

Living Faith @



I find myself staring out the window - watching the snow fall and the wind blow outside and thinking about all the gatherings and events that will be happening soon around the world in recognition of the holiday happenings. Pearl Harbor Day of Remembrance on December 7th, the celebration of Kwanzaa, the Festival of Hanukkah, and Christmas are all special holiday observances. I always find it amazing how many other special days occur in a month if you google "holidays and observances" for the month.

It is time to plan the food for the family as we come together to eat, play games, and enjoy our time together ... a whole house full of noise!

**We members of the Home Life Network want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas!!
Our wish that you can take time to appreciate the Reason for the Season - Jesus Christ!**

December brings us Advent leading into Christmas.

Last month's newsletter included information about the Advent season of waiting and preparing for the coming of Jesus Christ. The candles invite us to have Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy as we light a candle each week with the white candle being lit on Christmas Eve.



Christmas falls on a Sunday this year which means Christmas Eve is Saturday night. We worship to welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. The grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including the lowly shepherds.

January - the beginning of the calendar year - brings us the naming of Jesus. Jesus is given the name announced by the angel before his conception. Bearing Christ's name, we pray that with Christ as our example, we share the love of Christ with all people. Love has come - a light in the darkness!! Alleluia!!

Epiphany

The feast of Epiphany concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God's glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ whose glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the water of baptism. We are sent to beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God's love to all people.



Baptism

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children.



As we continue on our way through the month of January, we know Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world & the one anointed by the Spirit. Jesus begins his public ministry by calling the disciples. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near - and we have seen a great light!!

This information is prepared for you by the **Northeastern Iowa Synod Home Life Network** for use by families and local congregations. Like our page on Facebook and our posted resources will appear in your newsfeed. Our page is [Northeastern Iowa Synod Home Life Network ELCA](#)



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