LIVING Waters LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

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Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

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church@lwlcmn.org
Facebook - livingwaters.lutheranchurch
Twitter - lwlcmn

Current

The 7-9th graders attended Kids Fighting Hunger in December 1. The packaging event was made possible by a Thrivent Action Team grant. A total of 3,024 meals were packaged!

If any Thrivent members are interested in sponsoring a package event in the spring please reach out to Kirsten Stiegel at stiegelfamily@charter.net.

These Thrivent Action Grants can also be used to stock our food shelf, or other fundraising events here at church. Contact the church office for additional information.

Thank you to All helped with this year's Living Nativity at the Sauk Rapids Coborn's.

2021

Thank You:

Janet Anderson, piano

Pastor Wayne Anderson, singer

Pastor Ann Bjorklund, Preacher & Presider

Braydon, Character

Curt Gullickson, Guitar & Singer

Christin Johnson, Singer

Jen Kiewel, singer

Julie McGarry, behind the scenes helper

Steve Minkler, piano

And thanks to
Patti Goke for
recording,
editing, and uploading the
service!

Christmas Eve in the Barn

COUNCIL CORNER

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, January 11 @ 6:30pm

Property: There was a storm that went through the area with wind and hail that caused substantial damage in the Sauk Rapids area. Damage was also done to our buildings. Our insurance company has authorized repair/replacement for our buildings, including a new roof and siding for the church building. Repairs are expected to begin in the spring.

Outreach: This last month has been so busy. Bursting with fun activities and events. First of all, a HUGE thank you to all the volunteers and the people who have helped make the food drive a success. It would not have happened without your generosity. Also thank you to Bryn and Haley for organizing and helping make the Living Nativity a continued tradition for the community of Sauk Rapids. It was great to see the spirit of Christmas come alive. Our next event for the outreach team is getting a volunteer program started for the different events. We also would like to get some new ministries available for helping the community within our church community. The food shelf is looking for more volunteers to help out on Fridays from 10:30am-12:00pm. If interested please contact Leann Giese or Terry Sylvester. God Bless and have a safe new year.

If you have questions for any of our council members, please contact them as follows:

President: Lana Weber	presidentlwlcmn@gmail.com
Vice President: *vacant*	vicepresidentlwlcmn@gmail.com
Secretary: *vacant*	secretarylwlcmn@gmail.com
Treasurer: Mary Soroko	treasurerlwlcmn@gmail.com

Liaisons...

Congregational Life: *vacant*	conglifelwlcmn@gmail.com
Education: *vacant*	educationlwlcmn@gmail.com
Finance: Brian Ulrich	financelwlcmn@gmail.com
Inreach: *vacant*	inreachlwlcmn@gmail.com
Outreach: Leann Giese	outreachlwlcmn@gmail.com
Personnel: Aaron Sufka	personnellwlcmn@gmail.com
Property: *vacant*	propertylwlcmn@gmail.com
Worship & Music: Jana Johnson	worshipmusiclwlcmn@gmail.com
Youth: *vacant*	youthlwlcmn@gmail.com

WELCOME to Mary Soroko who stepped up to be on council as the treasurer. THANK YOU, MARY!

If you're are interested in adding your name to the ballot on February 6 at our Congregational meeting please contact the church office.

If you have questions or comments for our current council, please contact one of the following:

Lana Weber	Brian Ulrich	Leann Giese	Mary Soroko
Jana Johnson	Judy Bettendorf	Aaron Sufka	Brad Giese
Pastor Ann	Pastor Wayne		

Do you have a passion for carrying out God's mission and the mission of Living Waters Lutheran Church? Have you been thinking about how you might be able to share your gifts and talents with the people of LWLC and our community? Have you thought about serving on the church council? If you have questions about the positions or are interested, please contact Pastor Ann, Pastor Wayne, a council member, or the church office.

Pastor's Pen

So, what does a pastor write about at the start of a new year? Is it a wrap up of the past? Is it new year's resolutions? Is it about things being made new? I think it's about all of the above.

The past year has brought about many changes here at LWLC. You've had a long-time pastor leave, and a new pastor come in to assist you in your time of transition. You've had another pastor assist for a couple of months, and have also had another join the staff to do the same. You've had changes to your Council. You've had a team of people help navigate the transition process and hand over the reigns to the next group of people who will assist you in the process.

You've continued your mission to "reach, teach, and care," even in the midst of a transition and a pandemic. You've offered ministry opportunities, service opportunities, teaching and learning opportunities, and you've continued to support the ministries here through your giving and your fundraising.

You held an online bake sale, an online auction, and you've peeled and cooked almost 200# of potatoes, dished up over 100# of lutefisk, made lots and lots of veggies, gravy, rommegrot, krumkake, and lefse.

You've helped collect thousands of pounds of food, and helped package food, too.

You've celebrated your time together as a congregation, and mourned the loss of family and friends. You've had challenges and times of joy and excitement. God has been with you in the midst of all of it.

In the coming year, you may be thinking about what's ahead. Some of you might decide on a new year's resolution, or maybe even several. As you do so, I hope you resolve to continue to love God and love your neighbors as yourself. I hope you forgive as God has forgiven you, and that you ask for forgiveness, too. I also hope that you know that none of us are perfect. We have had challenges, and that will continue. We are doing the best we can, and when we don't, God loves and forgives us. Just a the Apostle Paul reminds us by his experience, God's power shines through his weakness, it does through our weaknesses as well. In II Corinthians 12:9a the Lord tells Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness."

Even as we consider resolutions and ways we might be better or do better, remember that we are enough...not because of what we do, but because of who God is! May 2022 be a year of God's continued blessings and may your always remember that you are a beloved child of God!

Blessings! Pastor Ann

Thank you!!!!

The Salem Foundation has reviewed the 2022 grant requests. We are pleased to inform you that the request made on your behalf by Pastor Wayne Anderson was funded in the amount of $1,000 for the Living Waters Food Shelf.

Thank you so much Pastor Wayne and the Salem Foundation for their support of the LWLC Food Shelf!

Annual Meeting

Mark your calendar! Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 6 at 10:45 am.

JUST ICE COMMITTEE FOR ALL GOD'S C HILDREN

The Racial Justice Task Force has changed its name to reflect an expanded focus on justice. The new name will be "Justice Committee for All God's Children." Issues that may be addressed include homelessness, food insecurity, LGBTQIA+ issues, racism, and address other topics as well.

The next meeting of the committee is Thursday, January 27 at 6:00 pm.

Table Talk

Sundays, at 10:30 am.

Will resume on January 9

Join the conversation each Sunday morning for good discussion and information about a variety of topics. Come whenever you want! The conversation is informal, and no one is pressured to talk. Sundays, 10:30 - 11:30 am. Table Talk will meet in the Room of Hope. For now, bring your own coffee.

TABLE TALK

9 Jan: Lifting the Curtain
16 Jan: Revealed or Hidden?
23Jan: Experiencing God's Presence
30 Jan: Experiencing a Sense of God's Absence

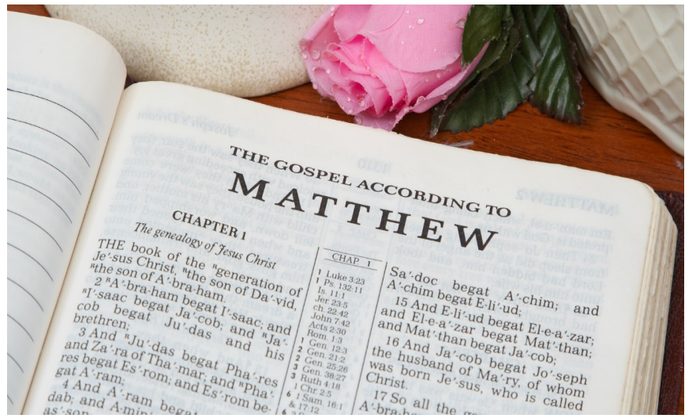
Thank you!

A big thank you for all the gifts bought for the Salvation Army's Angel Tree as well as gifts for Catholic Charities. Many children had a gift to open on Christmas thanks to your generosity.

BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN

COME AND STUDY THE BOOK OF MATTHEW. MEET AT LWLC IN THE ROOM OF HOPE ON TUESDAYS AT 1:00 PM. THANK YOU TO PASTOR DORIS FOR LEADING THIS GROUP.

IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT EVERY WEEK, COME WHEN YOU CAN!



Resignation of Patti Goke

Long-time Administrative Assistant, Patti Goke, has given her resignation. Patti's last scheduled day is April 1, 2022 or earlier if a replacement can be found sooner. (*This is not an April Fool's joke.)* We're thankful for her may years of service here at Living Waters.

We are still looking for someone to fill Linda Becker's position. She hopes to resign at the first of the year. This position is 6-10 hours per week. If you are interested in the financial secretary position, please contact Pr. Ann.

Our neighbors at The Lincoln Center—Homeless Helping Homeless are in need of supplies for those who obtain their services. We've helped them in the past with many items. With the cold weather upon us, there is an increased need for several items:

Winter hats & winter gloves
Coats (all sizes, especially for men)
Grocery bags (they are turned into mats)
Propane tanks
Handwarmers
$$ Cash to purchase necessary items $$

Thank you to the Transition Team! They put in many hours reviewing survey results and working on the Ministry Site Profile. Their task has been completed. Please remember to thank them for their time and efforts:

Blair Schrader Judy Bettendorf LauraLee Gullickson Bryce Paulson Holly Janson
Terry Sylvester Brad Becker Elizabeth Pederson Michele Berkovich

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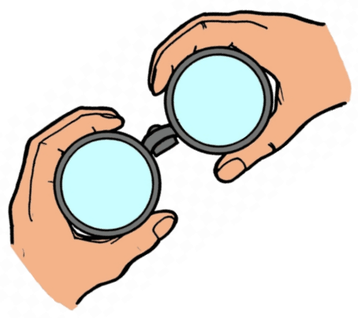
Please pray for the Call Committee as they begin the process of reviewing candidates to interview and then conducting interviews with those whose gifts best seem to match the needs of LWLC.

Thanks to Jeff Moon (committee chair), Kirsten Stiegel, Paul Raduns, Cheri Satre, Bryn Muehlbauer, Holly Janson

Just a reminder

Their work is confidential, so please don't ask them to share information.



4 WAYS YOU CAN ACCESS ONLINE WORSHIP:

- Go to the church's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/livingwaters.living church
- Go to the church's web site at www.lwlcmn.org/online-worship
- Follow the LWLC YouTube Channel. Go to YouTube and search for *Living Waters Lutheran Church, Sauk Rapids, MN*
- Follow the links provided in an email

Thank you for your ongoing financial support.
Way you can give.

- ☐ Set up BILL PAY through your bank or credit union.
  It is free and they will mail a check on YOUR schedule.
- ☐ Send money through PAYPAL. Just make sure you select you are sending money to a *friend* then there is not a fee. Send to church@lwlcmn.org
- ☐ The old-fashioned way: send a check via the USPS to 1911 4th Ave No Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

Questions: call the church office (320) 255-1135

Thrivent Grants

Do you have a Thrivent policy or financial service products that you've purchased from them? Did you know that they offer seed money for projects that benefit others? Thrivent members that have certain products have access to these funds ($250 plus shirts and other advertising materials) up to 2 times per year. Living Waters has many projects that support people in our community that can benefit from additional funding. If you are a Thrivent member and would like to share those funds to support one of these efforts or something that you're passionate about, we would be more than willing to assist you in requesting funds or finding our more about the process, assisting with upcoming projects, or coming up with ideas for new projects.

Contact Pastor Ann at ann@lwlcmn.org or 763-447-7664 or Patti at patti@lwlcmn.org or 320-255-1135 to assist you.

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Thank you to everyone who has Living Waters Lutheran Church designated on your AMAZON SMILE ACCOUNT. A percentage of qualified purchases is given to Living Waters if you have designated Living Waters as your charity of choice.

Technology Task Force needed…

Living Waters Lutheran Church has responded to COVID in the way many churches have…by increasing their online presence and footprint. This has been a great way to reach our congregational base, as well as serving as a form of outreach. Our increased exposure also adds to our potential vulnerability. We're looking for several people who will evaluate our current software and hardware for possible vulnerabilities that might need to be addressed. Your research and assessment will be used to help align policies and practices around our current technology, as well as ways we might efficiently and effectively proceed into the future. The approximate time commitment for completion of this project is 3 months. If you're interested, or know someone who might be, please contact Pastor Ann or the church office.

Speaking of Technology….

…with Patti's upcoming retirement, people are needed to help on Sunday mornings with the technology in running the camera system (VMix), advancing the slides on ProPresenter, and running the sound system.

We are thankful for the volunteers who already help, but a few more people would be dandy!

If you would like to be trained (and it is all very easy) please contact Patti and patti@lwlcmn.org. Thank you so much for your prayerful consideration.

LWLC Mission Statement

As followers of Jesus, we seek to reach, teach, and care for God's world as a welcoming and inclusive community.

Worship time will continue to be at 9:30am on Sundays followed by Table Talk at 10:30am.

Until further notice, masks and social distancing will be required.

Pastor Ann Bjorklund
(763) 447-7664 (cell)
Pastor Wayne Anderson
(320) 250-5747
Church office
(320) 255-1135

Contact Information

LuMin of St. Cloud (Lutheran Campus Ministry) is running to the future, and we invite you to join us. We will be running in the Ragnar Minnesota relay happening

August 12-13, 2022 and we need support. 12 runners, 2 drivers and others cheering them on, praying for their safety, and financially giving towards their efforts, all so LuMin can continue to be an inclusive, Christ-Centered community for college aged students in the St. Cloud area.

Here is how it works…

12 runners take turns running in 36 segments from St. Paul to Duluth. This means each team member will run 3 segments totalling 15-26 miles in 2 days. When one runner is out on course, the rest of the team is in the van, encouraging others, bonding with each other, or getting some rest.

The 12 runners commit to participating in the event and paying to offset the entry fee of $150 (tax deductible donation to LuMIn). Each runner fundraises from congregations, family, and friends to support LuMin's ministry. LuMin will help by connecting runners to local congregations, setting up a crowdsourcing fundraising page for you, and providing event logistical support and some awesome team swag. For more information about Ragnar events CLICK HERE (https://www.runragnar.com/event-detail/relay/minnesota#overview)

Not the running type, but enjoy long drives with sweating people who know the importance of vibrant campus ministry? We need 2 van drivers, too.

Our team is also responsible for providing event volunteers, so if you want the fun of this event in a 4-6 hour amount of time with no running? Please consider being one of our volunteers.

There are so many ways to support this effort. If you are willing to do any of the above mentioned team roles, please click this link to the interest form.

LuMin runs Ragnar MN Interest form (https://docs.google.com/
/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdHN8ZkQSLN-67NgsUndsyLzyu0VqcqTF66kHrj9wvMlc4bAg/viewform

And of course, we are doing this because we understand the importance of campus ministry. Your financial support is incredibly valued. To donate to this effort, please click the donate button at this link Support LuMIn in St. Cloud Support Us (luminstcloud.com/store/c1/support-us)

For more information about Team "12 LuMIns" contact steven@luminstcloud.com, or check out our website, www.luminstcloud.com

Living Waters Lutheran Church Youth Education
Winter/Spring 2022

!!UPDATED CLASS DATES!!

7-9th grade will continue to meet from 6 -7 pm on Wednesday evenings

4th- 6th grade will meet from 5:15-6:15 pm on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays

NEW: *PreK-3rd graders will be moving from Sunday mornings to Wednesdays. They will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays along with the 4-6th graders from 5:15 -6:15 pm. Registration forms are available in the church office. All are welcome!*

7-9th grade dates—NO CLASSES DURING LENT
January 5,12,19,26 February 2,9,16,23
April 20,27 May 4,11

PreK-6th grade-NO CLASSES DURING LENT
January 12, 26 February 9,23
April 27 May 11

We will be using the Remind Me app for communication. The link to has been sent via email. Contact the church office if you need the link resent to you.

Kids will be together from 6-6:15 for music. We need song leaders!

REMINDER - we are still looking for an Education Coordinator. Job description is available in the church office or online. In the meantime, Kirsten Stiegel thanks you for your patience as she volunteers to coordinate education for our youth.

A HUGE thank you goes out to DeNetta Wolbeck and Lori Schoborg for leading the 7-8th graders, Pastor Doris Weber for leading 9th graders, and Paul Raduns for helping with 4-6th graders. Also to Paul Martinson, Max Fortner and Fionn Falk - our very own house band!

HELP NEEDED - with the addition of the PreK-3rd graders, we will need additional leaders!! Please reach out to Kirsten at stiegelfamily@charter.net to volunteer.

On the following pages are activities for our youngest members. Please download and print out for them. There is one for each of the upcoming Sundays.

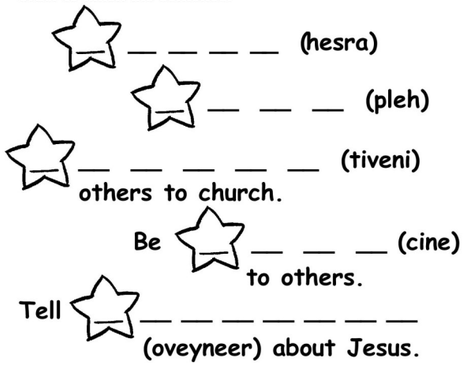
kids Celebrate

Second Sunday of Christmas

Send

We can be little lights for Jesus by sharing his love.

Unscramble the words to find five ways we can share Jesus' love. Write the first letter of each unscrambled word inside the star. Then write the letters in the stars in order to finish the sentence.



Let your love ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ **every day.**

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to teach us about your love. Amen

This week

Light a candle at dinner every evening. Have everyone name one way they can share Jesus' love tomorrow.

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Gather

Welcome to worship.

The season of Christmas lasts for _____ days.

To find the answer, count the and the , and put the numbers in the boxes at the bottom. Add the two numbers. Write your answer in the blank.

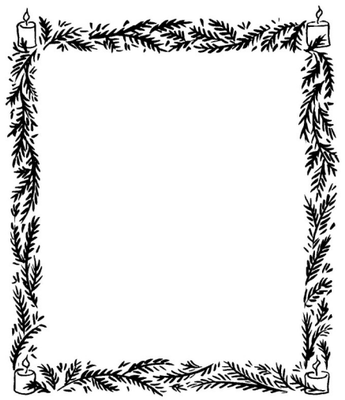
☐ + ☐ = ☐

Hear & Celebrate

In the beginning...

John 1:[1-9] 10-18

This is John's version of the Christmas story. Jesus' birth is God's most wonderful gift for all of God's creation, for all of God's children–us! Because Jesus was born as a little baby, and lived with us on earth, we know more about God and can tell others.



Draw baby Jesus in this picture, then draw *you* with baby Jesus.

What did Jesus show us about God? Search the illustration for the hearts, stars, and triangles that have letters in them. Each shape's letters make a word that tells us something about what God is like. Unscramble the letters from each shape and discover three things that God is.

God is... ♡ ___ ___ ___ ___

God is... ☆ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

God is... △ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

Try doing something special on each of the 12 days of Christmas. Keep it simple and fun.

hear & celebrate

Jesus' baptism

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Use the pictures to help you read the story.

John the Baptizer baptized Jesus dove

many people in the Jordan River.

One day came to to be .

When , heaven opened.

A flew down . The , the Holy Spirit

of God, came down on . A voice from

heaven said to , "You are my beloved Son.

I am pleased with you."

Baptism

When we are baptized, we are welcomed into God's family through water and God's word. At a baptism, the pastor might light a candle and say to the person being baptized, "Let your light shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify God in heaven."

Circle the drops of water hidden here. Can you find four of them?

After worship, visit the baptismal font with your family. Dip your finger into the water. With one wet finger, make the sign of the cross on your forehead as a reminder that you are God's child.

send

Your baptism

Have you been baptized? Ask a family member help you answer these questions about your baptism:

When were you baptized?

Where were you baptized?

Did you wear something special?

Who are your baptismal sponsors or godparents?

Thank you, God, for making us your children through baptism. Amen

this week

Mark your family's baptismal birthdays on the calendar. Plan to celebrate each one.

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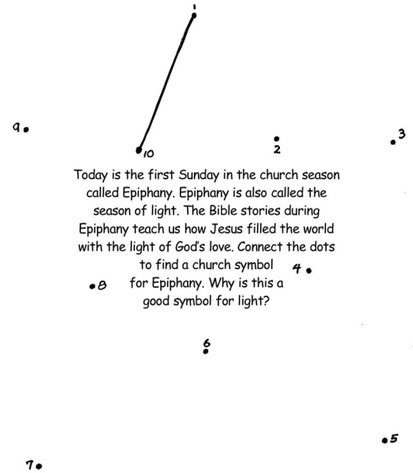
Kids Celebrate

Baptism of Our Lord

gather

Welcome to worship.



Today is the first Sunday in the church season called Epiphany. Epiphany is also called the season of light. The Bible stories during Epiphany teach us how Jesus filled the world with the light of God's love. Connect the dots to find a church symbol for Epiphany. Why is this a good symbol for light?

What did you learn about Jesus today in worship?

hear & celebrate

Matthew 2:1-12

The wise men followed a star to find Jesus.

Trace the dots to make the word *Jesus.*
Draw what you think might have been in Jesus' home long ago.
Fold this page on the dotted line when you listen to the gospel story of the wise men. At the end of the story, unfold your page to find Jesus.

to the Light of the World,

Jesus

Look for the section of Epiphany hymns or songs in your worship book. Which song will you sing or say at home this week?

_____

Wise men followed

send

Jesus, our light, shows us how to grow in caring for ourselves, others, and our world.

Color the pictures of the activities you can do during Epiphany.

this week

Make a paper banner that says "**20 + C M B + XX**" to hang over your door as a new year blessing, but instead of the XX, put the last two numbers of this year. C M B stands for the Latin blessing ***Christe mansionem benedica*** (Christ bless this house). The letters are surrounded by the new year date. Pray that Christ will be with you throughout the year.

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Kids Celebrate

Epiphany of Our Lord

gather

Welcome to worship.
Epiphany (ee-PIF-ah-nee) begins today, January **6**. The **12** days of Christmas have ended.

the Star

A ☆ is a symbol for the season Epiphany.

Color and decorate the stars with bright colors.

How many points do they have? _____

kids Celebrate

Second Sunday after Epiphany

gather

Welcome to worship.

Green is the color of growing things. During the church season of Epiphany, green can remind us that we grow in our learning about Jesus. Do you see green in your worship space?

What did you learn about Jesus today in worship? Inside each flower, write one word that describes Jesus. Add drawings of your favorite flowers.

send

Pouring out God's love

Jesus was filled with God's love. You're filled with God's love, too. Out of love, Jesus changed water into wine. Out of love, how could you help these two?

Thank you, God, for filling me up with your love. Amen

this week

Share God's love with your family by helping at home.

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hear & celebrate

The Wedding

John 2:1-11

Jesus was invited to a wedding. The groom was sad when he ran out of wine for his guests. Jesus asked someone to fill six stone jars with water. Surprise! Jesus turned the water into wine. Now the guests had wine to drink. Jesus surprised the people to teach them about the power of God's love.

In this picture, draw the faces of Jesus' friends who were sad because the wine was gone. Write *No wine!* in the cartoon balloon.

In this picture, draw the faces of Jesus' friends who were happy when Jesus turned water into wine. Write *Thank you!* in the cartoon balloon.

Filling up with God's love

Each time we worship, God fills us up with love until we're overflowing. God wants us to share that love with people around us. Write one of these parts of the worship service inside each level of wine in the jar. In the puddle of over-flowing wine, write one way you can share God's love.

hear God's word

share Holy Communion

give offering

pray

sing

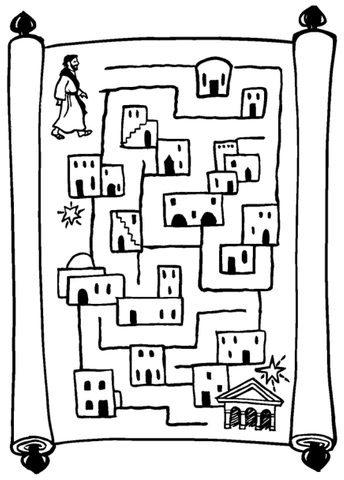
hear & celebrate

Jesus reads God's word

Luke 4:14-21

Jesus went to the synagogue, his place of worship. He stood up to read God's word. Jesus read, "God's Spirit is with me. God has chosen me to bring good news to people who need love and hope for a better life." Then Jesus said, "Today these words have come true." Jesus meant that he was the one God promised.

Help Jesus find his way to the synagogue.



God's love is for everyone

God sent Jesus to share the good news with all people around the world.

Here are some ways Christians around the world greet each other and tell about their love for God. Have someone help you pronounce the words.

In parts of South America, Christians greet each other by saying **hermano** (err-MAH-no), which means "brother" in Spanish, and by saying **hermana** (err-MAH-nah), which means "sister." This means that we're all Jesus' brothers and sisters.

In the country of Tanzania in Africa, people speak Swahili. Here is how they say, "Thank you, Jesus," when they pray: **Asante sana Yesu** (a-SAHN-tay SAH-nah YAY-soo).

Christians in Hong Kong say **ping-an** to greet each other. The word **ping-an** means "peace."

send

Worshiping day by day

Draw or write a way to worship God each day.

Monday	Tuesday
Wednesday	Thursday
Friday	Saturday

Thank you, God, for Jesus, who spreads the light of your love around the world. Amen

this week

Choose a different worship activity to do with your family each day.

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Kids Celebrate

Third Sunday after Epiphany

gather

Welcome to worship. The Epiphany star reminds us that Jesus fills the world with the light of God's love. How many shining stars can you find in this bulletin? _____

Listening to God's word is an important part of worship. We hear God's word in the words of hymns and songs, when someone reads the Bible, and in the sermon.

Look inside the adult bulletin.

What is the name of one hymn or song?
_____

Does the sermon have a title? What is it?
_____

What books of the Bible will you hear today?
_____
_____
_____

As you listened to God's word today, what did you learn about Jesus?