



# The Galilean Newsletter, January, 2016

*Witnessing to God's love & grace in Jesus Christ for all people  
through prayer, worship & service.*

## A center for Ministry and spiritual formation

### **"Parish the Thought" by Pastor Jay**

#### **The Gift of Epiphany**

The Church *Season of Epiphany* begins on January 6. Liturgically, that is the day when the Church celebrates the arrival of the magi (wise men) as describes in Matthew 2:1-12. There are a few details in that account that lead us to conclude that (contrary to many Nativity depictions) the wise men probably did not arrive on Christmas night. In the first place, Matthew tells us that the wise men entered "the house," not the manger. Then, when King Herod realizes that the wise men aren't returning to tell him where to find this "newborn king" (who Herod says he too wants to worship, but we know really wants to kill), he doesn't just send soldiers to kill newborn babies but children up to two years of age (so that he is sure to destroy the one he most feared).



What we most remember of these wise men (how many there were we don't really know), was that they presented gifts to the newborn king Jesus – gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But, you know, the best gift of all was really God's in giving us Jesus Himself. For this was more than just a baby, another person. This was the Savior of the world, the Word of God enfleshed, which the world so desperately needed.

In the Season of Epiphany we get to see glimpses of Jesus' uniqueness – God's vocal affirmation of Him at His baptism; His ability to change water into wine at the wedding in Cana; not only His gifted preaching, but His special sense about Himself as He begins His public ministry. Each of these stories point to Jesus as the "promised One," and each story continues to hold new meaning and application of this gift for us today.

Each account is meant to provide us with some kind of "Aha!" moment about who Jesus is for the world and for ourselves. I look forward to sharing these scriptures with you as this child is God's gift that keeps on giving.

Pastor Jay

## **Annual Congregational Meeting – Sunday, January 24 @ 11:45am**

All voting members of the congregation (confirmed youth and adults) are called to be a part of our *Annual Congregational Meeting* on Sunday, January 24 following the second worship service.

This meeting gives us an opportunity to review our 2015 life of ministry together; to elect members to the 2016 Nominating Committee, the Endowment Committee, and two voting members to the Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly (June 2-4); and to approve our “2016 Budget for Mission & Ministry.”

As the major meeting of the entire congregation, everyone is urged to participate. Thank you for making it a priority.

### **Call extended to “Associate in Ministry” Doug Krekling**

We have been truly blessed and guided by the Holy Spirit in our search for our “*Director of Christian Life*” – a Galilee staff position that is an outgrowth of our previous staff position of “Director of Children, Youth & Families.”

At our special congregational meeting on Sunday, December 13, we unanimously voted to extend a “Letter of Call” to Doug Krekling who has been trained, equipped, and approved as an “Associate in Ministry” – a “rostered leader” designation for such a commissioned layperson in the ELCA.

We are delighted to announce that Doug has accepted the Call to Galilee! This being his first call, his arrival will be preceded with a “commissioning service” which will be held at his home congregation – St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church, Wauwatosa – on Sunday, January 17, 2016 @ 8:30am. Galilee will have a delegation present at the service to validate the call extended, and you are welcomed to attend the service as well.

Doug will begin service at Galilee on January 18, and a service of “Installation” is being planned – the details of which will be announced as soon as they are set.

In the meantime, we commend both Doug and his wife Lisa to your prayers as they anticipate this new chapter in their lives as well. We further thank the Lord, and our sisters and brothers at St. Matthew’s in Wauwatosa, for nurturing Doug in his life’s journey of ministry and bringing us to this time of partnership together! Thanks to Pete Klatt and Ellen Piotrowski and the entire Search Team!

### **Thank you for a Wonderful Christmas!**

Dear Galileans, thank you for a wonderful Christmas! Thank you, Barb Barthel and our Sunday School teachers, parents, and students for blessing us with the storytelling of the One with many Bible names – our Lord, Jesus Christ! Thank you to Jane Kaufman for all of her administrative accomplishments! Thank you to Karen Streit for her fine work in the financial coordination of our congregation! Thank you, Alyssa Olson and volunteers, for so generously and creatively providing leadership in “Godly Play” each week! Thank you to Vince, and Mary Kay, and Paul for such great musical leadership throughout the year!

Thank you to all of you Galileans for the many generous ways that you have expressed your faith, appreciation, and support. And thank you for the many, many ways that you offer yourselves in service and partnership so that Christ’s ministry can be done here at, and through, Galilee Lutheran Church! We are truly blessed, and are looking forward to the ways that the Lord will utilize us together in this New Year!

## **Galilee Sunday School**

Dear Lord, Thank you for the gift of children. We pray for your help to share with them a love for your Word that will guide their lives in all of their days. Amen.

Thank you to the Sunday School children, Confirmation, High School and College young people and all who participated in the wonderful Christmas Program, "Chain Reaction". Those who helped with the presentation, the orchestration, the organization are all given a huge THANK YOU. WOW! What a marvelous presentation!

It is hard to believe another year has come and gone and we look forward to starting our second half of the Sunday School year on January 10<sup>th</sup>. We hope you enjoyed a Blessed Christmas with family and friends and we wish you a New Year filled with Joy, Peace, Faith, Happiness and Love.

We offer a big thank you to all the children who donated the mittens, scarves and hats for our December Outreach Project. What a response! You are great! You have touched the lives of so many people.

Our January Outreach will be toothbrushes to support the Ministry of the Mission Of Healing in El Salvador in February. In the health clinics that are provided thousands of toothbrushes are distributed and we can help that important ministry. We again have three Galilee members participating in the Mission of Healing.

### **January brings newness to our lives. A time to come together with new beginnings**

A continued opportunity to add attendance stickers to our Attendance Wall. A time to meet again in Sunday School after the Holiday break. A time to thank our Sunday School staff for sharing their time, talents, abilities and gifts with us. Regularly attend Sunday School and worship. Be open to how we can make a difference in the lives of others.

We may have big challenges for the coming year but with the love of Jesus Christ all things are possible.

As we start this New Year we ask God to continue to guide us and walk with us each day throughout the year to grow our faith and encourage us to live the best life yet in our days ahead.

Blessings to you for the New Year from all involved in the Galilee Children's Christian Education.

- Barb Barthel

### **New Members Being Received**

We are looking forward to welcoming another wonderful group of New Members into *Galilee Life* this month. Be sure to contact Pastor Jay or the Church Office to indicate your desire to be part of this group.

***"Galilee Life: Be In It!"***



## ***Grief and Loss Support***

**Grief and Loss Support Group Gathering  
Tuesday, January 26th - 6:30 p.m.  
at Galilee Lutheran Church**

Please join us as we listen, discern and share ways we can support and comfort each other through the loss process, even though our losses may be different. This Gathering is not limited to the loss of a loved one but includes any loss that affects us emotionally or physically.

We are in communion with one another to help and serve each other. Being with others who have experienced a loss can be very comforting. We listen, share, comfort and support each other through the loss process. We care for each other, understand and pray for support, healing and strength in our lives. Your faith and insight may have a profound impact on our journey of healing.

All are welcome and feel free to invite a friend or relative to join you. If you know of someone who might benefit from this Grief and Loss Gathering please invite them to join us.

*Mary Mauer, Barb Barthel and Members of the Galilee Bereavement Ministry*

## ***Message from Pr. Martir***

***“Blessed are those who come in the name of the Lord; from the house of the Lord we bless you.”***

Thank you for helping us paint our church and providing the paint. Thanks to members of Galilee Lutheran Church who helped paint. God bless your good hearts and I have you in my prayers every night. Thank you for your visit and we were honored to have you with us. Thank you for supporting the children with backpacks, socks, notebooks, books and other school materials and other projects for our Church, Los Martires.

In Christ our Lord,  
*Pastor Martir Vigil*

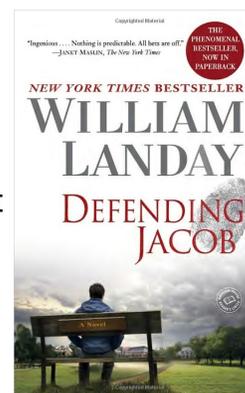
## **Connect The Dots**



As we look at the Fish and the colorful Dots we say thank you Galilee you are awesome. In only three months we filled so much of the Fish with our outreach and our acts of kindness. Think of what we do in a year's time. This three month period doesn't even cover all the acts that were done and not acknowledged with a Dot. We thank all of the members who participated as well as the Sunday School children who had outreach projects as well. Let's all continue with the opportunity to celebrate Galilee Life and BE IN IT through the coming year.

## ***Galilee Book Club***

Galilee Book Club will meet Monday, January 14 at 7:00 pm. We will be meeting in the Gathering Place to discuss *“Defending Jacob”* by William Landry. Assistant district attorney, Andy Barber, is called to investigate the death of a teenage boy. As the investigation continues Andy's son, Jacob, is implicated in the death. Jacob denies being involved and Andy believes him. How this relationship affects the investigation and family relations make for an intriguing story. Join us for a lively discussion. There is always room at the table.



Many thanks to everyone who contributed Christmas decorations for our Food Pantry clients. Making the decision of which treasure to choose was an additional bit of levity at the pantry. Thank you also to everyone that contributed gift cards for our teen clients. Galilee members have proven again their great generosity.

- Sharon Vitek

## ~ Prayer Ministries ~

Jesus is sometimes referred to as the Good Shepherd. In John 10: 1-18 Jesus described Himself as the Good Shepherd. David prayed in Psalm 23:1 "The Lord is my Shepherd." In the Gathering Place there is a picture of Jesus holding a lamb in His arm. Maybe it was lost and Jesus found it, or when a calf, a colt, or a lamb is born, its legs are shaky and takes a while for the animal to gain strength and stay upright. Possibly the painting shows Jesus cradling a newborn who hasn't gotten its strength yet to follow the cluster of sheep.

There are other sheep behind Jesus; if they stay in a cluster they are easily led. A large flock is usually taken care of by one shepherd. However sheep don't always stay together they like to explore, wander away and then problems occur. There are holes or crevices to get trapped in, thorn bushes or brambles that catch and entangle them. By nature sheep are helpless creatures and need the protection of a shepherd from dangers and wild beasts. In the Bible there are many comparisons between the ways of sheep and humans.

Jesus, in one of His parables, described a shepherd who left the 99 to go and find the one lamb that had wandered off. I picture a different image of that little lamb. A lamb could be scratched or caught up in the brambles (problems of the world). The many issues in this world affect us; we need His healing touch when we stumble and fall. His guidance and compassion help us to gain strength from the Word. We start to grow stronger in our faith, like a new lamb finding strength in its legs. Life treats us like that sometimes. We get caught in the brambles and stumble, we see the face of poverty or have to deal with difficult circumstances and it changes us. We struggle like a baby lamb trying to understand what is happening around us, while we try to gain strength and stand upright.

God also speaks of Himself as a shepherd, a unique relationship because the shepherd knows his sheep by name and they know his voice. The Lord knows what you need, turn to Him in prayer and read the Bible, let His Word guide you. Forgive others but also accept forgiveness yourself. At this time of year, with Jesus' birth, we can understand being alone and helpless. When Herod wanted the baby Jesus killed, God stepped in and had them travel to Egypt for protection. As you read the Bible, know that God is in the Word, find out the ways that God blesses us, if you feel prompted toward prayer, lift up your concerns to the One who knows you.

Our Good Shepherd calls us to live a life of faith. Bring your prayers to Him with thanksgiving and look at Psalm 23, read the words slowly, let them settle and take the time to reflect on them; they speak of God's love and care for us, just like the baby lamb is cared for, we will gain strength in His guidance and care.

Blessings,

*Gloriann Gagliano*

*Healing Prayer Ministry*

**Galilee's Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**Sunday, January 24 @ 11:45am**

## 2016 Spring Adult Mission Trip

Four churches in the Waukesha/Lake Country clusters are very happy to announce an adult mission trip to Harlan, Kentucky in April of 2016, sponsored by St. Luke's Waukesha, Dr. Martin Luther Oconomowoc, Church of the Resurrection Pewaukee and Atonement Muskego. The date of the trip is April 17 (Sunday morning) to April 23 (Saturday evening).



We will be working with the Mennonite Central Committee at a SWAP (Sharing with Appalachian People) site in southeastern Kentucky. For more information, check out their website at <http://mcc.org/get-involved/serve/volunteer/swap>. We have room for 50 - 55 adults on this trip. Please take a look at your calendar, check your availability and give serious consideration to helping our less fortunate brothers and sisters in Kentucky. We expect this trip to fill quickly, so registration will be first come, first served.

**Who:** Any adult, 18 years and older

**What:** Appalachian Adult Mission Project

**When:** Sunday, April 17 - Saturday, April 23

**Where:** Harlan, Kentucky

**How:** Traveling in 15 passenger vans for a short! 10 hour trip to Appalachia

**Cost:** \$450.00 per person (financial assistance available)

**Why:** The opportunity to be God's hands and feet to those living in one of the poorest regions of the country; the opportunity to be in fellowship with some incredible people from Southeastern Wisconsin; the opportunity to travel to a region with a culture very different from our own; the opportunity to have a lot of fun!

The kickoff meeting will be **Wednesday January 6, 2016 at 6:30 PM in Cloninger Hall at St. Luke's in Waukesha** to give you the details of the trip.

Contact Galilee's office for a 2016 Appalachian Mission Trip Volunteer Information Form. At the kickoff meeting we would like to have a \$50 deposit (check made out to Atonement Lutheran Church) and your Volunteer Information Form.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact any of the four members of the organizing team listed below.

*Peace,*

*Dave Dringenburg, Atonement Lutheran Church in Muskego, 414-422-0400*

*Don French, St Luke's Lutheran Church in Waukesha, 262-542-2545*

*Rev. Larry Harpster, Dr. Martin Luther Lutheran Church in Oconomowoc, 262-567-2839*

*Rev. Liz Rossing, Church of the Resurrection in Pewaukee, 262-691-7700*

**January Health & Wellness: Improving your medical experiences  
Jan. 7th at 10am in Fellowship Hall**

health & wellness

There will be a half-hour video followed by a discussion about how we can help improve our communication and encounters with healthcare providers.

## Mission of Healing

Members of Galilee will again be participating in the Mission of Healing (February, 2016) in which various health and spiritual care is provided members of the Salvadoran Lutheran Church congregations. Congregation members of Los Martires attend these clinics and look forward to the help provided them.

A large component of the MOH involves distribution of toothbrushes. As in the past we will have a suitcase in the Narthex and ask that you contribute a toothbrush, or two or three to help in this ministry. Thousands and thousands of toothbrushes are distributed to all as a contribution of Greater Milwaukee Synod congregations becoming involved.

This is a wonderful way for Galilee members to be part of this terrific global outreach ministry. Thank you for your consideration.

- Barb Barthel

## Thank You

Dear Pastor Ford and Galilee Members,

Thank you for your donation of bath and body products, along with makeup and hygiene products.

Donors like you are a cornerstone of The Women's Center's success in providing safety, shelter, and support to women and their families affected by domestic violence, sexual assault and abuse.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, volunteers, and staff, and most especially on behalf of our clients, thank you.

Gratefully yours,

Angela Mancuso, Executive Director  
The Women's Center, Waukesha



## Those Who Serve

### Ministry Staff

Pastor ~ Rev. Jay A. Ford  
Financial Assistant ~ Karen Streit  
Administrative Assistant ~ Jane Kaufman  
Music Director ~ Paul Thorgaard  
Accompanists ~ Mary Kay Debrecht and  
Vince LaTona

### Leadership Board Members ~ 2016

President ~ John Ruf  
Vice President ~ Theresa Opie  
Secretary ~ Naomi Ackley  
Members-at-large ~ Doug Dehler &  
Janet Praeger  
Treasurer ~ Chris Rudolph

### Ministry Coordinators

#### Welcoming

Hospitality ~ Lynne Diefenbach  
Mentoring ~ Mary Dehler  
Connecting ~ Open

#### Equipping

Worship ~ Sally Ruf  
Christian Education & Youth ~ Alyssa Olson,  
Administration ~ Bill Rudolph, Ken Klitzke, &  
Kathy Taylor

Stewardship ~ Susan Keller & Barb Barthel

#### Sending

Partnerships & Global-Gifting ~ Barb Barthel,  
Carole Brinkman, & Jeff Dohlby  
Compassion Care ~ Sarah Spencer

### Ministry Staff Schedules

#### Pastor Jay

Day off is Monday

#### Church Office

8:30 am-4:30 pm Monday—Thursday

Office Closed on Friday

Joshua Acord  
Mike Anderson  
Jeremy Fossier  
Tim Gilestad  
Bill Groth  
Morgan Mosher  
Andrew Richardson  
Seth Peikert



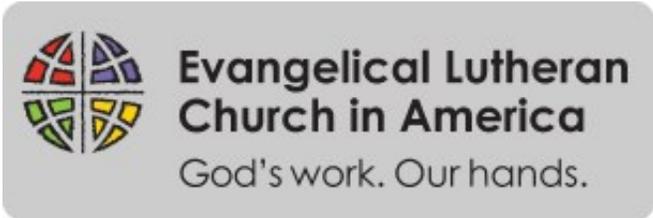


**Galilee  
Lutheran  
Church**  
ELCA

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**Winter Worship Schedule**

Saturday at 5:00 pm  
Sunday at 8:00 & 10:30 am  
Christian Ed at 9:15 am

***Holy Communion is served at all services***

***The Readings***

**January 3**

Jeremiah 31:7-14  
Psalm 147:12-20  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

**January 10**

Isaiah 43:1-7  
Psalm 29  
Acts 8:14-17  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

**January 17**

Isaiah 62:1-5  
Psalm 36:5-10  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
John 2:1-11

**January 24**

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10  
Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a  
Luke 4:14-21

**January 31**

Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Psalm 71:1-6  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
Luke 4:21-30