

About the Cover: This week's image from MennoMedia's *Leader* materials invites us into Advent through a quiet night sky, where golden branches reach in like whispers of light. The artwork echoes the series theme, *Be Amazed!*, reminding us that God's presence often shimmers at the edges of our vision before we fully see it. As we continue this season of watching and waiting, the cover draws us to look up, look around, and notice the light already breaking into the darkness.

Attendance: December 28 — 64

North Goshen Mennonite Church

501 N. 8th St., Goshen, IN 46528

Mailing address: P.O. Box 505, Goshen, IN 46527
574-533-4255 | office@northgoshenmc.org | northgoshenmc.org

9:00 AM Sunday school | 10:15 AM Worship services

Pastoral Team

Becky Helmuth 574-370-0767 | rebeccahelmuth@gmail.com

Becky's office hours: Tues. and Thurs., 9 am to 2 pm

Sabbath day: Friday

Izaete Nafziger 574-202-4344 | Izaete@northgoshenmc.org

Office Administrator

Belen Robledo 574-533-4255 | office@northgoshenmc.org

Church Council

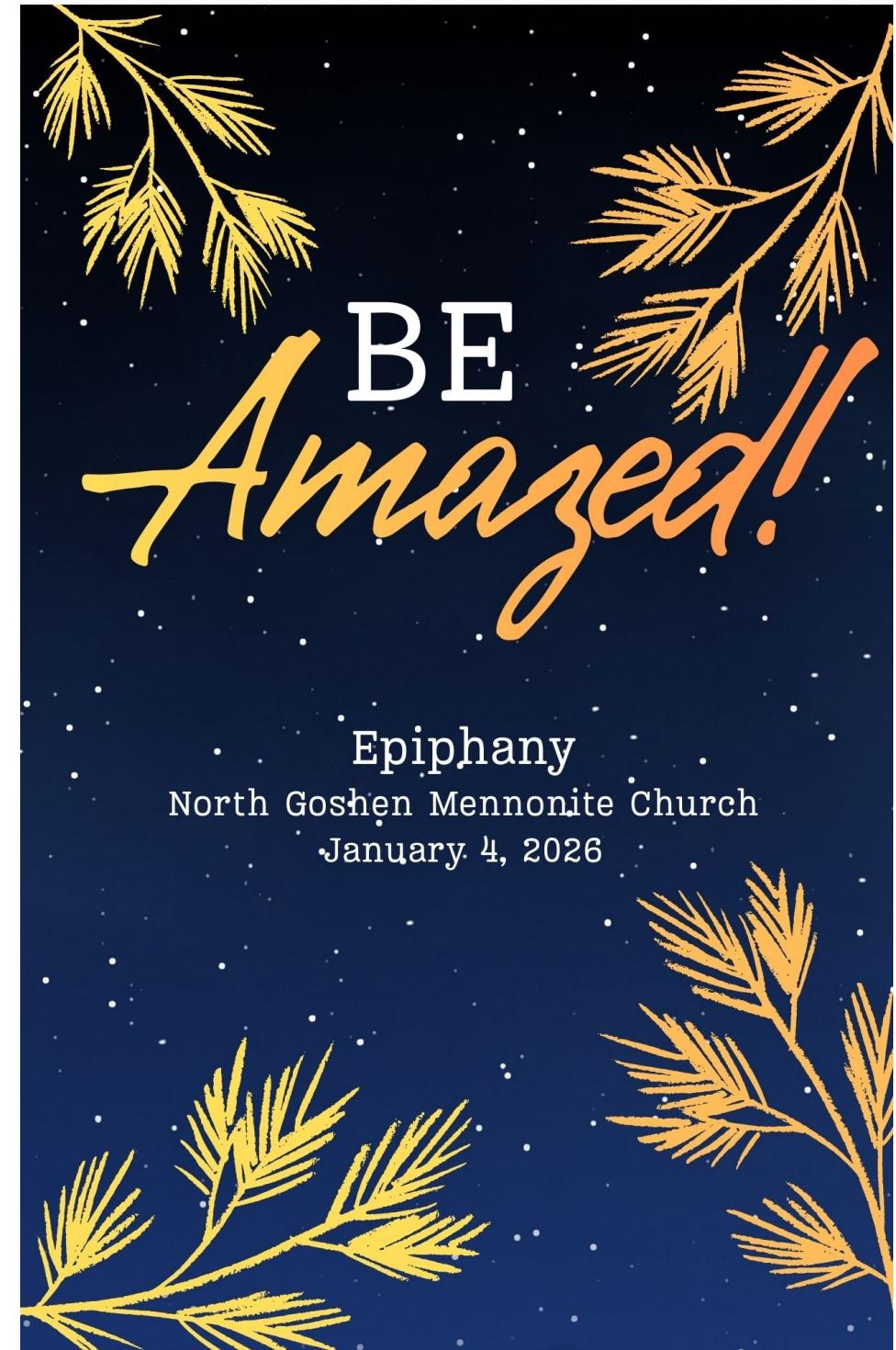
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North Goshen Mennonite Church

Epiphany Sunday

Strangers Who Came to See

Matthew 2:1-12

January 4, 2025

Focus Question: *The Magi were visitors from another land who traveled far to meet Jesus. How does their journey connect to your own story?*

Gathering *Welcome Holy Spirit*

Welcome & Announcements Daisy L.

Doorway Scripture

Call to Worship

Song *What Child Is This? | ¿Qué niño es este?*

Candle lighting & Litany

Pablo, Mariana, Jordan, Ashlynn, Zahir, & Yadira R.

Song *Ve, Dilo en las Montanas* VT 252

Offering Prayer & MCC Coin Collecting

Offering Song *El Burrito Sabanero*

Children's Story Deena B.

Children are dismissed to go to Children's Church.

Scripture Storytelling Matthew 2:1-12 Nick K. & Sandra

Song *We Three Kings / Del Oriente Somos*

Three Kings Day Panel Discussion (Nick King, emcee)

Panelists: Alan L., Hilda L., SandraM, Santa M. & Robert M.

Song *Refugee King (Girl Named Tom)*

Sharing Joys & Concerns

Prayers of the People Izaete

Blessing Izaete

Sending Song *Go Tell It On the Mountain* VT 252

Honoring El Día de los Reyes Magos (Three Kings Day)

Today members of our Latino community will share stories about a tradition central to how Christmas is celebrated. In many Latin American countries, children receive gifts on January 6 — the Day of the Three Kings — rather than December 25. We invite you to listen, learn, and be enriched by their witness.

Next Sunday, January 11 - Signs of Life

Worship Focus: Wedding at Cana

Jesus' first sign happens at a wedding - the most ordinary of celebrations. When the wine runs out, Jesus transforms 180 gallons of water into the best wine, revealing a God of outrageous abundance who cares about our joy. Next Sunday launches our six-week Epiphany series **Signs of Life/Señales de Vida**, following Jesus through John's Gospel from abundance to healing to sight as we journey toward Lent. We'll see Jesus crossing boundaries, offering living water, and revealing God's glory through embodied encounters with real people. This is Epiphany - manifestation, light dawning - and we're invited not just to witness but to be changed.

Sunday Details

9:00AM Sunday School

10:15 AM Worship Focus: *Wedding at Cana*

Scripture: John 2:1-11

Worship Leader: Sandra M.

Speaker: Becky H.

Nursery: Tony U., Hilda L., & Kristina Be-Mo

Children's Church: Kathy N.Y., Elaine H., & Jenny G.

Upcoming Events

- 1/6 Día de los Reyes | Three Kings' Day
Women's Prayer Group, Manor 4 (Tues., 9 AM)
- 1/7 Youth Group @ Alan's @ 6:30 PM
- 1/7 Bilingual Group @ Elaine's @ 6:30 PM
- 1/8 Men's Group @ Michael's @ 7:00 PM
- 1/11 Small Group Kick-Off, Carry-in Lunch (Sun., 12 noon)
- 1/13 Church Council Meeting, Fellowship Hall (Tues., 6:30 PM)
- 1/14 Worship Leader Gathering, Fellowship Hall (Wed., 6:30)
- 1/21 January Community Meal (Wed., 6 PM)
- 1/25 Provide snacks for youth antiracism training

Small Groups

Our small groups are ready to begin! Participation is always an invitation, not an obligation, but we want to be sure no one is carrying life alone.

Join us for our Small Group Kickoff on Sunday, January 11.

We'll share a carry-in lunch, sit with our small groups, get to know one another, and begin imagining how each group might gather and support each other in the year ahead.

Worship Leaders: Let's Gather!

Whether you've been leading worship at North Goshen for years or you're curious about trying it for the first time, Becky invites you to join us **Wednesday evening, January 14, at 6:30 PM**, for a worship leading gathering and supper.

We'll explore best practices, share planning resources and ideas, and learn from each other's experience and questions. This is a chance to strengthen what we're already doing well and discover new possibilities together. However you're involved (or want to be), there's a place for you in this conversation.

Come ready to share what you've learned and what you're still figuring out. We're better when we support each other in creating meaningful, grounded worship for our community.

Snacks Needed for Youth Antiracism Training

We've been invited to support local antiracism work! North Goshen will provide snacks for **70 local Mennonite high schoolers** attending MCC antiracism training at Assembly Mennonite Church on **Sunday, January 25**. This is simple - just drop off contributions, no setup or serving needed. Have ideas for good snacks for hungry teenagers? Want to help? Contact Becky Helmuth.

Koinonia Kafé TODAY!

Join us in the fellowship hall at 9:45 for **Rosca de Reyes and a hot drink** between Sunday School and worship! Our Latino friends are teaching us about Día de los Reyes (Three Kings Day). Rosca de Reyes is a festive ring-shaped bread with a hidden figurine inside - find it in your slice and tradition says you host the next celebration! Come taste this sweet way of honoring the wise ones' journey to Jesus.

Calling All Artists (and Secret Artists, Too!)

This winter, we'd love our bulletin covers to be filled with the creativity of this community. If you have an artwork we could photograph or scan — a drawing, painting, quilt square, photograph, collage, wood carving, weaving, poem in beautiful lettering, or anything else that feels like art to you — we would love to see it. If you're willing to share, please let Belen or Becky know by **Wednesday, January 7** so we can plan ahead. These covers become small windows into who we are, and we can't wait to see the many ways beauty lives among us.

Planning for Lent

It's time to start planning our Lenten and Easter worship! We're looking for people interested in helping shape the season - including deciding together which special services (Ash Wednesday? Maundy Thursday? Good Friday?) fit our community this year. If you'd like to be part of the creative planning, reach out to Daisy or Becky.

Anniversaries & Birthdays This Week

- 1/6 Christina Elizalde
- 1/7 Lois Chupp
- 1/8 Greg & Sue Sommers
- 1/9 Jenny Gonzalez

9:00 AM Sunday School Classes

Pathfinders

- Intergenerational Bible study using the Mennonite "Builder" curriculum
- Location: Curtained classroom next to kitchen in the fellowship hall
- All are welcome

Contemporary Issues and Christian Faith

- Explores current events through a Christian lens using "The Wired Word"
- Location: South corner of fellowship hall
- All ages welcome

Clase de los Amigos (Latino Bible Study)

- Bible study in Spanish
- Location: Large classroom at bottom of basement stairs
- Todos son bienvenidos

Youth Class (Grades 6-12)

- Location: Basement classroom (follow posted signs)
- All youth are welcome to attend!

Today's Volunteers

Children's Church: Bonnie C., Joan U., & Kristina Be-Mo

Nursery: Belen R., Jeff U., Jenny G.

Tech Team: Jose J., Greg S & Tim N.

Translator: Erin Be-Mo

Music Leader: Video

Worship Leader: Daisy L.

Children's Story: Deena B.

Candlelighters: Pablo, Mariana, Jordan,

Ashlynn, Zahir, & Yadira R.

Three Kings Panel: Alan L., Hilda, Sandra M., Santa, & Robert
Panel Leader: Nick K.

Sunday School Greeter: Terry P. Worship Greeter: Lola J.