

### TRANSFORMATION

**“If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:  
Everything old has passed away; behold,  
everything has become new!”**

2 Corinthians 5:17

*From the  
Pastor*



We have now  
‘officially’ closed the  
calendar for 2025. As we open  
our 2026 calendars, I suspect

that many of us begin the New Year with much enthusiasm and many hopes for all that might lie ahead. Some of us will be saddened that 2025 has ended while others can hardly wait for 2026 to begin. It seems that all too often, one year ends and while another begins, it does not take long before we continue on with life as though nothing has happened.

Sometimes I wonder if we are guilty of the same thing in the church. We neglect to help people understand the links between the seasons of the church year or we assume that they know what the links are. We usually do a respectable job of celebrating the major festivals or special occasions like Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, Mother’s Day, and Father’s Day etc. Then we just kind of float along during the rest of the year and we are left to our own devices sometimes to make the connection between what is taking place in our church year and our personal faith journey. I have come to realize that I am guilty of doing this sometimes.

I suppose I thought about this because we are moving into the Season of Epiphany very shortly. I suspect that this is one of the most misunderstood seasons of the church year. I wonder if many people unconsciously think of it as the rest period between Christmas and Easter. Yet this season is my most favourite time of the entire church year.

So what has brought us to this time? We have gone through the season of waiting and watching and preparing to meet the birth of the Christ-Child. We have been encouraged to spend time in self-reflection. To hear God’s voice crying in the wilderness of our lives and to be open to receiving the forgiveness that can come from God alone. As we encounter God’s voice and God’s forgiveness, we are invited to **‘turn around’** so that we might engage God in our lives and

become willing to lead the life that God would have us live. All of this experience allowed us to celebrate the birth of this Christ-Child in a new way at Christmas.

Now that this tiny little child has been born anew in our hearts and minds, we enter the Season of Epiphany. This season is regarded as the time in which we celebrate the ways in which God is **‘made known’** to us in our lives. It is also known as the **‘accordion’** season because its length is determined by the date of Easter and will end the Sunday before Ash Wednesday.

This season always begins on January 6<sup>th</sup>, which is known as the day of Epiphany. This is the day that this tiny little child is **‘made known’** to us as the Christ, the Messiah, the long-awaited One who has come to redeem the world. The first Sunday following this day, we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord, the day that Jesus was baptized and is an opportunity for us to remember and celebrate our own baptism. The season then concludes with the Transfiguration of Our Lord.

This is a great season to celebrate. We celebrate all the ways in which God is made known to us in our lives, whether that be through an earth-shaking event or through the still, small voice of God. We celebrate our baptism and the ways in which we witness God journeying with us through our day-to-day lives. We celebrate the ways in which we have been blessed to experience God’s forgiveness and the ways in which we have been empowered to offer forgiveness to those who have wronged us. And as we are awakened to all of these encounters in our lives, we celebrate our own transfiguration, our transformation, our becoming a changed person as a result of the ways that God has been **‘made known’** to us in our lives.

It is true that another year has ended, that everything in the old year has passed away. But because of Christ there **IS** a new creation, and everything has become new! Because of Christ and the ways in which God is made known to us, we are transformed and we all have something very special to offer the world around us, namely, the ways that God is been made known to those who are willing to journey with this awesome God of ours!

I hope and pray that your journey through the Season of Epiphany will be a rewarding experience as you encounter the ways in which God is **‘made known’** to you.

God’s blessings in your Epiphany journey,  
Pastor Rick

*Please have any reports or information to be included in the newsletter, submitted by the 24th of each month. Thank you.*

## **Pastor Richard D. Schulz**

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*Just a reminder that you can receive your Newsletter by email. If you wish to do so email the church at [stjohn.norrna@sasktel.net](mailto:stjohn.norrna@sasktel.net)*

## **Scripture Lessons**

### **January 4, 2026:**

Jeremiah 31:7-14  
Ephesians 1:3-14

Psalm 147:12-20  
John 1:1-18

### **January 11, 2026:**

Isaiah 42:1-9  
Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 29  
Matthew 3:13-17

### **January 18, 2026:**

Isaiah 49:1-7  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Psalm 40:1-11  
John 1:29-42

### **January 25, 2026:**

Isaiah 9:1-4  
1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Psalm 27:1, 4-9  
Matthew 4:12-23

## **Fellowship Breakfast**

St. John/Norrna Parish invites you to a fellowship breakfast at St. John in Strasbourg on Saturday January 24th with guest speaker Marj Mohr of Strasbourg EMS. Coffee will be on at 8:30 am, breakfast at 9 am, and the presentation at 9:30 am. Join us for fellowship and to learn about this vital service in our community. Please call or text Vicki at [306-725-7603](tel:306-725-7603) by January 12th if you plan to attend so we make enough muffins!! Everyone welcome!

## **Council Notes**

- **W**e are looking into options for replacing the front doors of the church as well as the availability of a grant to replace the church sign. These will be discussed at the AGM.
- A new printer was purchased for our parish secretary.
- We are looking for 2 people to fill upcoming vacancies on council. Ideally, we are looking for 1 from St. John and 1 from Norrna. Please give this some thought & consideration.
- Our Financial Secretary, Marilyn Craswell, will be stepping down at year end. If this is a position you might be interested in, please speak to Bev Decker or Pastor Rick. A huge thank you to Marilyn for her many, many years of dedicated service.
- Proceeds from the 2026 Epiphany Dessert Auction will go to CLWR.
- The next parish breakfast will be on January 24, 2026.
- Plans are underway for Bishop Tote to come and worship with us in the new year.
- Just a reminder that we will be discussing the 'vision' of our parish at the AGM on February 1. We look forward to the sharing of thoughts and ideas.
- Our next meeting is January 21, 2026 @ 10:00 a.m.

## Worship Committee Report

Thank you to Brenda Small for leading the service on December 14. This was followed by our annual hot dog lunch and caroling at the Last Mountain Pioneer Home and at the Manor. The seventeen voices sounded wonderful singing together.

Brenda has been busy as she also organized the Family Christmas Service at Norrona on December 21. It was a wonderful evening and a full house with 57 people gathered! Thank you to Krista Loydl and Carla Betker for their leadership of the service. Well done and thank you to all those involved in these services!

### Service Leaders for the next few weeks:

Dec 24 – St John Christmas Eve Candlelight

Communion Service at 7:00 pm

Dec 25 – Norrona Christmas Day Communion Service at 10:00 am

Dec 28 - Pastor Rick - service 9:30 am

Jan 4 – Pastor Rick – communion service 9:30 am

If you are interested in leading a service, please contact Brenda Small, Carol Schultz, or Pastor Rick.

A Lay Leaders Gathering will be held on Wednesday, January 14 at 1:30 pm. It will be a chance for lay leaders to share ideas and insights, and also an opportunity for those who may be interested in leading a lay service to see what's involved.

Thank you to Rose Erhardt and Donna Schulz for decorating the Christmas Tree. They have been doing this for many years already, and it always looks so good!

The next Worship Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 9:30 am at St. John. Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings.

Rhonda de Hoop  
Worship Committee Secretary

## Worship Services at the Last Mountain Pioneer Home

Pastor Rick will be leading worship at the Last Mountain Pioneer Home on the following Wednesday Mornings from 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.

- January 14<sup>th</sup>

- February 11<sup>th</sup>

- March 11<sup>th</sup>

- April 8<sup>th</sup>

- May 6<sup>th</sup>

- June 3<sup>rd</sup>

- July 1<sup>st</sup>

- July 29<sup>th</sup>

- August 26<sup>th</sup>

- September 23<sup>rd</sup>

- October 21<sup>st</sup>

- November 18<sup>th</sup>

- December 16<sup>th</sup>

## Lamp

If anyone would like to donate to LAMP (LAMP is a cross-cultural ministry sharing Jesus Christ with God's people in remote areas of Canada), this can be done by mailing cheques payable to LAMP to 4966-92 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB T6B 2V4 or visit [www.lampministry.org](http://www.lampministry.org).

