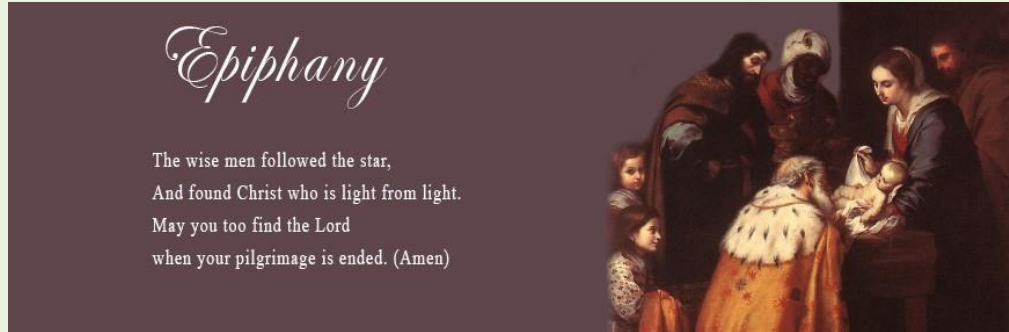




# The New Hope Newsletter

JANUARY  
2021



## The Epiphany of Our Lord? (Matthew 2:1-12)

819 Elm St.  
(at the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> & Elm St.)  
PO Box 754  
Blanco, TX  
78606



### Sunday Worship

We will continue  
to email our  
service to all of  
our regular  
members weekly.

*A worship option is  
to look at our*

*Facebook Page –  
"New Hope  
Lutheran".*

*We are posting a  
service each  
Sunday, (partially  
from 'Sundays In  
Seasons')*

**What?** "The Epiphany of Our Lord" is the festival day that remembers the coming of the wisemen to worship Jesus. They found Jesus by following a star which led them to Him.

**When?** January 6 (the "13th" day of Christmas) – Feb 20, 2021

**Why?** The Epiphany was the first time Gentiles (non-Jews) came in faith worshipping Our Lord. It teaches that Jesus is the Christ (anointed Saviour) of not merely the Jewish people, but of ALL people.

**Epiphany?** Epiphany means "to show forth" or "to reveal". When some new insight hits someone they may say, "I had an epiphany," as if some new thing had been revealed to them. Jesus' epiphany by God through a star to these foreigners shows that He is the saviour of all the world.



**Jan 4th**

**Nelson Jonas**

**Jan 5th**

**Cyndy Hounsell**

**Dec 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Ruth Johnson**

- - - - -

**Wedding  
Anniversary:**

**Jan 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Henry & Connie**

**Magi?** This word, used in the Bible for the men who came from the East, is the word for the priestly wisemen at the top of Persian/Babylonian society. As advisers to their king they would likely have been familiar with the writings of various religions and may have sought answers to the meaning of the star they saw in those writings. Babylon had conquered the Jewish people some 500 years earlier, and a community of Jews had been there with their Scriptures since that time.

**3 Wisemen?** There were three gifts, but no number mentioned of how many wisemen. The kingly gifts they gave (gold, frankincense, myrrh) may have required more than three of these magi in order to afford them.

**3 Kings?** There is no indication that these men were kings apart from the fact that they brought gifts associated with kings, and magi were the upper crust of Babylonian society.

**Why are the kings depicted as being from Asia, Africa, and Europe?** The top picture depicts a Middle Eastern king, a European king, and an African king coming to worship the new born king, Jesus. This is because, as the first non-Jews to come to Our Saviour in faith, they represent all the peoples of earth.

[Taken from: <https://www.epiphanythunderbay.com/what-is-the-epiphany.html>]

From the ELCA's *Living Our Baptism*

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Living\\_Our\\_Baptism\\_Epiphany.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Living_Our_Baptism_Epiphany.pdf)

### **EPIPHANY: "YES I DO!" RESOLUTION**

In January, many people adopt New Year's resolutions. Imagine if a congregation adopted the "Yes I Do!" resolution (see below. Imagine if individuals approached this resolution with the commitment of the wise men in their search and journey to Jesus.

#### **"YES I DO!" New Year's Resolution and Prayer**

God help and guide me to LIVE among God's faithful people;  
HEAR the word of God and share in the Lord's supper;  
PROCLAIM the good news of God in Christ through word and deed;  
SERVE all people following the example of Jesus;  
and to STRIVE for justice and peace in all the earth.

Amen

