



NEW SCANDINAVIA LUTHERAN CHURCH JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2022

A Message from the Pastor... “The Mystery of Christ”

If you are a reader, you are probably acquainted with mystery novels. A mystery keeps one intrigued and engaged as we wonder what is going to happen. A mystery is something difficult or hard to understand. In Christian theology a mystery is “a religious belief based on divine revelation, especially one that is regarded beyond human understanding.” It is the mystery of Christ.

Ephesians 3:1-12 the Apostle Paul writes a letter to Gentile believers about the mystery of Christ revealed to him. He says, **“When you read this you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the others as it has been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Holy Spirit.”**

What is this mystery? It refers to God’s age-long purpose, now disclosed to his chosen to share the redemptive work in Christ. Verse 12 culminates this mystery with a purpose for us. **“...we who first hoped in Christ have been destined and appointed to live for the praise of his glory.”**

Now in January we begin the season of Epiphany. Epiphany, also known as Theophany in the east, is a Christian feast day **that celebrates the revelation (theophany) of God incarnate as Jesus Christ.** The beginning of Epiphany commemorates principally (but not solely) the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child, and thus Jesus’ physical being.

We Christians believe that God came to earth as a human being in the name of Jesus Christ. It is a mystery that we claim by faith and simultaneously praise God for his glory to redeem us. God has brought us hope through this person both God and man we call Christ. Epiphany celebrates this revelation. As the magi were led by the light of the star, we too are led by the light of this mystery by the Holy Spirit. May we be further enlightened during this new church season. Enlightened more of the **mystery of Christ** in our own life. *Pastor Ron*

