

YOU HAVE APPEARED, O CHRIST, THE  
LIGHT OF LIGHT! TO YOU THE MAGI  
BRING GIFTS! ALLELUJA · ALLELUJA!



January 6, 2010

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Greetings to each of you! At this time, I am particularly grateful to be part of a worshipping community with such a strong liturgical foundation. Epiphany is a time when I am especially aware of this strength. I love reading the stories and seeing how the true nature of Jesus is revealed, with days spent in the temple, baptism in the river, wedding feasts at Cana, with both wilderness and mountaintop experiences. At the same time, during Epiphany we have a chance to write new stories, showing how the true nature of Jesus is reflected in our lives as we serve our neighbors by visiting in hospitals and nursing homes, by preparing plates at feeding programs, by reading, writing and spelling at tables and desks in literacy programs, by donating blood, by painting walls, by pounding nails, by donating money and by countless other ways in which the light of Christ shines through us to illuminate the world.

The three-year church cycle is exceptionally important now, as we launch a multi-year focus on discipleship within our synod. Over the course of the next three years we will do many things. We will select new leaders for the synod including a bishop and our lay officers. We will complete the first cycle of our strategic plan, evaluate our progress, and plan for the future. We will launch new programs and ministries to lift up the name of Jesus in places and among people where the Gospel message will shine.

Thank you for your attention to increasing Biblical literacy within each congregation, each family and each home. As you study the lessons over the next three years, consider what you lift up after each encounter with God. Three years from now when the cycle of lessons is repeated, what will be our witness? Will we have lifted up prayer and praise? Comfort and consolation? Tolerance and tenderness? Flexibility and fidelity? Joy in the Lord? Will we have been transformed by God? Will we be better disciples?

I ask each of you to give your attention to our discipleship focus. Our website will provide valuable information on our strategic plan and our ongoing efforts to remain connected to each of you while we reach out to our neighbors.

Finally, I ask each of you to keep our interim bishop, our Synod Council and our future bishop in your prayers just as we pray for you.

Your sister in Christ,

/s/ Yolanda

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