer.

**Registration opens this month!
Reserve your spot at www.losd.org**



1 Cindy Milek	14 Judy Greslin Marlowe Kinkade	25 Pate Gunderson
3 Sara Scherer	15 Larry Crawford	26 Glynda Smith
4 Kristin Cammack Taya Tucker	18 Vivian Kreutz	27 Kevin Anderson Jason Kreutz Brenda Nohava
5 Coleen Hanes Mel Hanes	20 Aimee Jost	28 Dorothy Bostrom Barb Haivala Thomas Magdanz Jr.
10 Darlene Mullins	21 Helen Miller	31 Austin Hall Jesse Blakeman
11 Marjorie Erion-Johnson Jake Vliem	22 Alex Boy Eileen Raforth	
13 Ward Dobler	23 Ardith McFarland Ruth Mechling Ranae Pickar	



3 Bernard & Marie Ritten

13 Allen & Linda Hemmah

18 Dennis & Cindy Milek