

GOLDEN TREASURE TRUTHS

Text: “Going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.” Matthew 2:11

While many nativity scenes include the wise men, the truth of Scripture is that the wise men did not visit the manger with shepherds. The inspired writer Matthew tells of their visit to a house in Bethlehem. Jesus’ age at the time of their visit is not known. The details of Matthew, chapter 2, emphasize that Jesus was less than two years of age.

We know why the wise men came. They came to see “the king of the Jews.” Guided by a star they finally arrived to see Mary, Joseph, and the Child. The visit of the wise men is celebrated today as the Epiphany event (January 6). The visit leads to a season of celebration. The Epiphany season goes from January 6 through February 21.

We celebrate that we have been privileged to again hear the truth of God’s Word and to celebrate the fact of our Savior’s birth. The truth is that Jesus came for each of us. He is not only the King of the Jews; He is king of all for all. We are among the gentile visitors that are invited to see Him and worship Him.

Privileged to see the King, we worship Him. Worship always includes a response. The worship of the wise men involved their posture (“they fell down”) and their present (“gold and frankincense, and myrrh”).

As we worship our Savior this Epiphany season and this new year, may our worship response include bringing our treasures to Jesus. Our Sunday morning tithes, special support of missionaries and mission agencies, dedicated estate and other gifts are ways to present our treasures. Iowa District West staff, Gift Planning Counselor, Mission Development Counselor, and LCEF partners are all available to assist with managing and directing the treasures that God has given to us.

Reflection: Why is opening our treasures an important part of our worship response?
How can you share your treasures with Jesus?

Prayer: Dear Jesus, may the truth of Your word and the Truth of your Epiphany be treasured by all and may our earthly treasures be dedicated to You. Amen.

*“I love your commandments above gold; I consider all your precepts to be right.”
Psalm 119:127-128*

Note: Lutheran Church Extension Fund offers a “Treasure Chest” of financial support for congregations, church workers, and members of all ages. For additional information contact: Carole White, vice-president (carole.white@ialcef.org)

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