

Zia Gazette in brief



January 2018

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As I write Christmas is coming to a close and Epiphany is almost here. The season of Epiphany recognizes the events early in the life of Jesus that allow us to recognize his divine nature: the coming of the magi with gifts fit for a prophet, a priest, and a king; Jesus' first miracle at Cana; the heavenly voice at his baptism declaring him to be God's beloved son.

An epiphany is the "aha moment" in which God reveals Godself, usually with light and often with flame; Moses at the burning bush or coming down from the mountain with his face shining, the pillar of fire that guided the Israelites in the wilderness; Elijah at the altar; Jesus transfigured on the mountain and shining brightly; and so on.



Epiphany is the season of the return of light. The shortest day of the year has passed. Evenings are now getting longer as the sun sets later; mornings will start to get longer on January 6, the day of Epiphany, when the sun will start to rise earlier.

The prophets and John the Elder spoke of the holy city whose light is God, with no need for sun, moon, or stars. In the beginning God created light first and is the source of light. The sun, moon, and stars are part of God's creation, reflections of God's glory. John's gospel echoes the creation story with the addition that the Word (the Son) brings light to the world.

The first Christmas was a new beginning in which God came as the light of the world in the child of Bethlehem, bringing hope, love, joy, and peace, and calling us to light the way for others. Every sunrise brings the return of light, a new day full of promise and challenge. I generally wake before sunrise, and love to watch the light grow from the east as the magi came from the east. Light spreads across the sky and the light and warmth drive away the darkness and predawn chill.

Except today, of course... it was almost seven when I popped awake and remembered this was the morning I was cooking for the youth we're sheltering this week. (Breakfast was ready on time.) Again this year we are offering food and shelter to youth who lack these necessities. Thank you, Zia, for helping to bring light and warmth to people living in darkness. It's a blessing to know I can count on Zia's hospitality and generosity toward those in need as well as to one another and to Dick and me. Merry Christmas and a happy and blessed New Year.



Zia Staff

Rev. H. Blaine Wimberly - Pastor
Eileen Funck - Office Manager
Mary Hoggard - Sexton
Mary Ann Slattery - Accompanist

Blaine

Loving God, others, our community, and the world

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BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

January 3rd - Giordana DiRuggiero

January 3rd - Kelly Thrasher

January 4th - John DiRuggiero

January 5th - Eileen Watts

January 7th - Mike Bishop

January 11th - Ethan Medina

January 13th - Daniel Garza

January 17th - Tina Funck

January 30th - Jessica Funck



The Lunch Bunch met at Adelita's on Tuesday, December 19th. You are invited to the next luncheon on Tuesday, January 16th at The Ranch House at 11:30 am.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- ◆ **December 31st thru January 6th** - Zia Hosting Youth (18 to 24) overnight and providing breakfast and dinner
- ◆ **January 4th**- Active Shooter Training - 7 to 9 pm
- ◆ **January 7th**- Fellowship Potluck Luncheon - 12 noon
- ◆ **January 11th** - St. Elizabeth's Dinner to be taken by 5 pm (*Sign up in the book in the kitchen ~ or see JoAnn Bishop or Allison Lemons*)

- ◆ **January 16th** - Lunch Bunch - 11:30 am at The Ranch House
- ◆ **January 27th** - Leadership Meeting at St. John's UMC from 9 am to 12 noon

Regularly Scheduled:

- ◆ **Sundays:** 9:30 am Worship
11 am Sunday school for Adults, Youth, and Elementary children
- ◆ **Mondays:**

6 pm - English class - Education Bldg.

6:30 pm - Harmonizers

- ◆ **Tuesdays:**

6:30 pm - Alanon - Education Bldg.

- ◆ **Wednesdays:**

1 pm - Prayer Partners
7 to 9 pm Seventh Day Adventists

- ◆ **Thursdays:** 5:30 - Choir Practice
6 pm - English class

- ◆ **Saturdays:** All day - Seventh Day Adventists - Sanctuary and Education Bldg.