

The season of Epiphany focuses on how God was made manifest in the flesh of Jesus. The church spends time hearing of the miracles, signs, and wonders of Jesus in the world. These miracles make plain that Jesus is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. It is revealed for all the world to see that Jesus is God in the flesh. It is made manifest by His words and His work. Jesus is the Word and will of God in the flesh, that is, He is the walking, talking, enactment of God's Word.



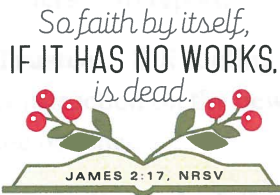
We are called not just to believe in God in our hearts, but also to trust in God in word and deed. That's what James says through the second chapter of his book. Our faith is lived out in works for our neighbor. Our trust in the Word and will of God is lived out not in word only, but also in deed and in truth. In other words, the Epiphany of the Lord creates in us an epiphany of our faith in our works of obedience to God who commanded them. By this, our faith is made manifest to the world. It is, as Luther wrote of faith:

“Faith is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God (John 1). It kills the old Adam and makes altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings with it the Holy Spirit.

“Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. And so it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly. It does not ask whether there are good works to do, but before the question rises, it has already done them, and is always at the doing of them.

“He who does not these works is a faithless man. He gropes and looks about after faith and good works and knows neither what faith is nor what good works are, though he talks and talks, with many words about faith and good works.

“Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times. This confidence in God's grace and knowledge of it makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all His creatures.



“And this is the work of the Holy Spirit in faith. Hence a man is ready and glad, without compulsion, to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, in love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace.

“And thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate burning and shining from fire. Beware, therefore, of your own false notions and of the idle talkers, who would be wise enough to make decisions about faith and good works, and yet are the greatest fools.” (*Preface to the Book of Romans*)

So, then, let our faith be active by God's power in the Word through the Holy Spirit. And let then our faith be made manifest to the world by what this faith does: serving our neighbor—in church, in the family, and society—with the works of faith in time, talents, and treasures.

Board of Stewardship

Financial Statement as of
December 31, 2018

Income: \$ 153,458.36
Expenses: \$ 145,898.89
\$+ 7,559.47

January—December 2018

115 Total Baptized Membership
92 Total Confirmed Membership
60 Average Sunday Worship
21 Average Sunday School Attendance
 4 Children & Youth
 17 Adults

