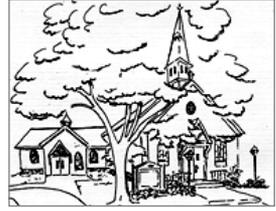


January 2018

Cooksville
Lutheran
Church
News

*A Caring Community Empowered
by God to be Disciples of Christ*



Happy New Year! From Pastor Karla

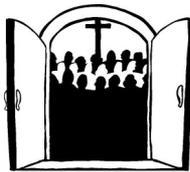
Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy New Year! Two thousand eighteen is upon us! It's an old cliché, but "the older I get, the faster time flies!" It's hard to believe that my two-year term call is fulfilled on February 4th. I am grateful for all the members and friends of Cooksville Lutheran Church for making this an amazing three years among you as your pastor. I treasure the times I have visited you at home and in the hospital. I thank God for the privilege to pray with you and share Holy Communion with you. It is a blessing to walk alongside you during

(Continued on page 2)

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**Congregational
MEETING**

There will be a special congregational meeting at 11:15 am, after church, on Sunday, January *14, 2018, to decide whether to extend a call to Rev. Karla Brekke.

As always, this is an important decision, so please give it prayerful consideration. ~Betty Hamilton, Council President *(*snow date Jan 21*)

This is a voting meeting. Members must be present to vote; no absentee or proxy voting is permitted. Please call Betty at 882-5757 if you have any questions.



(Continued from page 1)

difficult times, as well as during the precious ordinary moments of life. I enjoy visiting with you during coffee hour, meetings, and when you drop into my office just to chat.

It is often the case in smaller congregations with many aging members to wonder whether its possible to survive. We cannot know for certain what the future holds. This is a good thing, because it gives us an opportunity to walk in faith while leaning on God. Plus, I see several hopeful signs lately. First, the Harvest Dinner revealed a lot of enthusiasm and cooperation with members and community folks working together and really enjoying themselves while doing so. The recent meeting with the CONNECT team, council members, and other leaders, resulted in many thoughtful insights about future possibilities. A joint meeting with Staff and the Worship Committee began with a brain-storming session with solid ideas for 2018.

As I have prayed seeking God's will for the future, I am reminded of all the things I mentioned above, and my heart wants to be a part of the renewal of faith that I see the Holy Spirit fostering here. As I have said before, Kevin and I will receive the vote in January as God's will for our lives, as well as for Cooksville Lutheran. I encourage you to continue your prayers for discernment and (if you are a voting member) to vote on January 14th. Please talk to me personally if you have questions about what I envision for the future.

God's peace be with you all,

Pastor Karla



CONNECT team will sponsor the Fellowship Hour on Sunday, January 21 following worship. We invite everyone to join us as the team members share their favorite biblical stories or messages. As a group, CONNECT has been thinking about which of these best capture the essence of CLC.

The goal of this activity is to identify a biblical story that is close to our own— a message that is partly a recollection of our history, partly the vision of our future, and all the while considering our mission today.

We need your input—please bring your favorite story, verse or message to share as we enjoy this time together!! See you there!

Dear Partners in Ministry in the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin,



I am writing to inform you that I will be ending my service as the bishop of our synod next June, a year earlier than my full term.

As most of you know, on May 12, 2017, I suffered a heart attack. I was treated quickly with a coronary stent, and have received good medical care, effective medication and successfully completed cardiac rehab. What most of you do not know is at the same time I was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. The type of cancer I have is not aggressive, is contained, and easily treatable by removing the thyroid. The problem is that since I am on blood thinners for the coronary stent, I am unable to have my thyroid removed at this time. My doctors are monitoring the situation and everything is stable. They are not concerned. This really is not a big deal compared to what so many live with. I am doing well and feeling more fit and healthy than I have in years.

Nonetheless, these health scares have caused John and me to think about what is of ultimate importance in our lives and make decisions about how best to live fully and faithfully into the future. We have decided that it is time for us to move closer to home and family – including my parents and our grandchildren. To that end, we will be seeking our next calls in the Twin Cities.

This means our synod will be electing a new bishop at our next synod assembly, May 5-6, 2018. The synod council will be reviewing the Bishop's election process and assembling election and transition teams. More information will be shared with you as details are worked out.

This also means it is time for each of you to begin to identify potential candidates for the Office of Bishop. Talk with each other, ask questions, seek out gifted pastors, and pray. I will always be available to answer questions about the role and responsibilities of a bishop, but I cannot and will not bring opinions about who should serve in that role.

Serving as your bishop has been one of the greatest honors and privileges of my ministry and I thank you for your call and trust. I have been blessed to share times of celebration and struggle with so many of you. I will miss gathering with you at synod events and in your congregations on Sunday mornings. You have touched my heart, fed my spirit, and given me hope as you live out your faith in Jesus. John joins me in expressing deep gratitude for your welcome, friendship, support and partnership in this good gospel work.

God's peace as we continue walking together in faith,

Bishop Mary Froiland

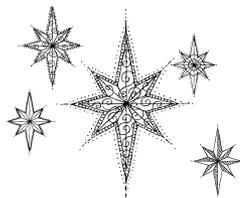


Worship Matters

Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. -Psalm 100:2

The Epiphany of Our Lord

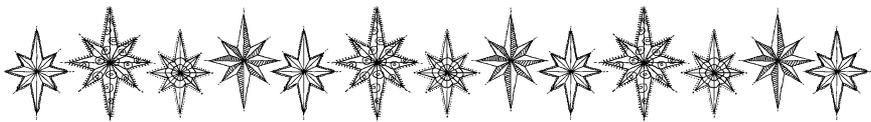
January 6, 2018



Epiphany is **observed annually on January 6.**

It is an important word for liturgical churches. The word epiphany comes from the Greek word “epiphaneia,” which means “appearance or manifestation.” It refers to the wise men, who were the first Gentiles to see the manifestation of God’s appearance in the baby Jesus. The day is filled with surprises, mysterious visitors, and exotic gifts. God's story leads us through unexpected twists and turns, and the mission of God's people introduces us to faith partners we have never expected.

In the early church, January 6 was a day for baptism. The central significance of Epiphany is that Christ came as the Light of the World, not just for the Jews but for Gentiles as well. Christ’s light is for all.



The Baptism of Our Lord

January 7, 2018

Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan river.



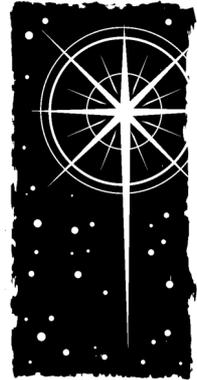
When all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from

heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." (Luke 3:21-23)

Baptism is the beginning of a new story. It was for Jesus; it is for us. God claims us as sons and daughters, fills us with the Holy Spirit, and promises to travel the path with us -- a path that will lead us home.

The Season After The Epiphany

January 7 - Feb 14



The Epiphany of Our Lord brings the twelve days of Christmas to an end and begins a season that will focus on God's revelation in Jesus.

The Epiphany season is the time when Christ's lordship over all creation is revealed, made manifest, unveiled. What was once known only to the Holy Family and shepherds at Christmas, now is made known to a greater audience.

Jesus is "revealed" as "Son of God" to the Magi, court astrologers from distant lands who come to worship and give this King their tribute. Jesus' epiphany as Son of God reaches to the ends of the earth.

Jesus is "revealed" as Son of God to John the Baptist and his disciples at the river Jordan.

Jesus is "revealed" as Son of God to a growing base of support among the populace of Galilee, and particularly a group of followers, some fishermen, even a tax collector.

Jesus' epiphany as Son of God reaches even across time, as the Church, gathered each Lord's Day around Word and Sacrament, is embraced by the call to "come and see, come and follow, go and tell others." The Epiphany season lasts as long as it takes to move us from January 6 to Ash Wednesday, which is February 14 this year.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS 2017

A special thank you to all who purchased poinsettias in honor or in memory of loved ones.

Rosa Hanson	In memory of my Family
Arthur & Doris Olsen	In memory of Trygve & Eunice Olsen In memory of Lloyd & Corinne Apfel
Paul & Donna Haakenson	In memory of Miles Haakenson
Connie Gregerson	In memory of Jacqueline Stark
Rhonda & Mark Wethal	In memory of JoAnne Farnsworth & Orlin Wethal In memory of Merle & Dora Johnson
Martha & Jim Johnson	In memory of Robert & Frances Saunders
Pastor Karla & Kevin Brekke	In memory of our parents & grandparents.
Evelyn Beyer	In honor of my family
Pat & Steve Foltz	In memory of our parents
Sue Wollin	In memory of my parents & siblings In honor of my family
Anne Brunsell & Don Little	In memory & honor of our loved ones
Randy & Linda Sime	In honor of our family



"Only the ladies of Cooksville Lutheran Church could make cookies this good!

Thank you, Bill and Joyce Leopold"



"Thank you for the lovely box of cookies. They were so good. You sure made my day. It is so nice to be remembered on these special holidays. Lots of thoughts and memories. I think of all you folks and all the hard work doing all this baking which keeps us happy. Thanks from the bottom of my heart. God Bless you all.

Love and Prayers, Ruth Erickson"

**Adult Bible Study
Sundays at 8:45 am**



Our Bible Study!

**Our
Teachers
Are
Great!**



**A heartfelt
thanks to our
wonderful
Sunday School
teachers for the**

first part of the school year:
Rhonda Wethal, Sue Parsons,
Sherri Haakenson, Linda Sime,
Curtis Brandt, Connie Gregerson,
and Jennifer Nelson!

**Sunday School
Lesson Schedule**

Sun. Jan 7

Rhonda Wethal
"Jesus' Baptism"

Sun. Jan 14

Sue Parsons
"God Calls Samuel"

Sun. Jan 21

Jennifer Nelson
"Jonah and the Big
Fish"

Sun. Jan 28

Linda Sime
"Teaching and Healing"



January Birthdays

He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will. - Ephesians 1:5

6 Dennis Haakenson
7 Marci Rogers
9 Jeremy Tomlin
13 Tom Severson
15 Andrew Bednarek

16 Steve Ehle
19 Kelsey Dunn
22 Abbey Wethal
Norma Schwarting
23 Joel Gunn, Jr.
24 Kevin Brekke

Special Dates in January

- Epiphany, *January 6*
- Baptism of the Lord, *January 7*
- Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance, *January 15*
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, *January 18-25*

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

—Martin Luther King Jr.



Synod Assembly 2018

Pastor and 2 Lay
Delegates

Sat. 5/5 and Sun 5/6

At the Marriott West,
Madison/Middleton



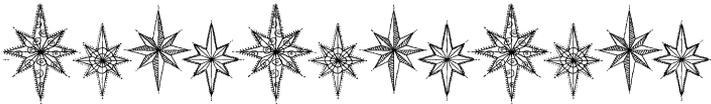
Cooksville Lutheran Church will participate once again in the Third Annual **Steeple to Steeple Synod Bike Ride Fundraiser for Hunger** as a Pit Stop along the way.

Save the Date—June 9, 2018!!

The Season of Lent at Cooksville



February 14	Ash Wed.	7:00 p.m.	
February 21	Worship	7:00 p.m.	Supper at 6:00
February 28	Worship	7:00 p.m.	Supper at 6:00
March 7	Worship	7:00 p.m.	Supper at 6:00
March 14	Worship	7:00 p.m.	Supper at 6:00
March 21	Worship	7:00 p.m.	Supper at 6:00
March 25	Palm Sunday	10:00 a.m.	
March 28	Worship	7:00 p.m.	Supper at 6:00
March 29	Maundy Thu.	7:00 p.m.	
March 30	Good Friday	7:00 p.m.	
<hr/>			
April 1	Breakfast	8-9:30 a.m.	
	Easter Vigil	9:30-9:42 a.m.	
	Worship	10:00 a.m.	



Wednesdays in Lent—Join us for a light supper at 6:00 p.m. before our worship at 7:00 p.m. Our evening worship will be based on Holden Evening Prayer and messages from people in our congregation.

Would your family or group like to sign up for a night to make and serve the Wednesday Lenten Supper? There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex. Please put your name and what you will be serving.



Time for Prayer

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. - Acts 2:42

Wednesday 10:00 am in the Sanctuary

We need to be people of prayer. Why? Because there are so many needs, and so many people have asked us for our prayers. The prayer list in our bulletin represents so many heart-touching stories and needs. Jesus said, *"My house shall be called a house of prayer."* - *Matthew 21:13*



This is an opportunity to do what Jesus asks us to do; to do what we know will make a huge difference in our world. If you cannot come to church to pray with your sisters and brothers in Christ, maybe you could pause about noon on Wednesday, wherever you are, and pray for a few minutes, knowing that you are joining your prayers with ours.



There are prayer request cards in the pew racks

- (1) One card is for writing down the first name of someone you would like prayer for during the prayers of intercession later in that worship service. These cards will be collected during the welcome at the beginning of worship.
- (2) The gold card is for submitting more detailed requests. On this card you may indicate if you would like the request to be included in next week's prayers, in the bulletin for two weeks, in the next newsletter, or in Wednesdays prayer group. Place this card in the offering plate.



Members and Friends in Prayer



Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Katherine Snell, Sue Parsons, Tara Krake-Davis, Gordy Starks, Nancy Krake, Kaj Anderson, Harlow Phillips, Louise Kluge, Evelyn Beyer, Marilyn Kueng, Judy Loy, Tori, Dale Westaby, Joe Henn, Dave Messling, Marion Kjernes, Jan Kettle, Anne Kurey, Michael LaMantia, John Garvan, Kari David, Rev. John Shep, and Vicky Hubbell.

CLC Special Friends: Anna Hanson, Charles Hoff, Don Farberg, Dorothy Froemming, Larry Smith, Rhea Wethal, Ruth Erickson, Virginia Sime, David Nelson.

Military: Andrew Newcomb, Ben Berge.

Although early Christians had much in common, they also dwelt in diversity. Each of their leaders emphasized certain parts of the gospel and favored certain worship styles. They all believed in the resurrected Jesus, and they all celebrated the Lord's Supper and baptism. But Christians in Corinth had a unique approach, as did those in Ephesus, Philippi, Galatia, Rome and so on.

It might be boring if we all believed and practiced completely alike. Variations don't need to be an impediment to Christian unity.

As pastor Charles Best said, "If we're going to be in heaven together, we might as well get along now."



The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 4, 2018 following worship (around 11:15).

A potluck meal will be served – please bring a dish to pass!

Deadline for submissions to the annual report is Sunday, January 21th. This includes any resolutions or action items to be considered. Please send submissions to Kelsey via email or leave a hard copy on her desk.

You may pick up a copy of the Annual Report on Sunday, January 28, following worship. Please remember your congregation, its leaders and members in prayer as we reflect on this past year of ministry and plan for God's mission through Cooksville Lutheran Church in 2018.

New Address for the New Year?

If you have any changes to your address, email, or phone contact numbers for the new year, or at ANY time, please let the office know!

Thank you!



The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes. Unless a particular man made New Year resolutions, he would make no resolutions. Unless a man starts afresh about things, he will certainly do nothing effective.

—G.K. Chesterton

During storms, emperor penguins huddle for warmth, taking turns at the center and on the perimeter of the group. While incubating eggs, up to 6,000 male penguins have been observed clustering for shelter against the harsh Antarctic winter. Partially grown chicks gather in protective “crèches” (French for “cribs”); often surrounded by a colony of adults, these groupings ward off predators and cold.

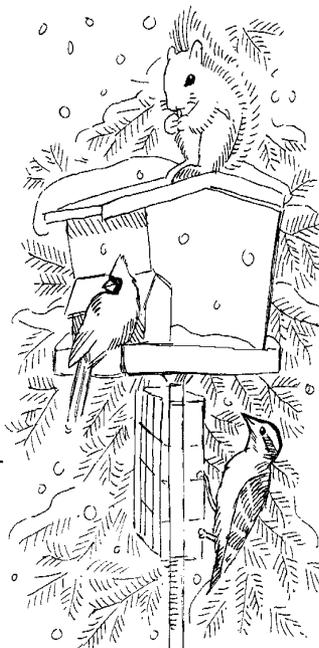
In stormy times, humans also need supportive groups; we can't survive alone. **A church family allows us to take turns giving and receiving care.** Amid social upheaval, injustice, illness, natural disaster and any loss or crisis, **God invites us to gather for protection and warmth.** In the church community, we support and strengthen one another and are empowered to go out again into the less-sheltered world.



Food & Fellowship

We always have such a good time visiting and encouraging one another following worship. These cold winter mornings especially give us a good reason to enjoy something warm to drink and a good conversation with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

The Sign-up Sheet is in the Fellowship Hall





Generous Hearts

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. -1 Peter 4:10

Gifts in Kind for CLC

The following items can be put to use immediately for ministry! Please remember the church the next time you go shopping.

- ◇ First-class stamps – (current usage exceeds 100/month)
- ◇ Hand soap refills
- ◇ Toilet paper
- ◇ Legal-sized copier paper

Cooksville Lutheran Church relies on volunteers to accomplish the many tasks of ministry. This month a special thank you goes out to:



- ❄️ **Pat Foltz**, for coordinating donations of poinsettias for Christmas Eve worship.
- ❄️ **Nancy Krake**, for coordinating volunteers to assist with worship leadership, including extra volunteers for special services.
- ❄️ **The Altar Guild** for taking care of the altar and communion.
- ❄️ **To all who purchased Poinsettias**, the church was a sight to behold.
- ❄️ **The musicians and singers** who enrich our worship services.
- ❄️ **The Ushers** who welcome members and guests alike and make everyone feel at home.
- ❄️ **To Jeanne Julseth** for coordinating the Christmas Pageant!
- ❄️ **To All the volunteers** who behind the scene, continue to give freely their skills and time take help keep Cooksville Lutheran a thriving community!

Three questions

There's a tale of a traveling priest who was confronted by a soldier in pre-revolutionary Russia. Rifle in hand, the soldier barked, **"Who are you? Where are you going? Why are you going there?"**



Instead of answering, the priest asked how much the soldier was paid – and offered double if the soldier would challenge him with those three questions each day as he passed by.

Those three important questions can guide us on our journey through the brand-new year ahead. For Christians, thankfully, the answers are clear:

- Who are you? **"I'm a child of God!"**
- Where are you going? **"I'm going out into the world!"**
- Why are you going there? **"I'm going out of love for Jesus, who died for me!"**

For the new year, place these questions and answers in a spot where you can see them each day. Then go forward confidently, knowing "whose" you are and what your purpose is!

A child sat at his grandmother's feet as she embroidered. Looking up, he saw a mishmash of threads and ugly knots but no discernible picture or words. "Nana," he said with concern, "that's not very pretty."

"Come up here," Grandma invited, "and look at it from this side. You have to see it from my perspective."

"Oh!" the boy exclaimed then. "It's beautiful!"

Seeing the world from our human, earthly viewpoint, we can't grasp the masterpiece that God is completing. But when we finally see it from his perspective, we'll discover that the threads and knots all contribute to a beautiful work of art. That work won't be finished until Jesus returns, but in the meantime, may God grant us an occasional glimpse of the work in progress — from God's side!



If you are interested in serving a 3-year term on Church Council, please talk to a member of the nominating committee. They are Rich Krake, Curtis Brandt, Joe Wilder, Connie Gregerson, Phil Hamilton, and Jeanne Julseth. Thank you!

Thank you to the **2017 Council Members** for their service! President: Betty Hamitlon, Vice President: Tom Severson, Secretary: Sue Parsons, Treasurer: Tom Parsons, and members Tom Hatlen, Herb Hanson, Laura Pehler, Bob Haakenson, Paul Hakenson and Randy Sime.



*If you are interested in having a **LARGE PRINT Edition of our quarterly devotion book, Christ In Our Home**, please tell Kelsey. If enough people are interested, we will order a few with our quarterly subscription!*

Free Blood Pressure Screenings

On the first Sunday of every month, a free blood pressure screening will be offered following worship in the Narthex. This service is offered free of charge for all who are interested.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE YOUR NAME HERE???

I would love to put *many* names in this place each year to thank our members for helping sponsor Harriet's Helpers Cleaning Service!! See me today to contribute! The cost to clean the church is \$120 per cleaning. Thank you!

~Kelsey





Opportunities Around the Community

Sometimes, maybe particularly around this time of year, we just can't be as generous to others as we wish we could. We would love to put more in the offering plate, buy more necessities for the food pantry, take a lonely neighbor for lunch. But we just can't.

We spent more than we expected on gifts or entertaining during the Christmas season, perhaps. Maybe we had a cold snap that stretched our heating budget to a thread! Gas and food prices have gone up. Maybe we even had an unexpected medical or dental bill. Sometimes the money simply isn't there to be as giving as we would love to be. But this is not a case for despair, this is an opportunity for giving even more!

Recall the words of the Offertory Song we sang on Christmas Eve:
"What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wiseman I would do my part; yet what I can, I give him —give my heart."

(In the Bleak Mindwinter, by Christina Georgina Rossetti)

Spending an afternoon with others to decorate the church or volunteering of your time to be a part of the worship service can make you feel wealthier than a billionaire! Collecting and delivering some gently used winter boots, hats, and sweaters to a local charity can warm your heart like a open fire! A batch of homemade soup and a visit at that lonely neighbor's kitchen table is sure to feel just as special, if not more so than any lunch at the restaurant.

A smile. A hug. A phone call. A note. A prayer. These cost nothing, yet they can mean so much! Give your heart, and you not only can't lose...you can't ever go broke!!

~Kelsey Dunn



Let's Keep in Touch!

Church office: 608-882-4408; 11927 W. Church St., Evansville, WI 53536

Pastor Karla Brekke: 608-751-0345 cooksvillemethodistpastor@gmail.com

Secretary, Kelsey Dunn: cooksvillemethodist@litewire.net

Worship Coordinator, Donna Haakenson: 608-882-4131

Choir Director, Jeanne Julseth: 608-882-0505



January Worship Leaders

Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.

-Psalm 100:2

	<i>Sunday Jan 7</i>	<i>Sunday Jan 14</i>	<i>Sunday Jan 21</i>	<i>Sunday Jan 28</i>
Assisting Minister	Anne Remley-Haines	Kevin Brekke	<i>Homestead</i>	Ilene Axford
Communion Assistant	Anne Remley-Haines	Kevin Brekke	Erik Haakenson	Ilene Axford
Ushers	Rosa Hanson	Rosa Hanson	Rosa Hanson	Rosa Hanson
Cantor	Anne Remley-Haines	Betty Hamilton	<i>Homestead</i>	Ilene Axford
Lector	Rhonda Wethal	Erin & Joe Wilder	<i>Homestead</i>	Connie Gregerson
Organist	Paul Haakenson	Naomi Shep	Jeanne Julseth	Naomi Shep
Altar Guild	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Sunday School Teacher	Rhonda Wethal	Sue Parsons	Jennifer Nelson	Linda Sime
Coffee Hour Host		Staff	CONNECT TEAM	

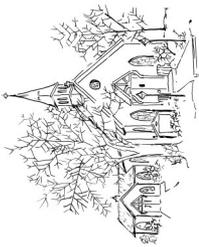
Thank you to the many volunteers who help with worship, hospitality, teaching, and paying for the cleaning of the church.

We appreciate all you do!

New volunteers are always welcome!

Cooksville Lutheran Calendar for January 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED.	THU.	FRI.	SAT.
	1 NEW YEARS DAY!	2	3 10 am Prayer Time 7 pm Choir	4	5	6 THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD
7 <u>1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS</u> 8:45 Adult Study 10:00 Worship & Sun. School 11:00 Fellowship	8 9 am Quilting 11 am Staff mtg	9 9 am Maintenance Group	10 10 am Prayer Time 7 pm Choir	11	12	13
14 <u>THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD</u> 8:45 Adult Study 10:00 Worship & Sun. School 11:00 Special Congregational Meeting followed by Fellowship	15 9 am Quilting 11 am Staff mtg	16 9 am Maintenance Group	17 10 am Prayer Time 7 pm Choir	18	19	20
21 <u>2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</u> 8:45 Adult Study 10:00 Worship & Sun. School 11:00 Fellowship	22 9 am Quilting 7 pm Council Meeting	23 9 am Maintenance Group	24 10 am Prayer Time 7 pm Choir	25	26 10 am Gathering	27
28 <u>3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</u> 8:45 Adult Study 10:00 Worship & Sun. School 11:00 Fellowship	29 9 am Quilting 11 am Staff mtg	30 9 am Maintenance Group	31 10 am Prayer Time 7 pm Choir	SAVE THE DATE:		FEBRUARY 4TH ANNUAL MTG & Potluck



Cooksville Lutheran Church
11927 W. Church Street
Evansville, WI 53536

Address Correction Requested