

# From Pastor Marissa Becklin

## Committing To Epiphany

As we welcome the dawn of a new year, we are also greeted by the celebration of Epiphany, a momentous occasion in the liturgical calendar that calls us to reflect on the significance of God's revelation in our lives.

Epiphany, celebrated on January 6<sup>th</sup>, marks the culmination of the Twelve Days of Christmas, symbolizing the manifestation of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles. The story revolves around the Magi, wise men from the East, who followed the guiding light of the star to the humble manger in Bethlehem, presenting gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the newborn king.

The narrative of the Magi holds a timeless lesson for us all—an invitation to seek and encounter Christ, not only in the familiar corners of our lives but also in the unexpected and unconventional. Their journey teaches us the importance of openness to God's divine guidance, which may often come in ways we least expect.

Just as the star led the Magi to the infant Jesus, Epiphany challenges us to reflect on the guiding lights in our own lives. What are the stars that illuminate our spiritual paths? How can we recognize and follow the divine signals that lead us closer to God's glory? These questions encourage us to discern the subtle whispers of God in our daily lives, guiding us through both the ordinary and extraordinary moments.

Moreover, Epiphany is a reminder that God's grace extends to all, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, or social status. The Magi were not part of the chosen people, yet God's light drew them into the story of salvation. As Lutherans, we are called to embrace a similar inclusivity, acknowledging that God's love knows no bounds and inviting all to join us on our journey of faith.

During this season of Epiphany, let us commit ourselves to be beacons of God's light in the world. Like the Magi, may we offer our most precious gifts—our time, talents, and treasures—in worship and service to the One who is the true Light of the World. As we embark on this new year, may the guiding star of Epiphany inspire us to live with purpose, seeking God's presence in every facet of our lives.

*In Christ's Love,*

*Pastor Marissa*