

Grace and peace to you from God our Father, and Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

This February we continue through the season of Epiphany where we as faithful Christians bear witness to the revelation of Jesus Christ as our Savior and Messiah. This is done through our prayers, devotional reading of scripture, and the singing of hymns – in our homes, but also in the sanctuaries of our congregations each week. But we are also called to show this confession of faith where Christ is our king in our own personal lives, and sharing with others too.

Wherever we are and no matter what we are doing, we are called to put Christ first in our lives. However, this is often difficult to do because we have so much else going on and we push our faith to the side. Some of us may even go so far and not even believing the stories that we hear each week through the readings, sermons, or what is told to us on the radio. I am aware of plenty of our faithful Neighbors in Christ congregants that cannot make it to worship, so they listen to radio programs to get their faith cups filled.

Daily, I have to remind myself of having a Christ centric life...Jesus is still above my vocation as husband, father, and friend to others. I am a pastor and have been called through the Holy Spirit to lead our parish into the future. So I want to remind you of the signs and miracles that we have been hearing this Epiphany that help us remember that Jesus is in our lives too. The Son of God is in our lives. He is the Word made Flesh. Jesus comes to us every day, no matter where we are.

In the Gospel of Luke, we read that the Triune God is in the same place at the same time: The heavens are opened, the Holy Spirit descends in the form of a dove, and Jesus prays after he has been baptized. Then a great voice from God resounds and humanity is told that Jesus is God's Son and we are to listen to Him. Imagine being there and witnessing this occurrence. How would you feel? But more importantly, how would you react? How would this scene juggle your faith? And in the same way, we also have heard that Jesus, his mother, and some of his disciples attended a wedding at Cana. The wine gives out because there is not enough to go around; so Jesus tells the servants to fill the vessels to the brim, and then begin to distribute it to the guests. Water turns to wine and all who witness this are amazed. But more importantly, Jesus reveals His glory and the disciples believed in Him. They believed...how powerful a statement.

So this month, I ask you to consider how and where Jesus Christ is revealed in your life? And how does this work...or not...in your faith. Are these stories just stories to hear and listen to, or are they signs and miracles to help grow what is already there inside of you?

Bless you all, my friends and family, and I'll see you during worship.

In His sake,

Rev. Erik Karlson  
Pastor, Neighbors in Christ Parish

February 2019