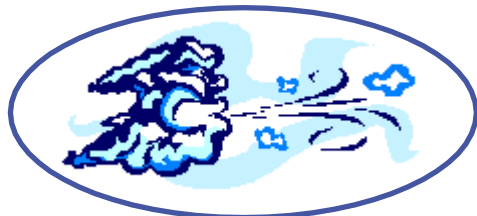


The Nor'easter

Winter Edition 2023



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Billie's Bytes

Welcome to 2023! Perhaps you are already making notes on your calendar or in your appointment book. I hope you include in those notes the events planned by your church, the Northeast Zone, the LWML Ohio District and the LWML. You will find the latter three listed elsewhere in this issue of the Nor'easter.

But what about God's appointment book? Does He block off time the way we do – of course not! Our Omniscient Triune God ALWAYS has time for us. He reminds us that our times are in His hands (Psalm 31:15). We are assured that we can pray at all times and in all circumstances. (Ephesians 6:18).

He is never too busy for us. To take a cue from Max Lucado ("If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it. If He had a wallet, your photo would be in it..."), I would say, "If God had an appointment book, you would be listed in every space".

As dearly loved Children of God and Spirit led, we rejoice that God comes to us through the Word and Sacrament. He is present with us right now across all time and space. What an opportunity we have in 2023 to use our time to grow in His Word, to be strengthened by His Body and Blood, and to serve one another in love.

In His Love,
Billie

UPCOMING EVENTS

Zone Prayer Service
"My Soul Rejoices"
Trinity, Willoughby
37728 Euclid Ave
February 4, 2023

Zone Spring Rally 2023
"Savior of the Nations, Come"
Bethel, Willowick
32410 Willowick Drive
May 6, 2023

Zone Fall Retreat 2023
Environmental Learning
Center/Jordan Creek Park
September 23, 2023

LWML Ohio District
Assembly of Leaders Recap
March 25, 2023
(Update information at
<http://lwmlohio.org>)

LWML National Convention
Milwaukee, WI
June 22-25, 2023
"Celebrate the Lord of the Nations"
(More information at
<http://lwml.org>)



WHAT'S THE BUZZ IN YOUR CHURCH?

**Do you know
who's in your
zone?**

Ashtabula: Lighted Cross
 Aurora: Hope Lutheran
 Chagrin Falls: Valley Lutheran
 Chardon: Peace Lutheran
 Chesterland: St. Mark
 Euclid: Shore Haven
 Geneva: St. John
 Madison: Holy Cross

Mayfield Heights: Our Savior
 Painesville: St. Paul's
 Painesville: Zion Lutheran
 Solon: Our Redeemer
 Thompson: Grace
 Willoughby: Trinity
 Willowick: Bethel Lutheran

Spotlighting Past Events

St. Mark's Chesterland:

St. Mark's members and friends packed a grand total of 273 boxes for *Operation Christmas Child*, which was one more than last year - that is 273 Gospel opportunities! Participation was also strong across the Cleveland East Area Team (of which we are affiliated). During the National Collection Week, they collected 11,347 shoe boxes, which was 964 more than last year. This is Cleveland East's fourth consecutive year of increase! God is good, all of the time!

St. Mark's Candy Cane Wishes Tree:

The Women's League at St. Mark Chesterland coordinated the collection of items to fill over forty-five Christmas stockings for the children of WomenSafe Shelter and their outreach program. Starting in late November church members took little stockings printed with gift suggestions off a Christmas tree in the church narthex and returned the donations by mid-December. Lee Stone and other Women's League members then filled the stockings and combined them with donated blankets. More information on how you can help this vital service can be found at <https://womensafe.org/>



St. Mark's Gift of the Magi Christmas Boutique:

On November 11 and 12 2022 the ladies of St. Mark Chesterland reached out to the communities they serve through their annual The Gift of the Magi Christmas Boutique. Local vendors along with St. Mark Women's League members sold one-of-a-kind Christmas gifts and food. Displays of donated regiftables and gently used holiday decorations were especially popular once again. On Friday evening at the Preview Party, Wendy Zimmerman, the praise team leader at St. Mark, provided live Christmas music and scrumptious food was prepared by St. Mark's kitchen crew. The same ladies ran a cafe during Saturday's sale. The event raised close to \$11,000 and was a true team effort of the entire congregation to transform the building into the boutique and then return it to normal for Sunday's worship services. The proceeds will be used for mites, several projects at St. Mark and for nearly two dozen local and international mission projects as voted on by the Women's League members.

Pictured above: Lori Cudnik in the church library. She works all year to help coordinate the popular gently used holiday decorations

Upcoming Events in Your Churches:

Our Redeemer, Solon:

LWML will be resuming Sunday Meetings at 12:00 p.m. on January 8. We will be serving light lunch foods, have a short update to report on our cookie sale, and then make 19 no-sew fleece lap robes. The fleece is trimmed, pinned together and ready for you to tie knots.

Sunday, February 12 @ 12pm: Making soup jars and discussing House in a Box project
 Saturday, May 6 at 9:30 a.m. is the annual Garden Party with plant exchange; breakfast will be provided.

**DON'T FORGET TO SEND
KELLY HINES ANY ARTICLES
AND PICTURES OF ALL YOUR
LWML EVENTS!**

Let's recognize some of those
incredible events that keep
our women and communities
closer to the Lord and His
mission



Prayer Service at Trinity Lutheran, Willoughby

Saturday, February 4, 2023 at 10:00 AM

Registration and coffee hour begin at 9:30am

Registration deadline: Monday, January 30, 2023

Cost \$6.00

Contact: Joanne Sutton 440-364-2236

Joannesutton612@gmail.com

Collection for mites will be taken, stay after for a light luncheon!



Reminders and Updates

- ✓ If you have any events or updates for the Nor'easter to be added to the Summer Newsletter, please make sure to have all information emailed to Kelly Hines, PR no later than **5/15/2023**; Khines136@yahoo.com
- ✓ Don't forget to sign up and register for the National Convention held this year in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for an incredible event!
- ✓ Do you have a photo of your favorite event hosted by the LWML ladies of your church? Send Kelly Hines a detailed highlight of your event and don't forget the names of all the wonderful women and location.

Mite offerings for LWML Ohio District

(Mission Goal \$190,000.00)

Beinnium Total: \$49,079.28 as of November 30, 2022



ZONE PASTORAL COUNSELOR MESSAGE

**Pastor Steve Berndt,
Holy Cross, Madison and
Grace, Thompson**

What is Epiphany and why is it celebrated?

Epiphany is not celebrated by all Christians, but it is an integral part of the church year in the Lutheran, Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Anglican traditions. In fact, it even penetrates the secular world – it is the origin of the “twelve days of Christmas:” as the day of Epiphany always falls on the twelfth day after Christmas. Many churches still celebrate it with a special service, which always falls on a weekday. Still others will observe it on the next closest Sunday. Epiphany means “appearance or manifestation.” In other countries it may be referred to as “Three Kings Day,” which clues us in to its origin. Others may refer to it as “Gentile Christmas.” This day celebrates the revealing of the newborn Christ to the Gentiles in the persons of the three Magi.

The Magi, the origin of our word “magic” and is translated as “wise men” in most English translations, were learned men most likely from Persia (modern day Iran), who followed the Star which they knew from their study of the heavens and prophecy to mark the birth of a special King. You know the rest of the story. Some churches celebrate this visit by blessing chalk which the people then take home to mark their doorposts with the new year and the initials of the wise men like this: “20+C+M+B+23.” Tradition tells us the names of the wise men were Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, though the Bible does not mention them by name. Marking the door thusly is thought to impart a blessing on the home for the coming year. Since epiphany means manifestation, early celebrations honored any of the four manifestations of Christ. His birth, the adoration of the Magi, Jesus’ baptism, and the first miracle at Cana where Jesus turned water into wine. These four manifestations reveal God to mankind.

At his birth, the angels bore witness and the shepherds, representing Israel, bowed before Jesus. The visit of the Magi revealed Jesus’ to Gentiles. At his baptism, the Holy Spirit descended, and God declared Jesus’ identity. And the first miracle at the Wedding in Cana, revealed Jesus’ divinity over nature. God disclosed himself to humankind through the person of Jesus. He made himself known so we might know him.

Traditions observing Three Kings Day vary around the world and have changed over time. During the Middle Ages, celebrations focused on the Magi’s journey. In 1336 Italy, one would find processions, ceremonies, nativity plays, and carnivals.

Some folklore and customs of Epiphany throughout the world include children receiving gifts on this day rather than on Christmas Day. In some Spanish-speaking countries, three kings deliver gifts not Santa Claus. On Twelfth Night, as it is known in some countries, children would leave a shoe and a bit of straw on their doorstep. They would find their shoe filled with gifts and the straw gone.

In other culture’s past centuries, Twelfth Day, or January 6, marked the end of the Christmas season with feasts and masquerades. Eastern Orthodox Christians called it “Feast of Lights” to reflect their belief that baptism happens because of spiritual illumination.

Today, some people use Epiphany to take down their Christmas decorations and store them away for the next year.

Most importantly, Epiphany reminds us that Christ came to shine the light of the Gospel on all people. No matter the language you speak, or your country of origin, this day reminds us of the promise that faith in this child, who was born to one day die on the cross and rise from the tomb to pay for your sins and give you eternal life, belongs to all people, as the prophet Isaiah said:

- 1 Arise, shine, for your light has come,
And the glory of Yahweh has risen upon you.
- 2 “For behold, darkness will cover the earth
And dense gloom the peoples;
But Yahweh will rise upon you,
And His glory will appear upon you.
- 3 “Nations will come to your light,
And kings to the brightness of your rising.
- 4 “Lift up your eyes round about and see;
They all gather together; they come to you.
Your sons will come from afar,
And your daughters will be carried on the nurses’ hip.
- 5 “Then you will see and be radiant,
And your heart will tremble and be large with joy;
Because the abundance of the sea will be turned to you,
The wealth of the nations will come to you.

Isaiah 60:1-5

Legacy Standard Bible. 2022.
Three Sixteen Publishing