

How was God's love evident in Ruth's life?

- *"We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).*

What is a recent example of God's love in your life?

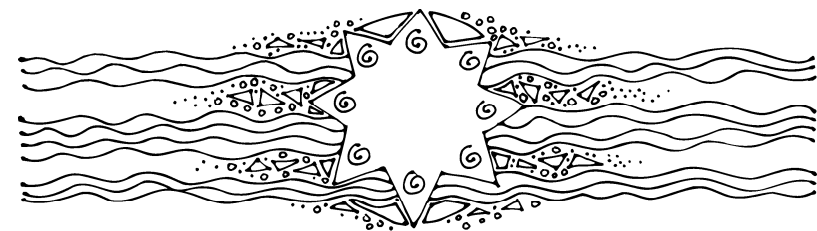
2. It reminds you of _____!

What is God's purpose throughout history?

- *God "wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4).*

List some examples that show God's desire that all be saved.

Knowing that God's purpose is to save you, what will that lead you to do?



The Epiphany Of Our Lord

JANUARY 11, 2008



TREE OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**“FAMILY MATTERS! IT MATTERS
WHO’S YOUR GRANDPA & GRANDMA!”**

Good morning!

On this day when we remember the Epiphany of the Lord, his revealing himself to the world, we get the chance to marvel at God's working to include all nations in his plan of salvation - even allowing one to be part of our spiritual genealogy.

God bless our worship of him today!

Opening Song..... “As With Gladness Men Of Old”
Christian Worship Hymn 83

As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold, As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright, So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore your foll'wers be.	Holy Jesus, ev'ry day Keep us in the narrow way; And, when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds your glory hide.
As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to your lowly bed, There to bend the knee before You whom heav'n and earth adore, So may we with willing feet Ever seek your mercy seat.	In the heav'nly country bright Need they no created light; You its light, its joy, its crown, You its sun which goes not down. There forever may we sing Alleluias to our King!
As they offered gifts most rare At your cradle, rude and bare, So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy, All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you, our heav'nly King.	

**MESSAGE NOTES
JANUARY 11, 2009**

**“FAMILY MATTERS: IT MATTERS
WHO’S YOUR GRANDPA & GRANDMA!”**

When tragedy strikes, how do you respond? If you were in this farmer’s position what would you do?

READ: Ruth 4:13-17

¹³ So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. Then he went to her, and the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. ¹⁴ The women said to Naomi: “Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! ¹⁵ He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth.”

¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child, laid him in her lap and cared for him. ¹⁷ The women living there said, “Naomi has a son.” And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

1. It reminds you of _____!

What do we celebrate during Epiphany?

What questions do tragedies lead us to ask?

Why are these questions unfounded?

Welcome to Tree of Life!

The members of Tree of Life extend to you a hearty welcome! We are a congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS: www.wels.net).

As congregation of this synod we are striving to be a family where God is glorified and his saving message is shared with all people.

We don't claim to be the only saving church, but we do strive to preserve and pass on the truth as it's found in the Bible. We at Tree of Life believe and teach that...

1. The Bible is the inspired Word of God, with no mistakes and no errors, his unchanging message to all people of all times: **"Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:21)**
2. God created people holy and without sin, but by their own choice they disobeyed God and brought sin upon the whole human race: **"Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned." (Romans 5:12)**
3. The final result of sin is not only the end of our earthly life, but eternal death and separation from God in the agony of hell: **"The wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23)**
4. The main and central message of the Bible is the gospel - the good news that: **"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish, but has eternal life." (John 3:16)**
5. Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life in the place of every human being, and Jesus suffered the punishment of hell for the whole human race when he died on the cross: **"The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)**
6. God the Holy Spirit creates and strengthens saving faith in Jesus Christ through the message about him in the Bible, in Baptism, and in the Lord's Supper: **"Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the words of Christ." (Romans 10:17)**
7. Christians do good works, not in order to earn a place in heaven, but out of love and thanks to God who has already given them eternal life as a free gift through Jesus: **"I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free." (Psalm 119:32)**
8. Christians will want to gather together regularly around the Word of God for the strengthening of their own trust in Jesus and for encouraging each other in the faith: **"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the (final) Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)**
9. Christians want to carry out the Lord's great commission to spread the good news about Jesus to others: **"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." (Mark 16:15)**
10. When the Lord returns in judgment on the last day, he will raise all the dead and give the full glory of everlasting life in heaven to all who trusted in him as Savior: **"When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." (Colossians 3:4)**

We invite you to worship with us again and we sincerely hope that you will accept this invitation. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Service of the Word *Christian Worship page 38*

STAND

M: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Song of Praise "Songs Of Thankfulness And Praise"
Verses 1 & 5 *Christian Worship Hymn 82*

Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to you we raise,
Manifested by the star To the Magi from afar,
Branch of royal David's stem, In your birth at Bethlehem.
Anthems be to you addressed, God in man made manifest.

Grant us grace to see you, Lord, Mirrored in your holy Word.
May our lives and all we do Imitate and honor you
That we all like you may be At your great epiphany
And may praise you, ever blest, God in man made manifest.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Lord God, by the leading of a star you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith, to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(sung)* **AMEN.**

BE SEATED

**FIRST LESSON
EPHESIANS 3:2-12**

“The Gospel is for all! Be God's servant to share it!”

2Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, 3that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. 4In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. 6This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

7I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. 8Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. 10His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, 11according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. 12In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

Christian Worship page 44

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: *(sung)* **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

Closing Hymn “O Jesus, King Of Glory”
Verses 1, 3 & 5 *Christian Worship Hymn 94*

O Jesus, King of glory, Both David's Lord and son!
Your rule endures forever; In heaven is your throne.
Help that in earth's dominions, From pole to farthest pole,
Your reign may spread salvation To each benighted soul.

You are a mighty monarch, As by your Word is told,
And yet you care but little For earthly goods or gold.
You do not come displaying Your power and renown.
You dwell in no high castle; You wear no jeweled crown.

Then let your Word within me Shine as the fairest star;
Keep sin and all false doctrine Forever from me far.
Help me confess you truly And with all Christendom
Here hail you King and Savior And in the world to come.

STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH EPIPHANY SEASON- RESPONSIVE
Christian Worship page 124

M: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death.

C: You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.

M: Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

C: You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.

M: Prince of peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

C: Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.

M: Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn:

C: Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

C: Amen.

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PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 72 *Christian Worship page 93*

Refrain: *Let the people praise you, O God. Let all the people praise you.*

Endow the King with your justice, O God,
the royal Son with your righteousness.*

All kings will bow down to him,
and all nations will serve him.*

He will defend the afflicted among the people
and save the children of the needy.*

All nations will be blessed through him,
and they will call him blessed.*

He will endure as long as the sun,
as long as the moon, through all generations.*

*Praise be to the Lord God, who alone does
marvelous deeds.*
May the whole earth be filled with his glory.*

He will be like rain falling on a mown field,
like showers watering the earth.*

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen**

Refrain

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

MATTHEW 2:1-12

"Let the glory of God's gift to you reflect in your life of service to him and others."

1After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

3When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. 5"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

6" 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'"

7Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

Continued on next page

9After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. 12And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Hymn “How Lovely Shines The Morning Star”
Congregation: Verses 1,2, & 5; Choir: Verses 3 & 4 Christian Worship Hymn 79

Verse 1: Congregation

How lovely shines the Morning Star!
The nations see and hail afar
The light in Judah shining.
O David's Son of Jacob's race,
My Bridegroom and my King of grace,
For you my heart is pining.
Lowly, Holy, Great and glorious,
O victorious Prince of graces,
Filling all the heav'nly places.

Verse 2: Congregation

O highest joy by mortals won,
True Son of God and Mary's Son,
The highborn King of ages!
In your blest body let me be,
E'en as the branch is in the tree,
Your life my life supplying.
Sighing, Crying For the savor
Of your favor Resting never
Till I rest in you forever.

Verse 3: Choir

*Choir: O mighty Father, in your Son
You loved me ere you had begun
This ancient world's foundation.
Your Son has made a friend of me,
And when in spirit him I see,
I joy in tribulation.
What bliss Is this! He is living,
To me giving, Life forever;
Nothing me from him can sever.*

Verse 4: Choir

*Oh, joy to know that you, my Friend,
Are Lord, beginning without end,
The first and last, eternal!
And you at length -- O glorious grace --
Will take me to that holy place,
The home of joys supernal.
Amen, Amen! Come and meet me,
Quickly greet me! With deep yearning,
Lord, I look for your returning.*

Verse 5: Congregation

Lift up the voice and strike the string, Let all glad sounds of music ring
In God's high praises blended.
Christ will be with me all the way, Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day
Till trav'ling days are ended.
Sing out, Ring out Triumph glorious, O victorious Chosen nation;
Praise the God of your salvation.

**“FAMILY MATTERS! IT MATTERS
WHO'S YOUR GRANDPA & GRANDMA!”**

*Ruth 4:13-17
Vicar Steve Neuman*

STAND

Statement of Belief Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

BE SEATED

Friendship Registers

Offering