

“THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

★ MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ★

January 2019 / Issue 13

The Season of Epiphany



“For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” (Luke 2: 29– 32)

These words, from the Song of Simeon, speak of the season of Epiphany. A season in which we reflect the light of Christ for all the world. During this season, Scripture guides us into seeing Jesus born in Bethlehem, dedicated at the temple, and baptized in the River Jordan. But too often our focus is on Christ’s life as a first-century Jew. The boldness of the gospel message is that the light shining in Jesus has shone far beyond Israel. His light illuminates the entire world.

Through the Gospel readings of this season, we see how the light of Christ reached outsiders from the beginning and continued to grow. It lights the dark places throughout our world and even those dark places in our own hearts.

These quiet days of January and February are a good time for prayer and reflection. So, consider making room for contemplative prayer and bible study.

WHAT ARE OUR PLANS FOR THE NEW YEAR?”

We are living in an era of declining church attendance. The most popular question is how do we grow our church and continue our mission? Jesus and his disciples were also faced with this dilemma. Mathew 9:36-38 says ***“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”*** So what can we do about our church’s attendance?

Well, the first thing to ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into *His* harvest. Are you ready for that one? We are to ask Jesus to send out laborers into *His* harvest. Laborers, folks like us, to work in *His* harvest, *His* mission. Make sense?? It’s *His* mission and if we need help, why not ask Him? What is that we are asking Him? We are asking Him to ***increase our engagement.***

For too long, too many North American Christians have thought that sitting passively in the back row to get fed is what’s required of them, or that the main goal of finding a church is to attend one you ‘like.’ The goal of any Christian should never be to find a church you like and sit in the back row. The goal should be to fully engage the mission. What is our mission?

TOWNLEY MISSION STATEMENT

While we openly welcome new disciples into our church family, we recognize that it is not sufficient to celebrate the love of God only among our own congregants, but to bring the love of Christ to those in need *outside* of our immediate church family.

Our mission is to demonstrate and grow our faith and the faith of others by providing Christ-like compassion and caring opportunities for service, outreach and improvement to our community. Our mission is to share God’s reconciling love in Jesus Christ through prayer, worship, love and action.

Engaged people are passionate people. They know what the mission is. They serve in it. They live it out. They’re passionate enough about it to invite their friends. Yes, only God can bring growth. But he uses people who are engaged to do it. So if we are going to drive engagement at our church, how do we do it?

Let’s use four single words to explain a simple model for ministry and a call to action: **Connect Serve Invite Give**

Putting these single words into phrases may it clearer as to what deeper engagement with our mission looks like:

Connect = Choose a Group to be involve with / **Serve** = Join the Mission

Invite = Bring a Friend / **Give** = Give Generously of Yourself

Imagine more folks coming to Townley who make a connection, serve beside us, bring their friends, and give of themselves. That kind of action changes cities, one step at a time.

Stepping Into 2019 -- Happy New Year!

January 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Mark your calendar!

Contact Us

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JANUARY DATES

Prayer: Every Monday 4:00-5:00 PM

January 1

- New Year's Day

January 6

- Epiphany of the Lord -- Holy Communion

January 13

- Baptism of the Lord
- Nursing Home Visitation (Delaire, Linden)

January 14

- Operation Warm Heart (St. Elizabeth 6:00 PM)

January 16

- Session Meeting 7:30 PM

January 20

- Second Sunday after the Epiphany
- Book Club

January 23

- Movie Night 6:30 PM

January 27

- Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 28

- Operation Warm Heart (St. Elizabeth 6:00 PM)

Looking Ahead: Feb 2: Equipping the Saints/ Feb 17 Sweetheart Brunch